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This Is Good News

Saturday, March 5th, 2011

Yesterday I posted on two internal affairs reports addressing citizens-recording-cops incidents in New Haven, Connecticut.

The New Haven *Independent* now reports that the police department is giving its officers training on this issue, and the training includes clear instructions that citizens are legally permitted to record on-duty cops.

Cool little side note: Part of the training includes showing the officers this Cato Institute video, featuring commentary from Cato's David Rittgers, IJ's Clark Neilly, and . . . me.

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This entry was posted on Saturday, March 5th, 2011 at 5:54 pm by Radley Balko and is filed under General Criminal Justice, Police Professionalism. You can follow any responses to this entry through the RSS 2.0 feed. You can leave a response, or trackback from your own site.

9 Responses to "This Is Good News"

#1 | **John P.** | March 5th, 2011 at 6:36 pm

Outstanding!

#2 | **OBTC** | March 5th, 2011 at 7:38 pm

Fantabulous news Radley!

#3 | **Helmut O' Hooligan's Ghost** | March 5th, 2011 at 8:13 pm

Great job Radley and great job CATO. Keep on pushin' !

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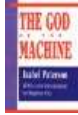




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#4 | **Andre** | March 5th, 2011 at 8:16 pm

Till they start requiring they sign 1983 statements, big deal. The will just do it again and pass the bill to the taxpayers.

#5 | **Dave Krueger** | March 5th, 2011 at 8:54 pm

Video in an "untamperable form"? Allow me to illustrate in words, how the typical cop is going to react to that proposition:

"What the fuck? I didn't even know there was such a thing as untamperable evidence."

I'd be willing to bet that if cops were forced to record "dynamic entry" raids, we would start seeing a lot fewer of them because the likelihood of being prosecuted and sued would go way up. The reason they don't record these things has nothing to do with cost. It has to do with protecting their option to fabricate a story after the fact.

By the way, I put "dynamic entry" in quotes because it's a cop invented euphemism for violent attack.

#6 | **ktc2** | March 5th, 2011 at 9:46 pm

I'd like to be a fly on the wall in these classes. I suspect they are much like my US Army training on the Geneva Convention. Let me give you an example, "Using this weapon on personnel is a violation of the Geneva Convention. It is strictly an anti-equipment weapon. Therefore, do you see the helmet he's wearing? That's equipment! The canteen on his hip? Equipment!"

#7 | **CTD** | March 5th, 2011 at 10:42 pm

Kudos, Radley and Cato. The Kochtopus never sleeps. It. Never. Sleeps.

In seriousness, I'd love to hear that this training came along with something called "accountability." Like criminal penalties for cops who lie to or threaten citizens filming them. I'd also like a date with Zoey and Emily Deschanel. At once.

#8 | **C. S. P. Schofield** | March 6th, 2011 at 10:09 am

I'm betting that what's going on is that the cops are being told; "Look, nine tenths of the public has cell phones. Every cell phone has a camera ... you can't even buy one that doesn't. You can't win this one. Deal. With. It."

#9 | **André** | March 6th, 2011 at 1:10 pm

This video got three times better when I watched it knowing that there were cops who were forced to sit down and listen to the same words I was hearing.

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