

## PREPARED TO KILL!

What is the value of good traffic safety? Could it be saving a great amount of valuable resources for investigating crime? Could it be saving the life of a convenient store clerk or customer? Might it save the life of a peace officer?

Canby is a small rural community in southwest Minnesota in Yellow Medicine County. Chief Isaiah Keating spotted a vehicle which was missing the rear bumper and the tail lamp was not operating. He then followed this vehicle and made a stop for the equipment violation. As he followed this vehicle he noticed unusual movements inside the vehicle. He stopped the vehicle which had a driver and one male passenger. He found the driver to be intoxicated and driving with a suspended drivers license. Inside the vehicle he found contraband and paraphernalia and a tote bag with a sawed off shotgun, a loaded (hollow point) 41 caliber handgun and two black full faced face masks. Chief Deputy Richard Blackwelder, Yellow Medicine County assisted with the stop and arrests. Needless to say both were cuffed and taken into custody for numerous violations.

I summarized this incident and used my own words as this case has not been settled in court at this time. Did the dedication, motivation and commitment of **Chief Keating and Chief Deputy Blackwelder** save a life or serious crime? I think most law enforcement officers will say those actions probably prevented a serious crime or death, and possibly that death could have been one of our own. What is the value of one simple traffic stop?