



Curses! The Cops Have a GPS Cannon.

DRIVING A GETAWAY CAR just got a little tougher. As if high-speed patrol cars, helicopters, and tire spikes weren't enough, soon the fuzz might come armed with a laser-sighted, double-barreled homing-device launcher. The gizmo, called the StarChase Pursuit Management System, fires sticky GPS transmitters from compressed-air cannons mounted in the front grill of a police cruiser. A backlit control panel allows officers to arm the capsule and launch it at their target; once the projectile is attached to the fleeing vehicle, it starts feeding real-time location data to police HQ over a cellular network. This lets cops fall back and tail the suspect covertly, avoiding dangerous chases. "It has real James Bond appeal," says sergeant Dan Gomez with the LAPD's Tactical Technology Unit. The system is still in the testing phase, but the LAPD says it will be on the streets by early 2008. It could spell the end of high-speed pursuits—and put a lot of news helicopter pilots out of work. —ERIC MACK