





Stolen US Military Guns Used In Violent Crimes

By KRISTIN M. HALL, JAMES LAPORTA, JUSTIN PRITCHARD and JUSTIN MYERS **AP News**June 16, 2021

Pulling a pistol from his waistband, the young man spun his human shield toward police. "Don't do it!" a pursuing officer pleaded. The young man complied, releasing the bystander and tossing the gun, which skittered across the city street and then into the hands of police.

They soon learned that the 9mm Beretta had a rap sheet. Bullet casings linked it to four shootings, all of them in Albany, New York. And there was something else. The pistol was U.S. Army property, a weapon intended for use against America's enemies, not on its streets.

The Army couldn't say how its Beretta M9 got to New York's capital. Until the June 2018 police foot chase, the Army didn't even realize someone had stolen the gun. Inventory records checked by investigators said the M9 was 600 miles away -- safe inside Fort Bragg, North Carolina.

"It's incredibly alarming," said Albany County District Attorney David Soares. "It raises the other question as to what else is seeping into a community that could pose a clear and present danger."

The armed services and the Pentagon are not eager for the public to know the answer.







Defence Weapons Stolen End Up On The Streets

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The US Army has hidden or downplayed the extent to which its firearms disappear, significantly understating losses and thefts even as some weapons are used in street crimes.

Military guns aren't just disappearing they are being discovered on the street. Stolen guns have been used in shootings, brandished to rob and threaten people, and recovered in the hands of felons.

Thieves also sold assault rifles to a street gang.

The Pentagon stopped regularly sharing information about missing weapons with Congress years ago, apparently in the 1990s. Defense Department officials said they would still notify lawmakers if a theft or loss meets the definition of being "significant," but no such notification has been made since at least 2017.

Armour-Piercing Grenades

The green, metal box was stuffed inside a bright pink pillowcase and stashed in the bushes behind a house. A better look saw a stencil on the box: "Cartridges for weapons." Inside were 30 armour-piercing grenades. How did these high-powered explosives end up in his southwest Atlanta backyard? Investigators determined the waylaid grenades were last seen eight month prior on an ammunition train that rolled out from Florida. Someone had stolen them somewhere on the rails to Pennsylvania.



Lack of Regular Audits

Not being able to account for the whereabouts of operational equipment is due to the lack of regular site audits (inventory/equipment checks). But when regular equipment checks can be performed quickly and easily, keeping your data up to date on 'what is where' at any time, becomes effortless.

Hardcat tracks the life cycle of rifles, pistols, shotguns, machine guns and more, from supply depots to unit armouries, through deployments, until the weapon is destroyed or sold.

The Hardcat solution standardises processes around the issuing and returning of operational equipment such as firearms, and automates the governance and compliance around these critical assets.

- Firearms
- Protective equipment
- Audio/Visual equipment
- Breath testing devices
- Flares
- Immobilisation devices
- Speed measurement devices
- Radios
- Phones
- IRIS devices
- Laptops
- Fire kits
- Handcuffs
- OSE carriage equipment
- Metal detector
- Passes and keys
- Torches
- Medical equipment
- OC Spray
- Munitions and distraction devices
- Conducted Energy Devices
- Batons









Law Enforcement Case Study

The Organisation:-

A major police force with 21,000 sworn officers spread across 400 police stations has three shift changes across a 24-hour day, 7 days a week. At the end of each shift, police officers are required to return their weapons and equipment to their station. At the beginning of each shift, officers are issued with their weapons and equipment. 16,500 officers are issued with operational equipment every day.

The Problem:-

The main problem facing this major police force, as well as most police forces around the world is, officer suicide. A combination of stress caused by their professional or personal life along with being issued a weapon designed to kill was a situation that needed to be controlled.

The officer would be issued their weapon as well as equipment, without anyone knowing that the officer was on stress watch. The majority of the 400 police stations were using a paper-based system to control the issue of weapons and a small number of stations were using various computer systems to control the issue and return as well as auditing of these weapons.

The Solution:-

Hardcat won the tender to install their Hardcat® Lebosi® Law Enforcement Solution and configure the system to control the weapons as well as police officers across the 400 stations as a tier one enterprise system.

Each station was issued with a Zebra DS8178 1/2D barcode scanner. This scanner was capable of reading all of the existing Barcodes that were in place; 1D, 2D, QR as well as laser etched. The system is integrated into the existing HR application that would flag police officers that should not be issued with a weapon, thus preventing self-harm.

The Result:-

The solution reduced instances of self-harm as well as improved turn around for issue and return as well as the daily audits that were required. The major police force said that police had never seen a tier one project go live with such a small number of impairments as the Hardcat Lebosi system which was written by Hardcat.

The additional benefit of a dramatic reduction in operational staffing and cost was an added bonus. The yearly savings of \$10+ million in administration costs will put more police back in action, as well as allowing for the hiring of an additional 140+ officers.



Hardware and Equipment Tags Used



DS8178 1/2D Barcode Scanners

Enhanced performance with enterprise scanners.



Suitable and various Barcodes labels/tags were used to tag all equipment, depending on their size and material suited to the environment and conditions.



Laster Etched 2D Barcode







Compliance and Safety

Tough Cops Ask For Help

DON'T REMAIN SILENT DON'T LET STIGMA STAND IN YOUR WAY

Maintenance and Alerts

Ensuring that equipment used by police in the performance of their duties is properly maintained and the audit trail of this maintenance can be used as proof of maintenance in a court of law.

Equipment can be any item; Firearms, Breathalysers, Body Worn Cameras, Tasers as Well as CCTV for example.

A simple mistake like using a breathalyser which is past its calibration date can have a case thrown out of court and excess of hundreds of man hours wasted.

Work Safety

Ensuring that officers who have been involved in stressful events at work or at home, do not have easy access to firearms.

During the issue of firearms, the issuing officer will be alerted via Hardcat Lebosi Law enforcement solution that this person is currently not to receive a firearm.

This will be across the whole state, so that that officer is protected from self harm.

Access to firearms, depression, anxiety, substance abuse, Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD), and other mental health care needs are catered for in the Hardcat Lebosi Law Enforcement solution.





Hardcat solutions have been chosen by over 2,000 of the world's most prestigious corporate and government bodies in 121 countries around the world. Why would you hesitate to join our list of satisfied clients, they have already performed your due diligence for you. No one has our credentials or credibility when it comes to asset management solutions.

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