

Upon your return to LSSU, you are required to submit a report of your sabbatical leave to the Provost.

15.4.6: Recipients of Sabbatical Leave shall be required, during the first semester of their return, to submit a written report in electronic form outlining their experiences and achievements in keeping with the purposes of which the leave was granted.

Sabbatical Leave Reports will be posted to the Provost web page.

## Return Report: Sabbatical Leave

1. Name of Professor: Dr. Aaron J. Westrick
2. Department: Criminal Justice
3. Time Frame of the Sabbatical Leave: Spring 2013
4. Title of Sabbatical Leave: Fourth Amendment Seizures: The Processes of Investigating Police Force Incidents. A (book) guide for evaluating law enforcement use-of-force.

### Narrative of Sabbatical Leave:

The primary objective of the sabbatical was to complete a book on use-of force investigations. The book *Force Investigations: Brethren, Ballistics, Blood, and Body Armor*, was completed on schedule. After revision with recently released government data and numerous edits the book will be published in early 2014. Review, research, follow-up investigation of the numerous law enforcement force incidents and weeks of writing took place. Qualitative investigative analysis of police force action cases and environmental and temporal data were analyzed. During this process the realization that the compilation of research information was extreme and two separate, but related books will be published. The first (*Force Investigations*) containing social and physical science research and the second containing an overview of numerous case study reviews put into a historical fiction framework for legal purposes. The book involves a sample of police officers who have been violently assaulted with overviews of other police violent action cases. The author attempts to capture the essence of the officers' experience through their explanations of the violence they encountered. A social phenomenological approach was utilized to examine the officers' situational perceptions immediately prior to the encounter, the social action that took place during the encounter and symptoms of post-traumatic stress disorder after the encounter. The book explores the perceptions, social actions, investigation process, ballistics and post-traumatic psycho-physiological symptoms of officers. An example of the methodology used in the second book is similar to what is used on crime dramas like *Law and Order*.

In *Force Investigations: Brethren, Ballistics, Blood, and Body Armor* over one hundred use-of-force cases were evaluated in an investigative case study (qualitative) format. Analysis of UCR FBI Officers Killed Data was also analyzed to give an overview of police action during the encounters. Weapons use was also analyzed and synthesized to provide an overview through the past two decades. The purpose of investigation is to recreate the incident in pursuit of truth (evidence in legal settings). The legal

'objective officer standard' recognizes the split second decisions that officers' make and that their actions must be reasonable within those 'split second' stressful moments. The book(s) contribute to the justice field by explaining officer perspectives in extreme violent encounters and applying social and physical science principles in case study investigative methodology. The author's three decades of law enforcement experience contributes to the overall content in the past application of the book's core principles.

The second objective was to develop a theoretical model regarding the "interrogation" of police officers during investigations. An overview of the Reid Interrogation Method took place. The author was Reid Method Certified years ago during his police officer tenure. It was hypothesized that traditional interrogation methods are not accurate when applied to suspect officers. The author audited a Criminal Justice and Law School class at Wayne State University (CJ/LAW 7995 Wrongful Convictions) and attended eleven advanced lectures by Dr. Marvin Zalman a noted academic in the study of wrongful convictions. Guest lecturers in the class included noted lawyers from defense firms and the Innocence Project (University of Michigan) and a wrongfully convicted exoneree who was on death row. The readings for this class were academic and contemporary. False confessions were one focal point of this advanced class. Through this research at Wayne State a theoretical framework for the interrogation of law enforcement officers was developed. The research work on this interrogation project is ongoing.

Other activities included

Most research meetings during the sabbatical took place at Wayne State University. Review of use-of-force academic articles and discussions took place with Dr. Klahm, Dr. Smith, and Dr. Zalman at Wayne State University. The author reviewed an academic article by Dr. Klahm and was provided with numerous academic articles by original authors. The authors' insight to their work and my own was very valuable. The author also held a "Distinguished Scholar" position at Oakland University overseeing and teaching a Policing in America Sociology and Criminal Justice class at Oakland University Macomb Center in Mount Clemens working with noted criminologist Dr. Jay Meehan. The academic and applied foundations of a Force Protection Institute were explored in the areas of local defense automotive coordination and school safety officer training. The author also began to developing a White Collar Crime Class, researching enterprise financial criminal activity on 'Wall Street'. My academic experiences at Wayne State and Oakland Universities were very good as both recognized my education and applied experience in criminal justice.

The benefits of the sabbatical for Lake Superior State University's students and academic its' reputation are great. The research and information developed and learned will be brought into the classroom. The students in the below listed Lake Superior State University courses will directly benefit from the sabbatical with the application of published materials and section editions to lesson plans:

CJUS 101 Introduction to Criminal Justice

CJUS 102 Police Process

CJUS 201 Firearms Training

CJUS 243 Criminal Investigations  
CJUS 313 Crisis Interventions and Deviance  
CJUS 319 Substantive Criminal Law  
CJUS 321 Ethical Issues in Public Safety  
CJUS 409 Procedural Criminal Law  
CJUS 411 Police Operations  
CJUS 444 Criminalistics  
CJUS 485 Criminal Justice Futures  
Sciences of CSI Seminars  
Investigating Police Shootings and other related Seminars

The book(s) will be used in the classroom and bring recognition to the university.

The outcome of this research is to publish a comprehensive guide book to understanding the dynamics of police use-of-force investigations. The book has been written, edited and will be published in early 2014. The publication of this advanced applied research will further enhance the reputation of Lake Superior State University as a leader in Criminal Justice and Investigatory study. This timely and relevant work will provide scholarship and guidance to academics and practitioners. By examining how police act during violent force encounters, criminal justice practitioners will learn about the realities of the actual violent incident and of evidence (testimony, objects, and documents). The first edit draft of the book is available for immediate review by administration upon request.

A second book over-viewing violent officer encounters will follow in 2014. This book is being written and compiled from the case file of the author.

Academic Presentation:

Westrick, A. J., (September 28, 2013). Applied Force Three Decades of Investigation: Brethren, Ballistics, Blood, and Body Armor. Midwest Criminal Justice Association. Chicago, IL.

Academic articles reviewed for authors:

Kennedy, D. B., (2013 April 12) Applications of Forensic Sociology and Criminology to Civil Litigation. Journal of Applied Social Sciences, originally published on-line.

Khalm, C. (2013 in press). Police Use of Force Research and Disjuncture Between Concepts and Measures: A Research Note. Wayne State University Detroit, MI.

Pasciak, A. & Kelly, T. M. (2013 in press). Conformity to Traditional Gender Norms by Police Officers Exposed to Trauma: Implications for Critical Incident Stress Debriefing. Wayne State University, Detroit, MI.

## Publications:

Westrick, A. J., (2014). Force Investigations: Brethren, Ballistics, Blood, and Body Armor. Landon Elsemere Press Canada – United States- Great Britian.

Police Force Case Studies by Dr. Westrick is scheduled for publication later in 2014.

Chapters of book are to be published as articles in the Law Enforcement Executive Forum in 2014.

## Biography

Dr. Aaron J. Westrick is a Director of Research, Executive Consultant, Professor and Law Enforcement Officer with 31 years of applicable experience in policing and armor systems marketing, research and applications. He has served in many capacities (in business and public safety) including manager, supervisor, assault team member, negotiator, major case detective, and instructor. Dr. Westrick is a recognized court expert in a number of areas within “use of force”, policy, and ballistics/ armor. He is an Associate Professor at Lake Superior State University having taught at numerous universities, colleges, academies and organizations such as the International Association Chiefs’ of Police. Dr. Westrick is an active member in the Fraternal Order of Police, National Association of Police Organizations, International Association of Chiefs of Police, International Law Enforcement Educators and Trainers Association, and Criminal Justice Academies. He is widely recognized as an (body) armor authority and an expert in use-of-force and law enforcement policy; creating the study of Police Phenomenology. Dr. Westrick is a highly decorated police officer. Early in his career Aaron became a Survivor when his body armor stopped a .357 magnum bullet over his heart, fired by a paroled robber.

Dr. Westrick has taught many advanced seminars regarding force issues and crisis management. He has published numerous articles regarding police action, violence and ballistics/body armor applications. Dr. Westrick has been a columnist for recognized police/ corrections journals. He earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in Social Science and Criminal Justice from Michigan State University, Masters of Science degree in Criminal Justice and a Doctorate of Philosophy degree in Sociology (Studying Police Shootings on Body Armor) from Wayne State University. Dr. Westrick has served as the Director of the Institute for Public Safety and Homeland Security Technologies at Lake Superior State University and is a notable armor systems consultant.

Dr. Westrick has participated in numerous defense contracts regarding the research and development of armor and non-lethal weapons systems. He has held Vice President and Directorship positions in private businesses. Dr. Westrick is the Principal in his Ballistic Armor Research Group, LLC. He has also developed, examined and marketed various law enforcement and military armor defense systems. Dr. Westrick is a noted Use-of-Force, Law Enforcement Criminal Justice Policy, and Ballistic Armor expert.