

## **Executive Summary**

In January 2010, the Metropolitan Nashville Police Department (MNPd) recognized a need to equip all sworn police officers with a medical kit. This decision came after an officer was shot multiple times and police personnel scrambled to find anything they could to stop a sucking chest wound before EMS personnel arrived on scene. In 2010 during initial issuance, MNPd Officers were given training on how to package their kits and how to utilize the medical equipment. As part of this training, officers would apply bandages and tourniquets to fellow students to gain familiarization with the equipment. Since 2010, MNPd Officers have received In-Service Training to keep them familiar with the medical equipment.

The kits issued in 2010 while small, were still too large to be carried on each individual officer. This poses a problem for officers who have an immediate need for a tourniquet and are unable to retrieve the equipment from their patrol vehicle. In certain situations, mere seconds can mean the difference between life and death. So in 2015 the MNPd made the decision to issue a customized MNPd Trauma Plate Medical Kit. This kit was customized by the MNPd after consulting with Officer Bart Rader (AEMT) a SWAT Medic and full time trainer, the Nashville Fire Department (NFD), and Dr. Corey Slovis Professor/Department Chair, Emergency Medicine Vanderbilt University. The kits contain a quality tourniquet, quick clot gauze, and a pair of gloves. The kits are issued in a vacuum sealed container which fits inside the trauma plate area of each officers body armor. This allows for the kit to be carried on each officer, and easily deployed when needed. With the issuance of the Trauma Plate Medical Kit came additional training for all sworn personnel. As part of this training, officers were also encouraged to utilize the equipment not only on police personnel, but also on citizens who needed urgent medical care. The kits were well received by the officers and a total of nine field deployments have been recorded in the few short months they have been issued. The first recorded use had documentation from EMS as saving a community members life.

Both kits are currently being issued to all sworn members of the MNPd. As events around the country have shown, law enforcement personnel need to have emergency medical equipment readily available to not only work on themselves but also other police personnel and the citizens they serve.