



## **NIGHTHAWK® REAL WORLD APPLICATION**

Bad Guy Says: “Where Were You Guys?”

### **Felony Arrest Using Remote Tire Deflation System**

#### **Risky Business**

Police pursuits have long been one of the most perilous realities in law enforcement. NightHawk® renders obsolete the old-school, hand-thrown tire deflation devices which demands special dexterity to maneuver and a lot of strength to throw. With hand-thrown spike strips, an officer must get ahead of the target vehicle, park, rush to the rear of the cruiser, tear out the spike strips to deploy, then listen to the radio, wait for a voice signal, throw the weighty strip across the road, and hope to pull it back and get out of the way in time. Short of physically ramming the suspect car, hand-thrown tire deflation devices were the only way to end a high-speed pursuit.

#### **Challenges**

In the two decades since hand-thrown spike strips became popular, over 30 officers have lost their lives in accidents surrounding their usage, according to an FBI Bulletin\*.

Consider this: Thousands of people have been injured or killed in high-speed chases (passengers, bystanders, and police) in the last three decades. The sooner a pursuit comes to an end, the better for the public.

#### **Proven, Field-Tested**

NightHawk, the remotely deployed and retracted spike-strip technology, designed and developed by Pacific Scientific Energetic Materials Company, helps keep officers out of harm's way.

The world's first and fastest pursuit-stopping system, NightHawk deploys in less than two seconds. The system weighs only 30 pounds and can be deployed from up to 100-feet away. After deployment, NightHawk also retracts in less than two seconds, clearing the way for pursuing vehicles.

#### **Real World Application**

Rockford, IL: In late February, 2016, a driver in a Cadillac Deville was attempting to elude the Winnebago County Sheriff and two other agencies. It was 10:20 p.m. and the car careened down the road at 70 mph.

Three agencies joined forces in the felony pursuit: Illinois Highway Patrol, which provided helicopter support; the Rockford Police; and the originating Winnebago County Sheriff's Department. After a few miles of chase, the helicopter took over as the eye of the operation,

coordinating directions with the officers below. This gave the sheriff's deputies time to get ahead of the chase, set up the NightHawk system and get to a safe location away from the road. The Cadillac sped over the remotely deployed NightHawk spike strips and all four of the car's tires deflated instantly, bringing the vehicle to a halt. The result? A safe stop with no injuries.

When taken into custody, the felony driver told the arresting officer he had no idea what hit the car and no idea where the officers were hiding, asking the deputy in exasperated surprise, "Where were you guys?"

"It was flawless"  
~ Winnebago County Sheriff



Ready to see NightHawk in action?



For more information, contact [lawenforcement@psemc.com](mailto:lawenforcement@psemc.com) or call (888) 995-5658 for immediate assistance.

Pacific Scientific Energetic Materials Company is a global leader in the design, development and production of energetic materials solutions meeting the most critical application and technological needs of military defense, aerospace, oil and gas applications, and law enforcement.

\*Source: FBI Law Enforcement Bulletin, Sep 2012 Bulletin Alert: Deployment of Spike Strips  
<https://leb.fbi.gov/2012/september/bulletin-alert-deployment-of-spike-strips>

