

THE FIREARMS INSTRUCTOR



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



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The International Association of Law Enforcement Firearms Instructors is a non-profit membership organization with aims and purposes to provide educational services, encourage the development of relevant training programs and criteria for Instructor certification, and to conduct an Annual Training Conference. IALEFI active membership is open to those professionally engaged in the training of law enforcement, security, criminal justice, and investigative personnel.

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WINTER, 1993

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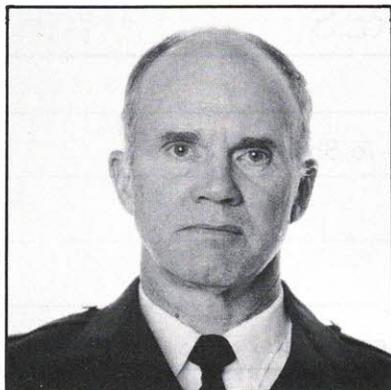
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The President's Message

by
Michael Beckley



I hope that all members had a happy and healthy holiday season. 1992 was a challenging year for the firearms instructor, and 1993 will probably be filled with just as much controversy. Since transition training began to take hold in the early eighties, much has happened in the firearms training field. Tactical range exercises are now commonplace in most jurisdictions. SWAT team training has advanced to a level not envisioned ten years ago. Training techniques involving instructors who are cross trained in both defensive tactics and firearms are advancing at a rapid rate.

But before we pat ourselves on the back, we must remember that this is not a static business and new challenges are always on the horizon.

Dynamic Simulation Training which combines weaponless control tactics such as handcuffing, takedowns and weapon retention with the use of the non-lethal weapons (chemical agents and impact weapons) and integrates them with firearms training into a comprehensive package, has entered the scene. This new approach better prepares an officer for the dynamics of a violent street encounter, which often escalates from verbalization to the use of deadly force in less than a second, or de-escalates just as rapidly. The Program Committee will be presenting examples of this

approach to Firearms Training at the '93 Annual Training Conference in Reno, Nevada.

The **Training Criteria Committee**, under the direction of Chairman John Meyer is preparing a Firearms Instructors' Glossary with the help of IALEFI member Preston Covey of the Carnegie-Mellon Institute. The Training Criteria Committee is also hard at work on the revision of the **Firearms Training Standards Manual**. I would like to thank Vice President Manny Kapelsohn for his hard work in seeing this manual through to its completion. This new manual has much information for the Firearms Instructor, whether he or she is just starting out in the field, or has been in the business for many years. Both should be ready for distribution at the '93 Annual Training Conference.

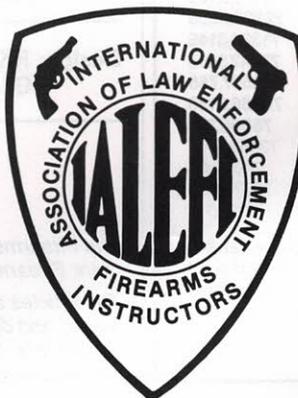
I have established several special committees. The first is the new **Publications Committee**, chaired by Past President, Bob Hunt. The purpose of this committee is to review all articles to be printed in *The Firearms Instructor*. The purpose of this committee is not to censor articles that the membership submits, but rather to be sure that each article is appropriate, in that it provides training information or other material of interest to firearms instructors.

The second new committee is the **Body Armor Committee**, chaired by Board member Chris Pollack. Chris will be investigating and reporting on the current controversy surrounding standards for the testing and manufacture of light weight body armor. Chris will have an article in each issue of *The Firearms Instructor* on this important subject.

Finally, I have established a **Spouse Program Committee** for the next A.T.C., chaired by Board member Mike Hargreaves and assisted by member Diane Mundy. Your Board of Directors has decided that a little more effort has to be put into providing an itinerary for the members of the families during the '93 A.T.C.

In closing, I am reminded of the words of our founder Charlie Smith when he addressed the members present at the '92 A.T.C. in Tampa, Florida. He said that many years ago, while attending the funeral of a young F.B.I. agent shot to death in Newark, NJ, he was approached by the agent's mother who asked why her son had been killed. He told her he didn't have an answer for her. He suddenly realized how terribly important the firearms instructor's job is, and he never forgot it!

Good Luck
Michael P. Beckley



Isn't It Time We Teach Our Officers How To Shoot Like Their Life Depends On It!

By
Tom Ashmore

So much time and effort is spent training our police to defend themselves against attacks from cardboard aggressors at prescribed distances, when in reality the attacker rarely stands in one place or turns, fires and turns away. WAKE UP ADMINISTRATORS! What was good years ago does not hold water today against superior weapons, trained perpetrators, multiple weapons, and multiple aggressors.

Training officers - I know you get "THEY WON'T PAY US TO DO ANY MORE TRAINING." Remember, it is not the "THEYS" that are going to get hurt. I honestly believe that if you are a police officer and do not have the motivation and desire to become more than proficient with your weapon, then perhaps you are in the wrong business. Sure, you figure it will never happen "to me", but what if another officer's life depends on your ability to use your weapon? Following are several ideas we have integrated into our training that I would like to share.

I believe every officer should be able to pick up any firearm, load it (or clear it if needed), and hit a man-size target at actual combat range. I am not saying to be able to win a bull's eye competition, but to be able to eliminate the threat. Also, being familiar with all types of weapons will improve your safety and the safety of those around you when you encounter them during normal everyday apprehensions. To add this to your training should not cost any more as you can use confiscated or old weapons found in your arsenal. (Naturally, your armorer would check them first.)

Officers should be able to shoot **ACCURATELY** under adverse conditions and position, in rain, snow, darkness, being tired, physically worn out, in noisy conditions and

more. How about firing a course of fire from the sitting position? Try it from a chair, patrol car, diner booth, etc. How about with winter gloves on? Too much time and effort go into getting into the proper position. What good is good positioning if you get shot getting into it?

Do a shot or two standing, immediately dropping to the knees for the next shot and finishing with a roll left or right, again firing. After all, if there is no cover, you must do something other than standing there, and still be able to hit your target. We preach cover first, but sometimes you are in the open.

WAKE UP, ADMINISTRATORS!

What would happen to your score if you were knocked over as you were about to fire? Can you still hit your target as you hit the ground? By introducing realism, you will increase your survivability rate.

One thing that really frosts me is the lines at a range - i.e. The Yard Line! In a combat situation, who draws the lines? What happens if you are only 2 yards from the threat? Do you have to back up? I say, do away with lines and fixed position. Shoot from all over your facility, even diagonally, if it can be done safely. If the human body can get into the position, then you should be able to shoot from it, whether you are walking, running or falling.

Sight picture and sight alignments are really great, if you have the time to do it, but in combat you usually do not have that luxury. When you throw a ball to someone, you can get it right to that per-

son at a much greater range than most pistol combat and you do not have sights on your hands. Learn to fire without the rear sights. We use black tape over the rear sights. Archers for years fired very accurately without sights. It just takes practice.

Few instructors reach reflex shooting and reading the signs. Reading the signs and reacting to them might give you the added time you need to survive. What signs? Your body's early warning system, like the little hairs standing up on the back of your neck. This, along with other feelings brought forth and proven in the British study years ago, is part of our Tactical Reflex course and too detailed to discuss in this article.

Most ranges look like they were mass produced. All have simulated barricades or something similar for the officers to use for cover while they shoot strong hand and weak hand. Usually, they are all in a line on one of those *famous yard lines*. Also, all officers are lined up side by side, so you have shooting going on each side of you. I say, move your obstacles around; stand some up, lay some down and stagger them all over and run the officers through the course one at a time, using all positions from all ranges. Then kink it up and put a patch over one eye and shoot the course, then the other eye. Always try to do something different and challenging.

Physical fitness: Space does not allow me to discuss this properly, but I believe if you are out of shape and your waist size is higher than your hit probability, you should seek work elsewhere. After all, if you do not care about yourself, that's one thing, but what about your ability to assist another officer? How would you feel if you were in trouble and your back-up couldn't quite get to

you in time because he just couldn't make it up the third flight of stairs? What about the legal liability of your department using people they know are physically unfit, but sending them out to perform life-threatening tasks?

Did you ever consider having officers fire a course blind-folded? One of our favorites. Think about it. What would happen if the officers were maced or had hot coffee thrown in their faces and their only chance to survive was to eliminate the threat before the threat eliminates them. This course is not hard to set up and was patterned after watching blind people throw darts. In our Tactical Reflex Course, we ask everyone to spend time with blind people and learn from them. In many of these scenarios, we start off with paint guns for safety and move up to the live fire. I always preach if you fire 10 times, I want 10 holes in one bad guy or 10 bad guys. The only scores we use are hit or misses and we equate it to "you lived or died on the range".

This year marks our twenty-first year in the tactical training business and I have heard all the reasons why "WE CAN'T TRAIN". For all of those people, we have installed a special customer service number. JUST DIAL 1-800-WAWAWAWA.

About the Author:

Tom Ashmore, President and Senior Instructor of Tom Ashmore Enterprises, Inc. is an ex-Marine with extensive combat experience, and an ex-police officer. Tom Ashmore is a proud member of IALEFI, ASLET, and IABTI. He welcomes questions or comments about this article. Tom Ashmore Ent., Inc. P.O. Box 5204, Brookfield, CT 06804-5204.

**THINK
1993 A.T.C.!
"RENO"**

Big Guns - Little People

By
Robert P. Butler

"When we get these little ol' bity gals out on the line and introduce them to Mr. Shotgun is when they'll learn they're in the wrong line of work." Most of us have been subjected to this type of thinking. The tradeoff for a few moments of amusement may be the destruction of self-confidence (possibly forever) of a recruit officer. The appropriate reward for a firearms instructor who operates in this manner should be that the victimized recruit be the only officer available to respond to the instructor's call for assistance out on the street, and the instructor's survival should depend wholly on the skill and confidence of that recruit with a shotgun.

I was attending 2 weeks of Instructor Recertification in 1987 at the FBI Academy in Quantico, VA, and was one of 18 line officers for a class of new Agents that was firing shotguns for the first time. Each of us was responsible for the 3 to 4 recruits directly in front of us. The only female in my area was tall and slender, weighed about 120, and very athletic in her movements. She picked up very quickly and posed no

for what was coming.

The line officer to my right was standing well-back from the line and pointing vigorously at a small, female recruit who was his responsibility. He was eager for all of us to see her reaction to heavy recoil. I was in no position to interfere, but a glance at her awkward, unbalanced posture said everything about what was about to happen. When she fired, she simply abandoned the gun and sat down hard, holding her shoulder. Her face was drained of color, and a quick touch told us that her collarbone had been snapped in half. The shotgun, of course, had fallen on concrete, and was rendered safe by someone. To summarize the results of this madness, the young woman did not graduate with her class, and she was simply put "on hold" at the taxpayers' expense until the collarbone healed and another class reached the same point in their training for her to again endeavor to demonstrate shotgun proficiency. How would you like to have been the next firearms instructor designated to reintroduce her to Mr. Shotgun?

A firearms instructor who takes pleasure in seeing small officers suffer does a disservice to his agency.

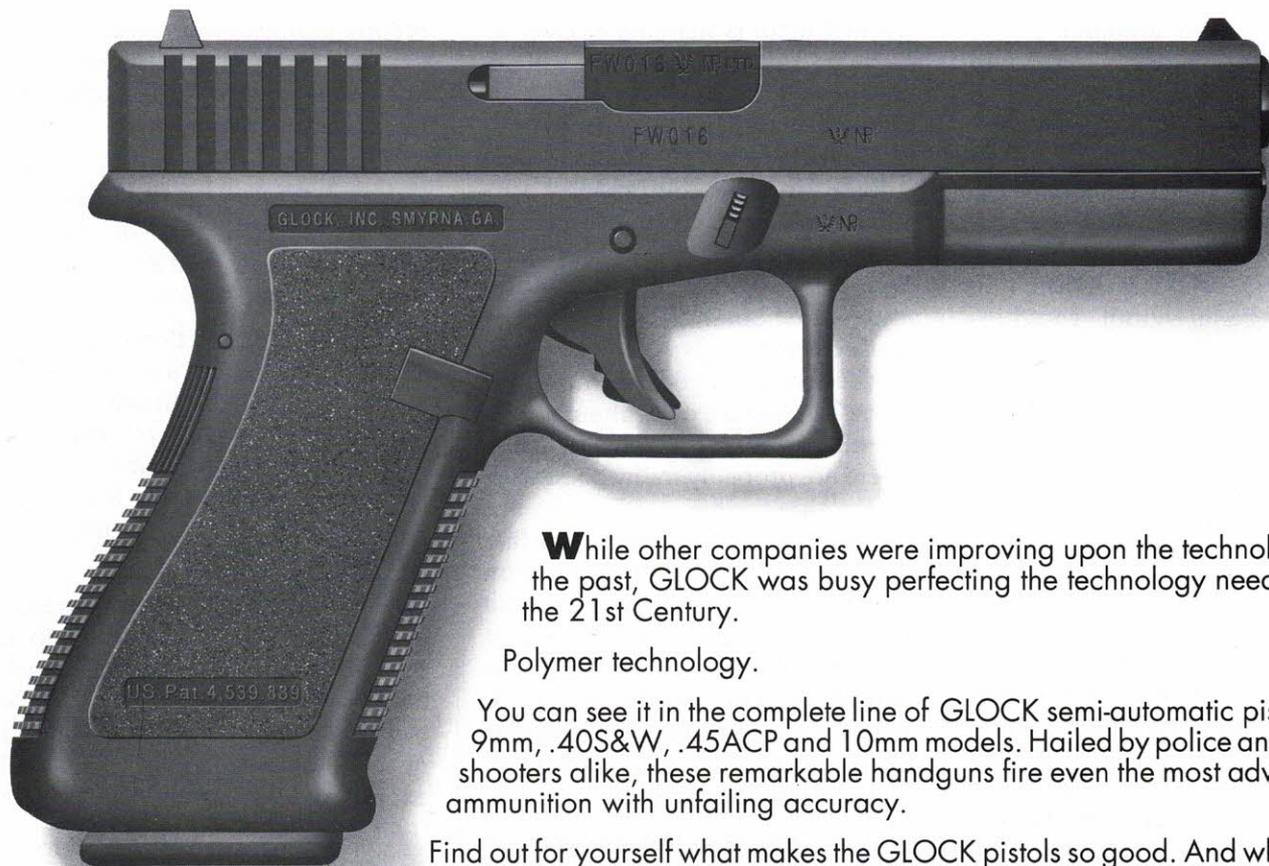
problem, so I turned my attention to a small male officer who needed lots of help. The recruits fired a 25-round box of skeet loads at the 15 yard line to build their confidence, and were now on the 25 yard line preparing to fire their first buckshot loads. The FBI was issuing 12-pellet Magnum 00 buckshot at the time, and the consensus was that recoil was equivalent to the rifle slug.

With no more preparation than a command to load, the recruits prepared to fire. I scurried between my shooters, doing the best I could to insure that all would be prepared

In these times of equal opportunity, we no longer enjoy the luxury of hiring only the big ones. A firearms instructor who takes pleasure in seeing small officers suffer does a disservice to his agency, fellow-officers, and the community he serves. It is the instructor's job to find ways to make small officers as capable as large ones. Actually, big people don't shoot shotguns any better than small people. The major difference is that a big person who mishandles the shotgun might be annoyed but not destroyed. A 240 pounder doesn't need technique to



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be effective with a shotgun, but it still helps. Size is no guarantee or insulation against pain and injury. I have known lots of big men who did not enjoy firing the shotgun, and some who visibly trembled as they mounted it to the shoulder.

Law enforcement is faced with hiring and training an increasing number of recruits who were raised with no knowledge of firearms. This means that we must teach the basics as we have never done before. In this regard, I would like to share some very basic procedures learned in training recruits about shotguns that have proved invaluable to me:

1. The ratio of instructor to student in the beginning is one-to-one. No recruit should ever be allowed to fire until the instructor has approved grip, stance, and posture. That first shot should leave the recruit thinking, "Hey, I can do this."
2. The position of the instructor is on the line with the shooter, and so close that the shooter cannot turn the muzzle from downrange without bumping into the instructor. So close, in fact, that the instructor is able to catch or support the shotgun if it is partially or totally dropped.
3. Recoil should be explained in language that neither exaggerates, nor minimizes, its effects on the shooter. Recoil is an unavoidable result which must be addressed as something to control, but not fear. The mechanics of dealing with recoil should be described and demonstrated. If you have, in your agency, a small female who is competent with the shotgun, have her provide the demonstration and it will carry much more weight than if you do it - especially if you are good sized yourself. The recruits will see that it is not done with mirrors, and the confidence of your demonstration will be contagious.
4. Encourage shooters to "ride" recoil naturally, rather than to fight recoil. Proper positioning of the feet and body, along with a snug fit of the buttstock in the shoulder, and cheek against the comb of the stock, helps to ensure that the gun,

following recoil, will be against the shoulder, and muzzle will ride right back down on target. As we have all seen, many beginners believe that holding the weapon snugly is a "trick" to insure pain for rookies. If the instructor is standing as close as he should to the shooter, he will occasionally see the unbeliever separate cheek from stock and buttplate from shoulder slightly, just prior to firing. If the shooter succeeds in firing before you can intercede, the shotgun, with nothing behind it, hits like a charging rhino and the shooter, forgetting what caused the pain, is now firmly convinced that you've been lying about recoil - and so are other members of the class who witnessed the firing. There are probably many good ways to describe the effects of recoil, but the one I've used for years goes like this: "If the gun does not move on your body, it cannot bruise you, and if your weight is on the front leg, it cannot move you. Make the gun a part of you with your hands, cheek and shoulder, and you will find that when recoil occurs, you and the gun move upward and rearward as one."

5. The "pocket of the shoulder" is located in the same place for everyone, but all "pockets" are not equal due to differences in the amount of fatty tissue and muscle development. Shooters with small, fragile "pockets" should be encouraged to lower the elbow once the buttstock is seated in order to place as much "meat" as possible between bone and buttstock. By lowering the elbow of the shooting arm, the shooter bunches the anterior deltoid muscle-group on the front surface of the shoulder, while simultaneously bunching the pectoral muscle connecting from the chest. This "bunching" of muscle protects one of the two ligaments which attaches the bicep to the shoulder. I was impressed by the importance of this when the surgeon who repaired a torn rotator-cuff in my shoulder ten years ago found a "frayed" bicep ligament during surgery which he cut and re-attached. He said it had been frayed

by heavy or repeated impact on the front surface of my shoulder, and if placed under stress, it might separate in that condition. At 190 pounds, I had never thought of my shoulder as vulnerable, but I will readily admit to many instances of careless handling, when firing buckshot or slugs has brought tears to my eyes.

6. The primary function of the shooting hand, aside from pulling the trigger, is not to squeeze the pistol-grip, but to pull and buttstock firmly into the "pocket".

7. The primary function of the non-shooting hand (with a pump-gun) is to cycle the action. Shooters must be instructed to squeeze firmly, but not pull backward during firing, since recoil may unlock the action which usually results in "short-stroking".

8. Small shooters are encouraged to blade their stance in relationship to the target, ensuring that the feet will be aligned nearly one behind the other. Small shooters who adopt a quartering stance with the feet will experience "elevated toes" each time recoil occurs.

9. Bending the knee of the lead leg shifts the balance forward to counteract recoil. Since I know many firearms instructors abhor artificial stance with any weapon, I remind the reader that we are instilling confidence without pain for a beginning shotgun shooter.

10. Elevate the shoulder to bring the receiver to the cheek instead of allowing the shooter to shoulder the gun and then lower the head toward the stock. The snugging of the shoulder and buttstock, placement of the cheek to comb of stock, and acquisition of sights, should all occur simultaneously. This is accomplished simply by lifting the shooting shoulder as the gun is mounted.

11. New shooters with short arms will find the buttstock uncomfortably long. I watched in amazement for years as first-time shooters would pivot the stock upward, get it hung under their arm, and then lean

backward until they had enough clearance to seat the gun in the shoulder. What began as a weight-forward position of balance, now looked like someone fighting a strong wind from two directions. Suddenly it came to me one day that only little folks were doing it. The solution to the problem, of course, is to suggest that the same objective can be achieved by pushing the gun forward to achieve clearance, meanwhile maintaining the good weight-forward position of balance.

12. Use light loads in the beginning. It is not sissy to use good judgement when the major goal is to promote confidence, and ensure that mistakes will not be punished by injury. The shells are cheaper, and your good one-on-one instruction will ensure that techniques learned will apply, when the first buckshot and slugs are fired.

In conclusion, your best efforts will never be able to prevent the occasional "blue arm". You may be one of those who considers the first painful round of buckshot a necessary rite of passage - just as it was in "your day". If you like a challenge however, imagine that you are being judged by how many of your pilgrims came through their shotgun training without being bruised, physically or mentally. In the long run, you will have done a much better thing for everyone concerned.

About the Author:

Robert P. Butler currently serves as Training Coordinator for the Carrollton, Texas Police Department. He is a retired FBI Agent of 27 years service, who served as Primary Firearms Instructor for the Dallas FBI Field Office from 1968 to 1988. Butler also served as SWAT Commander from 1972 to 1980, and was a U.S. Marine Corps competition shooter in 1957 - '58. In 1987, a year before his retirement, Butler was a member of the FBI Weapons Selection Board when that agency was making the transition from revolvers to auto-pistols.

Is Stacking The Door Sound Tactics?

By
Tom Ashmore

... Or could it be leading up to a disaster? As I travel around the country training, I have found that most departments follow other departments and HOLLYWOOD in procedures. I am not saying that this is always wrong, but it seems like they forget to think for themselves. For starters, this method is so widely used and portrayed on TV so much, don't you think sooner or later the bad guys will catch on? After all, they watch TV too, and also train.

Let's go start at basics. What is the first rule of combat? NEVER

BUNCH UP! Right...Need I say more? Let's look at some obvious problems associated with stacking. Most departments only have one tactical team. If they lose it, or most of it, during the entry, not only will the mission suffer, but so will future missions, not to count the devastation to the families and the department.

What could go wrong? Let's consider what would happen if the door, or entry way or even the porch, were to be booby-trapped. This has already happened and I am sure it will again. I purposely will not go in-

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to detail about this for obvious reasons. All of a sudden, the whole entry team is now a casualty. Let's consider that everyone is stacked in position along the wall, waiting for the signal to proceed. Inside the building, facing the same wall, is the perpetrator. He opens up with automatic weapon fire along the wall, about knee-high, again you have sacrificed your team. Let's look at something simple. You are all stacked ready to go, adrenalin is high and you are pumped. You get the GO. Everyone is in motion, just like the many times in training. One of the up-front people slips or trips and before you know it you have a pile up and it could be right in the

BAD POINTS OF STACKING

1. Possible booby-traps.
2. Could get shot through the wall.
3. Tripping.
4. Emergency disengagement problem.
5. Encountering hazards enroute.
6. A.D.s
7. Telegraphing your intentions to any trained perpetrator.

There are alternative ways I like to consider such as QUICK ACCESS, TWO PERSON TEAMS OR THE PERSON IN MOTION SEQUENCE along with many, many others.

If nothing else, I hope I have caused some team leaders to stop and review their options.

What is the first rule of combat? NEVER BUNCH UP! Right. . .

kill zone. Add to this safe weapon handling. We are all taught to keep them pointed in a safe direction. Try that in a pile-up. Sooner or later you will end up looking at the wrong end of your partner's weapon. What if the team was once again in motion and the leading members came across a trip-wire or some other danger? Could they stop in time or would the rest of the team push them through it? How about emergency disengagement with everyone in motion? Can you accomplish this?

Naturally, your entry and tactics will depend on the job at hand, or what we refer to as site specific, and your intelligence gathering. I ask that you do not get stuck in a rut and only practice one way. You must have a bag of tricks that will afford you many options and ways to perform a graduated response.

For those of you that are still not sure what I have said, let's compare the good versus the bad.

GOOD POINTS OF STACKING

1. Speed to overcome the objective.
2. Vast number of officers entering at once to over-power the threat.
3. Shock and surprise.

About the Author:

Tom Ashmore, President and Senior Instructor for Tom Ashmore Enterprises, Inc. is an ex-Marine with extensive combat experience, and an ex-police officer.

Tom Ashmore is a proud member of IALEFI, ASLET, and IAB-TI. He welcomes questions or comments about this article. Tom Ashmore Ent., P.O. Box 5204, Brookfield, CT 06804-5204.



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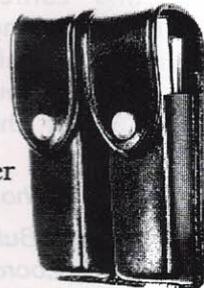


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An Unscientific Survey of Shooting Stances or Another Footnote on the Isosceles vs. Weaver Shooting Stances

By William S. Usilton

It all started when I decided to subscribe to *Practical Shooting International*, the self-described "world's only monthly practical shooting journal." I wanted to see what the "civilians" were doing. I thought I might pick up some ideas for courses of fire.

It seemed that a lot of shooters were using the isosceles shooting stance. To find out, I decided to count the number of shooters using the isosceles and the number of shooters using the Weaver and compare them. I had 23 issues available, volume 5, number 10 (1990) through volume 5, number 8 (1992). Any photograph where I was unsure which shooting stance was being used was not counted. Ads were not counted. The results were surprising: 146 shooters used the isosceles, 14 shooters used the Weaver.

I don't know what this highly unscientific survey means. It could be that, at least in this sample, a lot of shooters are using the isosceles stance. One could infer that the isosceles is not going to fade away into the sunset. This is the conclusion that I drew from it.

At one time, our recent recruits were sent to an academy that taught only the Weaver stance. These recruits could shoot well. We then started sending our recruits to another academy. This academy is less expensive than the one that only trains in the Weaver. We, as firearms instructors, argued against changing academies. But as we all know, the "budget" wins every time. The "bottom line" does exist in the public sector.

The academy we now use teaches recruits both the Weaver and the isosceles shooting stances. The recruits then choose which shooting stance they prefer. The first two officers through this academy chose the isosceles. They did not shoot as well as the previous two

recruits who were trained in the Weaver. I started to marshal my arguments for sending all recruits to the academy that teaches only the Weaver. Incidentally, I have been trained in, and exclusively use, the Weaver. Then another recruit went through the less expensive academy. He chose the isosceles and he shoots very well. There went my argument.

After the above experiences, I don't feel that I, as a firearms instructor, should dictate which shooting stance an officer should use as long as the officer can hit what he is shooting at. I have gotten into some arguments with other firearms instructors about this. They wanted our officers to use only the Weaver. So far, we have not required this. I don't think we will.

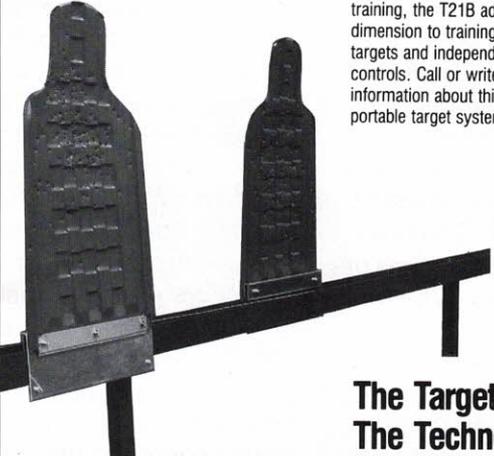
These examples might help

some other firearms instructor who is in a similar quandary. I hope so.

I was further enlightened by looking at all of those pictures. There are several shooters using what could be called a modified isosceles shooting stance. The weak arm was slightly bent. Why or what this means is unknown. It was an interesting observation.

About the Author: William S. Usilton is a police officer with the City of De Kalb, Illinois Police Department. He has over 20 years of police experience and has been a firearms instructor since 1983. He is a member of I.A.L.E.F.I., A.S.L.E.T., N.T.O.A. and P.M.A. He welcomes comments. They can be addressed to: Ptl. W.S. Usilton #42, De Kalb Police Department, 200 S. Fourth St., De Kalb, IL 60115 or 815-756-1421. No hate mail, please.

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Semi-Automatic Pistols For Law Enforcement Use: Diversity or Uniformity?

By

*By David M. Gilbert, Sergeant, Firearms Training Program
Marion Police Department, Marion, Indiana*

The decision to make the transition to the semi-automatic pistol is currently a common trend in the law enforcement community. For most departments, this process will be one that requires substantial expense and, hopefully, an equally substantial amount of training. The purpose of this article is not to comment on the validity of the transition itself, but to provide information concerning details of the weapons system chosen. Specifically, should the choice of a semi-automatic pistol be confined to one and only one model, caliber and size? Or, should a department consider varying some of the features of the pistol it issues to its officers?

The first question to be considered in the decision making process should be, "Which choice, diversity or uniformity, will allow my officers to be most effective in terms of defending themselves or another person in a deadly force encounter?" After all, that is the bottom line. Both choices have advantages and disadvantages. I am familiar with a department that chose to issue the Smith & Wesson Model 4506 to all of its officers, regardless of skill level or physical stature. In contrast, I am aware of other departments that have authorized the use of virtually any revolver/pistol as long as the officer "qualifies" with it. These examples are two extremes in terms of diversity and uniformity. Which is best?

An examination of each is helpful. In the first example, the department chose the large frame, big bore, semi-automatic pistol for uniformity without exception. I have observed the officers of this department on a regular basis to see what effect the choice would have over time. I have noticed that a good por-

tion of the time, investigative/plain clothes personnel leave their pistols in places other than on their person, such as drawers, glove compartments, under car seats and even in the open in office areas where suspects and witnesses are interviewed regularly. This creates obvious problems, as the weapon is of no use when not accessible, and further, is a safety risk when not secured. Undercover narcotics officers are also issued the Model 4506. I believe that the choice of this large pistol encourages these officers to become accustomed to policing without the weapon. I also suspect that it discourages off-duty carry.

weapon in the event that one may have to use the other's weapon in an emergency. Admittedly, this is unlikely, yet it is a possibility and, therefore, a concern to the firearms instructor. (I must note here that I am referring to interchangeability of the weapons only and not equipment such as magazines and ammunition; more on this later). On another level, the lack of a uniform appearance is a problem for the public relations minded administrator. Although this is not a safety concern, administrative issues such as this are facts of life which we, as firearms instructors, must deal with regularly.

A law enforcement officer should be allowed to carry whatever weapon he can handle because, after all, it is his life.

On the other hand, authorizing or allowing the use of many varied weapons creates its own set of problems. In today's competitive market, handgun manufacturers offer hundreds of options in selecting a pistol. For example, double action only, double-single and single action trigger operating systems; decocker only versus decocker/safety mechanisms; slide mounted versus receiver mounted decockers and safeties; various trigger weights and feels; different grips; magazine drop safeties; and on and on. From a training perspective, it is extremely difficult to maintain a consistent flow of instruction when every other officer comes to the training facility with a weapon of his choice, each with various features different from the other. Another concern is that fellow officers may not be familiar with the use of another officer's

As you can see, both options offer their share of problems to be addressed. As instructors, we encounter people of different aptitudes and skill levels, different levels of strengths and weaknesses, and even different body types and sizes. Yet we are responsible to each and every one of them to insure that their chances of going home every night are maximized. Should the veteran officer with a military background be disallowed from using the old military caliber when he/she has shown proficiency with the round? Would the physically smaller officers be better served with a smaller framed pistol and a smaller caliber? On the contrary, should a larger officer be "handicapped" with a smaller weapon/caliber when he/she can handle a larger, possibly more effective round and can conceal the larger weapon even while in an

undercover mode? Conceivably, could a veteran officer complain that he was forced to carry a weapon he did not feel comfortable with after a less than successful shooting incident? Or could an officer be harmed if he needed to use a disabled partner's weapon and could not, because he did not know how to operate it?

All of these are legitimate questions. The answers can be as varied as the questions. A possible solution is this: I recommend that input from as many sources as possible be accepted. Emphasis should be placed on ideas and suggestions of the officers within the department itself, regardless of their level of expertise in the firearms field. The best resource for information is the group of people who will use the tools that you will provide. The benefit of this communication is two-fold. Not only will valuable information be gathered but you, as an instructor, will cultivate a rapport with your officers which can be invaluable in a learning environment.

Secondly, narrow the options of a weapons system down to a workable set of variables to avoid the problems experienced when no control is exercised in the choice of pistols. For example, choose the make, the trigger operating system, the safety/decocking lever option, the finish and any other options which may be desirable to the particular department. The caliber and model may even be specified for the primary or authorized pistol. However, those two variables should not be "cut in stone" so that some flexibility can be introduced into the solution. In short, control for features which, after research, are found to be desirable or not, but allow for some latitude so that officers can utilize a caliber or model of their choosing (within prescribed limits, of course). The key is that all of the weapons in use operate in the same manner and are basically alike in appearance (uniformity), yet each officer has exercised some discretion by choosing a model and caliber he/she feels confident with

and is most proficient with (diversity).

An example of this theory might look like this: A mid-sized police department is switching from revolvers to semi-automatic pistols. After extensive research and input from experts and from the rank and file of the department, a primary weapon is chosen. For this example, I will use a Smith & Wesson, however, this is without prejudice as any of the major manufacturers offer the different calibers in various models and sizes. The Smith & Wesson Model 4006 is chosen as the authorized primary weapon. In this example this .40 S & W caliber pistol is equipped with tritium night sights, a slide mounted decocking lever, stainless steel finish and a double-single action trigger operating system. Despite the issuance of this primary weapon, the department authorizes and issues secondary pistols to officers who show more confidence and proficiency with them. Although there is some freedom for the individual of-

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ficer in considering the secondary pistols, the decision is controlled by allowing the officer to choose only from a limited group including the Smith & Wesson Models 4506 (.45 ACP), 4516 (.45 ACP, compact), 5906 (9mm) and 6906 (9mm compact). These pistols are equipped with the same features as described above for the primary weapon with the exception of caliber and frame size.

For departments which are in, or are planning, the transition process, pistols for Testing & Evaluation may be obtained from manufacturers so that officers and instructors can find the weapon best suited to each officer. For departments that have already switched to a specific pistol, a policy allowing officers to purchase their own weapons from a list of authorized secondary weapons might be an option.

When I have attempted to explain this concept to people, I am invariably asked, "Well, what if one officer runs out of ammunition and needs to get more from a partner

and the partner is carrying a different caliber weapon? or "What if one officer is killed or disabled and his partner needs his spare ammunition/magazines and cannot use them due to caliber difference?" My response is this: In the first scenario, an officer who runs out of ammunition with a semi-automatic pistol in a deadly force encounter is probably not one to whom I will give any of my spare ammunition. I have heard

the weapons operate in exactly the same manner. Hence, the strict requirements in terms of consistency of features between the primary and secondary weapons.

One might respond that too much compromise is unhealthy and that police officers should carry what is issued without question. Still others might add that a law enforcement officer should be allowed to carry whatever weapon he can han-

"What if one officer runs out of ammunition . . .

it explained like this, "If he (the officer who has used his ammo) wants to hide behind me, O.K., but he'll get none of my ammo to waste..." Concerning the second question, if my partner is unfortunate enough to be dead or disabled in a gun fight and I need more ammunition, I will probably not waste time attempting to reload with his mags/ammunition. I recommend simply using the officer's pistol. Simply put, I do not feel that the caliber difference is likely to be a problem as long as all of

dle because, after all, it is his life. Some common ground is available. The theory I have submitted in this article is extremely flexible, yet allows for enough structure to be workable. Enlightened administrators realize that they need the support of their officers to be effective and successful at providing a service to their communities. Allowing an officer some discretion in terms of the weapon he may need to defend himself or another can be a step in the right direction, as the officer

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Eve

feels that he has had some worthwhile input into a decision which affects him directly.

About the Author: Sgt. David M. Gilbert has been a police officer with the Marion, Indiana Police Department for 6 years with assignments in Criminal Investigations, Sex Crimes Investigations and Undercover Narcotics Investigations. He is currently working as a Sergeant assigned to the Firearms Training Program. He has obtained and maintains certification as a Firearms Instructor with the Indiana Law Enforcement Training Board and with the Smith & Wesson Academy.

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Redesigning A Correctional Weapons Training Program

*By Lonnie (Lon) E. Currey
South Carolina Department of Corrections Training Academy*

Having recently completed a survey of the weapons training conducted by departments of Corrections around the country, I have learned several amazing facts. There is little consistency to weapons training between states, and even between various correctional agencies within states. There are nearly as many different philosophies regarding weapons training as there are institutions.

Every person in any business who trains, has been trained, or has seen training has heard the old quote, "People do what they have been trained to do". What we, in corrections, have been training our officers to do is; every time you draw - empty your gun, load a partial cylinder, shoot weak handed from

25 or more yards away, shoot fast, stand up and address your assailant, etc., etc! In the event of a law suit, any good attorney would tell you these could make a very difficult defense.

There is little, if any, documented evidence that any Correctional Officer, of any state, has ever stopped an escaping inmate by shooting at them with a handgun from 25 or more, yards away. While there is good cause to teach officers to shoot from that distance, teaching accuracy, it does not support testing them from there. An officer's job should not depend on their ability to hit a target 25 yards away with a revolver in their weak hand.

I have found no documented

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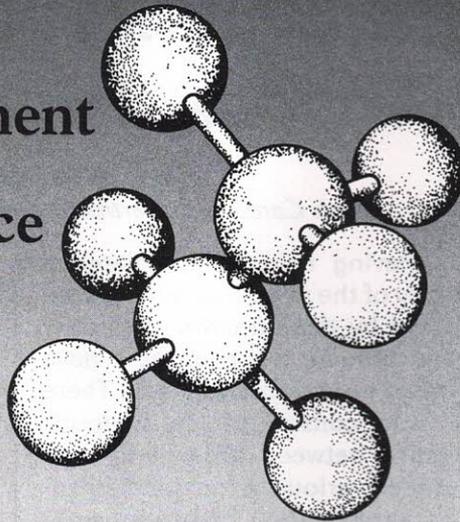
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evidence that any law enforcement officer, city, state or federal has ever placed a weapon in their weak-side hand to engage in a fire fight; either because they were wounded or because of location, cover, etc. This does not mean we should not train weak hand shooting. It helps to build confidence in students, but it doesn't mean we have to test them that way. Using weak hand shooting as a means to test officers when we have no realistic expectation they will ever have to shoot that way is unfair and a waste of ammunition.

The practice of scoring a target, i.e., "the student must attain a score of 175 of a possible 250" is not conducive to a positive defense in the event of litigation. The vast majority of weapon trainers have historically used targets that give a higher point value for hitting "center mass", or the "kill" zone. While we, in South Carolina Corrections have historically told students to shoot to disable, we are teaching them to shoot to kill. The questions about exceptionally good and exceptionally poor shooters will always surface. "If this officer was able to shoot a perfect score on the range he/she should have been able to wound the suspect", or, "If this officer barely passed range training why were they allowed on the street with a gun?"

A simple system of pass/fail based on the student, or shooter, hitting the target anywhere, in any manner, is more easily defended and results in more positive training. I believe it is more important to hit the assailant with the first shot than to hit center mass with most of the shots. After all, the bottom line in any altercation, with or without weapons, is survival.

In many law enforcement situations, a gun fight will start with the antagonists far apart and approaching each other, or closing the distance, or a foot-race with the officer chasing the suspect down. This is what pursuit is all about. The other frequent scenario being the gunfight that ensues with the officer in the interview position standing within ten feet of the subject. For

these reasons, most law enforcement firearms training takes place starting at the 25 yard line and moving forward to, in some cases, as close as the 3 yard line.

Correctional shooting usually involves an escaping, fleeing inmate. The distance from the officer to the escapee is rapidly expanding. Correctional weapons training should

loose fitting, casual clothing such as camouflage fatigues with large pockets, or something comparable. We are now requiring all range training be conducted in duty uniform or office wear. This is to ensure every armed staff member is able to load, reload, draw, and shoot in the clothes they would normally wear while on duty.

and quit counting when we find 27 holes in the target.

The SCDC Training Academy will also incorporate a serious combat shooting decision course on which every officer will familiarize prior to being certified. The weapon of choice in corrections should be the 12-gauge shotgun so we will do more shotgun training and testing. Most of our escapes occur over or through fences so we are adding a section of fence for all of our officers to shoot through.

Because of serious budget short falls in South Carolina the last two years, we have had to make these improvements in our program without additional funds. Scrap materials (left over construction material, pieces of fence, etc.) can be very helpful in this area, but nothing beats ingenuity and imagination. Anyone reading this who is truly interested may contact me for more information on the specifics of our program.

“People do what they have been trained to do.”

start at the closer distances, 3 to 7 yards, and move out to the 25 yard line. Most inmates, in attempting to escape, are travelling away from the officer as rapidly as their feet, or other conveyance, will carry them, thereby extending the distance between the two. In order to simulate an escaping inmate, part of our training utilizes a running man target, moving away from the shooter.

Historically, most range training is conducted with the students/shooters wearing “range clothes”. Normally, this consists of

In the immediate, near future, the South Carolina Department of Corrections will undertake a new weapons training program. This program will be consistent with the needs of the officers and departmental policy. While we will use accuracy training and testing to ensure each certified officer is safe and competent with our basic weapons, the officer will be rated, pass or fail, based solely on hitting the target 75% of their shots. If they are shooting 36 rounds, when scoring, we will mark the officer as passed

New Jersey Regional A Success

*By
Mike Boyle*

Colliers Mills Wildlife Management Area in Jackson was the setting for the first ever I.A.L.E.F.I. Regional Conference held in New Jersey. Twenty-eight instructors from Pennsylvania, New York and New Jersey participated in the Conference held on November 5th and 6th. Despite less than agreeable weather, all hands were able to take advantage of a quality training experience.

Five different blocks of instruction were offered and repeated over the two day conference. Brian Felter of Beretta USA gave a pair of outstanding performances relative to developing skills with the autopistol. Brian's expertise and enthusiasm in this topic were evident and all participants came away favorably impressed. John Meyer of HK International gave a top notch

class on tactical submachine gun, identical to that offered at the recent ATC. John was assisted in this endeavor by Dave Brancato of the Clifton Police Department.

President Mike Beckley gave a most informative presentation on carotid restraints. Progressive trainers agree that the firearms instructor now needs to be familiar with other force options and Mike did an outstanding job bridging the gap. Students had an opportunity for hands-on experience and Mike was assisted by the very capable Linda Brymer and John Showalter of the Nassau County Police Academy.

Captain Ken Vogel of the Barnegat Township Police Department gave a thought provoking class on safety in the enforcement environment. Ken reinforced the idea that safety remains a primary

concern off the range and out in the street. He drove his point home by outlining some real world shortcomings. His class concluded with a dynamic, role-playing exercise which illustrated the need to incorporate safety into the tactical plan.

We were also fortunate to have a number of manufacturers and their representatives in attendance. Our hats are off to Bill Quinn of William Quinn and Son, John Visintini of Sturm Ruger, Lori Cassidy of Lawmen Supply and Lenny Shapiro of L&R Manufacturers who took time from their busy schedules to display their products. Now that the seed has been planted, we plan an even bigger and better conference in 1993. Be there, or be square!

I would urge any member who has considered sponsoring a regional conference to follow

through and just do it. Sure, it requires a little work, but the I.A.L.E.F.I. regional conference "cookbook" walks you through the process with little fuss.

The regional conference is an excellent format for delivering the message and enhancing the standards of instructors in your area. In any given year, only about 10% of

the membership can make it to the ATC and regionals give those who cannot attend the opportunity to take in some quality training. It also can provide a showcase for what I.A.L.E.F.I. has to offer and attract new members. Members interested in sponsoring a regional conference should contact their area representative. You'll be glad you did.

The regional conference is an excellent format for delivering the message.



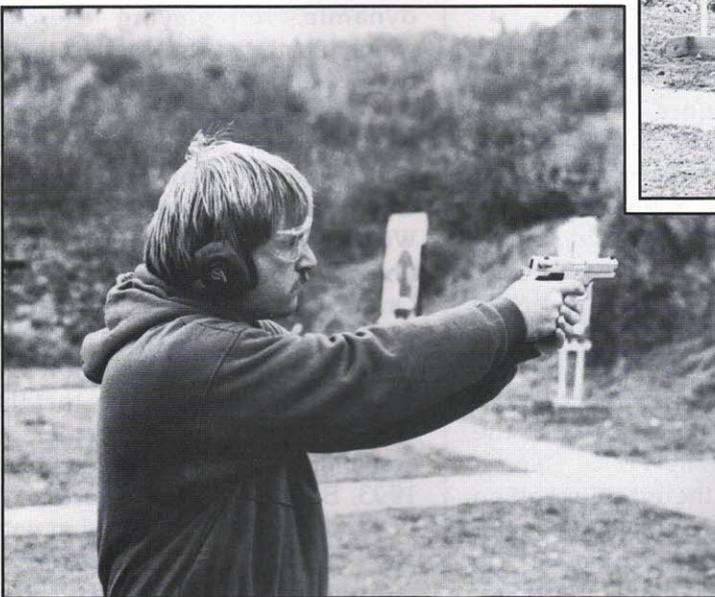
New Jersey Regional

Conference attendees had an opportunity to get some hands-on training in Mike Beckley's Carotid Restraint Class.

Brian Felter provided a wealth of information in his block on Development of Auto Pistol Skills.



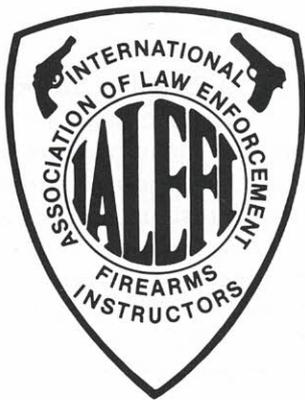
Steve Martin cuts loose during the Autopistol Class.



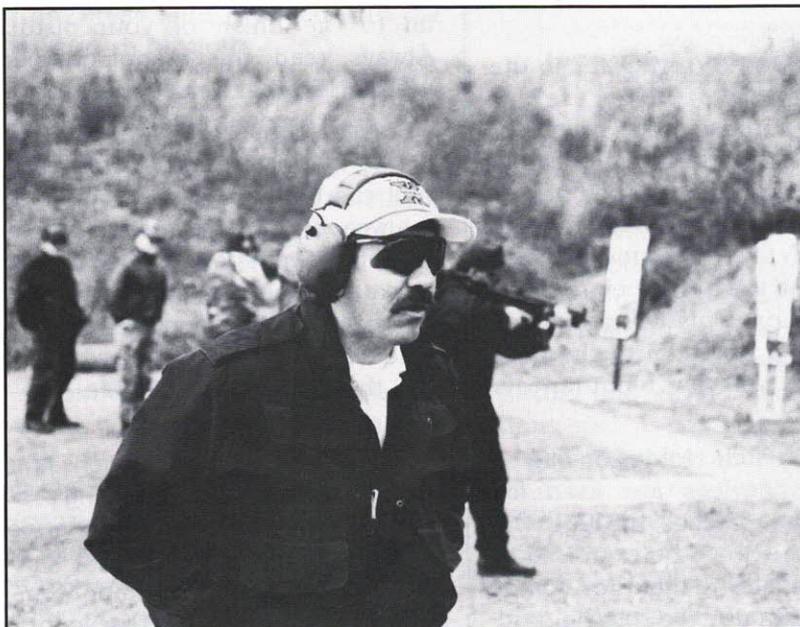
**THINK
1993 A.T.C.!!
"RENO"**



Bill Quinn (L) and John Visintini (R) were among the manufacturers' representatives who attended. Bill and John provided a wide selection of Ruger products to test.



Ken Dollberg prepares to lock back for a reload during John Meyer's Tactical Subgun Class.



John Meyer gave his usual world-class presentation during the Tactical Subgun Class.

Preventative Maintenance Guide

By
Bank Miller

The following "Preventative Maintenance Guide" has been prepared to assist you in the professional care of your semi-automatic pistol.

WARNING: Individual manufacturer's instructions on the care, cleaning and lubricating of your pistol should be **strictly adhered to**.

Preventative Maintenance:

A systematic procedure of inspecting, cleaning, lubricating and storing the pistol. The objective is to assure correct operational functioning by eliminating the causes of mechanical failures and by maintaining your weapon in serviceable condition.

Your role in the performance of preventative maintenance is to:

- Be sure your weapon has been safely unloaded ("check twice") and all ammunition removed from the work area before performing any preventative maintenance.
- Safely inspect, troubleshoot and perform any routine maintenance on a regular schedule.
- Properly clean, lubricate and preserve the pistol and magazines each time the pistol is exposed to climatic conditions or fired.
- Safely perform a "Function Check" to help determine operational readiness.
- Understand your agency's policy on the repair or replacement of unserviceable weapons.
- Understand any liability issues related to improper maintenance or unauthorized weapons repair.

CLEANING EQUIPMENT

Cleaning Rod

The cleaning rod is used to push cleaning attachments, i.e., brushes, patches or jags through the barrel. The rod should always be inserted from the chamber end. It should be long enough to pass all the way through the barrel, and strong enough so to resist bending when pressure is applied. Cleaning

rods are made from various materials; however, brass, aluminum and coated metal are the most desirable. Regardless of the type of cleaning rod selected, improper use may cause excessive wear on the lands, especially at the muzzle end. Continual wear on the muzzle is detrimental to the accuracy of the weapon.

NOTE: Always insert the cleaning rod from the chamber end of your pistol. The cleaning rod should NOT have a swivel handle. A fixed handle allows the brush to be turned around in the chamber. Always wipe the cleaning rod off before use to remove any residue.

Bore Brush

Bore brushes can be of several types; nylon, brass or bronze, and stainless steel. The brass or bronze brush is recommended for cleaning the bore. Nylon bristles are usually too soft, and stainless steel too hard. The bore brush used should be of the same caliber in size as your semi-automatic pistol. The bore brush is most effective when used with solvent.

Use a bore brush **ONLY** in the bore of the weapon. Do not use it as a general purpose scrub brush.

Do not reverse direction while the brush is actually in the bore, as scoring or scratching may result. Instead, push the brush slowly all the way through the barrel before reversing direction. This will maximize the cleaning potential of the bore brush, as well as lengthen its usefulness.

Slotted Patch Holder or Jag

These devices are used for pushing the patches through the barrel. Care should be exercised in their use, ensuring that they do not mar the rifling at the muzzle.

Patches

Patches are either round or square and should be made of soft, absorbent material. Some patches have a woven side and a fibrous side. The woven side may assist in introducing solvent to the barrel and provides a scrubbing surface, while the fibrous side may be used to remove the residue left by the solvent's chemical action. Patches may also be used to dry the bore and lightly lubricate the complete pistol.

Cleaning Solvent

There are many commercially available cleaning solvents that do an excellent job of removing both powder residue and metal fouling. Cleaning solvents should be used to loosen and remove powder residue, as well as copper and lead fouling. Use cleaning solvents that are manufactured for weapons use only. If a cleaning solvent is used, be sure all solvent is removed before using a "lubricant".

WARNING: Some cleaning solvents and treated cloths may be detrimental to the finish of your pistol. Always read the manufacturer's **WARNING** label before using.

Solvent Brush or Nylon Brush

A nylon toothbrush with solvent can be used to clean areas of the weapon that are hard to reach. A solvent-moistened toothbrush works well on the interior of the frame, underside and face of the breechblock, behind the extractor and the exterior of the slide.

Dry Brush

A dry nylon brush, such as a toothbrush, makes the cleaning process easier in such areas as the grips where solvent is not desired, and when removing lint and minor fouling from the front and rear sights,

trigger, etc. Lint and fuzz that accumulates in the holster can also be removed using a dry brush.

Screwdriver

If a screwdriver is required, consider the following caution:

CAUTION: A screwdriver of proper size should be used for tightening of all screws. A small screwdriver allows for maximum tightness at minimum torque. Large screwdrivers would allow excessive torque which could result in the threads of a screw being stripped. Correct blade size prevents mutilation of screw head slots.

Cleaning Cloth

A clean, absorbent, lint-free cloth is necessary for cleaning the weapon and protecting it from hard surfaces during the cleaning process. Too often the effort to keep the weapon clean is defeated by the application of dirt, grease, fouling, etc., from a soiled cloth. A mechanical stoppage while firing is less likely to occur if a lint-free cloth is used. A treated "silicone" cloth may be used for occasional wipe downs.

Air Hose (Friend or Foe)

SAFETY WARNING: SIGARMS requires that protective eye glasses or goggles be worn at all times when cleaning your weapon.

ADVANTAGES:

1. Excellent for blowing out dirt particles or excess cleaning solvent from areas hard to reach with the soft brush or cloth.
2. Excellent for blowing out holster and magazine pouches.

DISADVANTAGES

1. May blow solvent, dirt particles or lubricants into the face or clothing of user or other person.
2. Dirt particles may be blown back into the mechanism rather than out, contributing to a stoppage.
3. Condensation may accumulate in the air tank and hose, which, in turn, will introduce moisture to the surfaces being cleaned causing rust (consider using dry air).
4. Blows contaminants back into the air you breathe and over all exposed surfaces in the immediate area.

5. Are the air-hose heads approved for noise reduction?

6. Ear protection may be required, depending on the number of air-hoses being used at one time.

WARNING: Continuous dipping of pistols into strong chemical solutions, such as part cleaner, and then blowing the mechanisms dry with air hoses, will remove the protective lubricants on internal parts. This will require an armorer to completely disassemble the pistol to inspect and lubricate all internal parts.

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- Helps to prevent jamming.
- Reduces bore wear.
- Provides excellent rust protection.



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- Contains no solids, causes no metal build-up.
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Lubrication

The purpose of lubricating a pistol is to provide a molecular barrier between metal parts to reduce friction and prevent solidification of firing residue.

A lubricant/preservative is used to maintain the integrity of the finish. Semi-automatic pistols require lubrication. Manufacturer's guidelines on lubrication should be strictly adhered to.

There are many commercially available lubricants and preser-

vatives that do an excellent job. Be sure you read the manufacturer's directions for use. SHAKE WELL before using, this may be very important.

CLEANING PROCEDURES

Frame

Use solvent and a nylon brush to remove any fouling on the exterior of the frame. Brush the inside of the frame, being careful to remove lead, powder and carbon residue from the magazine well. Clean the interior and exterior of the frame with a cloth or patch moistened with solvent. Pay attention to cleaning in and around frame rails.

Barrel

Thoroughly clean the barrel using a bore brush, moistened with cleaning solvent attached to a cleaning rod long enough to reach all the way through the bore. With solvent and bore brush, remove all carbon and fouling. The brush should pass completely through the barrel, starting from the chamber end at least ten (10) times in a reciprocating fashion. EMPHASIS should be placed on the chamber shoulder area.

NOTE: Always clean the barrel from the chamber end and allow the cleaning solvent several minutes in the barrel for the chemical action to dissolve the fouling.

Replace the bore brush with a slotted patch holder or jag and affix a clean, dry patch. Run it slowly and carefully through the barrel. Repeat this process with clean patches until the barrel is clean and dry. Follow manufacturer's guidelines on lubricating barrels.

Slide

Clean the interior and exterior of the slide with a nylon brush. (SPECIAL ATTENTION MUST BE GIVEN TO CLEANING THE EXTRACTOR). Dirt and residue around the extractor can cause extraction related stoppages.

Magazine

Inspect the exterior of the magazine for damage and wear. Ensure that the feed lips are parallel

and smooth. The floorplate should be flat to ensure proper seating of the magazine into the magazine well.

The magazine follower should move freely the entire length of the magazine tube. Replace any damaged parts; if ANY doubt exists on the condition of a part, replace it **immediately**.

The magazine may be cleaned with a nylon brush and / or soft lint-free cloth. In addition, the exterior surfaces may be treated *lightly* with a commercially available preservative.

NOTE: The pistol is not considered cleaned "unless the magazine is cleaned also".

• **Barrel** - The crown/muzzle end of the barrel should be inspected for wear, nicks or any damage that could effect accuracy.

Recoil Spring and Guide

Inspect the spring for straightness, continuity of the wire wraps, and equal separation of the individual coils.

Inspect guide tube for smoothness, straightness and flange integrity.

Frame/Slide

Inspect the frame and slide for the appropriate serial numbers. Visually check for cracks, excessive wear or stress marks.

Be prepared by being ready. Be safe.

Holster and Magazine Pouches

Holster and Magazine pouches should be inspected regularly to assure retention and serviceability. Inspect for:

1. Safety devices that work correctly. (snaps or velcro)
2. Accumulation of lint, dirt, oil.
3. Overall appearance and shape.
4. Moisture build-up.

NOTE: Separate pistol from the holster and magazines from the pouch. This will help the holster and pouch to dry out and not trap moisture.

You should use the air hose here (dry air) to blow out pouches and holsters.

INSPECTION

Be sure that your weapon is safely unloaded ("check twice") before inspection. The following should be part of that inspection:

- **Sights** - Are they configured and positioned correctly?
- **Barrel** - Is it clean? Barrels and chambers should be inspected for lead and other firing residue that may be accumulating.
- **Barrel** - Are there pits inside the barrel? Pits may weaken the metal and allow gas to escape around the **bullet** reducing accuracy and velocity.

Magazines

Inspect for:

1. Condition of the magazine tube, the seam, lips and floorplate.
2. Correct interlocking of the floorplate and magazine tube.
3. Smooth movement and spring back of the follower.
4. Straightness and equal separations of coils on magazine spring.

NOTE: Have your authorized Armorer inspect the pistol if there are any doubts as to the gun's serviceability or condition. The complete pistol, with associated magazines, should be inspected during, and after, cleaning and lubrication.

Function Inspection

NOTE: Each time the weapon is reassembled, a function check should be carried out.

1. SAFETY
 - A. Make sure the weapon and magazines are unloaded ("check twice").
 - B. Remove all ammunition from the immediate area.
2. RECOIL SPRING
 - A. Check the force of the recoil spring and force of the slide. Pull the slide to the rear and release it. Check that the slide springs forward smartly and locks. (Repeat).



3. TRIGGER AND HAMMER MECHANISM

A. Double Action Function:

1. With the hammer forward or decocked, pull the trigger.
2. Check that the hammer cocks properly and then drops forcefully.

B. Operation of the Disconnecter:

1. With the hammer forward and the trigger fully pulled, pull the slide to the rear and release it.
2. Check that the hammer is retained in the cocked position (trigger remains fully pulled). On Double Action Only pistols, the hammer will fall to a safety notch preventing a strike to the firing pin.

C. Single Action Function:

1. With the hammer cocked, place moderate pressure on back of the hammer to ensure the scar is engaged in the full cock notch of the hammer.
2. Check that the trigger engages, and upon applying pressure, the hammer will fall.

D. Decocking Lever/Manual Safety:

1. Cock the hammer.
2. Thumb down the decocking lever and check that the trigger and hammer are brought to their rest position.
3. Engage any manual safeties; ensure they prevent firing of the pistol.
4. Disengage the manual safeties and check that the pistol can be placed into operation.

E. Magazine Catch:

1. Check for free in and out movement of the magazine catch.
2. Check for easy insertion of the magazine and positive locking in the magazine well.
3. Check for easy release and removal of the magazine from the magazine well.

F. Magazine:

1. Condition of the magazine tube, the lips and the floorplate.
2. Correct interlocking of the floorplate and magazine tube.
3. Smooth movement and spring back of the follower, and cor-

rect interlocking of follower and magazine spring.

4. Insert empty magazine into well and pull slide to the rear. The slide catch should hold in the open position. Check each magazine associated with the pistol to ensure locking of the slide open.

5. Check that the magazine drops freely from magazine well when released.

AMMUNITION

Ammunition should be inspected for the following:

- Corrosion
- Crimp in the case
- Deformed bullet
- Dents in the case
- Defective jacket
- Overall length
- Bullet seating

Inspect the primer for:

- Is it there?
- Is it flush?
- Is it damaged?

Consideration should be given to replacing duty ammunition semi-annually. Job conditions and climate may suggest a more frequent replacement (four months).

CAUTION: *Continuous loading and unloading the same round into your pistol may cause the bullet to work loose from the cartridge case. In order to avoid this, rotate your ammunition each time you load the pistol.*

4. Load your magazine to capacity.

5. Load your pistol, topping off the magazine.

This procedure will eliminate the possibility of having rounds in your magazine which will not chamber.

WARNING: Never lubricate or oil ammunition. Immediately replace any ammunition that has been in contact with solvent, spray lubricant or oil. Solvent and oil can penetrate the sealant around the primer, contaminating the priming compound and causing misfires. Return any rounds (for safe disposal) which are suspect or considered unsafe.

The definition for preventative maintenance may be applied to any piece of equipment. However, most manufacturers will indicate that a majority of the pistol problems occur primarily to unclean or improperly lubricated pistols.

For your well being and that of your fellow officers, keep your pistol at maximum operational readiness.

Be prepared by being ready.
Be safe.

SIGARMS SAFETY NOTE:

When performing any function with your semi-automatic pistol, keep it pointed in a safe direction while cleaning - loading - unloading - function check.

Each time the weapon is reassembled, a function check should be carried out.

The recommended procedure for loading magazines with service/street ammunition is as follows:

1. Go to a safe, authorized loading area.
2. Inspect the ammunition that you will be loading and carrying with you.
3. With the pistol disassembled and the barrel out of the weapon, drop each round into the chamber, making sure that they drop in easily and fully seat. Immediately return any rounds (for safe disposal) that do not pass this inspection.

About the Author:

Bank Miller, Director of Training at SIGARMS Academy, is a graduate of Antioch School of Law, Washington, D.C. and also holds a Bachelor of Science Degree in Administration of Justice.

Bank has twenty-eight (28) years of Federal, Local, and Military experience in Law Enforcement, as well as weapons and tactical training. Bank was Chief Firearms Instructor for the Drug Enforcement Administration prior to his position with SIGARMS.

EDITORIAL GUIDELINES FOR THE FIREARMS INSTRUCTOR

IALEFI actively solicits the submission of articles to be considered for publication in THE FIREARMS INSTRUCTOR, and encourages members to share their ideas, experience, and expertise with others. Neither IALEFI, nor THE FIREARMS INSTRUCTOR, endorses any specific techniques, training programs, trainers, products, or manufacturers.

Members are urged to provide us with input on the style and content of THE FIREARMS INSTRUCTOR. Submitted articles should conform to these rules:

1. Articles should be typewritten and double-spaced on 8½"x11" white paper. Please have your article free of spelling and grammatical errors;
2. A black and white photograph of the author, along with a brief biographical sketch, should be included;
3. Any photographs submitted should include captions. Black and white photos are preferred. Photos will be returned on request;
4. Submitted manuscripts will not be returned. The author should retain a copy of the manuscript.

Articles should be directed towards law enforcement firearms training, trainers, instructional methods, and officer survival. The specific techniques and practices proposed in the article may be original, unconventional, or controversial, but should reflect sound training and safety principles. IALEFI does not publish product reviews, evaluations, or endorsements. Articles on other subjects may mention and discuss the use of specific products, including limited professional critique of the products, but the thrust of the article must be one of training methods, firearms techniques, and officer survival.

IALEFI reserves the right to edit submitted material for spelling, grammar, syntax, clarity, or length. IALEFI reserves the right to reject articles from members or others. IALEFI reserves the right to reject any submitted material, including articles, photographs, letters, or advertisements, that, in the sole discretion of the Editorial Committee would reflect or impact negatively on IALEFI or its stated goals. Members wishing to inquire as to suitability of a particular subject, before writing an article should call the IALEFI office.

From E. Kapelsohn: FIREARMS TRAINING STANDARDS SUBCOMMITTEE REPORT

The subcommittee is still receiving valuable input on the Draft Revision of IALEFI's Firearms Training Standards from Law Enforcement agencies and instructors worldwide.

Any interested party wishing to obtain and/or comment on the Draft Standards is invited to contact:

Emanuel Kapelsohn
The Peregrine Corporation
P.O. Box 170,
Bowers, PA 19511
Telephone (215) 682-7147
FAX (215) 682-7158

The Subcommittee plans to finalize the draft in time for approval by the IALEFI Board of Directors at the June Board meeting, so that the new Standards can be published and distributed by the 1993 ATC.

WANTED

Tactical courses or department qualifications (handgun, shotgun, rifle or S.M.G.) for the second edition of the I.A.L.E.F.I. Tactical Firearms Handbook.

Try to keep courses to one or two pages and include course designer, scoring charts, distances, target type, course description and course objectives.

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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.

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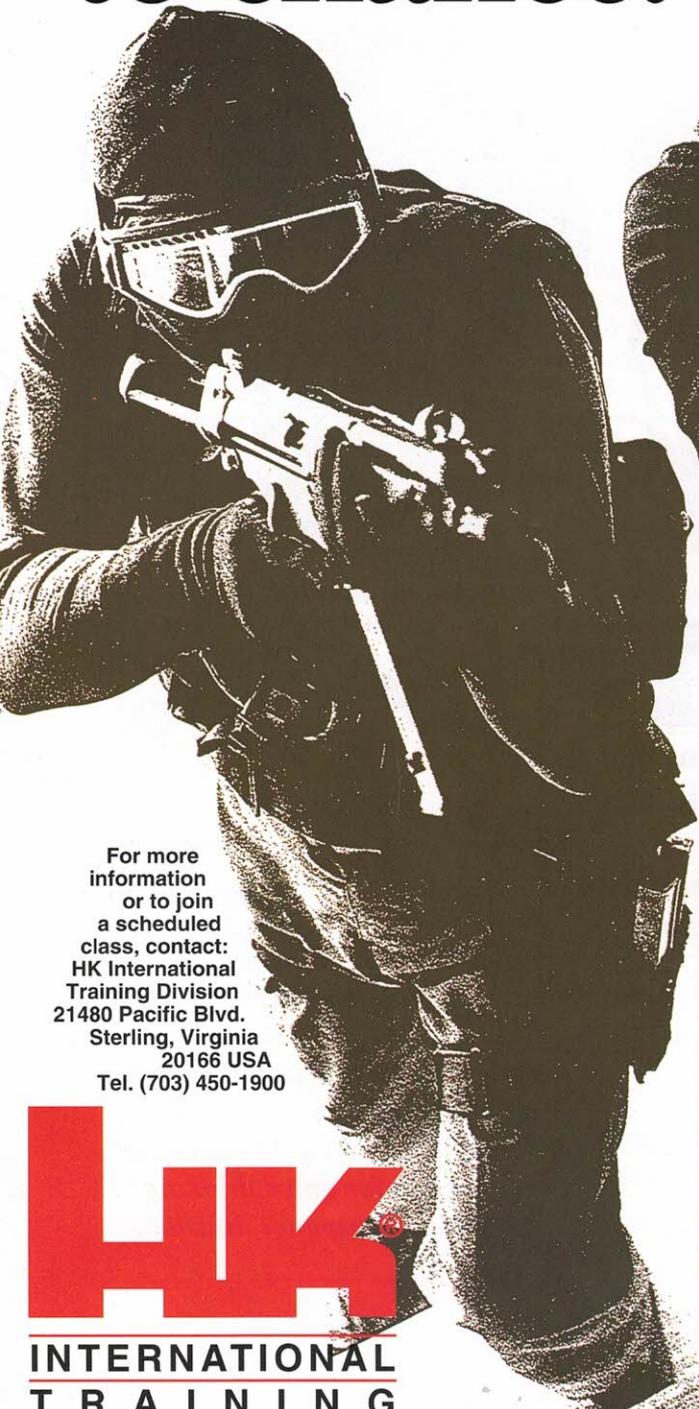
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1993 Course Schedule Weapons, Tactical, and Armorer's Training

February 1-5
February 7-11
March 1-5
March 7-11
April 19-23
April 26-30
May 3-7
May 17-21
July 14-16
July 19-23
August 9-13
August 29-Sept 3
Sept. 8-10
Sept. 13-17
October 11-15
October 18-22
November 17-19
December 1-3
December 5-7
December 8-10

MP5 & 9mm Rifle
MP5 Instructor
MP5 Instructor
Precision Marksman
MP5 & 9mm Rifle
Tactical Pistol
MP5 & 9mm Rifle
Tactical Submachine Gun
Transitional Pistol
Pistol Instructor
Precision Marksman
Tactical Team
Tactical Team Development
Tactical Submachine Gun
MP5 & 9mm Rifle
MP5 Instructor
Tactical Shotgun
MP5 Instructor's Update
Tactical Weapons Control
ACM Tactical Instructor

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February 15-19
April 12-16
May 3-7
June 14-18
August 2-6
September 6-10
October 4-8
November 8-12

Armorer's Class 1
Armorer's Class 2
Armorer's Class 3
Armorer's Class 4
Armorer's Class 5
Armorer's Class 6
Armorer's Class 7
Armorer's Class 8

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