



Smart Gun Technology

[DRAFT]

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Introduction

The Police Conduct Oversight Commission assures that police services are delivered in a lawful and nondiscriminatory manner and provides the public with meaningful participatory oversight of police policy and procedure. Commission members have a variety of responsibilities including shaping police policy, auditing cases, and engaging the community in discussions of police procedure. The Commission strives to be the citizen advisory group the community relies upon to openly discuss policy and procedures of the Minneapolis Police Department, to voice concerns regarding law enforcement/civilian interactions, and the organization that advances credible and meaningful feedback, without obligation to political influences, for the betterment of the City of Minneapolis. [For more information about the work of the Commission, meeting times and locations, and meeting minutes, please visit the Commission website.](#)

Additionally, in the Police Conduct Oversight Ordinance, the Commission has direction to conduct programs of research and study and to "review police department policies and training procedures and make recommendations for change." To identify topics for review, a random sample of case synopses are selected for presentation to the PCOC in summary form. The PCOC looks for trends and ongoing problems to address. Additionally, commissioners, through outreach, receive feedback from the public on current problems they may be experiencing with MPD or OPCR. The creation and presentation of a white paper on smart gun technology to the Police Conduct Oversight Commission (Commission) was requested in the January 10, 2017 Outreach Chair Report, based on comments during and after the Peace Forum held on November 29, 2016. The matter was referred to the Audit Committee at the January 12, 2017 Commission Meeting.

Conclusion

OPCR staff have conducted initial research and found that the information sought by the Outreach Committee was recently compiled and organized into the *Report to the President Outlining a Strategy to Expedite Deployment of Gun Safety Technology*, submitted by the Departments of Justice, Homeland Security, and Defense in response to President Obama's January 4, 2016, Memorandum, *Promoting Smart Gun Technology*¹. The report outlines the different types of smart gun technology, potential advantages and disadvantages of the technology, challenges to development and implementation of the technology, and strategies to develop guidelines for potential law enforcement use of the technology.

On the whole, the report finds potential in smart gun technology despite the technology not yet being at a stage of development that would make it viable for law enforcement use in the short-term. A three-tiered baseline strategy to develop specifications for law enforcement use of smart gun technology is outlined in the report, and has since resulted in the *National Institute of Justice Report on Baseline Specifications for Law Enforcement Service Pistols with Security Technology*.

Based on OPCR research, these are the most definitive published documents currently available, and their content satisfactorily fulfills the request of the Outreach Chair. The full reports as well as an appendix of relevant articles are included below for the Commission's consideration.

¹ <https://obamawhitehouse.archives.gov/the-press-office/2016/01/05/memorandum-promoting-smart-gun-technology>

Appendix

Report to the President Outlining a Strategy to Expedite Deployment of Gun Safety Technology

https://obamawhitehouse.archives.gov/sites/default/files/docs/final_report-smart_gun_report.pdf

National Institute of Justice Report: Baseline Specifications for Law Enforcement Service Pistols with Security Technology

<https://www.ncjrs.gov/pdffiles1/nij/250377.pdf>

Executive Order Information

<https://obamawhitehouse.archives.gov/the-press-office/2016/01/04/fact-sheet-new-executive-actions-reduce-gun-violence-and-make-our>

New Jersey Childproof Handgun Law

http://www.njleg.state.nj.us/2002/Bills/A1000/700_11.PDF

New Jersey Childproof Handgun Law 2016 Revisions (Pocket Vetoed)

<https://legiscan.com/NJ/text/S816/2016>

General Smart Gun Information

1. Wikipedia: *Smart Gun*
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Smart_gun
2. Engadget: *What You Need To Know About Smart Guns*
<https://www.engadget.com/2014/05/12/smart-gun-explainer/>
3. Violence Policy Center: *"Smart" Guns Backgrounder* http://www.vpc.org/fact_sht/Smart%20Gun%202013.pdf

Police Trials

1. MIT Technology Review: *Police in California and Texas Test Networked Guns* <https://www.technologyreview.com/s/532426/police-in-california-and-texas-test-networked-guns/>
2. Santa Cruz Sentinel: *Santa Cruz County Sheriff's Office Testing of New Gun Technology Hits a Snag*
<http://www.santacruzsentinel.com/article/NE/20151002/NEWS/151009942>
3. NBC Bay Area: *Microchip Alerts Dispatchers When Deputies Draw, Fire Gun in Real Time*
<http://www.nbcbayarea.com/news/local/Microchip-Alerts-Dispatchers-When-Deputies-Draw-Fire-Gun-in-Real-Time-281158832.html>
4. Government Technology: *San Francisco Police Chief Offers to Pilot Smart Gun Tech*
<http://www.govtech.com/public-safety/San-Francisco-Police-Chief-Offers-to-Pilot-Smart-Gun-Tech.html>

Challenges & Resistance

1. Washington Post: *Threats Against Maryland Gun Dealer Raise Doubts About Future of Smart Guns*
https://www.washingtonpost.com/local/threats-against-maryland-gun-dealer-raise-doubts-about-future-of-smart-guns/2014/05/02/8a4f7482-d227-11e3-9e25-188ebe1fa93b_story.html?utm_term=.0df638bc0c41
2. Washington Post: *Store Backs Away From Smart Guns Following Outcry From 2nd Amendment Activists*
https://www.washingtonpost.com/local/california-smart-gun-store-prompts-furious-backlash/2014/03/06/43432058-a544-11e3-a5fa-55f0c77bf39c_story.html?utm_term=.02be349417c7
3. Washington Post: *Renewed Push For Smart Guns Could Trigger a New Furor Over The Technology*
https://www.washingtonpost.com/local/renewed-push-for-smart-guns-could-trigger-a-new-furor-over-the-technology/2015/10/21/156451a4-7813-11e5-a958-d889faf561dc_story.html?utm_term=.3e9d7e69b80e

4. The Verge: Gun Control: *The NRA Wants to Take America's Smart Guns Away*
<http://www.theverge.com/2014/5/5/5683504/gun-control-the-nra-wants-to-take-smart-guns-away>
5. CBS News: *MIT Freshman Tries to Save Lives with Smart Guns*
<http://www.cbsnews.com/news/smart-gun-fingerprint-reader-biofire-kai-kloepfer-pushback-firearm-community/>
6. Inc.: *Today's Smartguns: Why police Don't Want Them and Neither Should You*
<http://www.inc.com/joseph-steinberg/smartguns-why-police-dont-want-them-and-neither-should-you.html>
7. Gizmodo: *Smart Guns Are Here, But No One Wants to Buy Them*
<http://gizmodo.com/smart-guns-are-here-but-no-one-wants-to-buy-them-1760916506>
8. ThinkProgress: *Why You Can't Buy A Smart Gun*
<https://thinkprogress.org/why-you-cant-buy-a-smart-gun-13fab9b145cc#.k05orx3ei>
9. The Pew Charitable Trusts: *Is America Finally Ready for Smart Guns?*
<http://www.pewtrusts.org/en/research-and-analysis/blogs/stateline/2016/05/17/is-america-finally-ready-for-smart-guns>