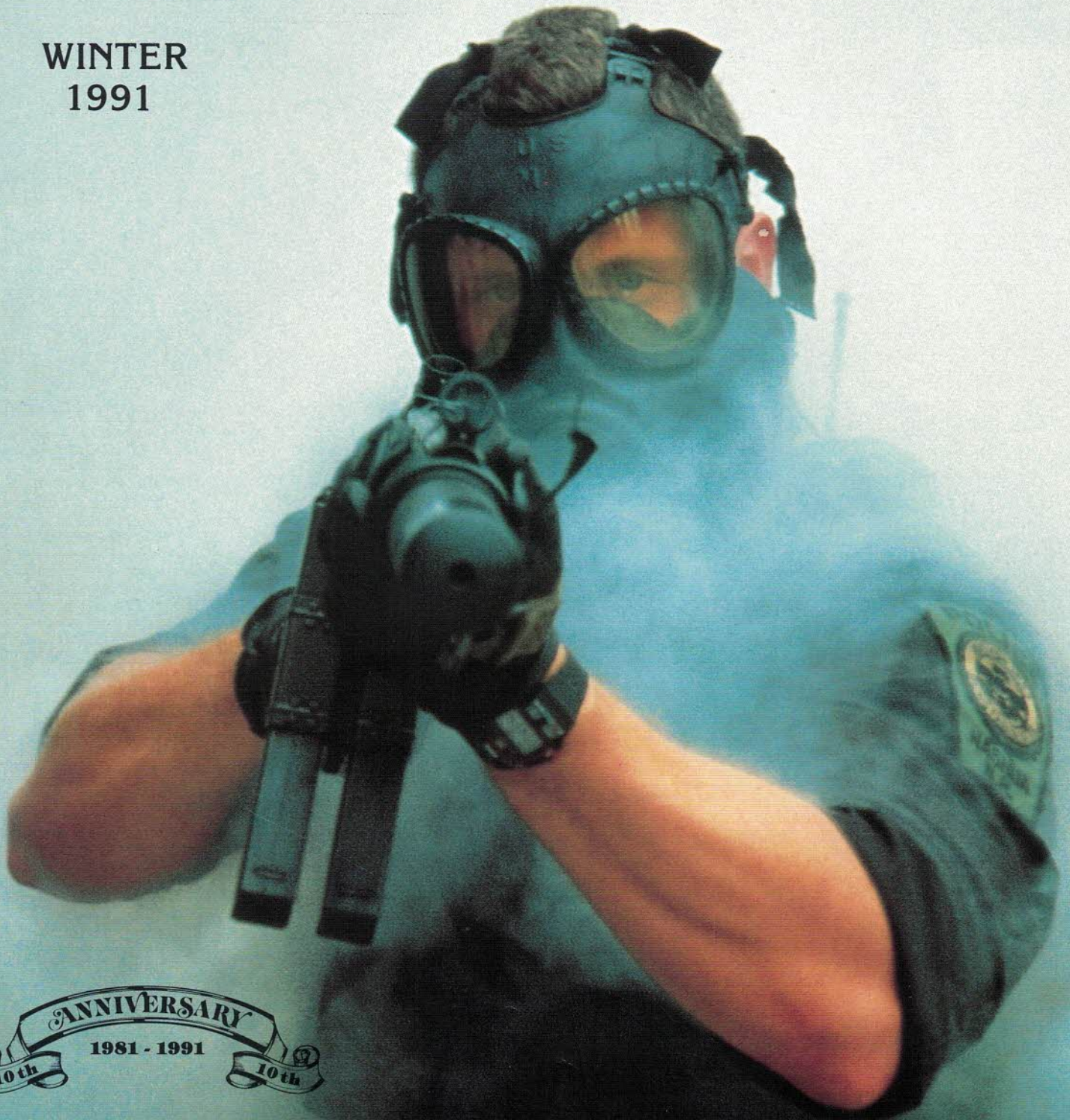


THE FIREARMS INSTRUCTOR



The Official Publication of The International Association of
Law Enforcement Firearms Instructors

WINTER
1991





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THE FIREARMS INSTRUCTOR

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Copy deadlines are the first of the month prior to issue dates of February, May, August and November. Deadline for November issue is October 1.

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THE FIREARMS INSTRUCTOR

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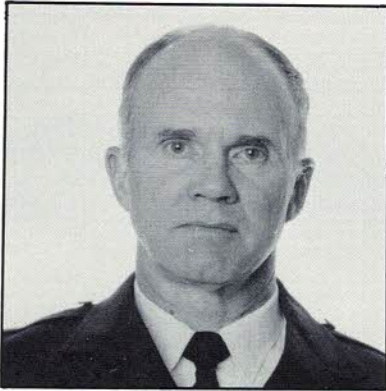
Designed & Printed—CGC, Laconia and Portsmouth, NH

The Firearms Instructor is the Official Publication of the International Association of Law Enforcement Firearms Instructors.

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No responsibility is assumed for the adoption of any tactic, technique or policy so presented.

From the Desk of the President



First, let me thank all the members who have re-elected me over the years to the Board of Directors. Second, let me thank the members of the Board

who nominated and elected me to the position of president.

I am stepping into this role with a little uncertainty. Bob Hunt, as you know, has guided this organization through a difficult period. For eight years Bob never lost sight of our commitment to providing the best and broadest based ATC's.

We have come a long way thanks to Bob Hunt's leadership. I intend to continue to build on Bob's commitment to training. I feel that IALEFI is beginning to play a leadership role in the transition of the law enforcement firearms instructor into a professional.

As professionals we must have standards and a well defined code of conduct. We have to focus on the requirements of instructing in this most controversial field. We need to im-

prove our ability to communicate our technical knowledge into demonstrated performance by those individuals required to make instant life and death decisions.

We must continue to improve our ability to measure this performance both in the classroom and on the range. IALEFI appears to be the one organization that understands this goal.

In closing, I would ask that every member of IALEFI renew their commitment to improving the communication between police administrators and firearms instructors, between agencies, and between other organizations who share this responsibility.

Michael P. Beckley
IALEFI President

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Remarks of President At A.T.C. Opening



I would like to direct my remarks to issues which pertain to you and me, our staff, this training Conference and beyond. In my view there is an increasing responsibility for establishing ongoing training that cycles throughout the officer's career. Certification is not enough. What type of training are we conducting in our agency programs? It generally falls into three categories: Static, (marksmanship) which is generally satisfied; Dynamic, movement, moving targets; and Interactive or decision making.

Qualification is only one way to develop skills and is associated with marksmanship training only. (This is conducted in a static environment.) The arrest process is one example of what is not reflected in a qualification program. A spontaneous event; it must be handled with a variety of skills calling for verbalization, subject control or perhaps non-lethal force. What is acceptable behavior of an officer in this type of situation? It should develop out of training.

Realistic training must be provided by the organization to alleviate problems associated with marksmanship. Therefore there is a requirement for clearly defined policy developed at the staff level and communicated down to the firearms instructor. It is at this point that policy is converted to training doctrine and concepts are introduced to help prepare the officer to cope with his environment.

What concepts are we trying to promote in our training? To improve speed and accuracy, vary times, circumstances, distances, incorporate low light, and moving to cover to identify a few. In structured primary training it is essential to establish a strong background in basics (carefully avoid introducing a training method which will come into conflict with skill development at a later time) but as an officer's career changes we must provide more specific skills.

There is a requirement for more emphasis on specialized training and decision making to cope with our real world environment. Training must be job specific with a strong focus on upgrading skills specific to roles other than just the uniform function. We must introduce training specific to the job being performed by the officer: How? Research what each job entails and formulate specific training exercises. This is usually done at the in-service level. For the Uniform division, emphasize steps and responses. For the Investigation unit, stress contacts and concealed carry exercises and for Special units focus on executive protection and felony warrant service training. What is it that we want the officer to learn? Have an objective and identify it in your training.

Here are some points to consider: Traditional basic training is where a lot of programs stop and fail. The dynamic level, moving and shooting retreating to cover, seated shooting; these activities may not be done. There is a training requirement to provide alternatives and put people in realistic situations. In the third level interactive training, awareness should be incorporated in everything that an officer is doing. Establish proper attitude, and proper mindset. This must be developed and tested.

Additionally, we should expand our specialized unit training. We must train our special detail personnel to handle their various equipment according to a predetermined acceptable standard.

What is the current status of our programs? They should be in a constant state of revision at the static level. Establish how to assess marksmanship in different ways; for example, when we vary the routine marksmanship falls off. Consider the target medium that we use in our programs. Emphasize shot placement, fire discipline and accuracy.

When formulating courses of fire, be specific. For example, when you train with the shotgun modify training to suit the needs of those to who it is directed. The approach may be different for the tactical team, where the gun is used primarily as a breaching device; the warrant service team, when employed as an entry weapon; or the uniform division, when administrative handling should be stressed as well as the proper selection of ammunition, where shot pattern/range are considerations.

Determining levels of proficiency is our responsibility and will require testing. Have a formula, take the range exercise that the student has been exposed to; place him in the environment that will require him to use the skills that he has learned and test his reactions. Testing does not have to be conducted in a live fire situation.

At the third level, interactive training, develop practical scenarios which reflect the job description and modify them for the different positions in the agency.

In preparing practical exercises, establish how armed confrontations evolve, what are engagement distances, types of weapons encountered, number of adversaries, level of ambient light, and environmental conditions and physical locations most common to those encounters?

Some examples of training issues that must be supported by well developed policy include: equipment issue—does one gun or one holster suffice for all? Have we considered fitting the gun to the hand? Is off-duty carry required or permitted? If either,

what criteria is in place for instruction? Are back-up guns authorized? How extensive is training? What are some of the issues? Reload, reholster, discard? Do we reload our primary gun when it is empty or reholster or discard it in favor of our second gun?

Is reduced light training offered? What standards are we attempting to satisfy? What are the levels of light during confrontations? What engagement distances? What specific techniques are being taught? What sighting systems are we using? How much emphasis is on target identification? At what point in an encounter does an officer draw his handgun? When forewarned of impending danger is it tactically sound to have the weapon drawn? What procedures are in place regarding trigger finger position? This is not a panacea for all that can go wrong but certainly requires guidance through training doctrine. Do we advocate sighted or instinctive shooting? Why? This must be put in perspective with shot placement requirements and deadly force considerations.

THESE MATTERS AND MANY OTHERS CANNOT BE LEFT FOR OFFICERS TO DECIDE ON AN INDIVIDUAL BASIS.

Another issue that pertains directly to the instructor are considerations for safety. How do we monitor it? This should be determined by the degree of difficulty, range of movement or contact, and your ability to control events. All programs must be safe. Your responsibility as a firearms instructor is to insure safe training as well as a safe working environment.

Finally, a word about your own self development. There is a necessity to renew your personal commitment to firearms training and this is an excellent opportunity to refocus your attention on matters that pertain to your continued education. Formal training, a personal program of practice and increased exposure to new developments as they appear in video and in print.

I will conclude my remarks by notifying you that I will be stepping down as your president at this Conference. I know many of you personally and have met many more of you over the last nine years, eight of which I have served as the president of this organization.

During that time I have worked in your behalf towards building a strong, committed, professional organization that would serve you in your chosen line of work.

We have, in that time, established an excellent reputation, provided a place for competent instructors to present their concepts in a forum and in an environment conducive to learning.

As president I have striven to prevent personal ambitions from compromising our professional ethics in all of our various relations and have relegated my own ambitions to a position second to that of this organization and always expected and required that of others.

I have a great deal of interest in the ongoing activities of IALEFI and although I am stepping down as your president, I am in no way withdrawing from my personal commitment to law enforcement firearms training and to this organization.

I will remain on the board as a staunch advocate of professional conduct in this business and continue to be vocal on issues that do not in my view reflect the best interests of IALEFI. I expect to run again for the board when my current term expires while indicating my qualifications established over the last 36 years that I have been actively involved in conducting, administering or promoting firearms training officer.

Thank you for your support, and, in many cases, your encouragement and friendship; I will remain available as your representative as long as I have a role in the organization.

Bob Hunt



IALEFI Annual Training Conference 1991

by Sgt. Pete Camerena

From September 23 to September 27, Mesa, Arizona was THE place to be if you were a law enforcement firearms instructor. Instructors from France, Hong Kong, the Ivory Coast, Belgium, Australia, Trinidad and Canada along with men and women from 37 states in the US came together for the 10th Annual Training Conference hosted by IALEFI.

Over 175 people took part in some 30 different classes taught by more than 50 instructors. There was something for everybody who attended. And that is saying a lot considering that the participants represented agencies large and small. From Hong Kong's 17,000 man department to a 12 man police department here in the United States, police officers, deputy sheriffs, federal agents, parole agents, correctional officers, military security, private instructors and others all found information, tactics and techniques that they could take back with them.

There was instruction on the use of pistols, revolvers, shotguns, scoped rifles, carbines and submachineguns. There was training in weapon control, dynamic energy tactics and low light shooting. There was information on range safety, terrorism, firearms program management, developing realistic courses of fire and much, much more.

In addition to all of the classroom and range instruction there was even a little time to get together in the evening to discuss with other instructors the day's topics. These informal get-togethers can be as informative as the formal instruction.

Although it would take an encyclopedia to cover all of the information presented by the instructors at this conference, I would like to share some of the things which I was able to observe. Conducting an ATC requires a lot of work by many different people.

As a member of the Board of Directors, I was assigned to coordinate the Conference Center activities. Therefore, I will give an overview on those lectures at the Center. For more detailed information on these lectures and range classes, see other articles in this magazine.

This 10th Annual Training Conference was hosted by the Mesa Police Department and was held at their range facilities and the Mesa Conference Center located next door to the host hotel, the beautiful Mesa Sheraton. Student check-in started on Sunday evening as many of IALEFI's corporate sponsors displayed their equipment. They continued showing and demonstrating their products throughout the week.

The conference actually began on Monday morning with the annual general meeting. We were welcomed to Mesa by Mayor Peggy Rubach and Chief of Police W. Guy Meeks. The Arizona State Attorney General was the keynote speaker. Association business was taken care of before adjourning for lunch. After lunch, Caliber Press Instructor David Grossi gave a notable presentation on "Psychology of the Winning Mind: Managing Critical Incidents." There was some very interesting information presented about what really happens to officers and how they handle the aftermath.

Tuesday began with a presentation by Dr. Martin Fackler on Wound Ballistics. Dr. Fackler has made presentations to previous IALEFI conferences and has continually updated his material. Dr. Fackler is President of the newly-formed International Wound Ballistics Association. The IWBA is a scientific, non-profit organization interested in the study of wound ballistics. His presentation was again very absorbing and interesting. The sample IWBA magazine he passed out has some very good information in it.

Tuesday afternoon began a two track system of classroom lectures and range training. Each student had preselected his or her preference of instruction prior to registering. Based on a first come, first served basis, the student was enrolled in the class of their choice. As there were from two to four different times for each class, most got to attend the majority of their highest priority selections.

The range topics for Tuesday were "Carbine Techniques" by Phoenix PD's Giles Stock, "Teaching the Counter Sniper" by Don Smith, "Tactical Shotgun" by Beretta's Brian Felter and "Advance Revolver" by DOE Rangemaster Tim Wicket. The classroom topics consisted of "Inspection of Handguns" by NYPD Officer Stephen Allanes, "Terrorist Weapons" by US Customs Agent Bill Dreeland and "Primary and Secondary Weapon Control" by Milwaukee County Sheriff Lieutenant Gary Krugiewicz. From my observations, each of these classes had good information that every officer could take back and use at his or her department.

After a short dinner break, Tuesday evening's activities began. The Steven House Memorial Shoot started on Tuesday. This is the annual shooting competition put together by Frank Repass. There were also 4 "Low Light Firing Technique" classes, 3 using pistol and 1 using the carbine. Back at the conference center, there was a lecture by DuPont's Senior Ballistic Account Manager, Ed Bachner, regarding the controversy on the testing of soft body armor. Mr Bachner was assisted by Dr. Fackler. According to the information presented, no officer has ever been killed because the body armor failed to do what it was supposed to do. There have been deaths due to the bullet missing the armor or a rifle bullet going through armor rated for handgun calibers. The lecture was very eye opening.

Wednesday morning's session began with a lecture by James Garside on "Police Officer Perception vs. Reality." This presentation really brought home some of the hard facts about the old ideas that police officers have and how they are going to have to change in order to survive in today's society. This is especially true in report writing by the officer when force has been used. Wednesday afternoon was a repeat of Tuesday afternoon's schedule of classroom activities. Range activities included "Range vs. The Real World" by Louis Awerbuck, "Concealed Carry Methods" by Bruce Nelson, "Felony Stops" by Gene Scott and his Mesa P.D. Staff and "Cover Utilization" by Andy Casavant.

Wednesday evening continued with the shooting competition while back at the conference center Dr. Roger Enoka and Manny Kapelsohn gave a presentation on Involuntary Muscular Contraction and Muscular Contraction. After listening to this information, it is now obvious why more and more agencies are teaching finger outside of the trigger guard until ready to fire.

Thursday morning had presentations at the conference center by Berkeley Team Leader Stu Nakamura on The Henry's Pub Hostage Incident, Burbank Rangemaster Larry Nichols on Developing and Documenting Realistic Courses of Fire and Kennedy Space Center Rangemaster Bill Barousse on Utilizing Metal Reactive Targets. As more agencies are using metal reactive targets, I feel that this should be a required class. It is much easier to learn about the safety concerns in the classroom than the emergency room. The classes at the range again included "Carbine Techniques", "Teaching the Counter Sniper," "Tactical Shotgun" plus "Competitive Shooting and Law Enforcement" by Safariland's Tom Campbell.

Thursday afternoon's schedule was even more busy than the previous days. Instruction at the range included "Tactical Submachinegun" by Heckler

& Koch's Phil Singleton and John Meyer, "Transitional Revolver Training" by Clint Smith, "Dynamic Entry Techniques" by Los Angeles Police SWAT Officers Mike Odel and Ernest Halleck and "Advanced Revolver Techniques" by Tim Wickett.

The conference center lectures were "Firearms Management Program" by Bill Burroughs, "Use of Force Reporting" by Vance McLaughlin, "Firearms Safety" by Manny Kapelsohn and "Dealing with Problem Shooters" by Arnie Stallman and Richard Chargois. All of these programs were very good. There was a central theme that ran through these classes. It was that there needs to be thought and time devoted to the development of a program and then applied using common sense. These were classes that every instructor should attend. There was some very good and *specific* information available. Each instructor provided examples of what to do and how to do it, not just the theory behind training.

Thursday evening was our annual banquet. This year, being in Arizona, it was held at a dude ranch called the Rolling R Ranch. It was a time to relax and let a slower pace take over. The hospitality of the western clad employees was great. The roast beef, chicken, beans and biscuits on the metal chuck wagon plates fit right in to the live band's music. After dinner, there was a raffle held with prizes donated from the sponsors. The winners of the shooting competition were announced and awarded prizes, again donated by the sponsors. We were then entertained with an old fashioned gunfight in the street between the sheriff and his deputy against the outlaws. Any question as to who won?

Friday morning was back to learning as the classes continued in both the classroom and the range. "The Range vs. the Real World," "Concealed Carry Equipment and Techniques," "Felony Stops" and "Tactical Submachinegun" classes were again held at the range. Lectures back at the Conference center were again "The

Henry's Pub Incident," "Utilization of Metal Targets" and "Firearms Management Programs." The afternoon finished with repeats of previous classes so that almost everyone got to attend their most sought-after class.

The Annual Training Conference requires many, many hours of work by many different people. I would like to thank the sponsors who not only demonstrated their equipment but also donated their time and equipment for use in some of the classes and as prizes. The many man hours donated by the Mesa Police Department and the individuals who arranged for equipment and helped at both the range and conference center. To the members of the Board of Directors who worked behind the scenes, often into the middle of the night, in order to make the conference run smoothly. Without their support, there could be no IALEFI Annual Training Conference.

See you next year in Florida!!

Ballistic Vest Issue Discussed by Board

by Chris Pollack

The May, 1991, issue of *The Firearms Instructor* contained a cogent discussion by Bill Clede of the National Institute of Justice ballistic vest standards controversy. If you have not read it yet, do so now. Two speakers at the recent Annual Training Conference, Dr. Martin Fackler and Ed Bachner, underscored Clede's position that the federal standards proposed by NIJ pose a hazard to police officers. Unfortunately, the NIJ poses a greater risk to police officers than the vest controversy alone indicates.

Dr. Fackler's name and work are known to past conference attendees, but the ATC provided an update on his wound ballistic work and the opportunity to meet and question him in person. He also provided all those in

attendance with copies of the premier issue of the *Wound Ballistics Review*, the publication of the International Wound Ballistics Association. Subscription price of the *Review* has been reduced to \$40 per year to encourage police departments and individuals to subscribe.

The first issue of the IWBA *Review* contains an article by Dr. Fackler and Alexander Jason opposing the National Institute of Justice's new body armor standards. Dr. Fackler also encouraged everyone to attend the body armor presentation given by Ed Bachner of the Du Pont Company. The absurdity of the NIJ's standards and the deleterious effect they have had on the wearability of body armor were discussed. Du Pont's opposition to the NIJ is significant if for no other reason than that the new standards would result in increased sales of Du Pont's Kevlar fabric used in the construction of ballistic vests, yet Du Pont opposes the standards because they are unrealistic, unscientific and will result in body armor that is significantly less flexible, hotter and more uncomfortable.

The great danger right now is that unless significant opposition develops immediately within police organizations, the NIJ standards will become law. During Bachner's question and answer period, many police officers in the audience related their own frustrating experiences in attempting to contact the NIJ. The fifty officers in attendance voted 48-2 in favor of IALEFI taking a position opposing the NIJ standards. As a newly re-elected member of the IALEFI board (my thanks to all who voted for me), I took their concern to the board. The board voted to table the issue until our legal committee could research whether we could take such a position in light of the by-laws which state, "No substantial part of the activities of the corporation shall be the carrying on of propaganda, or otherwise attempting to influence legislation. . ."

One key issue here is the words

"substantial part," but more importantly, I do not consider this a political issue. It is an officer safety issue, and I believe the board will be negligent in not moving to oppose the NIJ. The NIJ's not-so-hidden agenda is to become the national arbiter of acceptable police equipment and practices. This is the same group who gave us the Relative Incapacitation Index, also known as the relative incompetence index, and still stands by its work today. What more than that need be said in derogation of the NIJ? Unfortunately, these people are bureaucrats in the worst sense of the word. They do not live in the real world, and have no appreciation of the real-world consequences of their quest for job security.

As Ed Bachner said, if we want the NIJ standards, we only need do nothing. Their proposal to Congress is titled the "Police Protection Act." If we do not act, who in Congress will vote against it? Do not wait for IALEFI to take a position. Contact your senators and representatives today.

Fitness For Police Officers

by Cathy Zitti

As fellow firearms instructors, we are committed to keeping Police Officers alive through proper weapons training and tactics. But reality tells us that Police Officers are dying less by gunshot wounds than by the stresses and poor lifestyle this job creates.

We work rotating shifts. This upsets biological rhythms, sleep cycles, increases emotional stress, makes it more difficult to eat properly, and makes us more susceptible to illnesses. Cardiovascular problems may develop after years on shift work—people whose schedules are extremely disruptive are more prone to heart attacks than day workers—and conditions like diabetes and epilepsy may get out of control when someone leads an irregular life.¹ Our occupation

affects our social life with our families and friends. We are exposed to the ills of society and see most people at their worst which adds to our stress and distorts our view of reality.

As firearms instructors, we cannot change rotating tours or the environment inherent to police work. But since we come into contact with Police Officers on a fairly regular basis, we can alert them to the possible health problems related to shift work and stress. We can not only teach them how to survive a gun fight, but hopefully enlighten them as to how to improve the quality of their life despite the "lifestyle" of a Police Officer.

A total fitness program including proper diet and exercise is a key to enhancing the quality of life. It is important that before you embark on your fitness program to see a doctor for a complete physical and stress test. Studies have shown that inactive people tend to have heart disease more than people who are active. Other positive benefits of following an exercise and diet plan include greater resistance to stress, more energy, more resistance to illnesses, stronger bones, more efficient heart and lungs, weight control, lower cholesterol, better self image and a longer life.²

First, let's address exercise. Your exercise program should consist of an aerobic exercise (exercise designed to improve respiratory and circulatory function), strength exercise, and flexibility routine. An acronym to remember is: F.I.T..

F = *Frequency*: exercise 3-4 times a week for health benefits.

exercise 5-7 times a week for weight loss.

I = *Intensity*: exercise hard enough to raise your heart rate to at least 70% of your maximum heart rate.

What is your maximum heart rate? 220 minus your age. Example: a 30 year old would have a maximum heart rate of 220-30 = 190. His/Her training heart rate would be 70-90% of max-

imum heart rate, e.g., $190 \times .7 = 133$.
 $190 \times .9 = 171$.

In order to find your heart rate, take your pulse for 10 seconds and times that by 6. Once you become familiar with the effort associated with your target heart rate, you will only have to check your pulse periodically to make sure you are still in your target range. T=Time: keep in your target heart rate for at least 20-30 minutes.

Some examples of aerobic exercise are running, biking, swimming and walking. To stay motivated, become more knowledgeable about your sport and body. You can join a club, subscribe to a magazine, go to the library. Invest in the proper equipment. Remember, you are worth it! Select a sport or activity that fits your physical ability, shape and interests. Keep a log to chart your progress. Just as not exercising can be detrimental to your health, remember that too much exercise, especially too soon, can also become a problem. Start off slowly. Set reasonable limits. Next issue I will discuss nutrition.

¹*Losing Sleep*, by Lydia Dotto, 1990, p. 230.

²*The Wellness Encyclopedia*, from the editors of the University of California, Berkeley Wellness Center, 1991, p. 212.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR:

Cathy Zitti is a 5 year veteran of the Nassau County Police Department in New York and is assigned to the Firearms Training Unit as a Firearms Instructor. She is an accomplished runner, swimmer, bicyclist, and triathlete.

In Search of the Magic Bullet

by Aron S. Lipman
 Personal Protection Systems, Ltd.

For many years I have tested all types of handgun ammunition; also, my firm has manufactured or distributed practically every exotic round available. All of these rounds have been tested in all types of

medium, from water to wet paper and sand and gelatin in both 20% and 10% solution, through various forms of hard penetration and at various ranges. Also, all of these rounds have been tested in live tissue; i.e., game animals, cattle and hogs at slaughterhouses.

After all this extensive testing, I have come to the conclusion that there is no such thing as a magic bullet, as in a given particular circumstance, one type of round will outperform another. However, in a different situation the opposite will occur. When we developed our line of maximum performance defensive handgun ammunition, we tried to reach a compromise. The compromise being a round not designed for a particular scenario but that would be adequate, but not ideal, for all scenarios.

“ . . . a hit with a .22 is better than a miss with a .44 magnum.”

I have worked extensively with forensic laboratories throughout the country when there have been shootings with our ammunition. Up to this point they have always done what they were designed to do. This does not make them magic bullets because given a particular circumstance there are different types of rounds that would have done a better job.

I'm sure readers of this article have heard the adage, “. . . a hit with a .22 is better than a miss with a .44 magnum,” and bullet placement within a combat time frame will always be the key element in surviving an encounter.

I like to refer to this as a combat triangle consisting of three points, 1) power, 2) accuracy, and 3) time. Power is predetermined. Whenever I am asked what is the best gun in the world, my answer is “whatever you have available when you need it.” Therefore, your side arm and whatever ammunition it is loaded with at that time has predetermined the power

factor. The important factors you have control over are accuracy and speed, and these factors have to be carefully balanced based on available cover, good tactics and distance. That is when your previous training pays off because that training, if it was not fallacious, will have conditioned your subconscious mind on how to balance speed and accuracy.

For example, at 30 feet, two carefully placed shots two seconds apart, from behind cover, may be to your advantage. However, if you have to fire at 10 feet with no cover available, you are better off with the same number of shots hitting your target with a lesser degree of accuracy in one and one-half seconds.

If you decide on a high performance type of exotic ammunition, all of which are rather expensive (from

\$2.00 to \$5.00 per round), the most important thing is to determine reliability. This is not a problem with most revolvers, but can be a problem with some semi-automatic handguns. There are very few of us who can afford to expend several hundred rounds at \$3.00 each to determine how this ammunition functions in our side arm.

The good news is that this is not necessary, as you can feed the ammunition through your weapon to be sure it feeds properly. Then you can shoot a magazine of the ammunition to determine its point of impact. From that point on all practice can be done with any inexpensive ammunition because if you test yourself, you will find that at practical combat handgun ranges 45 feet maximum. The point of impact of all type rounds is extremely close and in a realistic combat situation, the difference in point of impact from the cheapest to the most expensive rounds is inconsequential.

Regardless of the ammunition you carry, each round should be inspected

for uniformity, no high primers, no loose bullet heads. When you come across any defective rounds, they should be used for practice only. All rounds carried for protection, including any reloads, must be uniform. If they are the high performance exotic rounds and do not meet standards, they should be returned to the manufacturer, as most reputable manufacturers will replace any defective rounds at no cost.

In summation, there is no magic bullet. Try to find the type of ammunition that will perform best for your particular circumstances. This may be a fragmenting round with shallow penetration, such as the Glaser Safety Slug, for your particular scenario, or a hollow point with adequate penetration but not over-penetration, or it may be a round with extreme penetration based on your particular needs, or it may be a compromise type round such as our PPS defensive handgun ammunition or the Gecco Action Safety round.

Remember, your proficiency is determined by your mind set, your tactics and your skill at arms (what Ken Hackathorn refers to as the combat triad). These elements are not determined by a magic bullet; they are determined by your attitude and the amount of time and effort you are willing to expend to develop and maintain your proficiency.

Unfortunately, the handgun is the most difficult of all firearms to master and maintain your proficiency. The major reason being that with a handgun you only have one point of index, not counting your eyesight, whereas with a long arm, regardless of what shooting stance or technique is used, you have at least three points of index (and usually four) excluding your eyesight.

Most handgun competition shooters shoot a maximum of 300 to as many as 1500 rounds per week to maintain their proficiency. (For civilians and law enforcement personnel, this is not necessary.) However,

once you have developed the skill level necessary for defensive proficiency, it is important that periodically you go through realistic scenarios that would apply to your particular needs and expend approximately 100 rounds minimum on a monthly basis. If you do this on a regular basis you will maintain the proficiency you need. This can be done with the least expensive ammunition available to you because, as I mentioned previously, point of impact is negligible at realistic combat distances.

Advanced Firearms Training: Tactical Ground Defense Course



*by David M. Grossi
Senior Instructor, Calibre Press Inc.
Street Survival® seminar*

There's a popular TV commercial currently being aired that features an elderly woman who has fallen down, and as she lies on the ground, yells in the direction of a medical transmitting device: "I've fallen, and I can't get up!" In fact, this commercial has become rather a disrespectful gag on the part of several night club comedians. . . to the dismay of the AARP groups and senior citizens organizations.

After seeing the commercial several times, and hearing the gag lines on a couple of late night Comedy Club channels, it hit me how poignant that line is: "I've fallen, and I can't get up!"

Especially how relative it is to tactical shooting positions and advanced firearms training.

During my blocks of instruction with the Calibre Press, Inc. STREET SURVIVAL seminars, I talk about the Successful Delivery of Deadly Force, which emphasizes advanced firearms training techniques like shooting on the move, one-handed reloading with revolvers and semi-autos, one-handed malfunction clearing procedures and other firearms related skills.

This material was put together, in part, with the help of a Firearms Instructor from the Federal Law Enforcement Training Center (FLETC) in Glynco, Georgia; a trainer by the name of James Cirillo, formerly of NYPD. Jim designed a course of fire called the "Downed Officer's Defense Course" in response to a shooting which occurred many years ago in the New York City area.

Two NYC officers were assassinated by members of the Black Liberation Army on a sidewalk in NYC. The two suspects got into a gun fight with the two officers and emptied their guns at them. The first officer was killed immediately, but the second was down, but not out. Still conscious, albeit paralyzed from the waist down, the officer drew his revolver and was desperately trying to get into a sitting position to fire. The suspects, now with empty guns themselves, took off. But in looking back, one saw the officer struggling to get himself upright. One of the suspects, armed himself with the first officer's revolver, snuck back and summarily executed the second officer with a shot to the head.

It's interesting how training affects your instinctive reactions on the street. We've been hearing for years now that old line: "What you do in training, you'll do on the street." And history is full of incidents, fatal reminders of how true that saying is. Training programs are replete with references to officers dying with spent casings in their hand, presumably looking for a brass bucket, or other officers falling

I A L E F I

Diagram No. 1

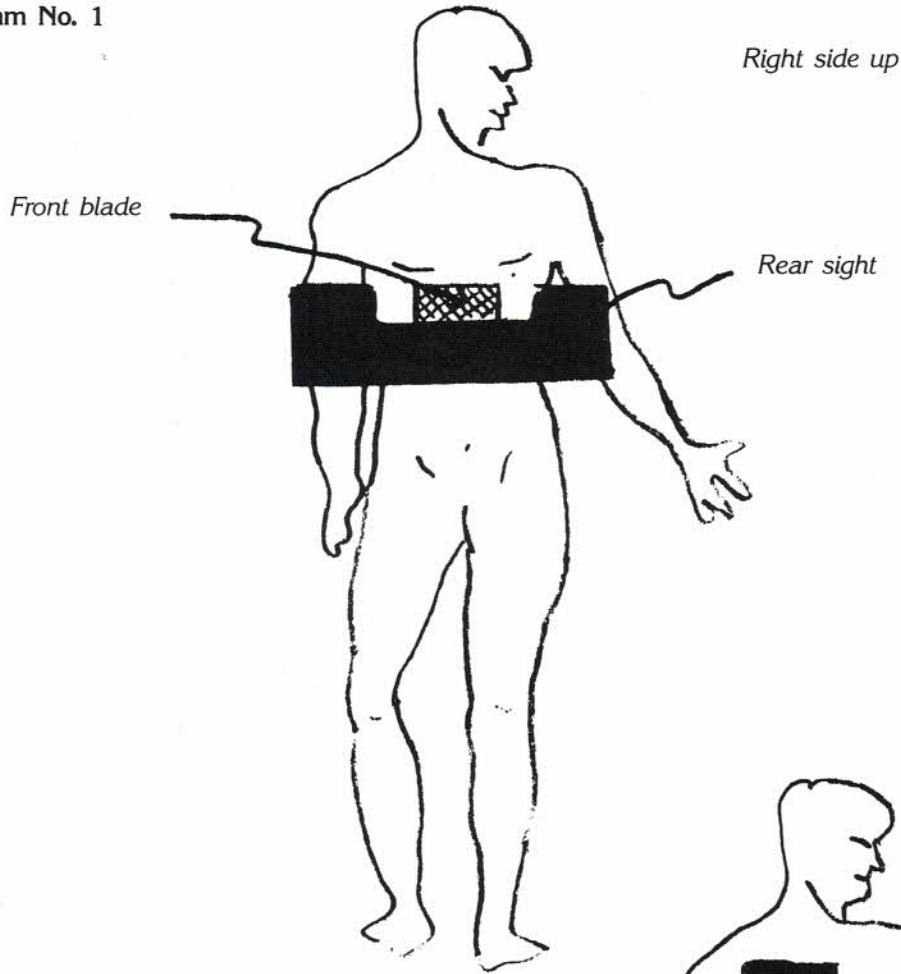


Diagram No. 2

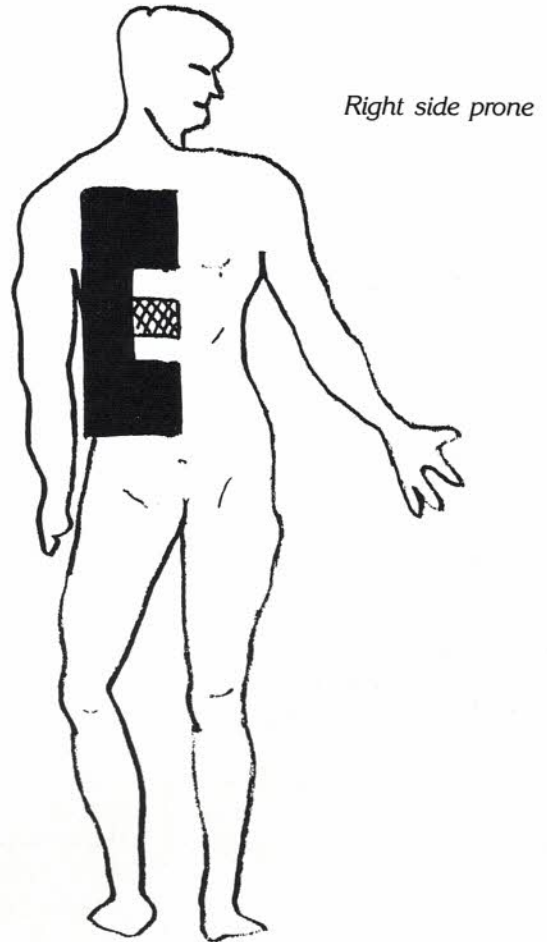
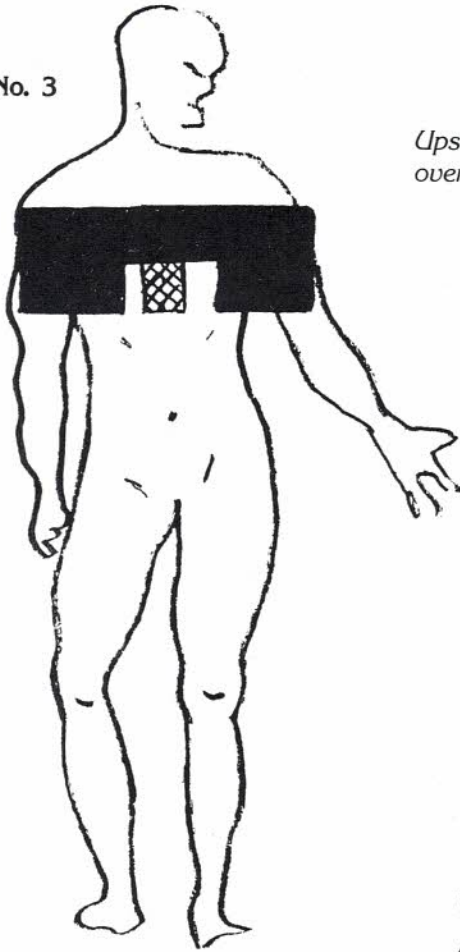
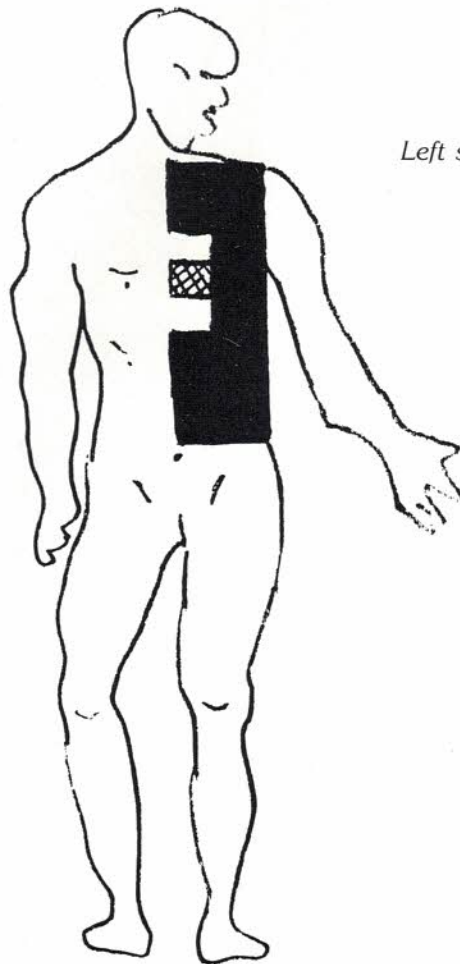


Diagram No. 3



*Upside down or
over the head*

Diagram No. 4



Left side prone

down and giving up because the suspect got off the first shot. . . even though they're capable of fighting back and WINNING, they don't. The above all are grim examples of fatal errors learned on the range for the sake of convenience or improper instruction at the risk of serious physical injury or death to the student/officer.

right side, left side or on your back over your head. Proof positive that it works!

Now, Mr. Range Officer, incorporate what you've just learned and discovered into your next Tactical Course of Fire. Oh, yeah, by the way, your officers will get their uniforms dirty. . . and your detectives may even

but I think we should be careful how we use this information.

Most of the statistics that are being cited involve *officers killed*. Statistics do indicate that the majority of these incidents occurred at close distances. But where are the statistics for officers that have *survived* shooting incidents? Might it be that these officers survived because they were some distance from their assailant(s) and had taken good cover? Don't we, as trainers, want to have our officers survive? Don't we stress cover and concealment? Don't we also stress that officers who have a good covered position should not rush into a closer position without carefully evaluating the situation? Don't we train officers to be patient and call for backup or a tactical team if needed? If the answer is yes to any of these statements I would like for you to consider the following.

I don't feel that police firearms training should be designed so that an officer feels compelled to rush and conquer a closer position simply to be closer to the target. If we are training police officers to do this because they lack the ability or confidence to fire at longer distances, then we, as trainers, aren't really doing what we should be doing to prepare our officers to survive.

I feel that the surge of semi-autos in policing has had an adverse influence on distance shooting training. And I think I know why.

It takes time to provide transitional training from revolvers to semi-autos. Trainers are faced with large numbers of officers to train, little money for ammo, and have but a few hours to accomplish this transition. It takes time and work to become proficient at distance shooting. Trainers who are being pressured might decide that if they get their officers proficient with handling and firing at close distances their job is complete. Can you be positive that an officer will not be required to fire his semi-auto from a distance further than 25 yards? Of course you can't. So you must then

“What you do in training, you'll do on the street.”

There heretofore NYC incident referenced earlier, demonstrates those truths dramatically. Cirillo's "Downed Officer's Defense Course" and the STREET SURVIVAL seminar demonstrate and teach officers that sight picture and sight alignment do not depend in any, shape or form on your internal body compass. Your handgun will fire in *any* position, at *any* angle. And you can hit your target (or your assailant) while on your side, on the ground, upside down, your back, or whatever position you deliberately assume, or unexpectedly find yourself in. Haven't we, as firearms instructors, been doing those "dog and pony shows" (mirrors over the shoulder, two guns/two targets at one time and other trick shooting techniques) for years to tour groups, civilian demonstrations and public relations gatherings? But somehow, we've forgotten that these same principles can work for our officers on the street, too!

And that is precisely what the "Downed Officer's Defense Course" stresses. As long as you maintain the basic sight picture/sight alignment concept in your head, you can deliver effective deadly force under less than optimum circumstances. The next time you have the occasion, try the "practicality test" using some volunteers on your range. Hang a couple of silhouette targets, side by side and time yourself (or the same volunteers) putting two rounds into each target from the ground on your

scuff up their Nino Cerrutti shoes a little, too. But keep the lessons of the BLA/NYC shootout of two decades ago in mind. And an additional benefit. . . you'll even make Firearms In-service training fun.

Someday, someone will come up to you and thank you for teaching them something that saved their life. As I've discovered, first hand, that "thank you" means the *world* to any instructor when it's uttered by an officer who has *survived* because of what you've taught him or her.

It's the greatest gift an Instructor can give. For more information on the "Downed Officer's Course," contact the Federal Law Enforcement Training Center (FLETC) at Glynco, Georgia at 1-912-267-2100.

For more information about the STREET SURVIVAL seminars, call Calibre Press, Inc., at 1-800-323-0037.

Is Distance Firing Obsolete For Police Officer Training?

by Lieutenant Glenda E. Mercer

There seems to be a lot of different opinions concerning distance training with firearms. Some officers have taken statistics out of context to make their point for only close (25 yards and in) handgun training. I realize that we need statistics to evaluate programs,

ask yourself, will the officer have the ability to be proficient with shots beyond 25 yards?

Take your officers to a local bank and ask them where they would place their vehicle or themselves for cover if a robbery was in progress. Take your officers to the main street in your town. Measure the distance from curb to curb. Then take a corner of a building and measure across the street to some location where an assailant might take cover. If you want to make your point even clearer take your officers to a residential area and point out a house. Ask the officers where they would place their vehicle or place themselves if under attack from that house. I think, in each case, the officers would indicate that they wouldn't want to be close; that they would prefer to be some distance away—with good cover.

“Our job as trainers is a serious one and should not be taken lightly.”

My point is that I feel my job, as Director of Firearms Training for the Indiana Law Enforcement Academy, is to provide training in all types of shooting incidents that officers might encounter. I feel that doing away with *all distance* training is not being fair to those officers who might need distance shooting skills to survive.

It takes a lot of concentration to shoot at 50 yards. If officers are making shooting errors at 25 yards, you can be sure those errors will be magnified at 50 yards. At this longer distance fundamentals are very important and must be stressed constantly. Instructors should not eliminate this area of training because officers complain about their lack of ability to fire well at distances past 25 yards. Lowering standards is not the answer to the problem.

Don't misunderstand me. I believe that reflexive combat shooting is very important. We should have courses where officers must react at close

distances within short time periods; courses where the use of sights are not emphasized. But, if we train *only* for close distance firing, then aren't we training officers to rush into situations that could endanger their lives? Don't we see that, limiting ourselves to this type of training, we are also giving the assailant a better chance to hit the officer at a closer range? Such close-in training encourages officers to move in for good shots instead of establishing confidence that they can shoot, and shoot well, *at a distance of 50 yards and beyond.*

I am concerned because I hear that some departments have done away with all distance shooting training. I think going to the extreme, either way, is wrong and may result in officers needlessly losing their lives. I would like to encourage all trainers to continually evaluate their firearms train-

ing program. But I would hope that trainers aren't making changes in their program without doing a lot of conscious thinking about the total consequences.

Our job as trainers is a serious one and should not be taken lightly. Our officers are depending upon us to train them adequately and correctly. They want to know that if they are called upon to use their weapons, whether at 5 feet or 50 yards, they will have the confidence and skill to do so and will survive. Let's not let them down.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR:

Glenda E. Mercer is a senior staff instructor at the Indiana Law Enforcement Academy. Lieutenant Mercer joined the Academy in 1979 and presently serves as the Director of Firearms Training. She was previously with the Indianapolis International Airport Police for six years where she advanced to the rank of Detective. She is a graduate of the F.B.I. National

Academy, 146th Session. Lieutenant Mercer graduated with honors from Indiana University, earning an Associate Degree in Criminal Justice. She has attended numerous firearms training courses and is a member of the International Association of Law Enforcement Firearms Instructors, the N.R.A. and serves as 2nd Vice President of the Police League of Indiana, Inc.

Police Body Armor Standards and Testing

by Bruce Howard

Well, it's about time that someone has decided to look into the controversy regarding the current NIJ standards on body armor. After all, the only one involved here are the cops who may not wear body armor because their department wouldn't purchase a certain type or brand because of what many feel is a ridiculous standard on body armor, written by those who don't have to wear it to protect themselves. NIJ, which is a part of the Department of Justice, issued a standard in 1987 concerning specifications on body armor. Adherence to this standard is voluntary but many law enforcement agencies would rather purchase "certified" armor.

One of the key issues concerning this "standard" is that if the manufacturers construct their vests to meet criteria they will be so heavy and stiff no one will wear them. I don't know about you but as I write this piece the temperature outside is nearing 100 degrees and that's in the Northeast. I can only imagine what our brothers and sisters in the southwest and other hot spots in the country have to endure daily. Don't get this author wrong. I think that NIJ, like the IACP, mean well but never seem to consult those officers who really know these issues well. The other issue is that NIJ was saying that a couple manufacturers were selling vests and claiming

they met the NIJ standards although they didn't. The problem was the Kevlar met the standards but because some stitching was changed (to make a better vest) this negated the vests that were earlier tested, and because the vests were different these manufacturers were more or less accused of defrauding police officers. Heck, these same people, as a result of their work with body armor, have saved countless numbers of lives, and now they are accused of defrauding them. It is also to be noted that not one vest has ever failed to do what it is designed to do (*STOP BULLETS*). I'm not going to get into this whole issue again, but if you would like a refresher, then pick up your last issue of IALEFI's *Firearms Instructor*.

Others, including some of the other armor material manufacturers and garments support the NIJ standard and rebut arguments for changing it. So who is right? Who is wrong? Who cares? As far as this author is concerned, I would like to get this issue cleared up and put in the proper context, as the longer it simmers the more chance that cops won't wear their armor and the more chance they may die. THAT is the main issue here.

OTA or the Office of Technological Assessment which is a technical arm of the government has been asked to investigate controversies surrounding the rationale for the testing procedures used to certify compliance. This assessment was requested by the Senate Committee on the Judiciary and by Reps. Edward F. Feighan, a Member of the House Committee on the Judiciary, and John Moakley, Chairman of the House Rules Committee. This project was slated to begin on March 1991 and delivered January 1992. The purpose of this study by OTA is to identify key issues and resolve technical disputes relating to standards for and testing of police body armor.

Some of the key areas that this report specifically addresses are the following:

1. inconsistencies in test results, their statistical significance, and the dependence of variability on material and manufacturer.
2. the range of environmental conditions under which armor should be tested;
3. ballistic threats (esp velocity and number of rounds) to be withstood; and
4. existing and potential safeguards for preventing fraud—e.g., fraudulent labeling of vests as certified.

Although the above will meet specific goals, OTA has stated they will address any other questions that appear, in the course of the study, to be material, for a thorough assessment. Furthermore in pursuing goals 2 & 3, OTA will not attempt to recommend a new standard nor endorse an existing one, because doing so would require making a value judgement. Instead, OTA will seek to estimate and represent the risk that would be averted by wearing armor having various qualities of environmental and ballistic resistance and body coverage, considering the probabilities with which law enforcement officers encounter various environmental conditions and ballistic threats. It appears clear that at this point that a variety of garments are (and could be) available embodying different tradeoffs among the major design characteristics (e.g., protection, comfort, and cost). This assessment should aid consumers in making intelligent choices among products.

One of the first tasks of OTA will be to take a look at some of the studies that have already been conducted, such as design specification, or selection of body armor, especially concealable body armor. These include studies conducted or cited by U.S. government agencies (such as the NILECJ, NIJ, and the Department of Defense), private organizations (including the PPAA, the Center for Ballistic Analysis, and manufacturers of armor material and garments), and

foreign organizations (governmental and private). In preparing their proposal, OTA has reviewed a number of such studies and identified others.

OTA will assemble a panel of advisors who collectively have expertise in all relevant technical topics and represent the range of opinions on contested issues. The panel should include spokesmen for major stakeholders, including manufacturers of armor garments and their materials, insurers, and police officers, their chiefs, and their families. It should also include experts in armor, ballistics, wound ballistics, experimental design and statistical inference, crime statistics and perhaps the psychophysics and physiology of thermal stress and thermoregulation. The panel should have from 14 to 20 members. This author can only hope and suggest that IALEFI representatives be notified and solicited for their expertise in this area.

I have spoken to Chief Joseph G. Estey of the Hartford Police Department in White River Junction, Vermont. Chief Estey sounds like a guy who really cares about his cops. Chief Estey has said that he is very enthusiastic about the work that OTA is doing but warns that the issue of whether governmental agencies shall force regulations on law enforcement agencies is still real and is still a danger. We all know that police work, whether we are trainers or street cops, is rarely black or white. For government agencies to put a regulation on a particular piece of police equipment, i.e., body armor, can be very dangerous indeed. The problems for an officer who wears a particular vest in Mesa, Arizona is not going to be the same for an officer in Anchorage, Alaska. This may be very simplistically stated, but a very important matter to consider.

This is basically what this issue of NIJ vs. the free enterprise of body armor manufacturers is all about. I personally appreciate the input of NIJ when it comes to the evaluation of cer-

tain pieces of police equipment, but I do not care for them to try to voluntarily regulate or set standards for something that can be so vastly different as body armor. Add that to the issue of cops not wearing their armor because it is so hot, stiff and heavy, or departments cancelling body armor deliveries because the vests no longer meet standards set forth by NIJ, possibly due to the fact that stitching may not be exactly the same as vests that passed earlier specifications were, stitching that possibly may be in fact better, and you will have cops getting hurt and possibly killed. Before this happens I can only hope that this project, currently being undertaken by OTA can iron out this mess and put to rest the feud currently going on between NIJ and many of the manufacturers of body armor and garments.

Again I must remind all of those involved in this project that those who stand to lose the most are the men and women of law enforcement who sometimes have only these vests to stand behind.

Much of the information in this article is based on an OTA Project Proposal. For more information, please contact OTA. Staff Contact: Mr. Michael Callaham, International Security and Commerce Program, (202) 228-6426.

Please note that the thoughts and comments here are those of the author and not necessarily of IALEFI.

Expansion Sought In Field of Corrections

*by Sgt. Kenneth W. Mays
California State Department of
the Youth Authority*

By now most of you have already heard or read about the fantastic time had by all at this year's Annual Training Conference held in Mesa, Arizona. Being my first ATC, and having two sons living in the Phoenix area, one in College and one on the Phoenix PD,

I had three reasons to enjoy myself.

But all that aside, there was another reason for me to become excited by what I heard at the conference. Specifically, there was much discussion among the Board Members and general membership as well, about seeing an expanded role in the association's activities by those of us in the Corrections profession. This struck a particular chord within me as I have been witness to the expanded role firearms has taken in the corrections community here in California.

For virtually every Correctional Department throughout the world, firearms within the adult institution is nothing new. Armed towers, Emergency Response Teams, "CERT" teams or other monikers are often heard and always present.

I believe that all of us in law enforcement associated with firearms or in a position where the possible use of deadly force exists can always benefit from additional training or new techniques. I don't believe that you need me to tell you that IALEFI exists for this very reason.

as such (PC-830). For at least a decade prior to this law a struggle had already been going on within the department as it sought to define its image and contend with an "alleged" conflict raging between the traditional "treatment" philosophy and an increasing need for maintaining "Custody & Control" within a secure environment. When this law was passed an "identity crisis" of sorts roared throughout the Youth Authority. A crisis which was both ignored and denied by some. And one which persists to some degree to this day.

For those in the "treatment camp" the word YOUTH in Youth Authority held the image of a bunch of misguided "Mickey Roonies," needing only an understanding "Spencer Tracy" to come along and straighten them out. A "Spock-stonian" mentality. For them a CUSTODY mentality was seen as an incarnation of "THX-1138." One of CONTROL, CUFFS, CHEMICAL RESTRAINTS, FORCE OPTIONS, UNIFORMS, BADGES and, of course, GUNS!

"After attending the conference I know that IALEFI has a lot to offer us."

In corrections, however, there appears to be a new frontier on a national level, if not the world community at large, in terms of firearms, lethal force and training program development. To further explain my point let me provide you with a brief historical perspective of this issue as it exists within corrections in California.

Having been a Correctional Peace Officer with the California Youth Authority since 1969 I can remember a time when those of us in the field of Juvenile Corrections were not even considered nor defined as Peace Officers. In fact it was not until 1981 that specific language was placed in our state's Penal Code which declared us

Ironically, at the same time the violence associated with prison gangs was also spilling over into the streets. Youth gangs and violence were also on the rise. Changes in sentencing laws were being enacted. The "inmate rights" rulings which were the results of the Attica Prison riots were being implemented. No longer was the CYA filled with "Mickey Roonies." It was now being populated by "Baby Capones." Picture, if you will, a political arena where collective bargaining was also coming into law. For the first time Officers of both the Department of Corrections and Youth Authority were being merged under the same "union" umbrella. A professional arena where CO's were no

longer just "rec-yard" targets during a "fake" fight; but were actually the intended "hits," while off duty, by gang organized assassination squads. Violent, repeat, habitual, career criminals were bulging our institutions beyond their planned capacity and swelling the Parole Agent's caseload lists.

During my discussions with other correctional officers at the Conference I found that many of their departments had either gone through the same basic scenario or were facing the same basic situation that California corrections had faced during the decade of the '70's. Perhaps many of you are in the same situation now. But however our departments have or have not faced up to this demand, we can all equally benefit by sharing our common concerns.

PC-830, armed our Parole Agents in both the CYA and CDC. It armed our transportation officers. It granted an entitlement for all Correctional Peace Officers throughout the state to carry concealed and loaded firearms in public. Both departments, as well as county probation departments who were also touched by the provisions of PC-830, have, for the most part, dealt very well with the "on-duty" weapon carrying officers. For the "off-duty" officers it has left a lot to be desired.

City and county law enforcement agencies are increasingly using Parole Agents in assisting them in apprehending suspects. Parole Agents don't need search or arrest warrants to apprehend a Parolee suspected of another crime. Getting a Parolee's Parole revoked, and him or her sent back to prison for the remainder of their time for their old "beef," can save counties a lot of trial expense money for some new offense.

On occasion the amount of prison time available on that old offense would be more than the time the criminal would get for a conviction on a new offense.

I strongly feel that those of us in this profession have a lot to offer IALEFI.

After attending the conference I know that IALEFI has a lot to offer us. For any of you facing the implementation of firearms into your department, the training and assistance offered by this association could be vital to a successful transition. That is why those of us on the Corrections Committee established a one-year goal to network and recruit as many firearm instructors from the correction field as possible. I encourage your involvement. Thank you!

Sergeant Kenneth W. Mays is a 22 year veteran of the California Department of the Youth Authority. An NRA, FBI and State Certified Firearms Instructor, he conducts training and qualification programs for Correctional Peace Officers as well as private security officers and firms.

Physics As It Relates To Firearms

by David W. D. Langstroth

"To kill a fly with a sledgehammer," an interesting analogy of overkill, but perhaps there is more to the statement than is originally perceived. Let's examine the possibilities.

First, select your weapon, a solid steel head, 10 pound sledge attached to a 32 inch piece of stout hickory. Grasp it in your strong hand (your *very* strong side hand), about 12 inches from the weighted end (you know, the end with the hammerhead on it).

POWER! The ability to crush flies right down to the molecular level.

Let's take a couple of practice swings. HEY, THERE!! This is a little uncontrollable! We can initiate the forward movement but trying to slow down... JEEZ! (congratulations, you've discovered Inertia!) When we swing the hammer back it almost tears itself from our hand.

What's the answer? AHA! Use both hands! Great! More control, but...

what if we moved our hands closer to the weighted end? Yes. that's it! We've done it! The **ULTIMATE POWER!!!** ...hundreds of foot pounds per square inch of deathdealing, fly crushing capability!!...but, wait a minute, we're supposed to be discussing Physics and Firearms.

Well, in a way, we are. In a self-loading pistol the recoiling mass consisting of the slide, rapidly expanding hot gases, the empty case and in some cases the barrel, moving rather quickly in a rearward direction, replaces the head of the hammer. The pistol grip replaces the stout hickory handle. The same two hands, the same placement (as close to the recoiling mass as possible without losing valuable parts of your body.) The pistol will now try as hard as it can to tear itself from your hands every time you are foolish enough to fire it!

There now exists a problem: how do you get your hand closer to the center of the bore (the head of the hammer)? Well, you can alter the physical make up of your hands (however, I think that most of you have grown accustomed to having all ten digits), or (pay attention now, this is the important part), mechanically alter the format of the pistol.

Several firearms manufacturers seemed to have overlooked the interaction of their respective (and I might add, respectable) mechanical devices with the human body (Smith & Wesson, Sigarms, Beretta, etc.). Several others (Glock, Heckler & Koch, Browning and Hammerli), appear to acknowledge this interaction by arranging the bore to be as close to the top of the hand(s) as possible, thus reducing the RMPD (Recoiling Mass Pivot Distance).

The RMPD can easily be measured in the following manner. Draw an imaginary line down the center of the bore of your pistol/revolver, draw another imaginary line along the top of your hand while you are holding your firearm. The distance between the two lines is the RMPD.

I A L E F I

The RMPD applies to all manner and types of firearms, revolvers, rifles, shotguns, submachineguns, etc., but for now let's look at self loading pistols.

Many small bore (.22 calibre) pistol designs, that are and have been available on the commercial market, have attempted, in most cases successfully, to bring the center of the bore down as low as possible and thus reducing the RMPD. They have accomplished this feat by 1) angling the bottom of the grip to the rear, 2) reversing the positions of the barrel and recoil drive spring or 3) arranging a low format trigger connector.

Imagine the marriage of the frame of the P-08 Luger and the slide/barrel assembly of a Browning High Power P-35. Talk about your low RMPD!!

Remember, the smaller the RMPD the more likely it is that the shooter can control and/or direct a multiple round volley in the shortest time with



Firearms are not to same scale

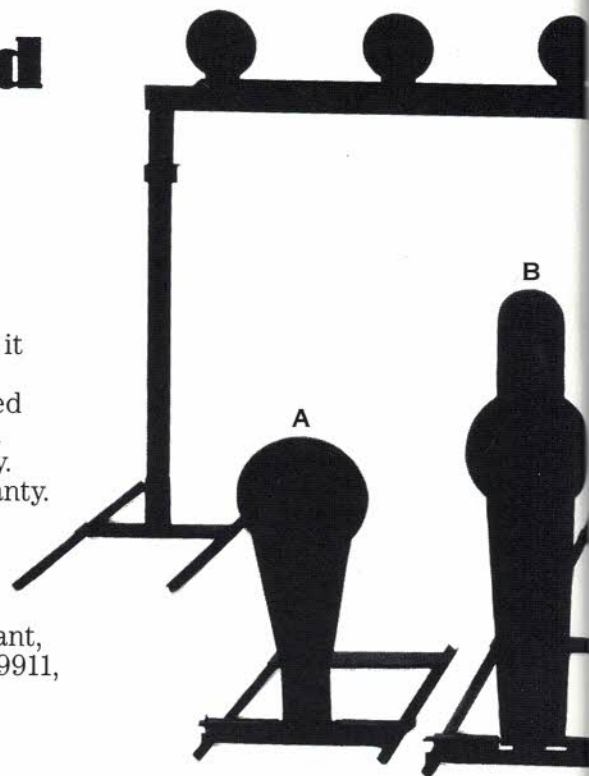
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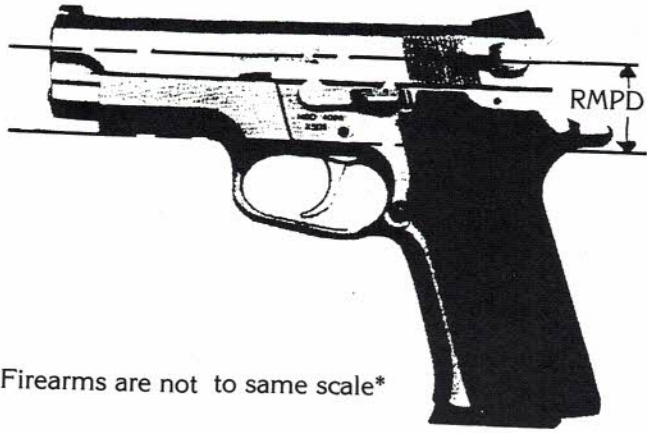
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I A L E F I



Firearms are not to same scale



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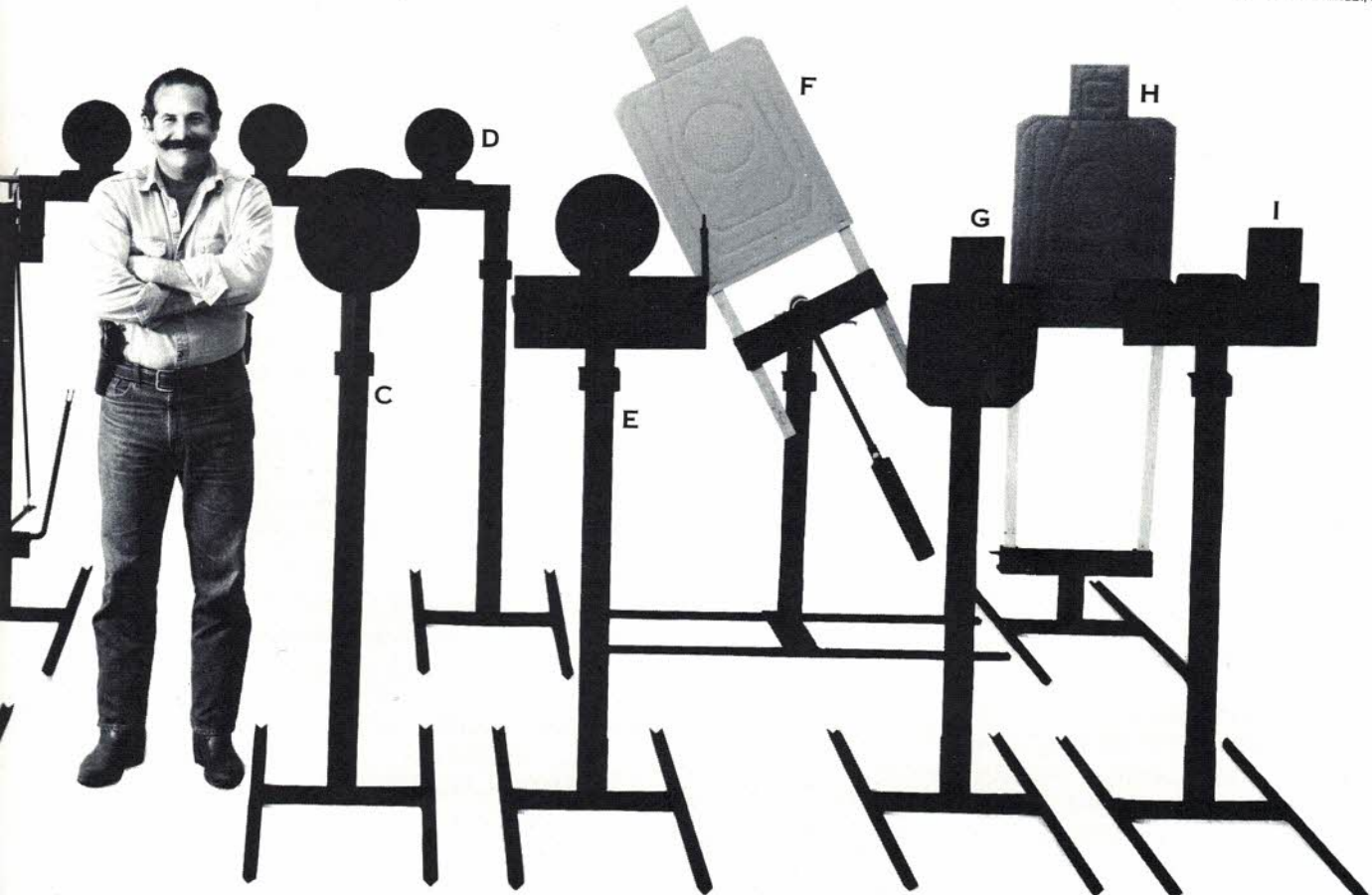
David Langstroth is currently a Gunsmith with the Ontario Provincial Police and is a serving member of the Canadian Armed Forces (Reserve) in his capacity as a Weapons Technician. Mr. Langstroth is a graduate of the Colorado School of Trades (Gunsmithing) and has been involved with firearms design, customization, modification and repair, for the last 15 years.

Maintain Your Weapon

by Barlow G. Hill

This is such a basic statement I feel foolish making it. During qualification periods all of us have seen the firearms instructor sooner or later take a weapon and comment on how dirty it is. It's always good for a laugh. You

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can get a lot of mileage out of the embarrassment suffered by the officer.

I remember being in a patrol car and noticing the poor condition of my partner's holster. Sometime during the tour he let me examine his weapon. It was filthy. The bullets were green and you could grow vegetables in the dirt in his holster. I mention this incident because of the poor condition of the weapon. I wouldn't have been surprised if it wouldn't fire. I've never seen any as bad since.

As a firearms instructor, I check all the weapons and ammunition in the classroom before doing anything else. I once found a gun that had a wood screw in the forcing cone. Serial numbers are checked against range records and the ammunition fired during that qualification. The guns will be cleaned and new ammunition issued before departure.

When I was a new enforcement officer I really took care of my equipment. You could have eaten off my gun, it was so clean. I've always wondered why any officer would let his equipment go. Time has given me the answer. COMPLACENCY. As the years go by, you get more and more comfortable with your position. You lose that edge you had when you were a rookie. Some routine checks get put off or given only casual attention. Unfortunately, maintenance is one of the duties easily neglected. It's easy to wait for the next qualification period, shoot the dirt out of your gun and clean it then. Since some departments qualify only once or twice a year, you could collect many interesting items during that time.

Another surprising reason is that officers have a tendency to think of their weapons as a tool they have to carry. It's like a carpenter with his hammer. He has it on him, but gives it no thought. When he needs it, he reaches for it. If it's not there, it's an inconvenience. If it breaks, he'll get another. I don't have to tell you what could happen to an officer in the same circumstance. When you need a gun, you

need it in the worst way. If it doesn't go BANG when you squeeze that trigger, all you've got left is your smile and your verbal skills. Maybe a major drycleaning bill.

Get back into the habit of checking your weapon before you put it on. It only takes a short time to check the ammo and check the barrel for obstructions. Spin the cylinder for free movement and hand contact on the ratchets. Squeeze the trigger for functioning. Statistics say that you may go your whole career without firing your weapon except for qualification. I hope that will be true for us all. Maintain your tools: it's a small cost in time that may pay a big dividend if things go bad.

Barlow G. Hill has 29 years federal service. He started as a clerk with the Customs Service, became an Enforcement Officer, a Sky Marshall and then a Customs Inspector. He is currently an Instructor with the National Firearms Program Staff of the U.S. Customs Service.

Firearms Training: A Total Program

by Kermit Perdew

Over the past two decades, there has been a great change in the concept of firearm training. More stress is being placed on training that attempts to simulate situations faced by officers in firearms incidents. Emphasis is on creating ongoing programs of instruction. For a program to be total, there should be more than the required trips to the range. Many of the people hired as police officers have little or no experience with firearms. They receive training with their duty weapons and begin work. Police officers often have to handle firearms of various types and in various conditions. In order for them to handle these weapons, they need to be familiar with the operation

of different types of firearms. Does your program provide training in the safe operation of different types of firearms? Nothing is more dangerous than a person fiddling with a handgun he knows nothing about. This training can be done in the classroom and should be hands on. Most agencies have a number of confiscated weapons that can be used in the instruction. As in all training, the instructor should develop a class plan and document training provided. As different designs of weapons are encountered, the training and information should be updated. This type of training should be provided on an ongoing basis, not just once. We learn through repetition. A small amount of time spent on familiarization can save an agency from an injury, damage or lawsuit.

Firearms programs emphasize safety in the handling of weapons on the range and on the street. Does your program include firearms safety in the home? The officer works for 8 hours and is off duty 16. The majority of the time, the officer and his weapon are not under the control of the agency. Does your program include safe handling and storage of the duty weapon at the officer's home?

Many officers are married and many have children at home. Does your program provide for firearms safety training for the officer's wife and children? If not, you might consider it. Your agency has introduced an item capable of great harm into the officer's home. You have a responsibility for that weapon and the safe handling of it.

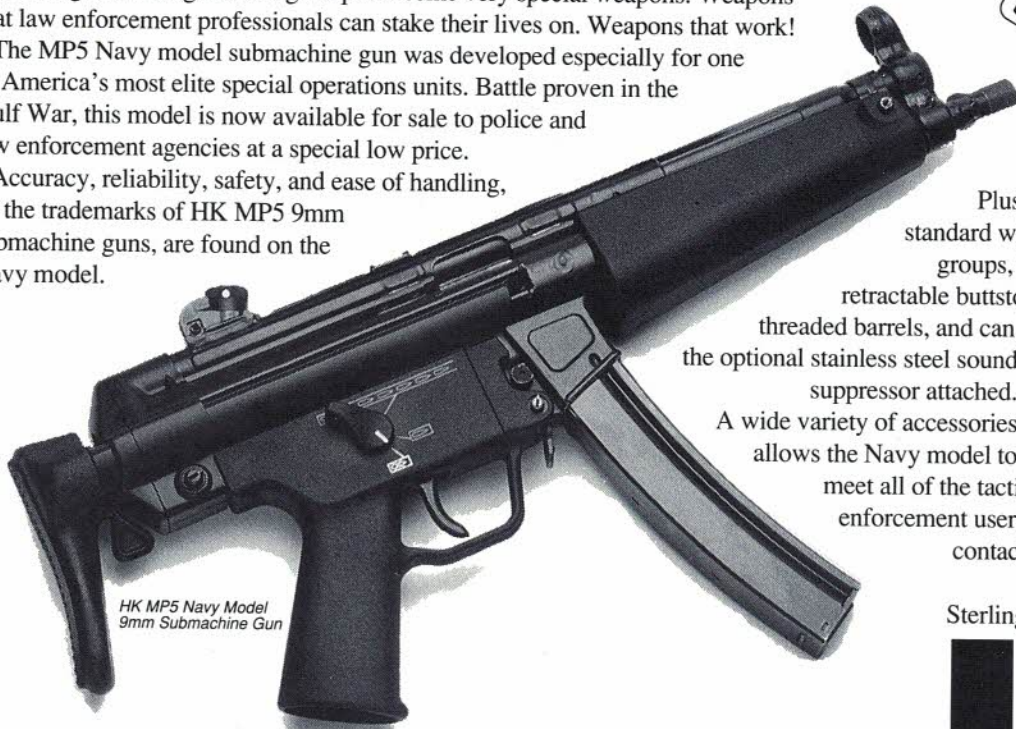
You may also want to offer a basic firearms course for the spouse of your officer. She may wish to learn how to fire a handgun to protect herself when her husband is working the late shift. The safety class for spouses should be mandatory. It will allow wives to meet each other and also go towards making their home a little more safe. It will demonstrate to your people that you care about their safety. Many agencies

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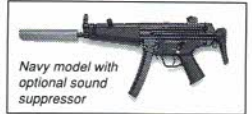
The MP5 Navy model submachine gun was developed especially for one of America's most elite special operations units. Battle proven in the Gulf War, this model is now available for sale to police and law enforcement agencies at a special low price.

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meet all of the tactical requirements of law enforcement users. For more information contact: Heckler & Koch, Inc. 21480 Pacific Blvd. Sterling, Virginia 22170 USA Tel. (703) 450-1900



In a world of compromise, some don't.

have civilian employees. You might consider a basic firerams program for them. Even if they are not sworn officers, they may at some time be in a situation where they must handle a weapon of some sort. You would want them to do this in a safe manner. You might also offer them the basic shooting instruction along with the spouses. The options mentioned will go towards having a more complete firearms program. There is more to training than a few trips to the range.

International Committee Report

We are expanding the committee. We now have representatives in four states of Australia, Belgium, Caribbean, France, England, Germany, Three Provinces in Canada and Hong Kong.

The Third International Training Tour is being planned for late April/early May, 1992 to visit three countries in Europe: Italy, Switzerland and Austria. The trip will be approximately 10 days in duration and cost approximately \$2,000 per individual. This price will include air and ground transportation, hotel and most meals. For further information, please contact committee chairman John Meyer at 703-450-1900 or 703-791-2334.

Regional Training Committee

by Sgt. Pete Camarena

The Regional Training Conference Program is gearing up for a BIG 1992. There have been a couple of changes in preparation for what we think will be our best year yet in terms of the

number of RTCs and participation by more IALEFI members across the country. Remember, you don't have to be an IALEFI member to attend an RTC, only the ATC.

The vacant position in Region #5 has been filled. I'm pleased to announce that Detective Scott McDonald of the Missoula County Sheriff Department has been appointed to that position. He is a 15 year law enforcement veteran and involved in firearms training for 12 years. His address is 200 W. Broadway, Missoula, Montana 59802. (406) 721-5700 Ext. 3312.

Region #7 is also changing representatives. Sergeant Pete Summers has been appointed to head a task force and is no longer able to put in the time needed to represent his region. Therefore Senior Deputy Timothy Addleman of the Washington County Sheriff Department has been

named to replace him. His address is 150 North First Avenue, Hillsboro, Oregon 97124 (503) 648-8700.

I have received inquiries about hosting a Regional Training Conference from many different areas. IALEFI members from Illinois, Michigan, Pennsylvania, Delaware, New Hampshire, Nevada and Washington have requested RTC packets. Additionally, there are 2 RTCs being planned for California, one in the south part of the state and one in the north. Both are planned for September.

If you have any questions about which region you are in or who your representative is, check your last issue of *The Firearms Instructor* for a complete list of the 9 regions. If you are new to IALEFI and don't have last quarter's magazine, write or call me for information.

Sgt. Pete Camarena
1001 W. Center St.
Manteca, CA 95336
(209) 239-8401

Training Criteria Committee

The Training Criteria Committee has recognized a need for a firearms instructor's glossary of terms. It is our intent to define training ideologies and designation of firearms instructor terminology worldwide—not to create standard designations for such terms. This glossary will be written by and for firearms instructors.

Here is an example of the various terms used to explain a reload. Some descriptions share the same meaning some do not. Reload: tactical reload emergency reload—speed reload—combat reload—tactical exchange.

Any individual, member or non-member, interested in contributing please contact Training Criteria Chairman John Meyer at:

IALEFI
390 Union Avenue, Union Square
Laconia, NH 03246

The Pistol as a Combat Weapon

by Bill Burroughs



The exchange of information between law enforcement professionals and the manufacturing community responsible for weapons, support equipment and ammunition is vital. Without this exchange, a progressive attitude toward innovation will not occur. Instead, adherence to traditional norms will become the rule of the day, or officers will be subjected to changes in issued equipment that are not supported by intensive, quality training.

Determining whether the pistol is suitable for law enforcement use falls into this category. As early as 1982, the battle cry for more "firepower" was in evidence for officers in every state. The involvement began at the line level and quickly progressed to the administrative level. What followed was a lot of hype about being outgunned by the criminal element. To that end, changes in equipment were seen as crucial for officer survival and to be better able to protect the public. We are now seeing a radical shift away from the revolver and embracing the pistol as the law enforcement weapon of the 90's. The majority of officers are still carrying revolvers, but with the continuing transition of larger agencies and the introduction of newly designed functioning styles, one might argue that change is inevitable for most.

Objectivity in assessing the needs of the agency in the application of lethal force is of paramount impor-

tance when selecting a weapon type for issue. An analysis of statistical data at the national level informs us of current trends. This information must then be compared to the types of incidents being experienced by the agency to make an analysis of the types of violent encounters that officers are likely to become involved in. The often overlooked next step is to assess the operational ability of each officer in the agency by decisional analysis to determine level of training, decision to apply force and at what level, marksmanship proficiency, reaction time, tactics and relevant mental attitude. An objective determination can now be made as to the needs of the agency and the ability of the officers to provide the needed service.

The revolver and the pistol both provide the officer with the means to shoot accurately, competently and swiftly as a product of their training. In the environment of the violent encounter where lethal force may not have to be applied, one does not serve the officer better than the other if the level of training is not commensurate with the scenario. At the foundation level, most officers were trained in the fundamentals with a revolver. It is the revolver that they understand and which they have practiced with the most. There is familiarity with the weapon and the type of ammunition it uses as well as the related support equipment. The officer knows how he is going to perform on the range based on prior performances during qualification sessions. As a result, the officer and the agency have established comfort zones for operation with that weapon. When something changes from that which has been practiced, error is likely to occur. It is that error that we must train to avoid.

Officer competency with a particular technique is evaluated based upon an objective analysis of the demonstration provided. Higher degrees of competency are seen as a result of the number of repetitions of the task and the consistency between

them. The threshold value for programmed performance—subconscious activity not requiring conscious thought—is around 2500 repetitions. Further, behavior can be programmed when the items that are taught are seen as relevant and practical for the officer. This is our most difficult area of training. Most handgun training is simple reinforcement of the fundamentals assessed by marksmanship qualification courses. These courses have to be administered throughout the year and generally do not change. The officer becomes programmed to respond with the weapon in a certain way. Decision making training of any type accounts for a very small portion of the training when measured against qualification time.

Earlier, I made the comment about "firepower." First, realize that a handgun possesses no such potential. It is simply a tool in the hands of an individual who, through his training, is able to demonstrate competency in hitting what he is shooting at. To select a weapon because of what is perceived and not factual must be avoided. The pistol is a viable tool for law enforcement, but not for many of the reasons that it was selected. The largest benefits derived from the pistol are a higher degree of pointability, better absorption of recoil and an expanded ammunition capacity. These three items equate to efficiency in a violent encounter when the trained response of the officer is maximized. Here enters the problem, however.

When a familiar piece of equipment is given up for an unfamiliar one, there is an immediate decrease in proficiency until the comfort zone is reestablished. Many hours are spent in transition from the revolver—a minimum of 20—to establish fundamental competency in order to qualify and prepare the officer for a violent encounter. Many programs stress only shooting those drills that are preparatory drills for the real qualification effort. Very few get the opportunity to explore the application

of the pistol as a combat tool on a high enough percentage basis to make it worthwhile for the officer.

Combat for the law enforcement officer is different than it is for the soldier. The civilian application of lethal force is predicated upon that which society will consider reasonable given the circumstances. Departmental policies are written to encompass the idea that there are only two occasions where the discharge of the firearm is warranted. First, the defense of your own life. Hardly anyone could slight you for that. Secondly, the defense of the life of another from what is perceived as grievous bodily injury or death. Again, a legally defensible posture is maintained. What then is combat? For our purposes, it can be defined as an encounter with another human being of violent nature where life may be lost. Notice I didn't say whose life. For the pistol to be effective in the combat role a proper mental at-

For an officer to survive a lethal encounter, he/she must act with devastating quickness. The confrontation is usually very close, danger identified and imminent and probably motivated to complete the task at hand—your immediate demise. The use of the pistol can be maximized when it is used in conjunction with several tactical principles. The first is surprise. You gain a tactical advantage over your adversary, ever so brief, when you operate with surprise. Movement on your part is surprise. It may cause hesitation on the part of your adversary allowing time enough to engage the threat effectively on the move. What you must continue to do is fire as you move. This can be accurately done inside those distances where this type of conflict would occur. It doesn't mean to run away firing blindly. A second principle is that of becoming aggressive. When you are attacked and your life is in jeo-

"For an officer to survive a lethal encounter, he/she must act with devastating quickness."

titude for use must be established that directly coincides with departmental policy. Further, once competent foundation training has been implemented, training supportive of the practical application of the weapon in the field must be intensely delivered.

The primary firearm for law enforcement use remains the handgun. It is the officer's last line of defense against death or serious injury. The majority of the time spent at the range in instruction and practice has an application rate of 1% or less in the real world. Knowing this, it is extremely difficult to gain violent encounter training time when marksmanship is all that some believe is needed. We must still train defensively with the pistol, but we must also add a proactive or offensive training block. Because of its added ammunition capacity, the pistol functions quite well in this category.

pardy, you must become aggressive to overtake your adversary. It is extremely hard to win when you are defending against all of the actions of your adversary. You must have actions of your own.

Additionally, new developments in the area of terminal ballistics with handgun rounds may very well cause a shift in how and where we place our rounds. What has long been known is that for the entering round(s) to be effective they must cut through the body, crush tissue and puncture life sustaining organs. Depth of penetration must be significantly high in order to ensure this type of performance. Statistically, with the number of rounds that officers fire, this has not proven to be the case. The engagement of a threat that has been determined as potentially lethal if not stopped must take place with the ap-

plication of learned shooting drills that have stressed attacking and destroying the center line of the body from mid-chest upward. There should be no lateral deviation in excess of three inches either side of center.

Next, a determination must be made as to the number of rounds that are fired by the officer to stop the altercation. Information gleaned from recent ammunition studies indicates that proper placement of rounds in sufficient numbers will cause a faster incapacitation of the adversary. We do not want to limit our training programs to the typical one, two or three shot engagement. Rather, we must teach and train with drills that utilize the performance potential of the weapon involved. The pistol has a major advantage in that since it holds more rounds, more can be fired, in control, to stop the threat as perceived by the officer. The capacity of the pistol to continue to deliver rounds to the shooter as needed is extremely important since firing must continue until the threat is neutralized. One might argue that a reload would place a lower capacity gun on equal footing. Theoretically, yes. Realistically, however, to run out of ammunition during a close confrontational encounter will likely have some very serious results.

What I have given you is some food for thought to be able to assess your own training in light of a violent encounter. We must recognize that the higher capacity pistol possesses the potential to reduce risk for the officer in close quarter situations if the officer is taught how to use the weapon as a combat tool and not as just a paper puncher. For that time in an officer's life where terror manifests itself, the officer must have confidence that he/she will be able to deal with the situation. Trust in your equipment and courage in applying your training is your real battle cry.

Bill Burroughs has 10 years of experience in Municipal Law Enforce-

ment, has a B.S. in Criminal Justice and is an M.B.A. candidate. He has spent 8 years as a professional Law Enforcement Trainer. He has been a member of IALEFI since January 1982 and is presently the Assistant Director of Training for SIGARMS Academy in Exeter, NH (603) 772-2302.

Let's Not Lose Our Perspective

by Bob Bossey

In a world of journalistic experts, debates over calibers, makes and models, it's easy for the police officer on the street to become somewhat perplexed. Over the last twenty years that I have been working in law enforcement, I've watched the debate shift from one issue to another, never really coming to any one conclusion on any one of them before another debate starts. It's easy to see why some police officers are disillusioned with the system they are obligated to follow. Who do they believe? Who should they follow? In most cases, it's the

Controversy stimulates thought and quite often change. A conscientious firearms instructor is one who makes himself available to this material, but has the ability to screen it for what they believe works on the street. Who better to be the judge of what has a probability of working under real life street situations but an instructor who can draw upon his own past experience, or, the experience of others. After all, being able to properly recognize one's environment, interpret what is seen, and react with the proper amount of force to overcome the threat is what allows police officers to return to their families at the end of their shift. Not theory!

However, after reading countless articles I've just got to ask, "Whatever happened to basics?" All the survival techniques in the world are worthless if the officer can't interpret the information pouring into the brain, and once a response is keyed, react and get the firearm out of the holster and engage the threat! The ability to make a decision is the first step, without it, nothing else will probably follow. The system can be as complicated as we

"The two best safeties in the world are your finger and your brain!"

firearms instructor who is looked upon as being the authority and in-house expert. After all, it's he or she that is given the obligation to stay current in the field and up on all the training issues and techniques. It's also he/she who is called upon the proverbial carpet when the system breaks down.

I equate firearms instructors like filters who screen a great deal of material, only to capture what they believe to be pertinent. The problem is, there's a lot of material to filter, some of it good, some bad. After all, without the deluge of available information concerning firearms and techniques nothing would ever change.

want to make it, or, as simple and workable.

Just recently in my state a nine-year-old boy shot and killed his four-year-old sister while playing "cops & robbers," with a handgun that was found in their house. A tragic accident, but avoidable. If you're a parent, your mind should be grinding away right now and your stomach turning. As police officers, ask yourself how many times you have heard the response to a tragedy with, "If I'd only thought." I believe a portion of our responsibility as firearms instructors is to make the individuals we train think about instances as just depicted, so they will never find themselves in a position to

say, "If I'd only thought!" I recently attended a class being conducted by Clint Smith of International Training Consultants. In that class Clint stated that, "The two best safeties in the world are your finger and your brain!" He couldn't be more right.

Look what's happened to accuracy in the age of firepower. Statistically, in the 70s, police officers took 2.8 rounds to get a hit; in the 90s, it's risen to 12.6 rounds. My personal understanding of high magazine capacity is to enable the officer to carry more bullets which relieves him of the manipulation and manual dexterity that has to be addressed with loading under stress. If it's taking an average of 12 rounds to get a hit then we must be doing something wrong. The capability of a high volume of firepower is nice, and there are times when it is required to get the job done. However, to rely strictly upon the fact that you can deliver a tremendous amount of rounds in the direction of your assailant as a substitute to accuracy is a poor trade off. To the police officer who gets caught up in an exchange of rounds on the street, although they are all relevant to the situation, I really don't believe he is really concerned about the type of ammunition he's using, or, the make or model of his firearm, only that he hit and disable his target to stay alive! Let's face it. If you're involved in a traffic accident and require immediate hospitalization, are you really concerned if the ambulance that transports you is built on a Ford or Chevrolet chassis? Probably not. I imagine the only concern at the moment is to get medical attention.

It's not my intent to sound or appear critical. We all recognize that there is a definite need for officer survival skills. The problem is, without reinforcement in the basic skills, police officers may never get a chance to apply any advanced techniques. The airline industry has recognized this for some time now. After a certain number of flight hours, the pilot and crew are required to go through a

schedule of retraining. During this training they are brought up on new flight procedures and so forth, but not until the basic elements of operating the aircraft are fundamentally taught and applied. If you don't think the basics can become lost in the system with police officers, try a small test. Have an officer perform some very basic task of reloading with whatever application of reloading equipment that is required for their weapon while they are being timed. Perhaps perform some stoppage clearing drills, or, reloading with the off hand. Watch the manipulation of the system. Does the officer have a handle on what has to be done to get the weapon back in service rapidly? If this very basic function can't be performed, then the officer merely has not retained what has been

taught and needs some attention. This is not being critical towards the officer nor his training. It merely recognizes the fact that the adult retention level does not last forever. Usually the only successful way to enhance the ability to perform after a period since last training, is repetition.

Let's not lose our perspective; it's time to get back to basics.

The author is a 21-year veteran of law enforcement and holds the rank of Major and is the Assistant Director of N.H. Police Training. He is a Vietnam veteran and Silver Star recipient and active in the POW/MIA effort. Bob has been active in firearms training throughout his career and has been IALEFI's Executive Director for the last three years.

IALEFI Looking For Cover Photos

If you have a photograph that you think depicts the goals and objectives of the association and would like to submit it for consideration for a cover of the "Firearms Instructor," please send the photograph to the associa-

tion office. The vertical color photo can be a print or slide. Please include with your photo for consideration a brief explanation of the photo, and indicate if you want the photo returned regardless if used or not.

Instructions to Contributing Authors

The Firearms Instructor welcomes relevant articles from Association Members.

When preparing articles, the following rules should be observed:

1. Manuscripts should be typed, double spaced on 8½ x 11 paper.
2. A black and white photograph of the author, along with a biographical sketch, should also be included.
3. Any photographs submitted to supplement the article should include captions. Black and white photographs are preferred. Photographs will be returned on request.

4. The author should retain a copy of the manuscript.

Articles to be considered for publication should be sent to:

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