



# Sheriff

MAY/JUNE 2013 • VOLUME 65 • NUMBER 3

Plus A Special  
2-Day Event During  
the NSA Annual Conference

**SYMPOSIUM ON  
JAILS, COURT SECURITY,  
HOMELAND SECURITY,  
AND LEADERSHIP!**

See inside for details.



## ON OUR WAY TO CHARLOTTE



[WWW.SHERIFFS.ORG](http://WWW.SHERIFFS.ORG)

inside

2013 Annual Conference in  
Charlotte, NC

Gun Violence – Sheriffs Viewpoint

Buyer's Guide

# Technology Used by Newport News Sheriff's Office to Make Bomb Threat Arrest

By Lt. Kathleen Carey, PIO, Newport News, Virginia Sheriff's Office



Deputy sheriff's secure a perimeter around courthouses, closing streets to vehicular and pedestrian traffic the day of the bomb threat.

The Newport News, Virginia Sheriff's Office is sending a strong message that it takes bomb threats seriously.

On March 5, 2013, an arrest warrant was served on 21-year old Devon Tyrell Slaughter after an investigation by the Sheriff's Office traced the phone call to a payphone outside a convenience store located in the 4700 block of Marshall Avenue. Surveillance video from inside and outside the store was used to identify the subject. The Sheriff's Office determined that Slaughter was trying to delay his sentencing hearing on a malicious wounding conviction, scheduled the morning of the bomb threat. He was coming off the street for that hearing and knew he was to be remanded into the custody of the jail.

Captain David Hughes wanted to strengthen his criminal case to ensure a conviction, so he did not stop with the public telephone. The suspect also made additional calls from a pre-paid cell phone mistakenly thinking those calls could not be traced. "The new E-911 system can pick up the GPS location of even pre-paid phones," explained Hughes.

Privacy advocates fear overreach by authorities and have pushed for bills that would require police and deputy sheriffs to get a warrant before obtaining certain records. Law enforcement argues it would be harder to catch criminals if forced to get a warrant to acquire cell phone information like text messages and caller locations.



NNSO K-9 Unit responds to the February 20, 2013 bomb threat.

In March, 2013, Texas lawmakers considered legislation that would restrict the use of cell phone records by police. Backers of the bill say it would ensure that the government cannot track daily movements without good reason.

In New York, a state judge recently ruled that a cell phone user has no reasonable expectation of privacy and the 4th



Coordinates from the suspect's cellular phone used to map proximity to the original bomb threat made from a payphone.

Amendment right of privacy was not violated in the case of *The People of State of New York v. Devonte Mooror*. Judge Jon L. DeMarco said in his ruling, "People are not so oblivious that they are not aware that cell phones purchased today come with GPS technology which can pinpoint the location of the phone at any given time as long as it is turned on and the GPS technology has not been deactivated or disabled."

A conviction was upheld in the U.S. 6th Circuit Court of Appeals when the judge ruled no warrant was required to track a drug dealer's GPS locations from his cell phone since the defendant "did not have a reasonable expectation of privacy in the data emanating from his cell phone that showed its location." The ruling was made August 14, 2012 in *U.S. v. Skinner*.

Technology used by the Enhanced 911, or E-911, tries to automatically associate a location with the origin of the cell phone. There are two general approaches to locate a mobile device geographically. One is to use some sort of radiolocation from the cellular network; the other is to use a Global Positional System (GPS) receiver built into the phone itself. Radiolocation is done through triangulation between radio towers. A GPS system needs orbital information of the satellites to calculate the current position of the cellular device. An



Sgt. R. Daniels directs traffic around the courthouses evacuated February 20 due to a bomb scare.

assisted GPS server downloads the orbital information and stores it in a database.

In the event of an emergency, the caller's number is used to derive a location that can be used to dispatch police, fire and EMT's.

Not long after the ruling in New York that police can track GPS devices, officers with the NYPD traced the cell phones of a missing woman and her alleged kidnapper. The woman was unharmed and the suspect arrested March 15, 2013. The incident was concluded in under two hours from the time officers were called to the victim's home to when they had the suspect handcuffed in their squad car.

There are other benefits to E-911 besides a quicker emergency response time. Geographic map coordinates can assist with collecting criminal evidence.

In the Newport News, VA case Captain Hughes said, "We were able to see the proximity of Mr. Slaughter's residence to the convenience store where he made the first call before making subsequent calls from a cell phone."

The suspect was charged with one count of threats to bomb for each call he made the morning of February 20, 2013. The suspect was in the Newport News City Jail on the malicious wounding conviction when deputies made the arrest on the new charges. He is now charged with four (4) counts of threats to bomb, a Class 5 felony that carries up to ten years in prison and up to a \$2,500 fine.

Sheriff Gabe Morgan said, "My position is to send a strong message to anyone who attempts to impede the justice system, whether through witness intimidation or by disrupting court proceedings. We will use all available resources to bring them to justice. The public should have a high level of confidence in the justice system's ability to not only arrest, but also to ensure they have their day in court without disruption of those proceedings."

This is the second bomb threat arrest made by the Newport News Sheriff's Office (NNSO). In November of 2010, the NNSO arrested a man in connection with the October 20, 2010 bomb threat. That arrest led to a conviction.

These investigations headed-up by the NNSO are all part of the agency's increase in law enforcement activity. This is a force multiplier for the residents of the City of Newport News. The local police department is the primary law enforcement agency for the city. Sheriff's office personnel are supplementing those efforts without any additional tax dollars from citizens. "The work we are doing to enforce the laws of the Commonwealth," said Sheriff Morgan "is being conducted during the hours of our regular duties. Stepping-up our law enforcement activity has not required additional personnel or funding. We are providing an added value to the citizens of this city. They deserve safe neighborhoods to live and work in. We have taken an oath of office to exercise our power of authority to help ensure their safety," emphasized Sheriff Morgan. ✪



**Last Chance**  
To Win a Free In-Car Video System,  
Body Cam or Laser Ally Handheld LIDAR!

Go to: [www.digitalallyinc.com/giveaway.php](http://www.digitalallyinc.com/giveaway.php) and use entry code: **NSA05**

 1010110101011010010010101001101  
**Digital Ally**

[WWW.DIGITALALLYINC.COM](http://www.digitalallyinc.com) ■ 800.440.4947

Get the free mobile app at <http://gettag.mobi>