

# THE FIREARMS INSTRUCTOR



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



SPRING  
1992



# 1992 COURSE SCHEDULE

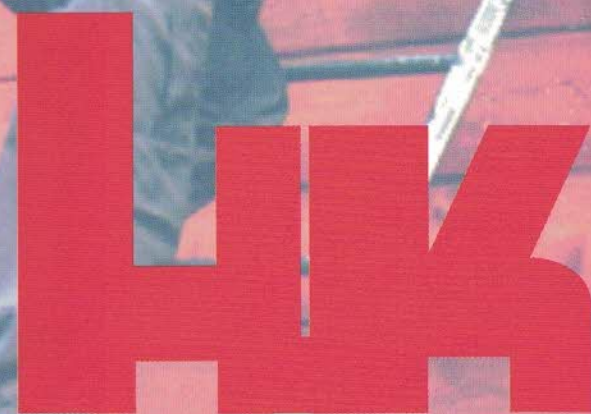
## Weapons and Tactical Training

Jan 27 - 31	Tactical Submachine Gun	San Diego, CA
Feb 3 - 7	Tactical Submachine Gun	Huntington Beach, CA
Mar 2 - 6	Tactical Submachine Gun	Kennedy Space Center, FL
Mar 2 - 6	Counter Sniper	Kennedy Space Center, FL
Mar 29-April 3	Tactical Team	Sterling, VA
May 18 - 22	MP5/9mm Rifle	Seattle, WA
May 25-29	Counter Sniper	Sacramento, CA
June 8-12	MP5/9mm Rifle	Lake Tahoe, CA
June 15-19	*MP5 Instructor	Lake Tahoe, CA
July 6-10	Tactical Pistol	Sterling, VA
July 13-17	Tactical Submachine Gun	Sterling, VA
July 27-31	MP5/9mm Rifle	Sterling, VA
Aug 18-20	Tactical Shotgun	Sterling, VA
Aug 24-28	Counter Sniper	Sterling, VA
Sep 1-3	Tactical Team Development	Sterling, VA
Oct 4-9	Tactical Team	Sterling, VA
Oct 19-23	MP5/9mm Rifle	Sterling, VA
Oct 26-30	*MP5 Instructor	Sterling, VA
Dec 1-3	Active Countermeasure	
	Tactical Instructor	Sterling, VA
Dec 8-10	Instructor Update	Sterling, VA

\*Prerequisite MP5/9mm Rifle

## Armorer's Courses

Jan 27-31	Sterling, VA
Feb 10-14	Sterling, VA
Mar 23-27	Sterling, VA
June 22-26	Sterling, VA
July 20-24	Sterling, VA
Sep 14-18	Sterling, VA
Oct 19-23	Sterling, VA
Nov 16-20	Sterling, VA



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**THE FIREARMS INSTRUCTOR**

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**THE FIREARMS INSTRUCTOR**

SPRING 1992

VOLUME 4

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**CREDITS**

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



## President's Message

It's been about four months since I was elected president of IALEFI. I'm still getting adjusted to the new position. My first board meeting as president was quite an experience.

The board is working to put together the best ATC yet in Tampa, Florida, in 1992. We are also looking at the body armor controversy involving N.I.J. and various body armor manufacturers. Walt MacDonald and the legal committee are researching the issue to determine what stand IALEFI should take on this issue.

*The Firearms Instructor* seems to be a huge success and a lot of credit should go to John Meyer and Bob

Bossey for making it a reality. Of that note, let me remind all members to please send the IALEFI office an article on a firearms related issue. If you don't write an article, then send in a suggestion or complaint, anything that is important to you. Also, I would like to remind all members that you must play an active role in this organization.

You need to ask yourself what you can do to improve the performance of law enforcement officers in the field. There seems to be an attitude developing in this country today thanks, in part, to the media, that it's someone else's job to make things happen. That's not so. Nothing will change unless we make it happen.

Those smug bureaucrats who sit by while uninformed citizens blame their police for overreacting on the one hand, and failing to react on the other, will not bring about any positive change.

The only way to improve the policeman's lot is for individuals like you in the business of providing training to instill the confidence and skill in our students so that they can protect the public, keep the peace, and failing in that, bring those to justice who would break the law in the safest and surest way possible.

Good luck!

Michael P. Beckley  
President

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# Basic Firearms Training Course

by Sgt. Peter Camarena

In order to be effective, a comprehensive firearms training program needs to cover many different aspects of instruction. It should address safety, equipment, marksmanship, tactics and mental conditioning. It needs to contain different levels or stages of training including static, dynamic and interactive drills.

One part of a complete training program is the basic skill development. I would like to share our basic handgun qualification course of fire and explain how we are currently using it as a part in building our overall program.

This course of fire was developed a few years ago as we were transitioning over from revolvers to auto pistols. It works well for both types of handguns. The course requires the use of 3 speedloaders for revolvers and 3 magazines for auto pistols. Six rounds are loaded into each of the speedloaders and six rounds into small capacity or twelve rounds into large capacity pistol magazines. We use full duty loads and shoot a Milpark style target.

This course teaches and reinforces basic shooting and gun handling skills such as drawing, holstering, shooting quickly from short distances, longer distance precision shooting, shooting from barricaded positions, reloading and moving while covering a suspect.

Each officer begins with his weapon loaded with six or twelve rounds and holstered. Officers who are assigned to patrol come with their regular duty belt while the officers assigned to detective or other assignments come with their standard dress. This includes wearing sports coats or other clothing that they normally wear during their working day. We shoot in all weather conditions and one quarterly qualification is held at night.

The course of fire starts with each officer standing at the 1 yard line in an

interview stance at the target. On command, they push the target back with their non-shooting hand and slide back about 3 feet, drawing their weapon and firing two shots. The shots are fired from the point shoulder position, not the hip position. We have found through testing that it takes only a few hundredths of a second longer to fire the shots from this position but in return the hit ratio is much, much higher. This procedure is repeated 3 times for a total of 6 rounds being fired from this distance. This phase simulates an attack from a suspect during an interview or confrontation.

It should be noted here that all reloading is done whenever the weapon is empty and that any malfunction is immediately cleared without waiting for a rangemaster to "OK" it. Therefore, at this point the officers with revolvers and the lower capacity autos do it here automatically.

ing the target line, until they reach the 15 yard line. This teaches the officers to search with their weapons out while there are others in the area.

At the 15 yard line they holster their weapon. On the command, they draw and fire 3 rounds from the standing position and 6 rounds from the kneeling position in 20 seconds. All will have to reload during this string of fire. After holstering and the line is clear, they move back to the 25 yard line.

At the 25 yard line, they will fire three rounds standing on the right side of the barricade, 3 rounds from the left side and 3 rounds from the kneeling position from either side of the barricade in a total of 25 seconds. This is the only stage where the smaller capacity weapons will have to reload while the larger capacity weapons don't.

The total course of fire is only 36 rounds and can be run in less than 10 minutes. This is only one part of our

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## The best tactics in the world won't save your life if you can't hit your target.

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The officer holsters his weapon and moves to the 5 yard line. From there the officer draws and fires 3 rounds of aimed fire in three seconds. All holstering is done one handed with the officers watching the target. After holstering their weapons the officers walk to the 7 yard line.

From the 7 yard line, the officers draw and fire 9 rounds in 15 seconds. All officers will have to reload during this string of fire. The smaller capacity weapons will also have to reload afterward.

After reloading is complete, all officers maintain their weapons at a low ready position and then they all step carefully backward, constantly search-

quarterly firearms training. It emphasizes and reinforces basic marksmanship and safe gun handling skills. Other quarterly training includes a "combat course" and review of our deadly force policy or other handout information.

Shooting a gun is a mechanical skill which needs to be constantly maintained just like the professional baseball player who takes batting practice before every game or the concert pianist who plays the scale each week. Without mastering the basic skill of marksmanship, the best tactics in the world won't save your life if you can't hit your "target."



## *The Emergency Tactical Magazine Reload Exchange*

*by Paul Caparatta  
Senior Firearms Instructor  
Criminal Investigation, New York, NY*

Any statistical increase in the average number of rounds fired in combat by police officers will probably be attributable to having more rounds than his sidearm holds to settle differences of opinion are not uncommon, they do occur as was demonstrated by the FBI Miami shootout of 1986 or the equally tragic New Hall incident involving the California Highway Patrol.

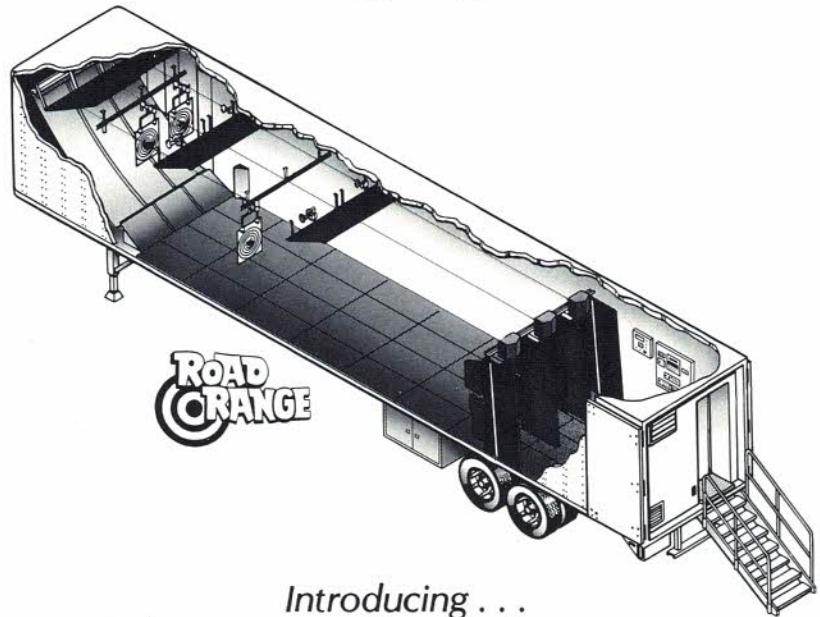
Officers must be trained on emergency reloads, tactical reloads and tactical magazine exchanges. However, I question the manner in which it is accomplished. I've reviewed a number of qualification and training courses in use by various local, state and federal agencies. Most of these courses provide artificial or contrived reloading opportunities by training with half empty magazines.

The need to reload a high capacity pistol pre-supposes that an unknown but substantial number of rounds have been fired. In my opinion, an officer should be conditioned to sense when a tactical reload or magazine exchange is necessary. This is best accomplished by training with full magazines. Training with partially loaded magazines of four, six or eight rounds tends to reinforce revolver habits: fire six and reload.

There are two elements involved in achieving a satisfactory degree of reloading skill. Contemporary training devotes itself primarily to development and practice of the mechanical skills necessary to perform any type of reload. Ignored is the need to program the subconscious mind to sense when a reload is needed.

The "emergency tactical reload magazine exchange" is a phrase I've

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coined to illustrate the frazzled and jumbled mental state an officer may experience while under fire. My concern is that his sub-conscious mind will start telling him that something needs to be done with those extra magazines in the magazine pouch far too soon. Having expended five or six rounds from a "fifteen shooter," the officer should be focusing his mental energy of defeating his adversary. Full magazine training will help officers develop a mental sense or awareness of when a reload may be necessary.

There is a sharp distinction between "qualification" fire and training. I fully subscribe to the theory that an officer may be qualified but not necessarily trained. However, as most officers fire about a third of their allotted training ammunition during qualification courses, we should increase the training value of qualification fire and not lose sight of the fact that a bad habit acquired in qualification fire can compromise an officer's street performance.

The battle cry of the 9mm fraterni-

ty was that the high capacity pistol either postpones or eliminates the need to reload. Training must be consistent with this concept in order to take maximum advantage of the very reason for transitioning to the 9mm.

## Spray and Pray

by Dave Stanley



It was bound to happen. Just what many scribes predicted. Give a cop an 9mm Semi-Automatic that can fire two or three times the amount of ammunition than he had before and "by-damn" that is just what he does. With

no thought or consideration for what just might be in his line of fire, should he miss; which is an almost certainty.

With tragic results.

Who is to be blamed for bringing this about?

Not a Certified Firearms Instructor. He is all the time warning his students to watch the background, don't pull the trigger unless you are sure an innocent bystander will not get hit if you miss the subject. Probably should say: *when* you miss. Statistics show that happens more times than not.

The Instructor will get his admonition across, and most of the time it is followed. This is included as part of the training when an agency adopts the multi-shot semi-automatic pistol. An officer is not turned loose with his new gun until he has satisfied the Instructor that it is safe for him to carry it.

That is fine.

But what about a cop who acquires a similar weapon, on his own, with no instruction provided for its proper use?

So where does this officer get the "training" he so sorely needs?

From the stupid TV shows. That's where.

Entertainment (?) at its worst: with total disregard for any semblance of correct weapon use regarding acceptable police procedures with a deadly weapon.

The pitiful part of it all, is that TV is the only source the officer has, and after viewing the same thing over and over, has been conditioned to accept it as "the right thing to do."

Then, when this officer finds himself in an incident where he might have use for his weapon, he resorts to the TV show procedures.

Loses all sense of responsible action.

Fires when he should not.

Shoots until the clip runs dry; with bullets flying like birdshot.

Frequently, with tragic results.

December 30, 1991 in the Piggly-Wiggly grocery store parking lot at 3:08 A.M. an unarmed man was shot

## I.A.L.E.F.I. MERCHANDISE SALES

The below listed IALEFI merchandise is being offered to our members at drastically reduced prices. All items are limited and will be sold on a first come, first served basis. All items contain the IALEFI logo and are first quality merchandise.

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and killed by a Cairo, Illinois police officer of two years tenure.

The news report said that in a police prepared statement:

When the man was confronted by the officers, he became combative, hit an officer and fled on foot."

"One officer chased him on foot, firing his weapon several times."

Investigators located 13 empty cases.

News pictures showed bullet holes in businesses' plate glass windows, holes in service station windows and cupboards; all in the line of flight from the Piggly-Wiggly parking lot.

Running and shooting. Just like on TV.

Spray and Pray.

A lucky 13th shot?

Not the subject—He is dead.

Not the cop—He is in jail.

Charged with second degree murder.

Says he felt he was "doing the right thing,"

Justified in shooting a fleeing man who had hit an officer with his hand?

Oh—boy!

The reader might say this same incident could have happened if the officer had been carrying a six shot revolver.

Maybe so, but we can pretty well assume it would not have turned out as it did. After the sixth round with no hit, if the cop had stopped to reload, the subject would have been long gone. I have yet to hear of a street cop manipulate a speed loader while on a dead run at 3:00 A.M.

Spray—he did.

Now—he has reason to pray.

Poor judgement is obvious. Lack of proper training is suspected.

So, what's the answer?

From the way things turned out, we can question his abilities with the gun. Obviously, he wasn't prepared to use it properly, so when he did, his career as a police officer ended.

Only court trials will determine what this has done to his life.

This poses the question of whether

or not the Cairo Police Department should not have permitted the officer to carry a weapon he was not qualified to handle correctly. Target range scores aside, we are referring to proper judgement and tactics in handling a police incident. Something many police departments are sadly lacking in their training programs. Also, brings on lawsuits.

It is indicative that the multi-shot semi-automatic pistol is not for just any untrained police officer. Its potential is for getting a cop into deep trouble, oftener than getting him out.

Yes, in certain hands, the six shot revolver has the same potential.

The problem is people, not guns.

I have asked this question, in essence, before.

How can the IALEFI get through to the police officers who have equipped themselves with guns they have not

been trained to handle and possibly resulting in terminating more officers' careers?

It is obvious: very few street cops assigned to patrol will be reading this magazine. Supervisors of an agency which has an IALEFI member will see it when the magazine is circulated.

However, the officers who need to hear this message will not for the most part have an IALEFI member or other qualified professional for an Instructor.

As a consequence, we are going to be forced to accept the fact that one officer's goof reflects on all of us.

Where does the responsibility lie?

Remember, innocent bystanders are the cop's number 2 concern, when bullets are flying.

Although it did not happen in the case just reviewed, another time of day could well have brought death or serious injury to innocent bystanders.

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## Keeping Firearms Training Afloat

by Jerry Scott, Law Supervisor  
Ohio Division of Wildlife

"VICARIOUS LIABILITY," is a 10 aspirin, 2 midol headache for administrators. Many law enforcement agencies have discovered the meaning of the term via the courts, often finding their names as co-defendants in lawsuits. To officers in the field, on the streets, or on the water, vicarious liability has meant advances in training designed to improve their chances of officer survival. Not long ago, incidents of officer assaults and killing were on the increase. Today, that trend is being reduced. There is still a long way to go to zero officer deaths but it is "the" goal. Failure of administration to adequately train is greater than problems that might arise out of the actual training.

Officer survival should favor training relative to an officer's type and location of enforcement responsibility. Law enforcement officers should be trained in firearms involved shooting scenarios that involve the street arena, if this is where they work. Cover, protection and concealment should be available on the range the same as found on the street, ie.: telephone poles, curbs, brick building corners, dumpsters, etc. It's not realistic to train an officer to stand in the open and shoot at a paper target while in real life, if confronted with a shooting situation and standing near a trash dumpster not expect the officer to utilize the protection it affords. An intelligent officer will duck behind metal protection or even jump *into* the trash if it will offer advantage in a gun fight.

Law enforcement officers are continually placed in vulnerable situations involving exposure. Game Protectors, Watercraft, and Marine of-

ficers are frequently placed in positions of high vulnerability working from boats, where there are no trees, telephone poles, mail boxes, or corners of brick buildings to use as cover. Officers need to train in a semi-open, exposed environment, and on the water. Tactics must be developed that use cover, protection and concealment available on the watercraft. "Tupperware" (fiberglass) boats should be considered concealment, rather than protective cover.

bouncing, rocking, moving boat on water.

Revolver and pistol shooting from a watercraft while afloat is not the same as standing on firm turf, and firing at a stationary paper target. Many agencies teach the weaver stance in the style of weapons discharge known as double-hammer, or Tac-Tac. Many agencies throughout the U.S. issue the standard 38 caliber revolver, requiring the weapon to be loaded with +P or

## How Strong Is Your PSI (Personal Survival Instincts?)

Plus P ammo will penetrate the sides of the fiberglass boats, frequently traveling through the opposite side. Plus P rounds fired into the transom, usually will not penetrate, increasing protection for the officer. Saddle gas tanks mounted on the sides of the boats above the deck present a real threat to the officer from oncoming rounds. The placement of distance between the enforcement vessel and the potential violator must be addressed, as well as the use of cover available by the transom and engine. The tactic of pulling away, bumping the suspect vessel, and placing the transom towards the suspect vessel ASAP, in one quick movement, does the unexpected. This should be practiced before an encounter and initiated upon a mutually agreed upon code or command. Without such communication and practice, the officer standing in the back of the boat could be caught off-guard and more than likely tossed about and easily injured. Bumping of the suspect vessel should place the aggressor off-balance, offering an advantage to the officers. (Do the unexpected). Firearms training must be conducted that will familiarize officers with the degree of difficulty encountered when shooting from a

+P+ ammo while the 9 MM, 40, 44, and 45 pistols have ammo that have adequate neutralizing capabilities. In Tac-Tac, a second round is fired while the weapon is in recoil from the first. Some find this method somewhat difficult to master, even on dry land. But, moving on the water creates greater difficulty. Shooters have a tendency to shoot high. But with practice, the officer soon discovers they must begin firing the first round lower on the silhouette, starting at the groin area. Tac-Tac shooting is very effective in close quarters. At distances greater than 10 feet, single action is recommended for accuracy. Shooting in the water creates awareness of the difficulties inherent with lake conditions, ie: the rougher the water the greater the difficulty. A second problem that is quickly recognized is that of an inadequate back stop. Bullets skip 3 or 4 times across the water, covering distances of 150 yards or more. Innocent boaters, as well as innocent spectators on land could be in the line of fire. Care must be exercised not to lose the weapon or speed loader overboard for neither piece of equipment will float more than half a second. Support in rough water is gained by placing the officer's leg against the outboard motor, gunnel or transom



of the boat. The weaver stance is easily adapted for firing from the boat with little loss of technique.

Firing a shotgun from watercraft encounters similar problems, but has the advantage of a large shot pattern. Safety on the vessel is paramount with one shooter at a time firing from the stern corner next to the motor on the opposite side from the operator. This allows the boat operator to position the craft and watch the officer and the target vessel using his peripheral vision.

First exposure to shooting from a watercraft could be for familiarization. After a familiarization, qualification courses of fire can be established with the element of time being flexible in favor of accuracy. Real life scenarios and practice in defensive tactics will result in long, happy, enjoyable careers. How strong is your PSI, Personal Survival Instincts?

## *Fitness for Police Officers*

by Cathy Zitti



In my last article, I discussed a total fitness program to help improve or maintain the quality of a police officer's life. That article dealt primarily with exercise. (Don't forget, the

acronym for exercise is F.I.T., Frequency—Intensity—Time). In this article we will discuss nutrition and diet because they also comprise part of the total fitness program.

As stated in my last article, many health problems affect shift workers. Some of those problems, such as obesity, high blood pressure or high cholesterol, can be controlled or avoided by following a proper diet. "A high-carbohydrate, low-fat diet can reduce the risk for five of the ten leading causes of death in the United States: coronary heart disease, stroke, atherosclerosis, diabetes and certain forms of cancer. These chronic diseases are responsible for more than two-thirds of all deaths."

People eat for many reasons. Some people eat according to their moods. If you fall into this category, I recommend keeping a food diary. Record what, when, how much, and why you are eating. If you are eating for reasons other than nutrition, substitute exercising, gardening, reading or any other activity. A healthy diet is the basis of good health. By making educated food choices, most people can stay at their ideal weight.

It is important for us to define what a diet is. According to *Webster's Ninth New Collegiate Dictionary*, diet means "food and drink regularly provided or consumed." In other words, diet is what you eat and drink. A diet is not a special eating plan that lasts for a week or two. For a "diet" to be successful, it must incorporate lifestyle changes (i.e., exercise) and eating modifications. You cannot return to your "normal" eating habits and expect not to gain (or lose) weight. You do not need to eliminate foods that you like but you may have to reduce the portions and the frequency that you were accustomed to. Remember, moderation is the key to a good diet and exercise plan.

### **Components of a Healthy Diet**

1. **PROTEIN**—necessary for the growth and maintenance of all

body tissues. i.e. chicken (skinless), fish (broiled or baked), skim milk, egg whites and beans. Your diet should consist of about 10% protein.

2. **CARBOHYDRATE**—an energy source, i.e., fiber (thought to be important in the prevention of heart disease, maintaining regularity, lowering blood cholesterol and preventing certain types of cancer), fruits, vegetables and whole grains.
3. **FATS AND CHOLESTEROL**—energy source, insulator, holds vital organs in place. There are good fats and bad fats. You should avoid cholesterol, found in animal products, meats and dairy. Be leery of the food product label that states "No cholesterol." The product may still contain saturated fat which contributes to the production of cholesterol. Use monosaturated and polyunsaturated fats instead. Most products list the breakdown of fat content on their label, i.e., olive oil, safflower and sunflower oil. Fat should make up no more than 30% of your diet.
4. **VITAMINS AND MINERALS**—necessary to carry out normal everyday bodily functions. By following a diverse, balanced diet you should meet the requirements.

### **DIET DOS AND DON'TS**

#### **DO**

- Drink 8-10 8 oz. glasses of water a day
- Eat plenty of fruits and vegetables
- Eat whole grain breads
- Use diet tub margarine instead of butter
- Drink 1% or skim milk
- Have chicken, turkey or fish instead of red meat
- Eat pasta, preferably whole wheat
- Have air-popped popcorn, substitute herbs for butter
- If you eat cookies, substitute graham crackers, fig bars and vanilla wafers for cookies laden with fat.
- Have a bagel with jelly instead of a donut



Have yogurt, ices, sherbet or fudgsicles instead of ice cream  
 Bring fruit to work as a snack  
 Eat five small meals a day

**DON'T**

Eat fried foods  
 Use butter  
 Drink alcohol  
 Smoke  
 Have creamy sauces, dressings and soups  
 Have ice cream; instead have yogurt, ices, sherbet or fudgsicles  
 Eat at all-you-can-eat restaurants  
 Eat at fast food restaurants: they tend to serve high fat food  
 Skip meals, especially breakfast  
 Oversalt your food

You will have to make choices on a daily basis. Remember, *moderation* is the key. This is a change in lifestyle. Today, in this health conscious society, more and more products are being developed with good nutrition in mind. You do not need to go hungry to lose weight. You will feel quite satisfied if you eat a high carbohydrate, high fiber, low fat, low sugar diet. Use your imagination. Get into a routine.

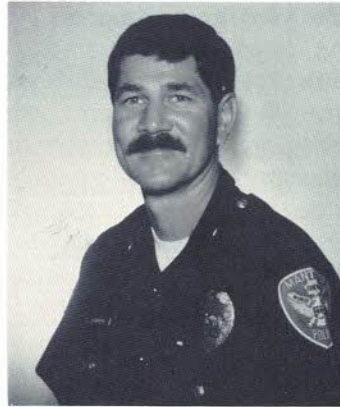
It will take some time to adapt. Remember, you didn't get out of shape overnight so don't expect to get into shape overnight. Involve the family in your diet and exercise routine. As I pointed out in my last article, there is plenty of material in the library and newspapers concerning diet, nutrition and exercise. Good luck embarking on your new lifestyle.

<sup>1</sup>*The Wellness Encyclopedia*, from the Editors of the University of California, Berkeley Wellness Center, 1991, p. 87

**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 has lost 50 pounds and maintained her weight for the last four years.*

**Regional Training  
 Spring '92**



Sgt. Peter Camarena

There are just a few things to report in this column about the Regional Training Conference Program. The first is that there is a RTC scheduled to be held in Sacramento, California in October, 1992. It will be a 2-day conference featuring both classroom and range training. For more information contact:

**Mike Bullian**

Department of Justice  
 4949 Broadway  
 Sacramento, CA 95820  
 (916) 739-2705

The Regional Training Program is constantly being looked at to see if there are better ways to handle the growing membership across the United States and Canada. One thing that is being considered is breaking some of the larger western regions into smaller, more managable sizes.

If you have any suggestions or if you are considering the possibility of hosting a Regional Training Conference, call or write to me or your regional representative for information. The regional representatives are listed below.

Thank you,  
 Sgt. Pete Camarena  
 Regional Training Chairman

**REGION 1**

(CT, DE, ME, MA, MD, NH, NJ, NY, PA, RI, VT)

**Bruce Howard**

New Britain Police Department  
 125 Columbus Blvd.  
 New Britain, CT 06050  
 (203) 229-0321

**REGION 2**

(AL, KY, FL, GA, MS, NC, SC, TN, VA, WV)

**Frank McBee**

Palm Bay Police Department  
 130 Malabar Rd., S.E.  
 Palm Bay, FL 32907  
 (407) 952-3462

**REGION 3**

(IL, IN, IA, MI, MN, OH, WI)

**Greg St. Coeur**

Algonac Police Department  
 805 St. Clair River Rd.  
 Algonac, MI 48001  
 (313) 794-4995

**REGION 4**

(AR, KS, LA, MO, OK, TX)

**Roger Carpenter**

Sedgwick County Sheriff Dept.  
 2235 W. 37th North St.  
 Wichita, KS 67207  
 (316) 832-9337

**REGION 5**

(MT, NE, ND, SD, WY)

**Scott McDonald**

Missoula County Sheriff Dept.  
 200 W. Broadway  
 Missoula, MT 59802  
 (406) 721-5700

**REGION 6**

(AZ, CO, NM, UT)

**Gene Scott**

Mesa Police Department  
 130 N. Robson Rd.  
 Mesa, AZ 85201  
 (602) 834-2662



**REGION 7**  
(ID, OR, WA)

**Timothy Addleman**  
Washington County Sheriff Dept.  
150 North First Avenue  
Hillsboro, OR 97124  
(503) 648-8700

**REGION 8**  
(CA, NV, HI)

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

**REGION 9**  
(CANADA)

**Mike Hargreaves**  
S.A.S. Canada  
47 Gilder Dr., #203  
Scarborough, Ontario, Canada  
(416) 267-7222

**4th Annual  
Region One  
Training Conference**

**When:** Thursday, April 30, 1992  
**Where:** International Rescue & Training Consultants (I.R.T.C.) Training Facility, West Hampton Beach, NY  
**Time:** 8:00 AM to 10:00 PM  
**Cost:** \$60.00 (Lunch included in Tuition, Evening meal is student's responsibility)

**Topics / Instructors / Student Requirements**

**ADVANCED SHOOTING TECHNIQUES**

**Instructor:**  
Lt. Mike Boyle, NJ Fish & Game  
**Student Requirements:**  
500 Rounds of Handgun

\*\*\*

**ADVANCED AUTO PISTOL**

**Instructor:**  
Bill Burroughs, Assistant Director, SigArms Academy  
**Student Requirements:**  
500 Rounds of Handgun

**ADVANCED NIGHT FIRE TECHNIQUES**

**Instructors:**  
Manny Kapelsohn  
The Peregrine Corp.  
**Student Requirements:**  
250 Rounds of Handgun

\*\*\*

**USE OF CHEMICAL AGENTS**

**Instructor:**  
Bruce Howard, New Britain CT PD & IALEFI Board  
**Student Requirements:**  
No Special Equipment

**COURSES ARE OFFERED TO POLICE OFFICERS INTERESTED IN IMPROVING THEIR INDIVIDUAL SKILL LEVELS WITH HANDGUNS.**

**1st Annual  
Region One Swat  
Training Program**

**When:** Friday, May 1, 1992  
**Where:** International Rescue & Training Consultants (I.R.T.C.) Training Facility, West Hampton, NY  
**Time:** 8:00 AM to 10:00 PM  
**Cost:** \$60.00 (Lunch included in Tuition, Evening meal is student's responsibility).

**Topics / Instructors / Student Requirements**

**PRINCIPALS OF DYNAMIC ENTRY**

**Instructor:**  
John Meyer,  
Heckler & Koch Training Div.  
**Student Requirements:**  
50 Rounds (Tactical Equipment Required)

\*\*\*

**LONG RANGE RIFLE**

**Instructor:**  
Lt. Howie Barush, Nassau PD, Ret.  
**Student Requirements:**  
50 Rounds (Dept. Long Range Ammo)

\*\*\*

**DISTRACTION DEVICES / EXPLOSIVE ENTRY TACTICS**

**Instructor:**

Don Howe, Suffolk County PD  
Emergency Services  
**Student Requirements:**  
Eye & Ear Protection

\*\*\*

**TACTICAL DEPLOYMENT OF HARD ARMOR**

**Instructors:**  
Tony Borgese, Vice President  
Point Blank Body Armor  
Bob Weber, Senior Armor  
Los Angeles PD, Ret.

*If you have any questions concerning the Regional Training Conference please contact:*  
Lt. Michael Beckley, Nassau County PD  
Res. 516-957-6072 Work: 516-573-7580

OR

IALEFI Office: 603-524-8787

Checks should be made payable to IALEFI and mailed with your completed registration to:

IALEFI

390 Union Square, Laconia, NH 03246

OR by Fascimile by calling:  
603-524-8856 (24 hours daily)

You may attend One or Both days of Instruction  
You need NOT be an IALEFI member to attend!

**Liability—Various,  
Vicarious and Vicious**

by Walt MacDonald

The subject of this issue's column is based upon an inquiry directed to me by an instructor member of IALEFI. A qualification course for recruits included drawing from the holster at the three yard line and firing from hip level with one hand. In this particular case, a student officer had been "quick draw on the trigger but slow on the draw," destroying a holster and wounding himself in the leg.

The question posed was whether this particular course of fire should be discontinued because of the incident. On the one hand was the feeling that such a discontinuance could be interpreted as an admission of liability. On the other, there was the argument that discontinuance would be a public good faith attempt by the department



to insure that such an accident would never happen again.

Initially, scenarios such as this cause us to review the fundamentals of liability based upon negligence. Those involved with training—whether they be instructors or administrators—are not insurers of safety. They are not automatically responsible merely because of the happening of an accident. They are not “liable without fault.” Their obligation is not to create or permit “an unreasonable risk of harm.” They have the duty to act as “ordinary, reasonably prudent” instructors/administrators under the circumstances.

Given such an incident, there could be the tendency to go from one extreme to the other. There is the stonewall (stone head?) attitude of “whatever we did has to be alright” because we’ve never admitted to ever being wrong. Then there is the “nervous Nellie hand fluttering” reaction of immediately adopting a “kinder,

gentler” training program—because otherwise “what would people think.”

It is suggested that a frank appraisal of the firearms program be made as to whether the incident occurred because of any lack of due care. Occasionally there is a reluctance to conduct a proper investigation for fear that some shortcoming will be found which will be used against the department and its personnel. The short answer is that if there are any program defects they will be brought to light by a present claimant through the judicial discovery process, and a candid appraisal of both the strengths and weaknesses of any case is essential to litigation survival. (The proverbial ostrich with its head in the sand is an easy target.) In addition, the failure to make a proper investigation could not only place the department and its personnel in a bad light so far as the present case is concerned, but it could also be considered as negligence in and of itself should a similar incident happen

in the future.

It is recommended that the investigation of this particular firearms phase be directed to the interlocking triad: Instructor, Instruction, Instructee, to ascertain if due care were exercised.

Had the recruits been adequately warned in their classroom training about the proper time for placing the finger on the trigger? Had this instruction been repeated and reinforced during “slow drill” firing exercises on the range? Had there been a reasonably adequate instructor to student ratio on the range prior to and at the time of the incident? Prior to the accident, had the injured recruit called attention to himself by any particular unskillful or hazardous firearms handling? Had this particular recruit indicated in any way a difficulty in reasonably understanding and following directions? Had the preceding range training of this class been sufficient so that it might reasonably be expected that

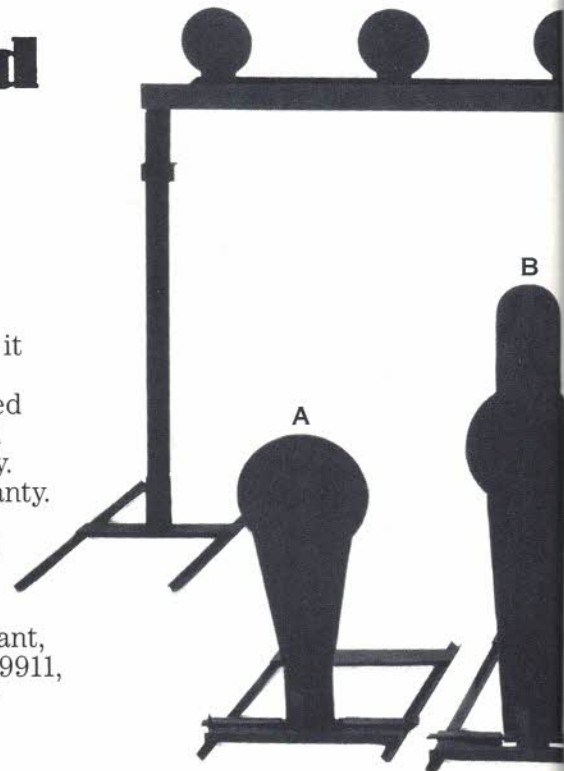
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A) COLT SPEED TARGET. B) PEPPER POPPER. C) NON-REACTIONARY



this course of fire would have been conducted safely? If this particular phase of fire had been timed, was the minimum interval given to draw and fire consistent with safety, having in mind the competency level of the class? Had the holster involved—either by defect or design—contributed in any way to the happening of the accident?

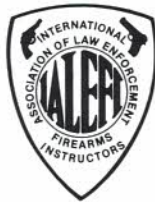
If the answers to these and similar questions indicates that the firearms program had been conducted properly, then the retention of this particular course of fire would come under the category of: "if it's not broken—don't fix it."

It is suggested that this close quarter firing phase has too much street relevancy to be discarded merely as a "knee jerk reaction" to possible adverse (and misinformed) public opinion.

There is no assurance that the best of instruction—whether it be in driving, cooking or sports—will not be ig-

nored by a trainee with an injury resulting. As instructors, the best we can do is to reasonably reduce the risk of harm to an acceptable level.

Law enforcement firearms training cannot be so completely sanitized so as to exclude all possibility of injury—and still adequately prepare our officers for the "mean streets." In fact, the dilution of proper training could of itself be the basis of a negligence action if an officer sustained injuries because he was not adequately instructed to do the job he was sent out to do.



## In Memoriam

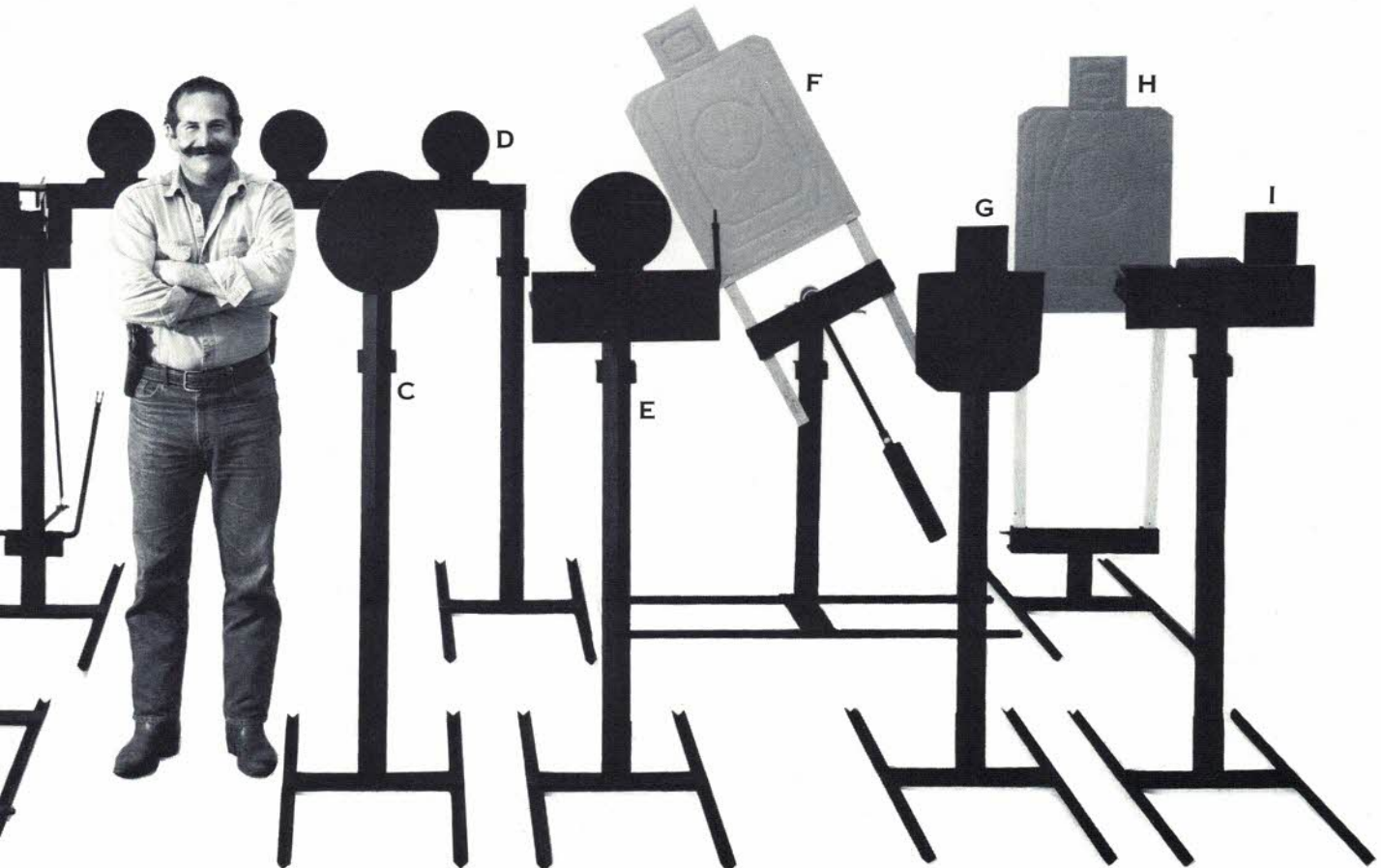
by Gerry Smith

*Lt. Thomas Earl Baldus*

It is with deep sorrow that I inform you of the passing of Thomas Earl Baldus. After a year long battle with cancer, Tom passed away on December 7, 1991 at the age of 44. Those of us who are lucky enough to have known Tom will never forget this courageous man. He was a good husband, father, police officer, teacher and friend. Lieutenant Gary Post, Tom's longtime friend and supervisor, summed it up when he said, "Nothing could extinguish his sense of humor and his spirit. He was a class act. He taught us how to die, but more than anything else, he taught us about taking time for people. He was a very patient and compassionate man."

Tom was a 23 year veteran of the

© 1991 PORTATARGET, INC.



PLATES, D) BIANCHI PLATE RACK. E) FALLING HEAD PLATES, VARIOUS SHAPES AND SIZES. F) BOBBER TARGET. G) HI-POWER SILHOUETTE. H) VARIOUS TARGET STANDS. I) HI-POWERED FLOPPER.



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allows the body armor to bend and twist more freely—so the vest moves with you. KEVLAR 129 offers improved comfort at equivalent or greater protection levels.

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***In Memoriam***

Michigan State Police and held the rank of Lieutenant. He was serving as the Commanding Officer of the Ordinance and Marksmanship Training Unit at the State Police Academy at the time of his passing. This is a post he had served in since 1977.

Born in 1947 in Grand Haven, Michigan, he began his law enforcement career as a part-time officer with the Grand Haven Police Department in 1967. He joined the State Police in 1969 and was first assigned to the Cheboygan Post. He moved to the Lansing Post in 1974. After being assigned to the training division, Tom became a nationally recognized expert in firearms training, tactics, chemical agents and weapon repair and maintenance. He

was also a competition shooter at state and national levels as a individual and as a member of the Michigan State Police Shooting Team. He was a member of IALEFI since 1986.

Tom is also known for his innovative designs for gun grips and the grip +2 adaptor for pistol magazines.

Tom is survived by his wife Diane, daughters Carrie 12 and Sarah 10.

An education trust fund for Tom's daughters has been set up through:

Baldus Children's  
Educational Trust Fund  
c/o Michigan State Police  
Training Division

Tom Baldus had a positive impact on all those he came into contact with. He will be sorely missed by all of us.

***Color Me --READY***

*by Jerry Scott  
Law Enforcement Supervisor*

Place a mixture of Wildlife Officers in a giant bag, shake well, dump them out, and chances are that, outside of a little less hair here and there, you can't tell them apart. They all seem to enjoy - or at least accept - cold feet, numb hands, goeey mud, and the telephone ringing at 3:00 a.m. Put two or more together and their experiences turn into "Can You Top This?" stories. Most career Wildlife Officers can relate an experience when they thought death was near, but all of them want to reach a time in life when their best audience is their grandchildren.

Wildlife enforcement has pro-

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gressed beyond cuff and stuff to in-depth and undercover investigations. It places emphasis on the apprehension of commercial poachers, and rightly so, by utilizing hi-tech equipment. The officer's ability to think and act quickly, frequently one-on-one, is incorporated into law enforcement. In today's enforcement, deadly assaults on Wildlife Officers are facts not to be overlooked. Too often the cause for these alarming incidents is the officer's **COMPLACENCY**. We've all been blessed with a more than adequate supply of complacency, which can endanger us and fellow officers. To overcome this, we need a system that will constantly remind us of our threat level.

Wildlife Officers **MUST** be prepared at **ALL** times to evaluate their **PERSONAL THREAT LEVEL (PTL)** in every encounter, regardless of the time or place. We must improve and hone our mental conditioning, to avoid becoming a statistic. (Law enforcement agencies in the U.S. conduct some of the finest funerals the world has ever seen' personally, I'm not into funerals.) What is needed is a system to evaluate every situation an officer will enter during his career. The system should allow the officer to evaluate the PTL before he enters the situation, and it must be simple and uniform so that even a novice officer can use it.

A color code has been developed to designate different degrees of readiness, as perceived from the officer's vantage point. Progressing from least to most ready, the colors are **WHITE**, **YELLOW**, **ORANGE** and **RED**.

Code **WHITE** - We are unarmed and unprepared. As law enforcement officers we should avoid this condition if at all possible. Although there are times when we cannot be armed, we can still be alert and aware of danger.

Code **YELLOW**-In this condition we are armed and relaxed by alert, and we go about our business without due concern. We can live in this condition whenever armed. Reaction time is 3-5 seconds.

Code **ORANGE** - We are armed and in a specific alert mode (something has made us aware of impending danger). Reaction time is now 1-3 seconds. Duration in this mode is 2 hours before we start losing maximum efficiency.

Code **RED** - Officers are committed and all our skills and mental attitudes apply.

The color code originated in the U.S. Marine Corps to denote combat conditions. Jeff Cooper, a retired U.S. Marine Corps officer, who has written extensively about law enforcement tactics, refined the system and Bill Groce, Supervisor of Tactics and Weapons for the Ohio Peace Officers Training Academy, has developed it further. According to Groce, "You can see it work - you can feel it work. When we take officers through the combat games during Advanced Patrol Tactics you see them, the students, go from one color to another as the tempo quickens. When a student waits to enter the scenario he is in **YELLOW**, as he approaches the line he moves into **ORANGE**, and so on. Reflection on past situations allows each of us to see how we progressed through the colors."

**ORANGE:** BU dispatched within 5 to 10 minutes from last contact. **Code RED:** BU dispatched immediately. **Code YELLOW** should not be used routinely, as noted by Lt. Wendell Webb, of the Ohio State Highway Patrol. We do not want to relax, thinking the situation at hand is harmless to us. Code Yellow should be used when updating our PTL either to the dispatcher or to fellow officers.

This system will work regardless of the officer's state of mind. It permits the BU officers to quicken their reaction time before entering any situation, thus improving their chances of avoiding personal injury.

We all stop suspected violators or just encounter other individuals in a normal tour of duty. During contacts, a normal situation (**YELLOW**) can escalate into a hazardous (**ORANGE**) because of our attitude. The first words spoken will often set the mood for the remainder of the contact. Our attitude, and the words we choose, can cause a normal, friendly contact to deteriorate, thus endangering ourselves and our fellow officers. By using the color code, we can quickly and concisely give another officer assisting or

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**Wildlife Officers MUST be prepared at ALL times to evaluate their PERSONAL THREAT LEVEL (PTL) in every encounter, regardless of the time or place.**

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The color code system is flexible enough to function as a radio alert system, and as a means of communication between officers. It requires each officer to evaluate his PTL in every situation.

Success depends upon cooperation between fellow officers and adoption of the system department-wide. The color code system gives guidance on time frames for sending Back Up (BU) assistance of any kind and is welcomed by conscientious radio dispatchers. General guidelines are as follows:

Code **WHITE:** No BU required. Code **YELLOW:** BU dispatched 15-30 minutes from last contact if officer is not heard from. Code

backing up, advance warning of impending danger.

The responsibility of the BU is to announce to the approach officer his or her arrival on the scene and not violate cover beyond the passenger door of the first law enforcement vehicle behind the suspect's vehicle. This position affords concealment and protection, while providing access to the radio if the approach officer has had presence of mind to unlock the passenger door. By using this location for the BU, the approach officer knows where his people will be. The BU calls to the approach officer - in a loud enough voice to be heard inside the suspect's vehicle - asking for a col-



or, thus obtaining an update on the present TL. The BU should stay behind cover until called forward by the approach officer.

The approach officer should respond with a color indicating the TL as perceived at that time. This communicate has a two-fold purpose. It alerts the suspects in the vehicle that there are other officers on the scene (safety in numbers) and it updates the BU officer on the situation, while not telling the suspects anything except other officers are present. It should divert the suspects' thoughts by making them try to figure out what is going on. Advantage officer.

The system is simple, works regardless of the officer's mood, and acts as common bond between officers - of all agencies - in any situation, for the safety of all.

## Range and Weapons Safety

by Capt. William A. May, Jr.  
Louisville Division of Fire  
Arson Squad Firearms Instructor

Safety is, and should be, the utmost thought in the mind of any firearms instructor worth his or her salt. At best, an accident on the range can result in a ruined reputation. At worst it can result in injury or death. The prospect of a lawsuit because of an accident (brought by another officer or their estate) is a range officer's worst nightmare.

Law enforcement officers, regardless of rank or assignment (local, State and Federal included) have a terrible habit of becoming complacent about the firearms they carry and use on a daily basis. They often forget about the awesome destructive power they carry in their hands. More than once, I've had to scold experienced officers for making mistakes that even rookie officers and agents wouldn't make. And, the safety problem can become even worse when transitioning from revolver to semi-automatic pistol.

**1**  
First SECOND CHANCE 'save' March 7, 1972

**25**  
Total SECOND CHANCE 'saves' by the end of 1974

**77**  
Total SECOND CHANCE 'saves' by the end of 1976

**130**  
Total SECOND CHANCE 'saves' by the end of 1978

**210**  
Total SECOND CHANCE 'saves' by the end of 1980

**288**  
Total SECOND CHANCE 'saves' by the end of 1982

**335**  
Total SECOND CHANCE 'saves' by the end of 1984

**372**  
Total SECOND CHANCE 'saves' by the end of 1986

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**550+**  
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Second Chance street combat knowledge and high-tech man-made fiber technology, found only in America, gives Second Chance concealable soft body armor wearers *the advantage* they want and need on the street today!

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So, how does a firearms instructor avoid these potential problems? Are we a part of this problem? Can we take active measures to make sure that accidents do not happen? Can we lessen our liability and risk? The answer is yes! And, we can do this with little effort on our part. This article is designed to give firearms instructors a starting point from which to conduct an entire classroom session or a rangeside talk on firearms safety. It is also designed to help the range master document that safety training to protect not only himself or herself, but the officer and the agency, too!

The form below was designed to include administrative rules, range safety rules, handling rules, and general safety rules and procedures. Included in this review is a discussion of home storage also. Please feel free to reproduce this form in its entirety or to amend it to fit your particular needs. And, don't forget to have the officer or agent sign the form when completed. Remember, this paper becomes a permanent part of that person's training/personnel file. Training records are filed forever!

### Section I. Administrative Rules

On behalf of the entire training staff, we wish to welcome you to this firearms training session. Our goal is to offer you the opportunity to expand your knowledge and skills in the use of your weapon(s). We wish to offer you this training under the best and most pleasant conditions possible land in a professional atmosphere. In order for us to accomplish this, it will be necessary for all of you to make an effort to be considerate of others, to obey the rules and regulations of the training staff and the department, and to be safety conscious at all times. We expect your full cooperation in these areas at all times.

The instructional staff reserves the right at all times to ask students who do not obey these rules to leave the training exercise. If the violation is serious (or repeated) the staff reserves

the right to eject you from the training facility.

Should you have any questions or personal needs while attending this session, please contact a staff member. We will be glad to assist in any possible way.

Sincerely,

John or Jane Doe  
Chief Firearms Instructor, etc.

I, \_\_\_\_\_, have read and understand the above administrative rules and agree to abide by them while attending this training session.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_, 19\_\_

Witness: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_, 19\_\_

### Section II. Firearms Safety Rules

#### *Primary Rules for Weapons Safety*

The four (4) primary rules of firearms safety are:

1. Treat all weapons as if they are loaded.
2. Keep the muzzle pointed in a safe direction.\*\*
3. Keep your finger out of the trigger guard and off the trigger until you have made the decision to shoot.
4. Be sure of your target and its environment.

\*\*A safe direction is defined as: a direction in which, should an accidental discharge occur, only minor property damage will result with no human injury.

#### *General Safety Rules and Procedures*

1. Whenever you pick up a firearm that has been out of your control (even for an instant), open the action to determine if it is loaded.
2. Firearms safety must be a full-time, conscious effort for a new shooter. It should be a primary set of automatic responses for the experienced shooter.
3. A responsible shooter must know:
  - a. where the firearm is pointed
  - b. whether it is loaded (it is always considered to be loaded)
  - c. how it works
  - d. where a discharged round would go and what it might

pass through should an accidental discharge occur

4. Always keep your finger out of the trigger guard and off of the trigger until you have made the decision to shoot.
5. Avoid handling (or being near) firearms when you are using alcohol or any drugs which might impair or adversely affect your judgement, perception, alertness, or reaction time/reflexes. Fatigue can also cause some of the same effects and drugs or alcohol.
6. Do not handle (any more than necessary) any weapon with which you are unfamiliar. If you are not familiar with a particular type weapon (how it functions, loading and unloading, etc.), leave that firearm alone and call for someone who is familiar with that type weapon. Remember, keep your finger out of the trigger guard and off the trigger. Do not manipulate any external controls.
7. When your firearm is not under your direct control (holstered and on your person), it must be stored safely. It should be inoperable or inaccessible to unauthorized persons. This is especially important in homes where children are present. Develop a routine of safe handling and storage.

I, \_\_\_\_\_, have received a firearms safety lecture, and now have a basic understanding of how to safely handle a firearm.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_, 19\_\_

Witness: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_, 19\_\_

### Section III. Range Safety Rules

#### *A. General Rules*

1. Treat all weapons as though they are loaded. This is a ("hot" or "cold"—as appropriate) range.
2. Never permit the muzzle of a weapon to point at another person (unless you are justified in using deadly force against that person).
3. The strictest discipline will be maintained at all times. Careless-



ness and “horseplay” will not be tolerated.

### **B. Student Officer Responsibility**

The responsibility to understand and comply with the following range and safety rules rests with you. If you do not understand, ask for assistance from an instructor.

1. Eye and ear protection will be worn while in the range area. There are no exceptions to this rule.
2. Immediately upon picking up a weapon (from the box, from the benched position, etc.) check to make sure that the weapon is unloaded and safe. Keep the slide locked back or the cylinder open and check a second time (to make sure you were right the first time). Count all rounds of ammunition to make sure they are accounted for.
3. Never give a firearm to, or accept a firearm from, anyone unless the cylinder or action is open for inspection.

### **C. Range Safety**

1. Never anticipate a command from an instructor. Listen carefully for each command. If you do not understand, raise your hand and ask for clarification or assistance.
2. For “hot” range exercises only. Once you are given the command to load, from that point until the finish of the exercise, the weapon will remain loaded. This is known as a “hot” range. The strictest discipline will be maintained. No carelessness or “horseplay” will be tolerated. The training staff reserves the right to remove any person(s) found to be in violation of these safety rules.
3. Never draw a weapon from the holster, or reholster a weapon, with your finger in the trigger guard and on the trigger.
4. Keep the muzzle pointed in a safe direction at all times.
5. Do not talk to other shooters while on the firing line. If you are unsure

of an instruction, raise your hand and ask for assistance from an instructor.

6. Never permit the muzzle of your weapon to touch the ground. If dropped, call for the assistance of an instructor.
7. If you have a malfunction or mechanical problem, raise your hand for assistance.
8. Never leave the firing line/position without permission from the instructor. Do not leave the range or enter the range without instructor approval.
9. Do not dry fire (snap) your weapon unless under the direct supervision of an instructor.
10. Weapons are to remain holstered (or benched with the cylinder or action open) unless on the firing line and under the direct supervision of an instructor.

### **D. Range Master / Staff Authority**

1. There will be no argument with the training staff.
2. The instructor conducting a particular exercise is in full and complete control of that training exercise. That staff instructor has absolute authority and control over that exercise and students participating in that training exercise.
3. Any person leaving or entering that exercise must have the permission of that instructor.
4. The training staff reserves the right to impose the following penalties for violations of the above range safety rules:
  - a. removal from the firing line
  - b. ejection from that training exercise
  - c. removal from the exercise and ejection from the training facility.

I, \_\_\_\_\_, have read and fully understand the above safety rules and regulations. I agree to abide by these rules for the safety of myself and others who are participating in this training exercise. I agree to conduct myself accordingly, and under-

stand that failure to follow these rules and regulations may be cause for dismissal or removal from the firing range. I also understand that I am responsible for any civil or criminal actions which may arise because of my failure to follow these rules and regulations.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_, 19\_\_  
 Witness: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_, 19\_\_

This form was compiled from a variety of sources. Ideas are drawn from the Kentucky Department of Criminal Justice Training, Mr. Peter Tarley of the Police Training Division, and other sources. When you find a rule or regulation that fits your need, use it to your advantage. Incorporate it into your training.

Like the late Vince Lombardi, coach of the Green Bay Packers, do the basics until you can execute them so well that even the opposition can't stop you when they see it coming. The above rules and regulations are the basics. Review them each and every firearms training session.

Remember, your reputation as an instructor is on the line each and every time you teach. Regardless of the rank of your students, you're the one in charge. You set the tone for safety by your demeanor and attitude. Stress safety, both on and off duty. It may save another officer or agent—and it may save you!

## ***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 association 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.



## Selecting A Carbine For Law Enforcement Applications

by William E. Burroughs



Historically, the law enforcement community has relied on the 12-gauge shotgun as its principal support weapon. In the hands of an individual properly trained in its operation and use, the weapon is a highly effective offensive tool. The shotgun has a major drawback, however. Even for those who enjoy training with the weapon, it becomes a bit uncomfortable to shoot during long, intense practice sessions. Those who do not train regularly with the shotgun find the range experience punishing. The result is the cultivation of a cadre of officers who are apprehensive about the weapon and not skilled in its use.

Several years ago an attempt was made to promote the use of the carbine in 9mm as a contemporary replacement for the shotgun. Many reasons were cited to include cost, ease of training, increased accuracy potential and suitability of the weapon to all body types. Initially, law enforcement took a luke-warm approach to the carbine. There are, however, pockets of enthusiastic supporters all across the country.

The purpose of this article is to identify the practical application of the law enforcement carbine for those who are considering its use. Training guidelines, weapons and ammunition and field

considerations will be presented. It is not the intent to compare this weapon with any other of the same type as that estimate becomes purely subjective relative to the background of the author or evaluator.

First, let us look at training. Before any objective evaluation can be made of any weapon system, those that will be conducting the evaluation must be properly trained. Simple matters such as nomenclature, function, design and method of operations are often taken for granted in the process of selecting a new weapon. The more the evaluator, the trainer and, in the end result, the officer, knows about a weapon, the more effective that weapon will be. What must be extracted from this phase of training is how the weapon works, why it stops, and the operator's responsibilities in keeping the firearm active.

The fundamentals are now presented and a marksmanship standard is established. Most of the developmental work done at this stage is completed inside the distances of 35 to 100 yards. The carbine has a comparative advantage in precision marksmanship over either the handgun or shotgun at these distances. To be effective with the handgun at extended ranges demands extensive training and practice and as a result, is not cost effective to the agency. Precision work with the shotgun requires slugs which are not comfortable to train with and may cause liability concerns in their anti-personnel capacity. The operator must not confuse the performance of this high-powered weapon with a high-powered rifle. Since the carbines in our discussion utilize handgun ammunition, rifle performance in the areas of bullet velocity, bullet deformation upon impact and energy transfer to create a

permanent wound channel and tissue cavitation is not realized. The carbine serves to fill a void between extended handgun range for the average officer and the application of a high-powered rifle in an urban setting.

Training should emphasize targeting known physiological areas for bullet impact, swift and efficient mounting procedures, control of multiple shot sequences and the concepts of sling use for additional stability.

The sling provides the user with an enhanced ability to control the weapon through isometric tension. Properly fitted, the sling allows the carbine to be anchored to the shoulder providing a constant point of reference for mounting and firing.

The effectiveness of this precision weapon is increased through an understanding of bullet placement and terminal ballistic performance. When the target that an officer engages is no longer made of paper or steel with designated scoring areas, information must be provided to enable the officer to impact on those areas of priority. Specifically, **what** will the bullet do **where** it is placed. Unlike the submachine gun, the carbine is not intended to be used in close quarter battle drills.

The carbine is primarily a weapon whose comparative advantage is that of range. In confined spaces or where a proximity target may be discovered, the advantage belongs to weapons more quickly employed, more devastating by shot pattern or, those that have an automatic rate of fire. The carbine thus becomes a special purpose weapon whose design is to elevate officer competency over extended distances.

Mounting procedure that most favors the carbine begins at "**Ready Gun**". In this position, the toe of the stock is placed in the pocket of the shoulder. This pocket can be located just inside the ball of the shoulder



at the collarbone when the arm is raised parallel to the ground. The muzzle is depressed toward the ground, vertically along the centerline of the body with its reference point being approximately two feet in front of the officer's feet. This allows the carbine to be brought straight up to eye level when needed. The sling is set at tension as the support arm pushes forward while the dominant arm pulls the weapon tightly into the shoulder. With practice, this position of **anticipated contact** is extremely fast, allowing target acquisition and the delivery of the first, accurate shot in less than one second at distances less than 50 yards.

The final benefit in the design and trained use of the carbine enhances the operator's ability to discharge multiple shots in a tightly grouped pattern. The isometric stability of the weapon in a mounted position and the displacement of recoil energy throughout a larger, heavier weapon during firing leads to optimum control and aids the shooter in maintaining an operational sight picture. Tactically, field use of multiple shots are more appropriate at closer ranges where general tissue destruction is preferred. At further distances, singular shots and high precision are required to make the best use of the caliber as an anti-personnel round.

Let us now take a look at some available carbines for law enforcement work and evaluate their performance. The carbines tested were: Colt AR-15 9 mm, Heckler & Koch MP5 SF, Marlin CAMP 9 and the Calico M951. The ammunition used for each carbine in the test was: Winchester-Western 147 GR subsonic, Federal 115GR BP, Winchester-Western 115GR Silvertip and Remington 115GR JHP.

First, an analysis of the Colt. An advantage that Colt enjoys is in the commonality of their products.

Their carbines, rifles, submachine guns and squad weapons all belong to a **family**. Physical appearances and methods of operation are similar. An individual trained with any one of the members of the family needs only to orient himself to the next member to continue a progressive training cycle. Technical data to support the Colt seen in Figure No. 1

Stock:	Sliding Buttstock
Finish:	Black
Weight:	5.8 Pounds
Barrel:	16.1
Length:	35" Extended; 31.75" collapsed
Magazine Capacity:	20 or 30
Sights:	Windage Adjustment and Quick Flip Range Change Rear Elevation Adjustment Front
Bolt:	Solid Blowback
Action:	Closed Bolt Blowback

ammunition flawlessly, even when ammunition batches were mixed. During the accuracy phase of the testing, it was found that the smallest and most consistent groups were fired with the Winchester 147 Subsonic. Off hand from 50 yards, the smallest group measured 1.75" at extreme spread. Felt recoil was marginal.

The Heckler & Koch MP5 SF was the next carbine to be tested. The SF operationally is the same as the MP5 submachine gun with the notable exception of a **semi-automatic** trigger group. As with the Colt, H&K manufactures a family of weapons to suit the needs of law enforcement and the military.

Technical data to support the MP5 SF seen in figure #2:

Stock:	Fixed
Finish:	Black
Weight:	5.59 pounds
Barrel:	8.85"

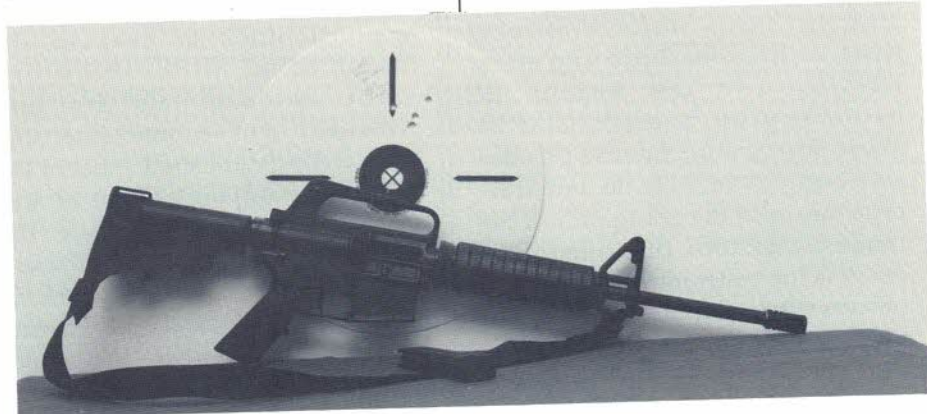


FIG. 1

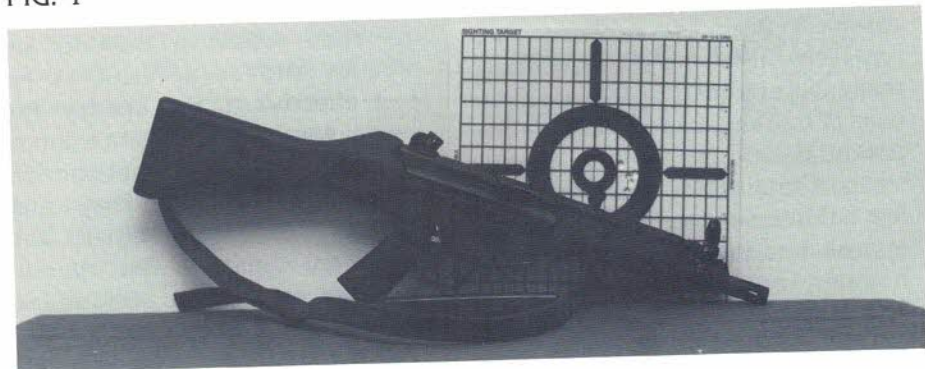


FIG. 2

During the testing, over 200 rounds of ammunition was fired to determine reliability and accuracy potential. The Colt digested all of the

Length:	26.77"
Magazine Capacity:	15 & 30
Sights:	Fixed front, Rotary rear adjustable for windage and elevation



Bolt: Locking roller assembly  
 Action: Delayed blowback

The same testing procedure was used for the SF. No difficulties were experienced with the ammunition selected in any of the courses of fire. The SF did have a favorite lot of ammunition - Winchester 147 Subsonic. Off hand at 50 yards, the smallest group measured 1.50" at extreme spread. Recoil was not noticeable.

The evaluation procedure now moved to the Marlin Camp 9. The Camp 9 is a sporting version of the 9mm Carbine. Originally not intended for law enforcement use, improvements to the weapon are continually being made to bring it more in line with that application. Additions of different sights and magazine interchangeability with all pistol manufacturer's high capacity 9mm magazines would allow the same magazines used by the carried handgun to be used in the carbine. Additionally, a synthetic stock would enhance durability and operation in an environment where abuse is the rule and not the exception.

Technical data on the Camp 9 seen in Figure #3:

Stock: Fixed wood  
 Finish: Blue (Nickel available)  
 Weight: 6.75 pounds  
 Barrel: 16.5"  
 Length: 35.5"  
 Magazine Capacity: Currently 12, 15, & 20  
 Sights: Fixed front (Hooded available) Adjustable rear  
 Bolt: Solid blowback  
 Action: Closed bolt blowback

The Marlin favored the Remington 115 JHP as the most accurate round. From 50 yards, off hand with no sling, the smallest group measured 2" at extreme spread. Recoil not noticed.

The final weapon in the group is the Calico M951. This carbine has been developed for the law enforcement market and incorporates a new method of supplying ammunition to the firing mechanism. The use of a **Helical**

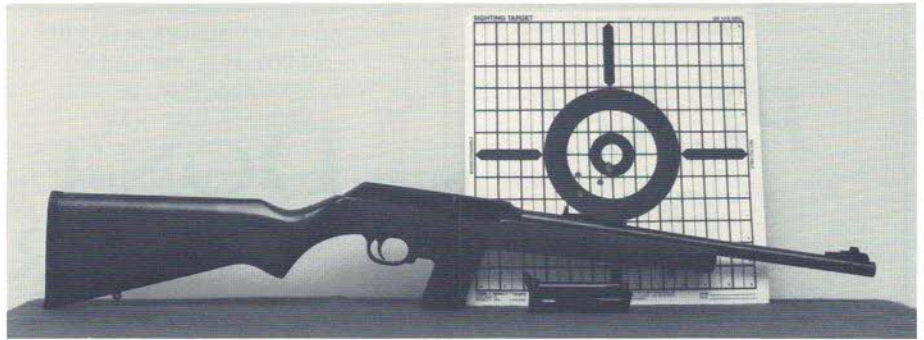


FIG. 3

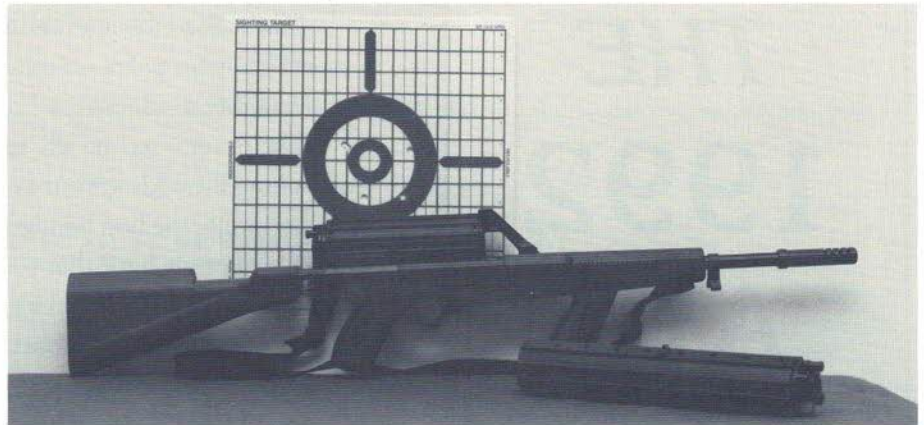


FIG. 4

**Feed** magazine permits loading the carbine with either a 50 or 100 round capacity magazine. Another enhancement is a downward ejection of the spent casings. The carbine presents a very narrow profile and is very compact. Constructed of both metal and synthetic composites, it truly represents the next stage in development for this category of firearm.

Technical data supporting Calico M951 seen in figure #4:

Stock: Glass filled polymer  
 Finish: Black  
 Weight: 3.7 pounds  
 Barrel: 16"  
 Length: 34.5"  
 Magazine Capacity: 50 & 100  
 Sights: Fixed notch rear Adjustable post front  
 Bolt: Solid  
 Action: Retarded blowback

Function testing found the Calico a little more particular about the ammunition fed into it. From an accuracy standpoint, the Winchester Silvertip was the most consistent.

This was, however, the least reliable ammunition in feeding. The extreme spread on the five shot group with the silvertip ammunition was 3.75"; certainly larger than I would like, but adequate for the purpose of the weapon. Recoil was fully absorbed by the weapon.

All of the weapons tested can meet the needs of law enforcement if the proper training is conducted specific to each and tailored to the needs of the agency.

What will follow in the area of carbine development will be based on what law enforcement decided to do with the weapon. Calibers, configurations and support equipment will all evolve as trainers discover what works and what is needed. Without research and development conducted by trainers in the field, stagnation will occur.

The end user must keep in mind that the weapon selected to do the job is only as good as the training that supports it. Flash and glitz don't get the job done. Training, practice and perseverance will.



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*The Firearms Instructor* welcomes relevant articles from Association Members.

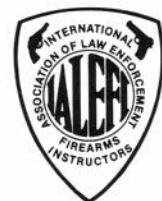
When preparing articles, the following rules should be observed:

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.

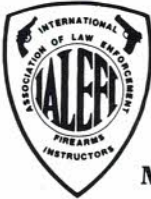
Articles to be considered for publication should be sent to:

Robert Bossey, Executive Director  
IALEFI  
390 Union Ave./Union Square  
Laconia, New Hampshire 03246





INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF LAW ENFORCEMENT FIREARMS INSTRUCTORS, INC.



390 Union Avenue/Union Square  
Laconia, N.H. 03246  
Tel. (603) 524-8787  
FAX (603) 524-8856

**MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION - NOT CERTIFICATION**

ACTIVE \$40.00 • ASSOCIATE \$40.00 (U.S. DOLLARS)

Name (last, first) \_\_\_\_\_ d.o.b. \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_

Agency \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: Work (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ Ext. \_\_\_\_\_ Home (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_  
(if mail to home:)

Street \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

**BACKGROUND: MUST BE COMPLETED ENTIRELY**

Date designated Firearms Instructor by your agency? \_\_\_\_\_

Are you presently active as your agency's Firearms Instructor? \_\_\_\_\_

Describe Firearms Instructor's Training you have attended, and your background as a Firearms Instructor:  
(Attach separate page if necessary)

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Copies of your certificates / diplomas MUST accompany this application . . . . .  
(N.R.A., Smith & Wesson Academy, State Law Enforcement Training Council,  
SIGARMS Academy, etc.)**

ENDORSEMENT OF APPLICANT'S OR DIRECT FIREARMS TRAINING SUPERVISOR:  
I know the applicant to be professionally engaged in Firearms Instruction (Active), or know him/her to be a law abiding citizen who has knowledge that would benefit firearms training (Associate), and recommend him/her for membership.

SIGNED \_\_\_\_\_ Title \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_

Name (print) \_\_\_\_\_ Phone (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_

I hereby apply for membership in I.A.L.E.F.I. and, if accepted, agree to abide by the bylaws and regulations published by the association.

SIGNED \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_

**INCOMPLETE APPLICATIONS WILL BE RETURNED**

Enclose check (payable to I.A.L.E.F.I.) in the amount of one year's dues.

**MAIL TO: I.A.L.E.F.I.**  
390 Union Avenue/Union Square  
Laconia, N.H. 03246

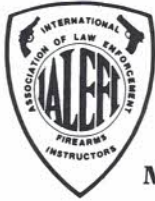
If you are being sponsored by a present I.A.L.E.F.I. member, please indicate member's name: (print) \_\_\_\_\_







INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF LAW ENFORCEMENT FIREARMS INSTRUCTORS, INC.



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Laconia, N.H. 03246  
Tel. (603) 524-8787  
FAX (603) 524-8856

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ACTIVE \$40.00 • ASSOCIATE \$40.00 (U.S. DOLLARS)

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Agency \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

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Street \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

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Describe Firearms Instructor's Training you have attended, and your background as a Firearms Instructor:  
(Attach separate page if necessary)

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Copies of your certificates/diplomas MUST accompany this application . . . . .  
(N.R.A., Smith & Wesson Academy, State Law Enforcement Training Council,  
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ENDORSEMENT OF APPLICANT'S OR DIRECT FIREARMS TRAINING SUPERVISOR:  
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SIGNED \_\_\_\_\_ Title \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_

Name (print) \_\_\_\_\_ Phone (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

I hereby apply for membership in I.A.L.E.F.I. and, if accepted, agree to abide by the bylaws and regulations published by the association.

SIGNED \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_

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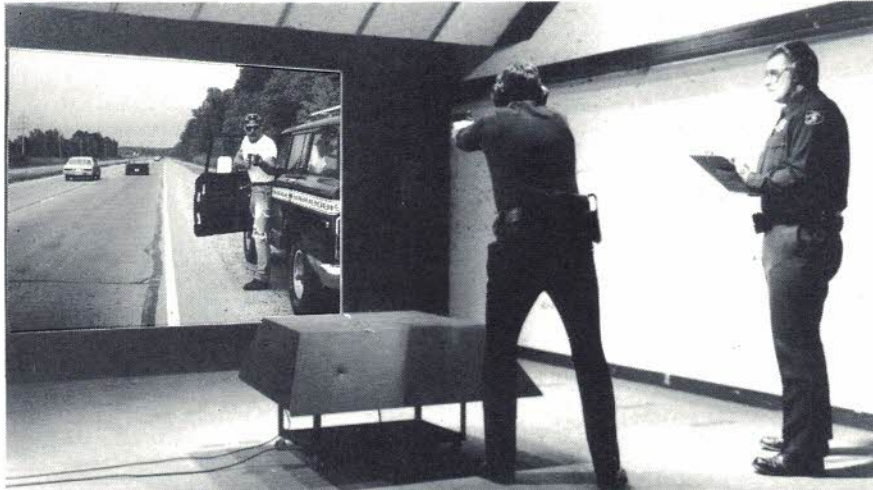
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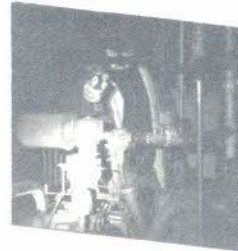
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