



Injured Officer: Life & Relationships After A Critical Incident

Presented By: Charles & Michelle Hatley

Day One
(PM)

Injured Officer: Life & Marriage after a Critical Incident

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Background

- Small town farmer
- Spokane Community College (Criminal Justice)
- 4 years at Kootenai County Sheriff's Office as Detention Deputy
- 3 years at Coeur d'Alene Police Department



Training

- Academy
- Setting the mental tone for a new career in law enforcement
- Pre-phase academy with department

Aliyah's Birth





Starting Training with Taylor

Excited to be in
the car with Taylor

Motivated to make
a difference in
people's lives and
community

February 27, 2018
1858 hours

Who, What,
Why...?

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Brief Talk about Incident

- Initial ER visit
- Feeling of being shot
- Thoughts before, during, after
- Realization of possibly dying

Hospital Stay

- Overwhelming
- Scared for how Michelle would react
- Enormous support from the PD and community
- 4 Local Officers have been shot





Home Life

- PAIN, withdrawal from pain meds
- Helpless couldn't do anything on my own anymore
- Withdrawn from reality and continuously living in the moments of the shooting
- Stuck in the house feeling I was a burden to everyone
- Appreciative of Michelle but couldn't show it
- Not being able to hold my little girl due to pain
- Constant feeling of being overwhelmed good and bad
- Constant visits to the wound clinic
- Feeling as if I ruined our ability to effectively enjoy our newborn
- The letter



Michelle

- Boss
- Packed and cleaned my wound daily
- Took care of our newborn
- Constantly helping everyone but herself
- Marriage began to suffer due to me being withdrawn
- Lack of communication led to frequent arguments



My Agency

- Enormous support
- Food train
- Visitors
- Constant support from those around me

Back to Work

Light Duty

- Dept. Purple Heart
- Dept. Medal of Honor
- Wanting to go back to work
- Enjoyed the people at work
- Rolled ankle

Full Duty

- Scared but felt I couldn't tell anyone
- Feeling as if no one understood what was going on in my mind
- Pressure of being on the training program



Seeking Help

- Department noticed a change
- Began speaking to a therapist every week
- PTSD (No sh** therapist)
- Slowly began healing
- Felt connected with my wife again with the communication
- Felt I could be open about the things I was struggling with
- Family life improved drastically



New
Understanding
of my JOB

- Police Officer is my job,
not who I am
- New appreciation for my
life and those close to me



Helping those around me

- Teaching at the academy
- Teaching new cops that it is ok to reach out for help
- Attempting to change the culture of seeking help in law enforcement

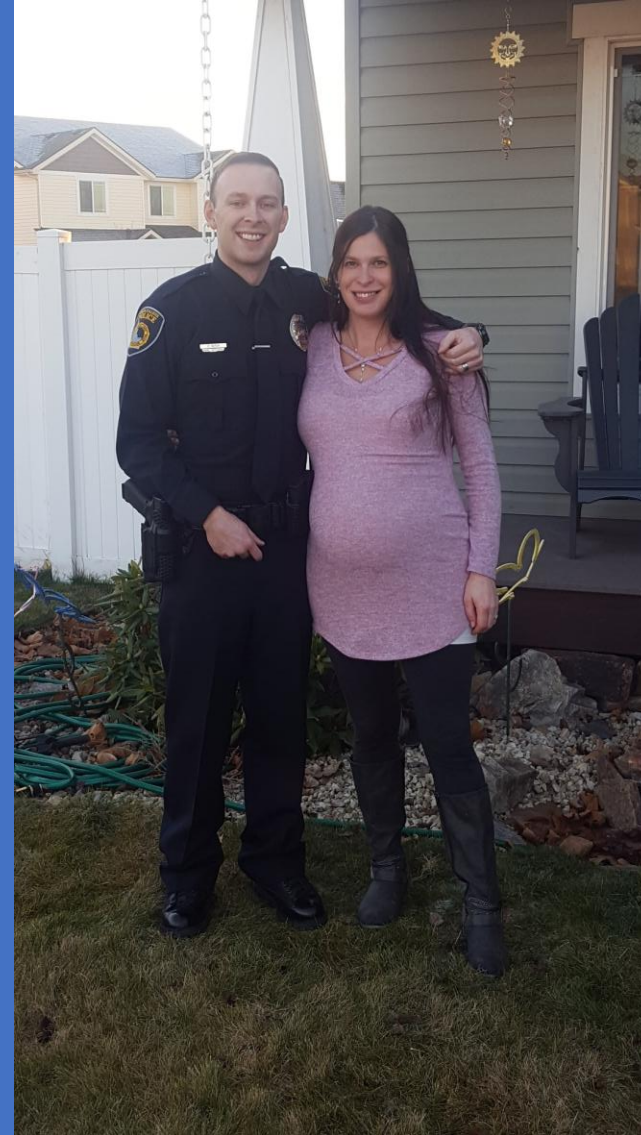


What worked for my Agency

- Very supportive of all needs
- Noticing that I was struggling and setting the necessary help up for me
- Very open to changes for ideas to make traumatic events easier
- Understanding that because I'm "cleared" for work doesn't mean that I don't live it everyday

Starting the Law Enforcement Career

- Signing paperwork/life insurance
- Having talks about what if..
- Academy
- Starting pre-phase



January 5,
2018

- Birth of our daughter
- Charlie takes a week off and hits the road with his FTO





February
27th, 2018



THE SHOOTING

- Phone Call
- Chaos
- Ride to hospital
- Leaving my daughter





The Hospital

- Overwhelmed, I was around a bunch of people I didn't know
- Everyone had to come and see him...all day and night
- Without my baby, yet I couldn't leave his side
- No Sleep
- Scared of retaliation
- People asking about going back to work



Going Home

- Huge support from law enforcement family
- Just wanting to go home
- Worried about Charlie and him being off his meds



Home

- Darkness...,Charlie being super depressed, in a lot of pain, dressing his wound
- Visitors, phone calls, trying to care for my baby....not sleeping
- Charlie's isolation, nothing was normal...nightmares, pain, withdrawn, anger
- Charlie being obsessed with the shooting
- Completely forgetting about myself



My Emotions

- Angry
- Sad
- Alone
- Afraid
- Guilty
- Protective
- Overwhelmed
- Tired
- Depressed
- Numb
- Post Partum



Marriage

- Husband was slipping away...wasn't the same person
- I felt torn/guilty – taking care of him, my daughter and everything else
- I couldn't "fix" it
- Angry at each other

W O R K

The “Work” Subject Alone

- Not wanting Charlie to go back to patrol
- My first time having to leave my baby
- Arguments about not supporting him

Back at Work

- Trying to act normal
- Everyone asking about how he was doing
- Afraid for him
- Afraid for how I would react when an inmate said something about him

Agency's Response

Charlie's

- Everyone was supportive
- Food train
- Professional and prepared
- Communicated with us well
 - Phone calls, texts, visits

Michelle's

- Only hearing from friends
- Felt isolated
- Missed my LE family
- Anger
- Pissing match between Agencies
- Award ceremony
- Debriefing



Rock Bottom

July 15, 2018

- Another interview
- Losing hope, feeling I lost my family
- Counseling
- Suicidal
- Both of our Agencies reaching out to us



Gettin g Help

- Both of us – individually and marriage
- Focusing on us! Learning to live in the now!
- Attending Conferences
 - EMDR
 - Being around people who have experienced similar situations
 - Bringing it back to my Agency – helping others, making changes
 - Healing – Spending time with Taylor and Michelle

Acts of Kindness

Air mattress

Coffee

Cards/Texts/Phone calls

Getting Charlie pants

Running milk to my baby

Getting formula for my baby

Shuttling me to and from hospital

Chair

Respecting our wishes going home

Chief personally delivering video



What helped us from our Agencies

- Food Train
- Just sending a card, text, phone call, or visit
- Coming up with ideas to help
- Remember Anniversaries
- Offer help, encourage them to seek help, make an appointment for them
- Check in on Spouse, kids, etc
- Debrief with all involved
- Schedule visitation times
- Check on the other's involved, including significant others
- LISTEN

Take Away from Us

- The hardest part is not the initial incident, it's the days and months following...
 - Get the person help...offer to set up the visit
- Keep in contact with the effected person and family
 - Be observant, listen, understand



Taylor Beach

The best partner an Officer could ever
ask for!

Thank you for saving my life!

Presented by Charlie & Michelle Hatley

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