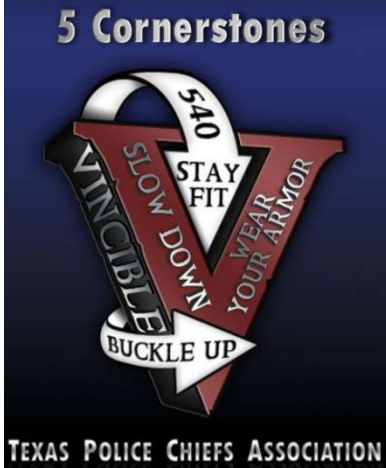




The “VINCIBLE” Program for Officer Safety



The Texas Police Chiefs Association’s (TPCA) Officer Safety Committee aims to reduce, if not eliminate, preventable line-of-duty deaths. TPCA’s VINCIBLE training program removes the “in” from “invincible” to remind officers that they are vulnerable. In fact, as many as 50 percent of officer deaths in some years are attributable to behaviors that are controllable.

VINCIBLE uses five cornerstones to change deeply-ingrained, risk-prone behaviors and ultimately reduce deaths and injuries: **wear your vest, wear your seatbelt, watch your speed, stay fit, and “540.”** The 540 concept originated with ALERRT’s (Advanced Law Enforcement Rapid Response Training) concept of 360 degrees of protection around an officer or team, plus 180 degrees above or below the officer or team, and it also incorporates an officer’s overall awareness of tactical skills.

TPCA regularly distributes “roll-call training” as the primary means of promoting the cornerstones. The TPCA Officer Safety Committee creates the “roll-call training” in the form of short PowerPoint presentations, usually based on recent, real-world examples. The “roll-call training” PowerPoints can be used during shift change briefings to lay out the scenario and asks for a brief (10 minutes or less) discussion from officers. This simple exercise aims to keep the cornerstones, and safety in general, at the forefront of an officer’s mind throughout his or her shift. VINCIBLE has created almost 400 weekly training sessions, shared at no cost with hundreds of police agencies. Here’s more on the VINCIBLE’S five cornerstones:

Slow Down:

- Speed continues to be a contributing factor in preventable crashes.

Wear Your Armor:

- Some officers still don’t wear body armor.
- Body armor has been proven to save countless police officer lives.

Buckle Up:

- The seat belt law has no exception for law enforcement officers.
- Failure to wear seatbelts continues to be a contributing factor in fatal crashes.

Stay Fit:

- Fitness for duty is essential.
- Health issues related to fitness negatively affect law enforcement officers.

540:

- Situational awareness is essential to officer safety.
- Officer should practice 360 degrees of awareness all around, along with 180 degrees of awareness, forward, back and overhead.

To learn more about making your department VINCIBLE, or to be included in future weekly training presentations, send an email to info@texaspolicechiefs.org or visit www.vincible.org by scanning the QR Code. In addition, the Pool has prepared a 14-minute podcast that further explains the program (click on STP Podcast at www.tmlirp.org and scroll down to Episode 5).

