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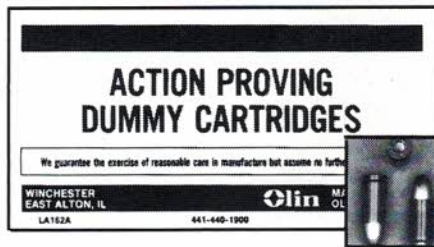
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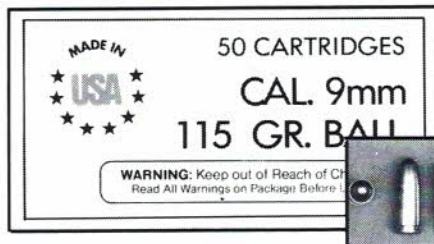
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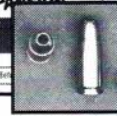
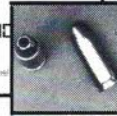
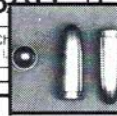
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IALEFI Goes Down Under!

by John T. Meyer, Jr. & Peggy Miller

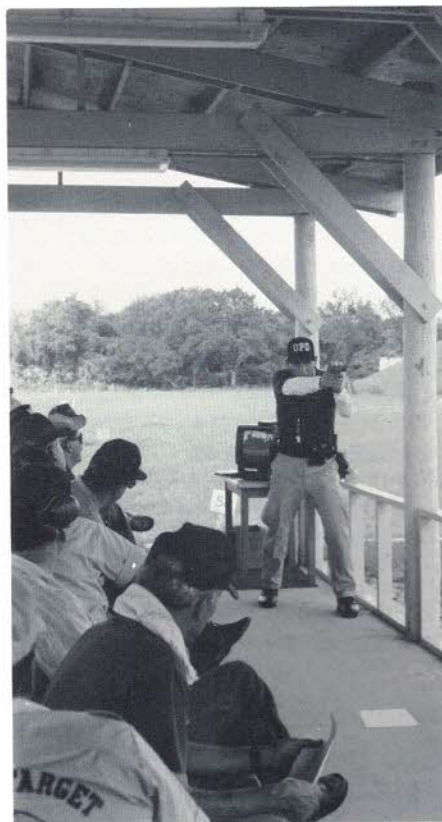
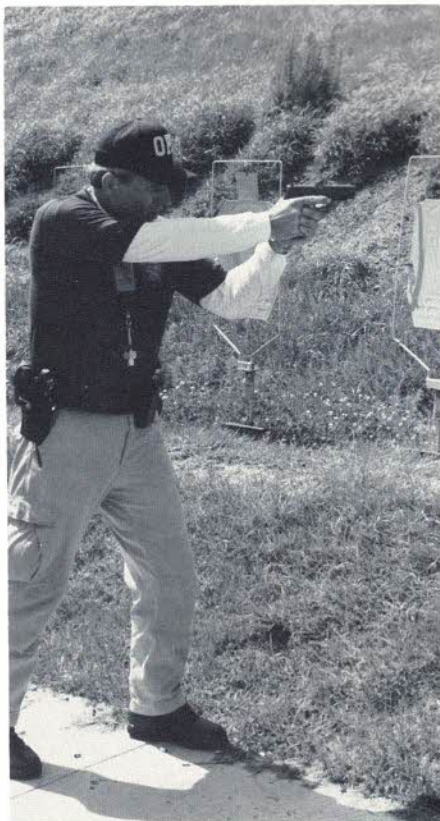
It all started back in 1989 at the ATC in Salt Lake City. The International Training Committee was formed and we began talking to Mick Hudson and Lee Sclanders on the possibility of visiting Australia.

"No worries" had to have been the most popular phrase heard by John Meyer in planning the Second IALEFI International Training Tour scheduled for Australia. And, as it all turned out, there were no worries! There was a lot of friendship, hospitality, and laughter as the tour made its way from Melbourne to Adelaide, and on to Sydney.

1990 International Tour Alumni John Meyer, Jeff Jacobson, and Dick and Margaret Richmond were joined by Betty Meyer, and Bob and Peggy Miller. And, of course, John Meyer's intrepid traveling duck. Together, we managed to see a lot of Down Under and experience the well-known Aussie hospitality and friendliness first hand.

In Melbourne, we were met by Rod MacDonald, Rachael Lambert, and Chris Holmes, then whisked off to our hotel. After a quick change act it was off to the small city of Ballarat, west of Melbourne for a visit to the Ballarat Wildlife Park and a "barbie" put on by Rod's lovely wife and mother. An afternoon of "oogling" the 'roos, wallabies and Tazzy Devils, koalas, snakes and wombats was concluded by a bit of turnabout. Rod had received requests from his three young children to please bring the Americans home so they could see what we looked like!

We started our day at D-24 Victoria Police main operations center in Melbourne. Inspector Bob Knight in charge of the SOG in Victoria gave us a run down of their operation and a quick look at some of their equipment.



Rachael Lambert took responsibility for providing Betty, Margaret and Peggy a breathtaking tour of Melbourne and surrounding areas on the Great Ocean Road in Lorne. With Barry Murray at the wheel (who just happens to be one of Australia's powerlifting champions) we were treated to some of the best scenery offered by the state of Victoria.

The IALEFI members were off to the Victoria Police Academy which was once a seminary. Alex Krstic of the Firearms Operational Survival Training Unit gave us a very informative tour of the training programs for new recruits to in service classes.

Next we met at the range where the SOG are in the process of building a very large tirehouse with a mock up of an airline cabin. John Meyer conducted a hands on familiarization course in the MP-5 submachine gun. We found the SOG and the academy staff that attended to be very receptive to different training techniques and after the class there was a good exchange of information. That evening, at the Flying Duck Restaurant in Melbourne, Inspector Don Stokes who is in charge of the Firearms Operational Training Unit spoke on training in Victoria and what they were looking for in the future.

It seemed no time at all before we were on an Australian Airlines flight bound for Adelaide.

Meeting us in Adelaide was one of South Australia's ranking firearms instructors and resident funnyman, Gary Fleetwood. Fleetwood loaded us into a Toyota bus, courtesy of the South Australia Police Department, which, in light of the monstrous amount of luggage we had, was probably a good idea. Besides it gave us great opportunity to goggle out of the window and take in the sights.

A side trip to Hahndorf, a small Germanic settlement, was made, stopping for lunch at The Eagle on the Hill. That was about the time that some of our gang tried kangaroo kabobs. It was pretty tasty, but hard to get

around the mental image of the 'roos we had petted and admired previously.

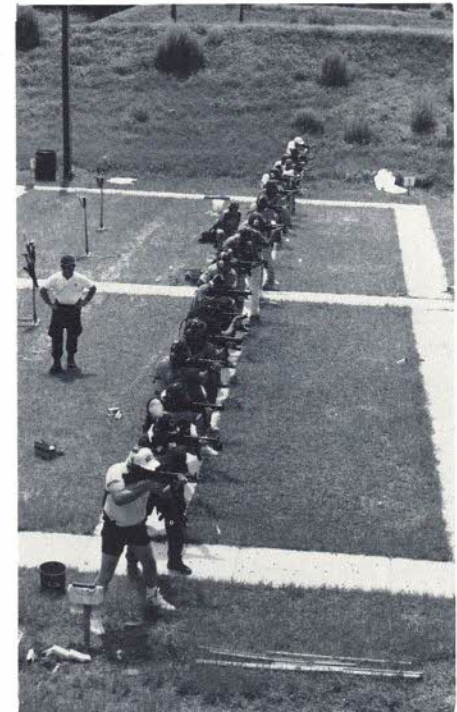
It was probably a good thing that we spent our first day relaxing, our second day in Adelaide kept us on the move! First it was off to R.M. Williams, shopping for "dry-as-a-bones" (the traditional all weather coat of Australian ranchers), also known as oilcloth dusters, moleskin pants and wool sweaters. Then on to the beautiful Barossa Valley, home to some of Australia's premier vineyards. Two wine tastings later, it was time to stop for lunch at the Cafe Heidelberg.

After returning to Adelaide we were taken by the South Australian Police Complex, that houses such divisions as the Search and Rescue Teams, Underwater Recovery, Mounted Patrol, K-9, and the Armory. The "Police Grays," as the horses in their Mounted Patrol are known, are magnificent animals each seeming to stand at least 17 hands. Again, as we had found all during our trip, each officer took the time to explain his or her special duties and provide us with little insights and humorous asides.

Bob ("Tootie") Miller conducted an armorer familiarization course on the Sig 226. The South Australian Police Star Unit had just adopted the Sig as their side arm. Tootie only had a short amount of time to present this course... he was a Texan in hyper-drive. Through a combination of the pistol being easy to take down and Bob's experience, knowledge and teaching skills, he presented an excellent class.

Our last day in Adelaide was spent at the range by John, Bob, Jeff and Dick.

Jeff Jacobson presented a course on the semi-auto pistol. Jeff covered some basic drills for transitioning to the semi-auto pistol. As stated before the Star Force had just received the Sigs and had not fired them much. They were very happy with Jeff's class. He demonstrated solid training techniques for everyone to work on.



Jeff is a very open minded and progressive instructor.

John Meyer once again conducted a MP5 course which included semi & full auto fire while firing on the move. Graham Martin, who kidnapped the wives the evening before, demonstrated his experience and skill in handling the MP5. All the state's Special Operation Units are issued submachine guns.

We were able to meet Geoff Rogers, Senior Sgt. in Charge of the Special Weapons Section and Rob Davis a Sgt. in the Section along with Gary Fleetwood. We spoke about the possibility of conducting Regional Training in Australia. John Horgan, Managing Editor of *Australian Shooters Journal*, who was covering our trip, also said he would be interested in assisting in Regional Training.

Next Mick Hudson who is one of the members of the International Committee who is responsible for the Australia trip happening presented a course on the Australian Army SLR. After a quick class on breakdown and assembly, we were able to do some shooting at 300 yards on steel targets. This is where Dick Richmond showed his stuff: while the rest of us were trying to get sighted in, ole Dick was consistently drilling the target. Mick, as the good army instructor that he is, after we had fun shooting he made us all get back up and prove we retained what he taught us by breaking down the weapons and reassembling them.

That evening we had dinner at the Buonsera Restaurant where Superintendent Trevor Johnson who is in charge of the entire Star Force Unit spoke to us about the importance of training. We said goodbye to our new friends in Adelaide as we had an early morning flight to Sydney the next day.

Sydney, Australia's largest city, lacks a few things not found in the U.S. cities. For instance, we found no rude taxi drivers or clerks, no motorists bent on making new grease spots in the road, or the impersonal bustle that is common to so many large U.S.

cities. We did find more of the same Aussie friendliness and humor that had greeted us since Melbourne.

Lee Sclanders, the second half of the team that set up the trip arranged for us to get a tour of the Sydney Police Center.

We descended on the Sydney Police Center where we were turned over to Dave Armytage. Dave gave every indication of being a normal, sane, somewhat quiet individual who is assigned to Ballistics and Forensics. As we learned, appearances are quite deceiving. Dave is not only very learned about his field and most impressive with his knowledge, but he is also a funnyman in the tradition of the best stand-up comics. Not being able to reproduce his speech and gestures here, we can only suggest that you toddle off to Sydney to see for yourself.

The Rocks is the site of Sydney's first settlement, with buildings of bluestone, and other rocks, carved out first by convict labor, then free labor. It also houses a couple of Australia's oldest pubs, and since we had learned to "peel a scab on a stubby" in Melbourne, we also tried the stubbies in Sydney.

Our last day was a free day, and between us all, we managed to see Darling Harbour, ride the Monorail, take the ferry across Sydney Harbour to Manly Beach, see more of the Rocks, and in general, thoroughly enjoy ourselves.

How trite to say it was over too quickly, but that is exactly the way it was. We have no possible way of thanking everyone who went out of their way to show us the best of each of the three cities we visited, other

It was brought up that since Australia is just as big as the United States that we expand the committee to have a representative in each state.

Lee also made arrangements with Sgt. Ron Robinson to speak at dinner that evening. A dinner for all the IALEFI members and prospective members was held the first night in Sydney. It was brought up that since Australia is just as big as the United States that we expand the committee to have a representative in each state, so plans are in the works to accomplish that suggestion. Both Denis S. Lesslie and Gary Lang offered their assistance on the International Committee. Among the attendees was Australia's only certified female firearms instructor, Doreen Russell.

Dinner was finished with a round of thanks, presentations of plaques, and large scale exchanging of addresses and business cards. Then, on to some nighttime sightseeing down in "The Rocks."

than to offer our homes and time to try and repay the hospitality any time our friends from Down Under come Stateside.

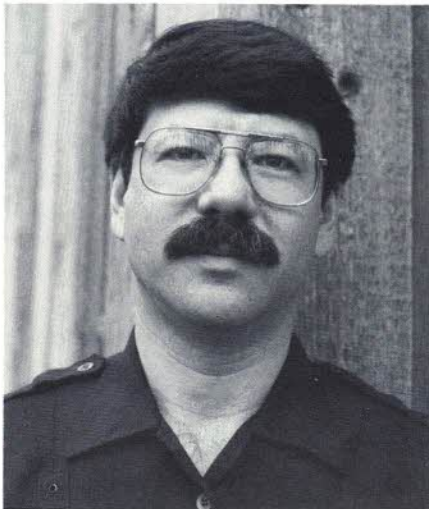
A very special thanks again to Rod MacDonald, Rachael Lambert, Chris Holmes, Barry Murray, Gary Fleetwood, Graham Martin, Lee Sclanders, Mick Hudson, Dave Armytage, Mick Austin, and Ron Robinson. With all your help, there really were no worries, and the International Training Committee met its objectives of educating and informing a great deal of Aussies what membership in IALEFI has to offer.



The Universal Cover Mode or How to Not Shoot People

by Emanuel Kapelsohn

[This article is continued from the May issue of *The Firearms Instructor*.]



Remember, if you are **ALLOWING** your officers to use a finger-on-trigger cover mode, you are **TRAINING** them to do so, by letting them train themselves in this dangerous technique in the absence of any direction from you (or your agency) to the contrary.

Finally, you should understand that even the substantial weight and trigger travel of the double-action stroke fall far short of guaranteeing the elimination of unintentional discharges. In high-stress situations, officers have unintentionally fired **double-action** shots from both revolvers and semi-autos.

In a recent case in which I testified in New Jersey to defend an officer being prosecuted for homicide in the accidental death of a suspect during an arrest, Dr. Roger Enoka, a physiologist and sports scientist from the University of Arizona at Tucson, provided medical and scientific evidence of the

phenomenon we firearms instructors refer to as "sympathetic contraction." This is a contraction of the muscles of the officer's hand under stress, especially in response to any of the following three stimuli:

1. The "startle effect"—that is, being startled by a loud noise, sudden appearance, etc., as in the scenario presented at the beginning of this article.
2. "Postural disturbance"—or loss of balance, as we non-scientists would say. If there is something in or near your hand when you begin to lose your balance, you will clutch at it.
3. "Exertion of Maximum Force"—meaning that if you are wrestling with a suspect with your left hand, there is a tendency for the muscles of your right hand (holding your handgun?) to contract at the same time. This is the result of an "interlimb interaction" produced by the symmetrical nature of your nervous system's circuits leading from both your right and left arms through your spinal cord.



For those readers who feel that finger on trigger of uncocked revolver is amply safe, consider the above photo. What will happen if suspect resists at this point, and a scuffle ensues? Author suggests that interlimb action may well result in an unintentional (and possible unavoidable) discharge, with a killed or injured suspect, fellow officer, or innocent bystander.

The important thing to understand about the above physiological phenomena is that, because they are **involuntary**, they are largely beyond

the officer's ability to control, **even with extensive training**. For example, there is no amount of training that will keep you from discharging your handgun if a howitzer is unexpectedly fired next to your ear, **IF YOUR FINGER IS INSIDE THE TRIGGER GUARD AT THE TIME**. According to the medical experts, the strength of the involuntary muscular contraction in such circumstances is likely to cause you to fire whatever handgun you are holding at the time, (providing, of course, your finger is inside the trigger guard), regardless of whether it is cocked or uncocked, has a 3 pound trigger pull or a 14 pound one. In other words, the heavier double-action trigger pulls offer only minimal protection in these situations.

Note that the strong, involuntary contraction of the hand could cause you to disengage the safety of a single-action auto **and** pull the trigger simultaneously, or compress the cocking lever of a squeeze-cocking pistol **and** pull the trigger simultaneously—**providing, again, that your finger is inside the trigger guard at the time**.

The New Jersey officer's handgun discharged as he lost his balance and fell forward while holding onto the front of the suspect's shirt (both postural disturbance and exertion of maximum force). Another New Jersey officer killed his partner with an unintentional discharge from his shotgun as he stumbled or was jostled during a drug raid. A drug agent in New York shot a fellow officer in the leg with a submachine gun during an arrest. An Arizona officer, yanking on a car door with one hand, unintentionally fired his double-action revolver held in the other hand, hitting the driver. A Florida officer, struggling with a suspect through the window of the suspect's vehicle, unintentionally fired the semi-auto held in his other hand, wounding a passenger in the vehicle. Another Arizona officer discharged his double-action auto while attempting to control a suspect. Another officer, trying to

help his partner control a violent suspect, unintentionally fired a shot from his revolver that hit his fellow officer. Two highly trained police counter-snipers unintentionally fired their rifles in two separate actual tactical deployments—in the same metropolitan agency. A Louisiana officer unintentionally discharged his handgun when the doorpost of the car through which his revolver was extended bumped his hand. A Southwestern officer killed a suspect he was escorting at gunpoint when he stumbled on some loose gravel. Yet another New Jersey officer unintentionally fired a shot as he was jostled by other officers on a drug entry, the bullet passing through a wall and injuring a bystander in another room.

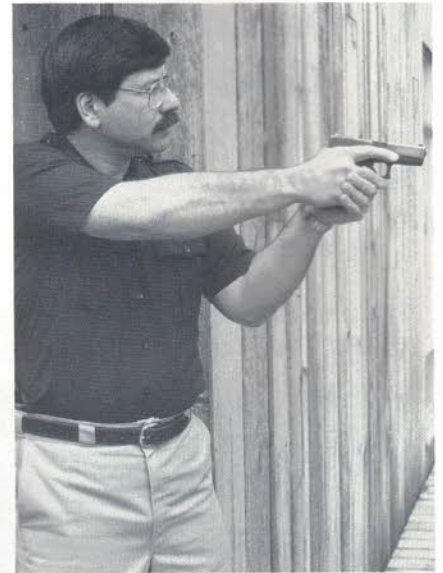
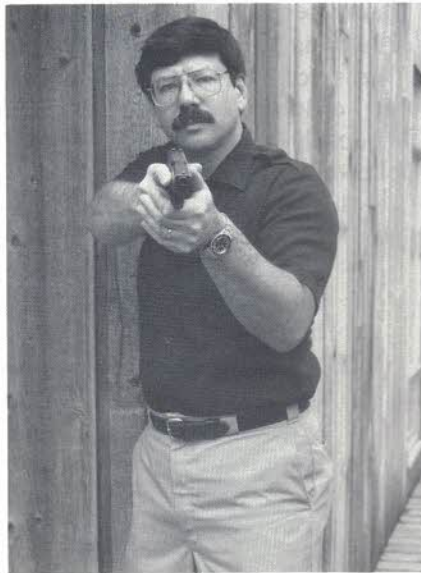
The list is endless, and the weapon types span the full spectrum, from cocked revolver and single-action auto to double-action revolver, double-action autopistol, and shoulder weapons of all descriptions. **THE ONE COMMON FACTOR THAT MAKES EVERY SUCH UNINTENTIONAL DISCHARGE POSSIBLE IS THAT THERE IS A FINGER INSIDE THE TRIGGER GUARD. THE ONE THING THAT WOULD SUCCESSFULLY ELIMINATE ALMOST ALL OF THESE ACCIDENTAL SHOOTINGS, EVEN IF AN INVOLUNTARY MUSCULAR CONTRACTION SHOULD OCCUR, WOULD BE KEEPING THE TRIGGER FINGER OUTSIDE THE TRIGGER GUARD.**

In teaching, I use Four Cardinal Rules of Firearms Safety, largely borrowed from those taught by Jeff Cooper at Gunsite, with slight modification to suit my own teaching purposes. Rule Three as I use it is stated thus:

3.

KEEP YOUR FINGER OUTSIDE THE TRIGGER GUARD UNTIL YOU ARE ON TARGET AND HAVE DECIDED TO FIRE.

Following Rule 3, in a low ready position (as when searching an area, moving with a drawn handgun, or



*Suggested "Universal Cover Mode" for all handguns as seen from front and side. High ready position brings handgun as high as possible without obscuring important parts of the suspect or surroundings. Trigger finger remains **outside** the trigger guard until decision to fire is made.*

waiting for the start of action), the finger will remain outside the trigger guard, braced against some part of the handgun's frame, because you do not yet have a target. When a target appears, you will have more than enough time to get your finger on the trigger as you raise your sights to center mass, because your finger is much faster than your hands and arms.

I would propose that the best all-around mode for covering a suspect at gunpoint is a **HIGH READY POSITION WITH FINGER OUTSIDE THE TRIGGER GUARD**. The high ready position (rather than aimed right at center mass) should position the gun as high on the suspect as possible (very possibly pointed at his lower body) without obscuring your view of his hands, pockets, or waistband where weapons are likely to be kept, or blocking too much of your view of the surroundings, which may contain other potential attackers. Keeping the handgun below the line of sight will help the officer avoid the tunnel vision which bringing the sights up on target can produce. One agency calls this a "Real World Ready," as compared to the relaxed low-ready of target range.

Use of paint ball or dart pistols will demonstrate that if you cover a close-range suspect with your sights on center mass, he can easily "drop-out" from your sights and shoot you before you can lower your handgun to find him and pull the trigger—something he would have great difficulty doing if your weapon were held in high-ready rather than aimed at center mass. The high-ready position thus places you in much better visual control of the situation than a "center-mass hold" would do.

At the same time, the time lost from your decision to shoot to the shot itself by keeping the finger outside the trigger guard rather than on the trigger is minimal, not exceeding 0.1 to 0.3 seconds (one-tenth to three-tenths of a second) in most officers whose reactions are electronically measured. The reason I class this magnitude of time lag as minimal (and consider it unlikely to be of consequence in the vast majority of actual situations) is that (1) it is extremely rare for a handgun bullet to **instantaneously** incapacitate a suspect—that is, so instantly that a .1 or .3 second advantage by the officer could be **meaningful**; (2)

the nature of the reaction time lag is such that a suspect can often **produce and fire** a handgun before the officer can pull the trigger of a handgun he already has pointed at the suspect, **even if the officer's finger is already on the trigger**—again, showing that a finger on the trigger does not provide the officer with the safety advantages that only distance and cover can afford; and finally (3) as stated earlier, in the overwhelming majority of cases, the officer must cover a suspect **and not shoot him**, rather than shoot him. This argues strongly for a cover mode which provides the officer with a high degree of control against unintentional shots, even under stress, provided the “safer” cover mode does not unreasonably reduce the officer's ability to fire quickly and accurately if required. Remember, that in every one of those majority “draw and cover” cases, if the officer has his finger on the trigger he is not only endangering the suspect (for whom we might not have great sympathy in some cases), but quite possibly fellow officers and innocent bystanders, and **always** himself, as all of the officers in our examples sadly discovered.

In addition to an inconsequential loss of time by using the Universal Cover Mode, there will also be a slight loss of accuracy when a shot must be taken, compared to a finger-on-trigger cover technique. This occurs as the finger quickly finds the trigger, instead of already being in contact with the trigger—possibly with all the slack taken out and “four pounds of pressure on a five-pound pull”! At the close ranges at which most police “cover” situations occur, a slight loss of accuracy can be discounted. In addition, proper range training which has officers go from the Universal Cover Mode to the firing of shots will quickly teach them what is required in order to hit the target. Again, the results of fingers inside the trigger guard are simply too predictable, too catastrophic, and too easily avoided to allow knowledgeable instructors, police

administrators, or courts to condone, let alone teach, this practice.

Covering suspects in our suggested Universal Cover Mode—high ready position, with finger outside trigger guard, and generally accompanied by a verbal challenge (POLICE—DON'T MOVE!)—also has the advantage of being able to be applied across the board, regardless of the variety of handguns being used by a particular agency, or by officers from different agencies using different handguns at the same training facility, or by a single officer using different handguns at different times. The Phoenix Police Department, for example, has taught and used this cover mode for many years with excellent results, as have several other large agencies. Truly it deserves to be universal.

When using the Universal Cover Mode (“UCM”), the trigger finger should normally be rested (or “indexed”) against some part of the handgun's frame. In guns with an appropriately-sized trigger guard relative to the length of the officer's fingers, the finger can be indexed on the front of the trigger guard instead of on the frame.

Beware of allowing the trigger finger to “hover” unbraced outside the trigger guard, or allowing the very tip of the finger to perch precariously against the front of the trigger guard. Either of these two techniques has the potential of allowing the finger to fall into the trigger guard and fire the gun unintentionally if the muscles of the hand contract involuntarily (as when the officer stumbles or is startled), or if the back of the officer's gun hand is bumped or struck by the suspect or any other person or object. The overly-enlarged, squared or hooked trigger guards which seem to be in vogue on some brands of pistols can sometimes become a serious safety hazard, failing to serve as effective guards against the fingers of the small-to-medium handed officer inadvertently slipping onto the trigger.

On guns with active manual



Close-up of hand and finger position on pistol. Trigger finger should be braced against receiver (or on front edge of trigger guard, provided trigger guard is not overly enlarged) to reduce possibility that finger will slip into trigger guard if officer's hand contracts involuntarily.

safeties, whether the safety should be engaged or disengaged in UCM may, in part, depend on how quickly and reliably the safety **can** be disengaged without the need to shift the hand out of firing position to do so. With the Colt 1911-pattern pistols, for example, if the right thumb is positioned on top of the thumb safety (as the Modern Technique teaches), a right-handed shooter should have no trouble leaving the safety on in UCM and disengaging it only when the decision to fire is made and the pistol is raised to center mass. Lefties will generally need a safety mounted on the pistol's right side to achieve the same results.

In my opinion, officers using pistols with slide-mounted safety/decocking levers who carry the pistol with safety **engaged** in the holster should disengage the safety as soon as the pistol is drawn in a tactical situation. The safety of such a pistol will then remain disengaged in UCM. In my experience, many officers are unable, even with a reasonable amount of training, to quickly and reliably disengage safeties of this design, at the moment of firing, without compromising their firing grip on the pistol. Accordingly, I suggest a “safety off” cover mode.

Repeating shotguns with a crossbolt type safety located at the front or back of the trigger guard should be handled with the safety engaged and the tip of the trigger finger on the safety in tactical situations in which a round has been chambered, including UCM.

This works well for righties, but lefties will need the direction of the safety reversed for efficient operation. A sliding tang-mounted safety, as on the Mossberg 500 and 590 shotguns, is easier for many officers to use as well as being ambidextrous.

The Colt M16, AR-15, and SMG has a safety which, like the Colt pistol's, is ideally designed for reliable manipulation with no loss of time as the gun is raised from ready position for the shot. Many other military-type shoulder weapons, including the excellent Uzi and H&K MP5, have safeties which will need to be disengaged **prior** to assuming a UCM position (possibly even upon first entering the area where engagement is likely) in order to permit fast, reliable fire when necessary. With such firearms, the FINGER OUTSIDE TRIGGER GUARD becomes all the more critical.



So-called "Double Action Only" handguns at least eliminate the possibility of an officer manually cocking his handgun. However, while their longer, heavier trigger pulls may reduce the likelihood of unintentional discharge, they do **not** eliminate it, and author feels finger should still remain outside trigger guard until the decision to fire has been made and the gun is raised to center mass. From top to bottom: Beretta Model 92D-P, S&W Model 642 Airweight Centennial (shown with Precision Gun Specialties Hideout grips), S&W Model 3953, and Glock 23 with "New York trigger."

I specifically reject the suggestions of several other writers that under the stress of an actual tactical situation, of-

ficers' trigger fingers **will** be wrapped around the triggers, regardless of what we train them. My own personal experience, as well as my observation of others in both real tactical situations and in stress exercises in training, convince me that if properly trained, officers can and will keep their fingers outside the trigger guard until they decide to fire. In fact, it amazes me that any firearms trainer (or trainer of any similar psycho-motor skill) could take the position that proper training which thoroughly ingrains a physical skill will nevertheless be abandoned in a "real" confrontation. If training is of no avail, then why don't we all go home, and stop wasting our time and that of our students? Obviously, we believe that training **will** be followed under stress, or we wouldn't be trainers. Observation of properly trained officers in actual situations confirms that trigger fingers can indeed be trained to stay outside trigger guards until it is time to fire, with the same reliability with which we can train officers how to draw, reload, or perform any other psycho-motor skill.

In order to train officers to keep their fingers outside the trigger guard, the instructor must explain and demonstrate the proper cover mode, and then have his officers drill to the point where the trigger finger automatically moves into the trigger guard only as the sights come to full eye level, and automatically moves out of the trigger guard when the gun is lowered from firing position. Continuous and strict reinforcement of this technique will be necessary at first.

I use a "Draw and Challenge Drill" to train the UCM, as well as to train officers to use a verbal challenge when appropriate. On the command "CHALLENGE!", the officer draws his gun to UCM and issues a verbal challenge. I suggest the challenge "POLICE—DON'T MOVE!" This challenge is short and clean, adequately identifies the police officer, and tells the suspect what you expect

him to do. Training a standard verbal challenge of this sort will also reduce instances of off-duty or plainclothes officers being mistakenly shot as criminals by other officers on the scene who may not know them. Don't get too ego-involved with the name of your particular agency: "Delaware River Bridge and Tunnel Authority Police—(gasp, gasp)—Don't Move!" is simply too much of a mouthful. Many large departments, including federal law enforcement agencies, use the simple challenge, "POLICE—DON'T MOVE!" In drawing and challenging, remind officers to draw **first**, then challenge. In addition to drawing their gun, they should, whenever possible, position themselves behind cover **before** announcing their presence with the verbal challenge.

After the officer has issued the challenge, I either give him a secondary signal to fire (I use a buzzer or whistle), or I tell him to scan and holster without firing. Officers soon learn how to transition quickly from UCM to firing without yanking their first shot wildly, as they may do the first time you blow the whistle. Another benefit of the Draw and Challenge Drill is that it forces the officer to separate the firing of the shot from the drawing of the pistol, rather than dangerously programming the officer to fire at the end of every draw.

Once the UCM and verbal challenge have been taught, I feel free to insert them any time, without advance warning, into the firing drills or scored exercises, including the qualification courses of fire. If an officer fires unintentionally when commanded to "CHALLENGE," he is **disqualified** and must reshoot the entire course. A severe penalty, but certainly mild compared to the real-life consequences of killing a human being unintentionally. The severe penalty of failure to qualify, announced in **advance** to the class, serves as all the **incentive** most officers need to **keep their fingers outside the trigger guard when challenging**, as you have **instructed**.

The final training step is to watch of officers' trigger fingers as they move through dynamic training exercises and engage a variety of "shoot" and "no shoot" targets. "No shoot" or questionable targets, or any target the range officer designates as the officer moves through the course, are to be addressed in a proper UCM, rather than shot. Unexpectedly commanding an officer to challenge a target he was about to shoot both tests and reinforces the officer's ability to utilize the UCM in stressful, rapidly changing situations.

Occasionally an officer who can maintain the finger outside the trigger guard on simple, static "stand and shoot" exercises will evidence a tendency to violate Rule 3 (usually unconsciously) when engaged in a more stressful and complicated dynamic exercise. When you observe this, correct the officer sharply to make him conscious of his error, and reinforce proper technique by having him spend remedial time in the basic drills if he persists in the safety violation.

Opinions will of course vary, and no doubt some readers of this article will disagree with the techniques suggested. I would hardly presume to have the only valid point of view of this subject. Rather, if your agency currently trains something other than the "Universal Cover Mode"—or has no established standard, allowing officers to "train" themselves haphazardly in this regard—the goal of this article is simply to provoke your thought and to focus your careful attention on this critical and often overlooked area of law enforcement training tactical gun handling.

AUTHOR'S NOTE: *The cases contained in this article are all actual instances of unintentional discharge. However, in some instances, the specific facts still remain in dispute at this time, and may ultimately be determined to be different in some particulars from those stated. Even if so, the value*

of these cases as teaching examples will remain unchanged.

Emanuel Kapelsohn encourages readers to communicate directly with him concerning any aspects of this article at P.O. Box 170, Bowers, PA 19511, FAX 215-682-7158, or telephone 215-682-7147.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR:

EMANUEL KAPELSOHN is president of The Peregrine Corporation, a law enforcement training and consulting firm. He is a member of the IALEFI Board and Directors and has been a presenter at each of the past six ATC's, as well as at several IALEFI regional training conferences and at na-

*tional instructor conferences of other organizations. Mr. Kapelsohn has conducted instructor-level firearms training for such agencies as Miami, Washington, Philadelphia, Baltimore, Jacksonville, the New York State Police, and the Missouri Highway Patrol. He is Technical Editor of **The Police Marksman** magazine, and is the author of over 70 published articles. Mr. Kapelsohn holds degrees from Yale University and Harvard Law School, and was previously a practicing trial attorney. He is frequently called upon as an expert witness in both civil and criminal matters involving firearms and police use of force.*

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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:

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IALEFI
390 Union Ave./Union Square
Laconia, New Hampshire 03246

We've Been Here Before

by Scott Ferguson

While reading a trade publication recently, this bit of advertising prose caught my eye.

"The perfect police gun with interchangeable ten and twenty shot magazines."

"ACCURATE TO 1100 YARDS!"

It further went on to say:

"It is considered to be the strongest hitting and farthest shooting pistol in the world with a maximum range of 2200 yards. . ."

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Sound familiar?

More firepower! More stopping power! Faster Reloading! A new wondergun? The wave of the future?

NO! That was the description given to the Mauser Model 712 (better known as the "broomhandle") in the 1940 Shooters Bible!

When law enforcement interest in 9mm selfloaders began to peak in the 1980's, it was thought to be the wave of the future. Historically, though, we find that the 9mm Luger cartridge was introduced in 1902, three years before the 45 ACP, five years before the 44 Special and thirty three years before the 357 Magnum. In fact, it was introduced in the same year that the 38 Special was born. Then, as you know, the 38 went on to be the standard American law enforcement cartridge for the next seventy plus years, hanging on as tenaciously as the 45 auto had in the American military. The 38 Special revolver is still the firearm and cartridge by which all so called "waves of the future" or "advances in technology" are compared. Ballistically, anything that can be done in the 9mm can and has been done in the 38. In fact, the 9 is ballistically identical to the 38 Auto introduced in 1900.

Let's look at one of the new "state of the art" 9mm auto pistols popular today: the Beretta 92 series. As we have seen, the cartridge is hardly new. The big box staggered magazine concept, having been utilized by Mauser in 1896, and by Savage in 1910, had been adopted by most European countries by 1935, with the advent of the first wondernine, the Browning Hi Power, which, incidentally, was patented in 1926.

The double action and locked breech design found in the Beretta was borrowed from the Walther P-38. The double action had been developed earlier in the 30's for Walther's Polizei Pistole or PP.

While on the subject of double action, it is interesting to note that the Starr Double Action Army 44 Revolver was introduced in 1860 and both Colt and S&W produced D/A models over the next forty years. The Smith also had the advantage of faster reloading due to its top break design and simultaneous ejection. Be that as it may, the Colt Single Action Army Model of 1873 was the preferred sidearm of law officer, military and civilian alike. It was not until the S&W Military and Police Model of 1902 in 38 Special that the double action gained acceptance.

Well, back to the Beretta.

The actual design of the 92 is remarkably similar to the single action M1951, which in turn was an evolutionary growth of the blowback models 1934 and 1921.

Well, if the firearms themselves are not the "wave of the future," what about the new cartridges? How about a 180 grain, .40 caliber projectile at .975 fps, for sidearm and carbine? The .40 S&W? The 10mm FBI? Could be. But it's also the 38-40 black powder load of 1874.

Law enforcement seems to be very trendy. We jump on the newest "wave of the future" unaware that it is usually a "blast from the past" in a new package. This is not to say that there is anything wrong with the new

package or the latest improvements, but we have to be aware of manipulation by marketers and keep things in proper perspective.

Over the past hundred years, we've seen the birth of automobiles, airplanes, jet propulsion, space travel, computers and home video production. But the weapons and cartridges we use, while possibly improved, are essentially the same ones available to our grandfathers. Why? Because they work. They worked then and they work now. Sure, bad guys are using MACs and UZIs and MP5s now but then they used Thompsons.

Firearms instruction should concentrate more on HOW to use it instead of WHAT to use. Good tactics are always good tactics. Carrying the latest "state of the art" wondergun doesn't make them that. The best gun in the world is the one you have with you when excrement impacts on the air circulatory device.

Scott Ferguson is a Media Generalist with New Hampshire Police Training. He has been our contributor for the cover photograph of our premiere issue and this present issue of The Firearms Instructor. Scott is an avid gun enthusiast and has written many articles. He holds a B.A. Degree from Oral Roberts University.

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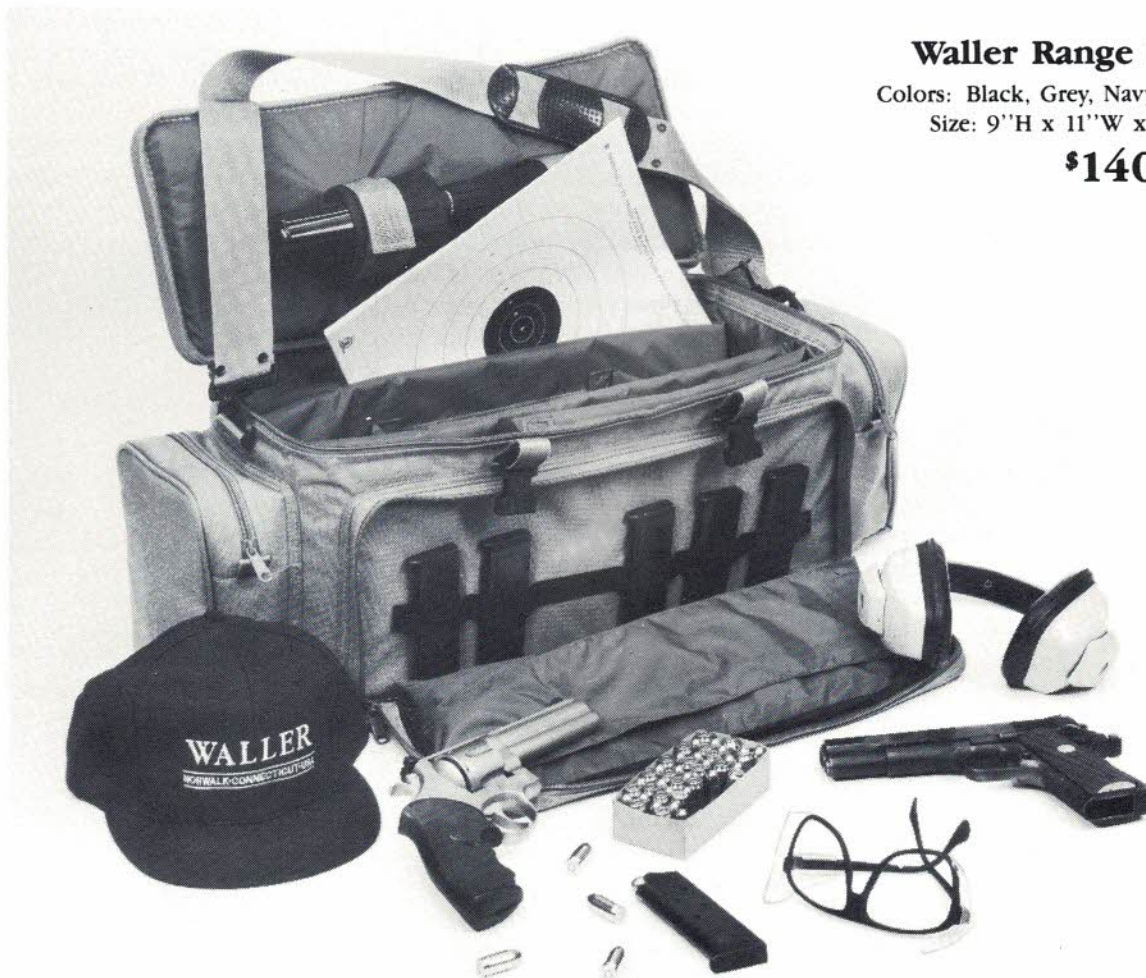


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Firearms Instructor Hazards

by Officer Bruce T. Howard

[This article is continued from the May issue of **The Firearms Instructor**.]

HOT Range—A hot range is now quite popular. You should never run a hot range if you are working with inexperienced officers or officers who are not familiar with the firearms they will be using. Direction and discipline should be used at all times and is critical. A hot range can be a very safe range providing the following rules are followed:

1. Every gun **MUST** be secured in its holster.
2. Every gun **MUST** be considered always loaded.
3. Guns will come out of the holsters only on command or during a designated string of fire, and only while the officers are on the active firing line.
4. You must have enough experienced line officers. This depends on the training and competency of those officers who are participating in the exercise.

Whatever type of range you run you **MUST** brief the officers as to what you expect of them before they get to the range. When they arrive at the range, they must immediately report to a designated point and assure themselves and the Rangemaster that their firearm is in the condition it's supposed to be in. Once this is done the range will be a much safer environment.

Another area which can prove "deadly" to an officer or trainer is that area where extremely realistic training takes place. Training which involves the use of blanks, paintballs, cotton balls, and other "safe" projectiles used in place of real bullets. Although this type training best simulates the stress encountered by officers during an actual armed confrontation, it can also

be the most dangerous. Many times we see the unfortunate results after an officer "forgot" to unload his firearm or "mixed up" real duty ammunition with the substitute ammunition. This training is probably the only training where the four general firearm rules stated above may be violated. Because of this we have to ensure that other safety cautions are followed. The following suggestions are important.

1. Plan to conduct these exercises away from areas which are frequented by other officers.
2. The training room or area should be isolated and there should be only one entrance/exit.
3. All special equipment and ammunition should be isolated and under the control of one designated officer. If at all possible, mark this equipment with an obvious sign such as red grips or paint the barrels a bright color.
4. As always, the officers should be briefed on safety and how the training will run. When an officer is called away it is your responsibility to check the condition of his firearm when he or she leaves and when they return.
5. A safety officer should be designated and his only responsibility should be to control equipment and ammunition. He or she is to ensure that the officer's actual firearm is checked and then rechecked again.
6. Vest should always be used. Ear and eye protection is a must. Blanks, cotton balls, or other simulated projectiles can cause hearing deficiencies. If paintball exercises are being conducted then other necessary protective equipment may have to be worn. I have heard of certain types of paintballs causing severe lacerations of hands and ear lobes.
7. By all means, there should be **NO** officers in the area, watching or for any other reason unless these officers have checked their

firearms in with a safety officer, or they do not have a firearm on their person.

How many of you may be grumbling to yourself about all the seemingly endless preparations and precautions that should be taken to run a safe program. However, you cannot afford **NOT** to take these precautions. One screw up, one "forgotten round" or one short mental lapse can quickly destroy lives and create a lifetime of psychological grief and anguish. Is it worth it? If you don't have the necessary man-power, or ample time to set up a particular program, then **DON'T** do it. Work within your own limits, for it is ultimately your responsibility that accidents do not occur. Work with other departments that have similar time and manpower restrictions. Do **NOT** simply use any officer you can find with a "couple of minutes to spare." Contrary to what many of the top administrators in our agencies think, firearms and the associated risks and hazards are very real and they should not be handled by that officer who has always had several guns and who has liked to shoot a lot. Not to say that the officer who does enjoy firearms, and who shoots often, should not be selected, but he should not be selected because those are the only traits he possesses.

Safety should be a part of every professional firearms instructor's daily routine. If it isn't, then it will only be a matter of time before tragedy strikes. When you really start to think of all the hazards associated with firearms training then you begin to realize the important part played by following and utilizing the myriad of safety rules and factors which govern every one of our programs.

I have only just scratched the surface of safety. I simply wanted to make you aware of the importance of safety in the reduction and elimination of many of the range hazards we face.

As I have stated earlier, I will address some of the other hazards associated with our job as firearms instructors.

Such things as ear and eye protection, the dangers of certain types of target systems, lead poisoning and others, will be talked about in later issues. If any of you have any stories, suggestions, ideas, comments or criticisms, please send them to me in care of this publication. This is what IALEFI is all about, to share our ideas and experiences; to relate to each other in an effort to make our jobs safer, more efficient, and in the long run, a little easier.

Officer Bruce T. Howard
 New Britain Police Department
 125 Columbus Blvd.
 New Britain, CT 06051

The Importance of Low Light Training

by Officer Anthony M. Januzelli



The police firearms trainer of today must teach more than just basic marksmanship. We must teach handgun retention, tactics and a host of other subjects. One of the most important areas we must cover is low light shooting. For some reason this area of shooting is not covered with

the importance that it should be. Some departments devote as little as 15 minutes to a half hour on the subject of dim light shooting. Yet statistics show that 66 to 75 percent of all Police confrontations occur in low or no light at all. Every aspect of low light confrontations must be covered, so that survival is on the Officer's side, not the criminal's. While attending a low light shooting exercise I witnessed what at the time was funny, yet it was not and could be a very serious problem. The range officer had twenty students and placed them on 3 yard line. Once all instructions were given the lights were turned off. On command the officers drew their weapons and fired one shot close combat. One of the officers screamed and fell to the ground. When the lights were turned on and it was determined the officer was not injured in any way, the instructor inquired about the officer's actions. His

answer was "I thought that my weapon exploded, as all I saw was a large flash." It was learned that this individual had never fired in darkness before and did not know what to expect. If his first low light shooting experience would have been an actual confrontation he may have not survived. We as firearms trainers must teach all aspects of low light tactics. They should include use of cover, search techniques, flashlight use and shooting techniques and especially loading during darkness and being able to clear malfunctions. Survival is the key to all training today and with increased low light techniques and training we will increase the survival rate of our students.

Officer Januzelli is a 22 year veteran of the Norristown, PA, Police Dept. and a State certified Firearms Instructor for both Police and Security Officers and a member of the IALEFI Board of Directors.

ATTENDANCE RECORD

1990-91 Board of Directors Meetings

	1990 ATC	Dec. 90	Mar. 91	June 91
Michael Beckley	P	P	P	P
Robert D. Bossey	P	P	P	P
Elizabeth Callahan	P	A	A	P
Peter Camarena	P	A	P	P
Michael Hargreaves	P	P	P	P
Bruce Howard	P	A	P	P
Robert Hunt	P	P	P	P
Anthony Januzelli	P	P	P	P
Manny Kapelsohn	P	P	P	P
Fred Lawson	P	A	P	P
Frank Lepore	P	P	A	P
Walt MacDonald	P	P	P	P
John Meyer	P	P	P	P
Chris Pollack	A	A	P	P
Frank Repass	P	P	P	P
Gene Scott	P	A	P	P
Peter Tarley	P	A	P	P
Bob Tribble	A	P	A	A
Dennis Tueller	P	A	A	P
Michael Williams	P	P	P	P

Legend: P = Present A = Absent

Liability – Various, Vicarious and Vicious

by Walt MacDonald

"Our officers are trained to shoot to kill."

This was not a statement made by an immature Rambo "wannabe," but rather the published remark of a ranking officer in a major Eastern police Department. The statement was made in a press conference in answer to a question by a reporter for a liberal newspaper as to why the officers did not simply shoot to wound the gunman rather than terminating his anti-social tendencies permanently.

Many departments have a policy against their rank and file officers granting interviews to reporters concerning pending cases. Although "rank may have its privilege"—rank does not prevent the proverbial foot from being well and thoroughly inserted in the mouth.

With the increase in violent crime bringing forth a corresponding increase in the use of force by law enforcement officers, it is suggested that contact problems with the media are overdue for examination. This is particularly true in situations concerning the use of firearms. Most of these cases involve issues calling upon expertise in weaponry, ammunition, supporting equipment, training and officer survival. As no department can afford to ignore the likelihood of a firearms incident, so too the resulting attention by newspaper, radio and TV reporters must be expected.

Leaving the department statement to be ad libbed by good old silver tongued Colonel Blather can court disaster. This is particularly true if he still bemoans the passing of the flap holster, and his knowledge of training is restricted to an awareness that an academy does exist—somewhere. Equally chancy is the bright young civilian spokesman equipped with a degree in media communications—but whose experi-

ence with firearms never progressed beyond the Red Ryder BB gun stage way back when. The higher the rank, the more impressive the title of the spokesperson—the greater the potential impact of a "goof."

A misstatement or ill advised remark could have a dramatic effect on the liability exposure of individual officers and their departments—not only regarding the immediate case but also cases in the future. Obviously, a ranking officer could be summoned as a hostile witness if his remarks could be construed as indicating that there was improper training or equipment.

However, there may also be effects which are more subtle but no less damaging. Public opinion is molded by what is read in the newspaper, heard on the radio and seen on TV. Most people accept as the "gospel truth" whatever the media presents. The opinions of voters and jurors are formed in this fashion. Ill advised statements may inflame and be used as rallying points by activist and pressure groups in the community. It has even been alleged that on occasion individual officers have been "hung out to dry" by the powers that be in order to calm these groups.

To further complicate the problem,

trial), and quoted his double talk opinion: "It was a justified killing, but the force was excessive."

Misstatements made today may come back to haunt us in the future. They may be resurrected when reporting a similar incident. They may also play a part in a later civil suit for damages to establish that the department engaged in a course of conduct of "deliberate indifference almost ensuring the violation of civil rights." I have no doubt that some attorneys specializing in suits against law enforcement agencies maintain a file of clippings containing such quotes for future use.

Seldom if ever are these statements corrected. The calling of a second press conference would only attract further attention to the remark. It would also give our "silver tongued devil" a chance to make a bad situation worse by trying to explain that what he said wasn't really what he meant to say.

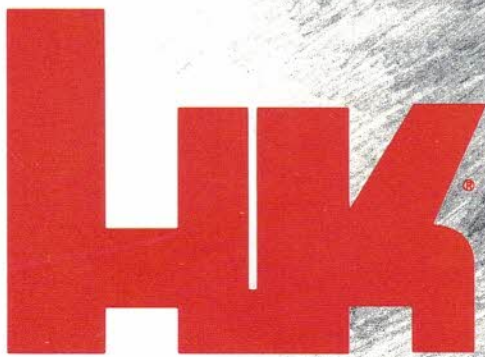
It is suggested that initially a brief statement be issued to the effect that in accordance with standard department policy the matter is being investigated and the officers involved are temporarily reassigned.

Later after consultation with firearms instructors and investigating

Misstatements made today may come back to haunt us in the future.

many in the media are not merely content to report the facts and let public opinion take whatever course it may. Rather, the facts are carefully selected and reported in such a way as to mold public opinion in a particularly desired fashion—such as pro or anti police. I recall a local liberal newspaper recently emphasizing that the young gunman whose last mortal act was in firing a shotgun at police officers—"was only shooting bird-shot." This same newspaper interviewed a civilian witness to an almost textbook proper police shooting (which saved our State the cost of a

officers, a more definitive statement may be issued. As flattering as it may seem to some to be interviewed by reporters, it may be better to have a printed news release prepared. The hurly burly of an oral press conference may be a rude awakening for a superior officer who finds himself being questioned by a cynical reporter who is not in awe of his rank and is anxious to "trip him up." The printed release may not only be reviewed for errors prior to issuance, but also serves as a record of what was said, when and by whom.



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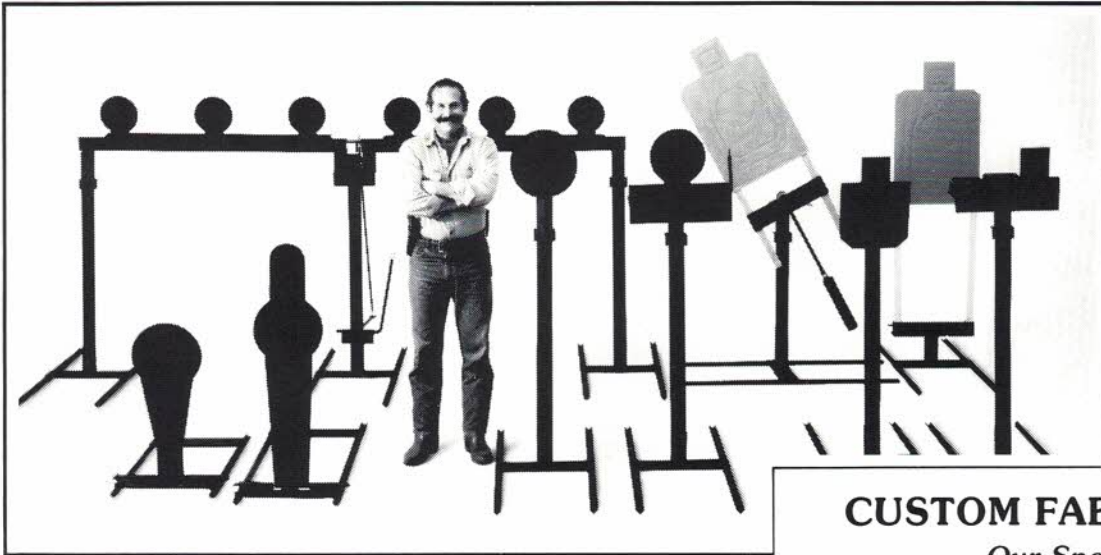


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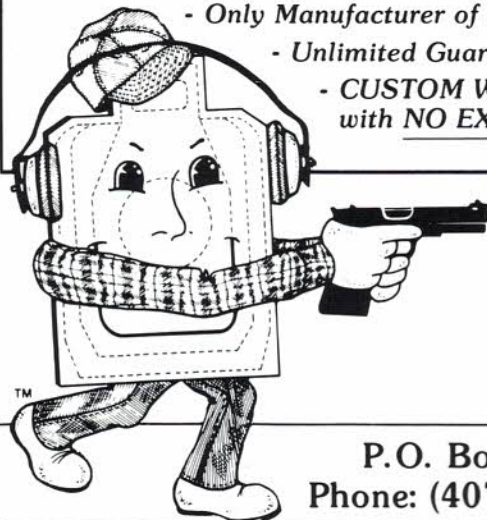
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Mayor

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**In
Memoriam
Sergeant
Paul J. Palank
Miami Police Department**

We are saddened to report that Sergeant Paul J. Palank of the Miami Police Department, a long time member of IALEFI, passed away on July 31, 1991. Paul served in a variety of assignments, including special investigations, communications, training and patrol. During his sixteen and a half years with Miami, he received a total of 37 Official Commendations, one of which was for his diligent work recently with the department's weapon transition to semi-automatic pistols.

Sergeant Palank is survived by his wife, Angelica, a former Miami Police Dispatcher, and two children, Joseph, five, and Taylor, 10 months.

The Association's deepest heartfelt sympathy goes to Paul's family and the Miami Police Department.

**IALEFI Region I
Training Conference**

*by Bruce T. Howard
Regional Coordinator*

On April 15 & 16, 1991 Jim Baynes successfully ran his first IALEFI Regional Conference at the Duchess County Pistol Club in Wappingers Falls, N.Y. The Conference was well attended by 48 Firearms Instructors from New York, New Jersey, Connecticut, Pennsylvania, New Hampshire, Vermont, and Canada. Also attending were several members from the IALEFI Board of Directors. Those members were Bob Hunt, Mike Beckley, Manny Kapelsohn, John Meyer, Mike Hargreaves, and Bruce Howard.

IALEFI President Bob Hunt was on hand to open the Conference on a somewhat wet Monday morning. Although the weather was a little wet

on the first day of the conference it did nothing to dampen the spirits of this hearty lot. Jim Garside, who has been a regular presenter on the IALEFI Conference circuit gave an excellent presentation on the prudent and justified use of force, along with the resulting concerns about the liability issue. Other classes were a video tape of Trooper Van Kellers "Weaponcraft Kata" and an impromptu class on Capstun given by this author.

Range classes as always were packed. Range programs included presentations on the MP-5 sub-machine gun by John Meyer of H&K, Advance Shotgun Techniques by Manny Kapelsohn of the Peregrine Corp., and Advanced Pistol Techniques by Bert Duvernay of the S&W Academy Staff.

During the afternoon sessions all were treated not only to fine shooting demonstrations by Tom Campbell of Team Safariland, and the fastest finger in the world Jerry Miculek of Team Smith & Wesson, but to many very helpful hints by two of the very best. These guys went above and beyond by answering the multitudes of questions posed to them by many of the admiring attendees. To see Jerry Miculek fire a stock revolver as fast as he does is something many of us were amazed to see.

During the day many of our sponsors had set up displays of their products. Glock, S&W, Ruger, Safariland, and many others to name just a few, were around to show their wares and answer questions. It was one of the largest displays I have seen at any of our Conferences.

Add to all of this the camaraderie and lively discussions between all the Conference participants and you have an extremely successful regional training conference. A great big "atta boy" for Conference coordinator Jim Baynes who worked tirelessly to make this one of the most successful conferences in recently history. Thanks are also in order for all the presenters and sponsors who made the trek to

Wappingers Falls, N.Y., to show a lot of Firearms Instructors what IALEFI is all about.

Video Review

by Robert D. Bossey

If you're an active firearms trainer and you're looking for two videos to help bridge the gap sometimes created in instruction, then the two films I've recently reviewed are for you.

"Ultimate Survivors," produced by Calibre Press, Inc., and narrated by William Shatner, tells the story of four truly brave police officers who survived tragedy in their careers and how they managed to redirect their lives and continue to function. We all have conducted a firearms class that has students who may not take things as seriously as they should. This film effectively bridges that gap and will have a profound impact on their personal attitudes and the methods that really work to survive. I found myself thinking while viewing this tape, "There but for the grace of God go I." This 85 minute presentation can be obtained for \$59.95 plus \$4.00 shipping and handling by writing to Calibre Press, Inc., 666 Dundee Rd., Suite 1607, Northbrook, IL 60062-2760, or by calling (800) 323-0037.

The "American Gunmaker," the John M. Browning Legend is an excellent professional video presentation that I also found extremely interesting and informative. The video is narrated by Fess Parker and concerns the historical aspects of firearms development from one of the country's most renowned firearms inventors, John M. Browning. This 58 minute tape explains the evolution of Browning Firearms. The cost of the tape is \$19.95 plus \$2.05 handling and shipping and can be obtained by contacting Groberg Communications, 180 West 1950 South, Bountiful, UT, 84010.

Both video presentations are very worthwhile.

International Committee Report

by John Meyers

Well, the Second International Training Tour was a great success and we are expanding the committee to have two representatives in each state of Australia. As of this printing, we are still looking for reps in some states but this is what we have so far. We are looking into the possibility of conducting a Regional Training Conference in Australia next year.

Australia at large
Mick Hudson
Lee Sclanders

New South Wales
Denis S. Lesslie
Gary Lang

Victoria
Don Stokes
Rod MacDonald

South Australia
Rob Davis/Graham Martin
John Horgan

Northern Territory
Timothy Lloyd

Our Europe representative, Johnny Ramound has become a technical advisor for Combat Shooting in Belgium Combat Shooting School. Johnny has developed techniques for realistic combat shooting and a pyramidal system to have combat shooting instructors all over Europe. These instructors must become members of IALEFI within 3 months after graduation. He is trying to make combat shooting course compulsory for all persons who are carrying sidearms. Johnny and other International Committee members will be presenting a briefing on what's happening in firearms training in these countries.

Regional Training Committee

by Sgt. Pete Camarena

The Regional Training Conference Program is pleased to announce 3 more RTCs successfully put into the book. Many thanks to Sgt. Jim Baynes for the 2 day RTC he hosted in Wappingers Falls, New York, to Officer Frank McBee for the 2 day RTC he put on at the Kennedy Space Center in Florida and to Lt. Michael Beckely for his 3 day RTC held in Westhampton, New York. Each of these RTCs had excellent attendance, provided great instruction on a variety of subjects and attracted many new firearms instructors to IALEFI. (See articles and photos of recent RTC's elsewhere in this magazine.)

If you are considering the possibility of hosting a Regional Training Conference, call or write to me or your regional representative for information. It really is not as difficult as you think to host a Regional Training Conference.

On the note of regional representatives, the Region 5 representative, Kurt Mundshenk has left the Campbell County Sheriff Department and IALEFI. If you would be interested in finding out about the vacant position, please call or write to me. Region 5, along with the other regions and their representatives, are listed below for your convenience. IALEFI is at a crossroads in terms of its growth and direction so this is a very good time to become involved.

REGION 1

CT, DE, ME, MA, MD, NH, NJ, NY,
PA, RI, VT
Bruce Howard
New Britain Police Dept.
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 Dept.
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 Dept.
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
Vacant

REGION 6

AZ, CO, NM, UT
Gene Scott
Mesa Police Dept.
130 N. Robson Rd.
Mesa, AZ 85201
(602) 834-2662

REGION 7

ID, OR, WA
Pete Summers
Gresham Police Dept.
1333 N.W. Eastman Parkway
Gresham, OR 97030
(503) 661-3000

REGION 8

CA, NV, HI
Pete Camarena
Manteca Police Dept.
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

The Instructor Certification Committee Report

The Instructor Certification Committee has tentatively decided that the first program offered by IALEFI should be a five day senior handgun instructor workshop. Lesson plans for such a program are currently being prepared, and will be reviewed by the committee prior to the ATC in September. Any IALEFI members with input or questions should contact the committee chairman, Emanuel Kapelsohn, at:

Peregrine Corporation
P.O. Box 170
Bowers, PA 19511
(215) 682-7147

Training Criteria Committee Report

by O. Frank Repass

The Training Criteria Committee is in the process of updating the Firearms Training Standards Manual for IALEFI. The existing standards need to be updated plus standards need to be set for areas such as semi-automatic handguns, submachine guns, and rifles. In these areas, the subject of tactics, topics, amount of initial training, and yearly update training needs to be addressed.

The importance of developing proper standards are obvious and can affect everyone in the industry. IALEFI members are encouraged to review the Firearm Training Standard Manual and send your input to the Committee Chairman.

The Training Criteria Committee is also soliciting for more courses of fire for IALEFI Tactical Handbook. If you have any new courses of fire for handgun, shotgun, rifle, S.M.G. or semi-automatic, please send them to the address below. These courses, if selected, will be held until the printing of the second edition.

Send your correspondence to Committee Chairman, O. Frank Repass, at:
Orlando Police Department
100 S. Hughey Avenue
Orlando, Florida 32801
Phone 407-246-2468.

Site Selection Committee

by Anthony M. Januzelli

September 22 marks the beginning of another excellent IALEFI Annual

Professional Training

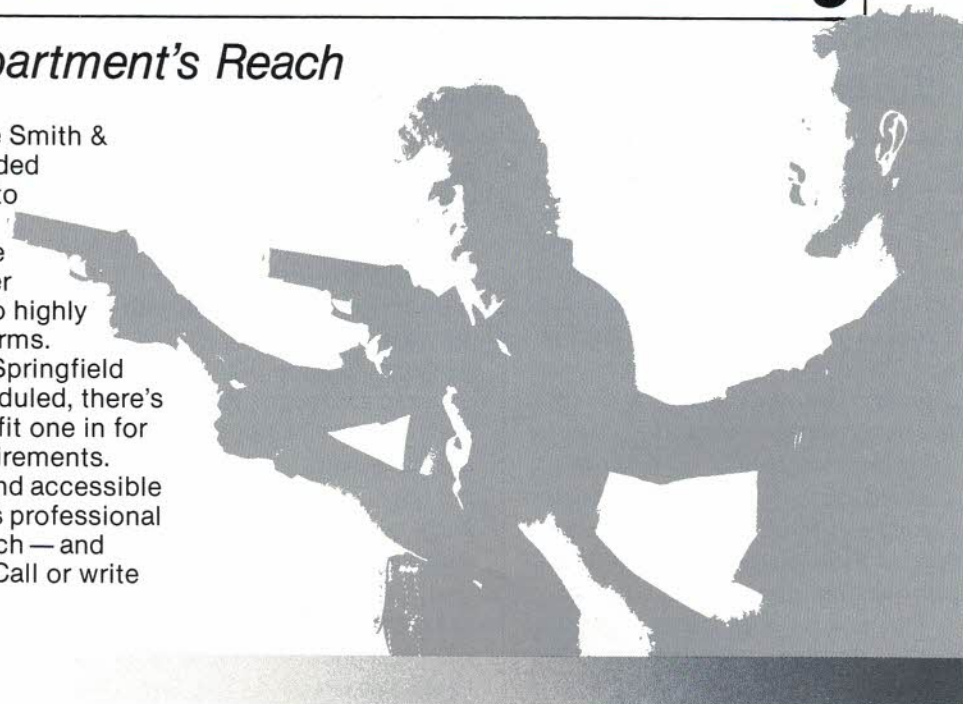
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Conference. You will have the opportunity to meet with some of the top instructors in the country, and discuss with them a wide range of topics. You will learn new techniques and even be able to get answers to any problems that you have encountered in training. The diversity of this year's topics should be helpful to everyone.

Another opportunity that exists during the conference is for patch collectors. You will meet with instructors from all over the US and foreign countries. Remember when packing your gear for Mesa to pack your Department patches for trading. Mine are all ready to go. Hope to see you in Mesa.

The 1992 Annual Conference will be hosted by the Hillsborough County Sheriffs Dept. in the Tampa/St. Petersburg, FL area. If you are interested in hosting the Annual conference in 1993 or after please contact me at:

Anthony M. Januzelli
88 Oaklyn Ave.
Norristown, PA 19403
(215) 539-0798

IALEFI Region II Training Conference

*by Franklin D. McBee
Region II Coordinator*

The Kennedy Space Center located on the east coast of Florida played host for the fourth Region II Regional Training Conference held on April 30 and May 1, 1991. The conference was attended by sixty local, state and federal firearms instructors from as far away as Georgia. The conference addressed new techniques within the "four basic food groups" of firearms instruction—pistol, shotgun, rifle and submachine gun.

My personal appreciation goes out to the instructors who dedicated their time and knowledge to make this conference a strong success. Lt. William Barousse, Rangemaster of the Kennedy Space Center assisted me in the

coordination of the conference as well as teaching a tremendous class on submachine gun techniques. He and his staff were instrumental in making sure the conference went off without a hitch.

Frank Repass, 1st Vice-President of IALEFI and the Rangemaster of the Orlando Police Department conducted a class on the latest autopistol techniques which proved to be very informative and beneficial to all who attended. By addressing areas of critical concern, Frank was able to identify training problems and provide alternatives to overcome those problems.

Sgt. Don Smith from the Palm Bay Police Department and President of "Law Enforcement Small Arms Tactics" enlightened the attendees on the application of the rifle in law enforcement. Being a former member of the Marine Corps Rifle Team and now a police officer for more than ten years, Don has an acute understanding of the rifle and its role in law enforcement.

Andrew Seminik, Rangemaster of the Melbourne Police Department and IALEFI member, presented a class on the shotgun. A strong reminder to us all that even with the proliferation of the submachine gun and the rifle in law enforcement, the shotgun still remains a formidable weapon within the police armory.

I would also like to express my gratitude to the corporations who either assisted or sent door prizes for the conference. Springfield Armory, who donated a P9 pistol, Por-Ta Targets for their donation of a steel reactive target and Bianchi for their donation of a gift package. The folks at Winchester and Zero sent ammunition which was much appreciated after all the rounds that the attendees shot.

Lastly, I would like to thank those who attended the conference. The heat was extreme for that time of year, which made the conference somewhat of a challenge. As always, I enjoyed developing the conference but en-

joyed even more seeing old friends and making new ones. The interaction between professional firearms instructors is always enlightening, entertaining and extremely motivating.

The All Important First Shot

by Mike Hargreaves

This shot, this bullet/protective impact point, and time to that impact, starts while the handgun is still in the holster.

It is not good enough that we instruct shooting as though it is a sport or recreation activity, or job related pain in the butt to be done once or twice a year.

We as firearms instructors should be teaching our student officers to fight with a gun, not sport shoot. This fight ability is probably 90% mental and 10% physical and without a deep subconscious conviction that you will win, even though shot or injured, you could just give up.

UNEXPECTEDABLE

Let me lay down some ground rules to establish first shot hit probability.

- Must use same gun, same place, always! If at all possible.
- Must use duty ammunition to practice, and qualify, or very near equivalent.
- If duty holster, duty or undercover type with thumb break, must be fastened for all range work.
- The dress of the day on the range, re qual—or tactical exercises, must be as work uniform always.

Same thought pattern for extra magazines, or speed loaders, same place always.

We must examine the work area of each student, then build a program, single, or unit size to have as close a relation to actual job as possible.

A simple example: if regular duty as inner city patrol encompasses domestics in apartments, and non-

felony vehicle stops, set up apartment home, stairs, wall, rooms, and elevator sized range exercises. Use real vehicles, with targets in and around vehicles, simulate stress with rapid movement, and driving before range exercises.

All of the above is worth nothing unless access to actual shoot reports from your own or other agencies close to home. To know what really happens, gives you historical overview, and the ability to spot trends.

Point Shooting vs. Aimed Shooting Some Observations

by Robert A. Schwartz

W. Waller & Sons, Inc., Norwalk, CT

Point shooting versus aimed shooting, the controversy continues to polarize shooters. As trainers, we are acutely aware more shootings are occurring at closer distances and within abbreviated time frames. Does this mean accurate aimed shooting must be subordinated to shooting fast, or more fundamentally, is accurate, aimed shooting inconsistent with shooting fast?

Distance, we are taught, gives an advantage to the trained shooter. We instill the basics—sight picture, trigger control, stance, grip, follow through—but now close encounters of the violent kind are negating the distance advantage. Compounding this close distance disadvantage is having to react to an aggressor's action. We tell our students, watch a potential aggressor's hands. We also tell our students, watch the front sight. Since the conscious mind cannot perform two tasks at one time have we seemingly built in a conflict?

To respond to a threat, we must first perceive the threat. To perceive the threat, we must direct our attention to the potential threat area. The threat now becomes the target. But when

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shooting you are not supposed to watch the target, you are to watch the front sight. Where is the front sight? It is in your holster. At this point it would be not only difficult watching the front sight but impractical. So we watch the threat. This is not so bad, tunnel vision excluded.

We project a visual sight line from our eye to the threat, target. The draw, weapon presentation, brings the gun out of the holster and thrusts it forward and upward into our cone of vision where we begin to peripherally see the front sight, flash sight picture. In essence, it may be more accurate to say we are watching *FOR* the front sight. As the gun ascends within the cone of vision and onto our projected visual sight line we change our focus

from the target to the front sight and as the gun completes its forward thrust we press the trigger.

The subconscious mind performs this complex psychomotor task more efficiently and with greater speed than the conscious mind. This is why we train. We know the subconscious (cerebellum) can perform a sequence of tasks quickly and efficiently without our conscious (cerebrum) attention after sufficient repetition. We are utilizing long term muscle memory programmed to react to a stimulus, the threat. Because the subconscious is working faster than the conscious it may appear we are point shooting but we are watching (*FOR*) the front sight, aimed shooting.

Shoot, Don't Shoot vs. Proper Response

by Robert P. Butler

Carrollton, Texas Police Department

Every good firearms instructor I know favors training that subjects officers to decision-making under pressure over the standard requalification shooting. Some of these instructors have successfully marketed with management and established valid courses of fire which simulate 'the street.' Many firearms instructors, endeavoring to market such a program, have met with disappointment when they were unable to overcome the standard roadblocks—time and manpower needs.

This article is directed at the greatest roadblock of all—the skeptical police manager.

The skeptical police manager has probably seen some or all of the 'Shoot, Don't Shoot' commercial packages out there and his response to your sales pitch to purchase and implement one of these might be, "I feel that this type of training tends to make officers trigger-happy." He might cite an actual occurrence in a nearby jurisdiction wherein a police shooting incident led to a complaint which alleged that the training system an officer had been subjected to caused him to be "quick on the draw" or "trigger-happy." Whether the incident was resolved in favor of the officer or not, the inference remains that such training might be construed by the community as negative. The police manager, sensitive to the outcry, resolves the problem and soothes the aroused citizenry in the most obvious way—such training is discontinued.

The wise firearms instructor knows that anticipation and preparation of a defensible response is the only chance he has to counter the argument put forth by the skeptical police manager.

Some of you reading this are

already hopping-mad, and that's good. It shows that you still care, have not given up, and are willing to stay with this article long enough to determine that the author is not just serving sympathy, but may have a solution to your problem. We're going to get inside the mind of the skeptical police manager and go on the offensive for a change.

Let's begin by examining the title "Shoot, Don't Shoot." If your training course contains this language, or even refers to it—cross it out. Eliminate the title from your vocabulary. Those who refute this type of training say that

"Stress-Training" comes to mind, or how about "Critical-Response Training"? Your imagination can come up with lots of appropriate terminology that does not include the word "shoot."

Now let's consider what other options might be available to a trainee being subjected to pressure-type scenarios, and these are just a few:

1. **Speak.** Some scenarios cry out for the officer to say something, and many are at a loss for words.
2. **Give a command.** This is a drill. It must be repeated, and it must be the correct command to fit the situation.

Let's begin by examining the title "Shoot, Don't Shoot."

"Shoot, Don't Shoot" limits the trainee to two responses, and they are right. Any training course which subjects an officer to a restricted number of choices infers that these are the only choices available. If you argue that you are endeavoring to expose the officer to more realistic training, is it realistic to limit their responses to two? Of course it isn't.

If the title offends, change it. Around 1970, the Firearms Training Unit of the FBI endeavored to market hollowpoint bullets for Agents to FBI management. The effort was met with the old "Geneva Convention razoo" about "dum-dums and hollowpoints." A genius changed the wording from "hollowpoint" to "controlled-expansion projectile," and charmed management into believing that management might have even invented the term. Thus approached, necessary signatures were secured, and FBI Agents have been carrying "controlled-expansion projectiles" ever since.

If "Shoot, Don't Shoot" won't sell, then what will? Call it anything you think suitable, as long as it describes decision-making under pressure.

3. **Identify yourself as an officer.** Timing is vital here. Yelling "Police Officer" prior to drawing your weapon on an armed adversary can be fatal.

4. **Take cover.** The officer who takes cover in every scenario while deciding what appropriate action is required cannot be faulted. Scenarios which fail to provide cover as an option when cover would normally be available are simply unrealistic.

5. **Feign compliance.** When confronted by an armed assailant who already has the drop on you at combat distances, reaching for your own weapon—still holstered—is the surest way to insure that he will fire. A more appropriate survival move might be to feign compliance while assessing the situation quickly to see if cover might be near enough to reach, how many assailants might be involved, etc. Stated more simply, the officer who is urged to draw and fire at each armed target that faces him on a firing range, may be programmed to make that

same response in a street situation, thereby causing and allowing an armed adversary to fire the first shot.


6. Adopt a ready-gun position. A proper and realistic scenario tells the trainee—before he confronts the target—who he is, whether he is uniformed or in plain-clothes, what type of call he is responding to, and any other information he would be aware of if he were walking or driving into this situation out on the street. If the trainee evaluates this information and determines that “ready-gun” is the safe way to enter this scenario, then it is realistic to allow him to do so.

If the decision-making course contrived by the firearms instructor subjects trainees to twelve scenarios, and only three or four of the twelve involve the display or use of his firearm, critics will be hard-pressed to describe this training as “Shoot, Don’t Shoot” training which limits the police response and invites criticism.

I feel very strongly about immediate critique following the completion of each scenario. To rush the trainee from one scenario to the next is a form of pressure, but it is not realistic. Lessons which might be learned and reflected upon are quickly abandoned in favor of preparation for the next crisis, and when the slam-bam rush-through course is completed, the trainee remembers little other than lots of stress and jumbled thoughts.

Another criticism of stress-type firearms training is also valid. Some say that an officer adopts a “shooter mentality” when he trains on the firing range with his weapon and live ammo. After all, that’s what he went there to do, isn’t it? Yes, but we can temper this complaint with a two-fold response. First, training with live ammunition cannot be safely conducted at any other place. Secondly, much of the training given during stress-type training did not involve an armed response, and these scenarios can be

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documented. You might want to add that the trainees were subjected to a classroom training in preparation for the "stress course," and they were told at the outset that many of the stressful situations they would be subjected to did not involve the use of firearms.

Can the same complaint be made where officers train with laser/electronic gear, wax bullets, paint guns, and Hollywood Bullets? Of course it can. When an officer puts on the electrode vest, holsters the specialty weapon, dons the protective goggles, he is preparing for war. The same solution applies. Temper the scenarios with non-violent solutions—just like real life.

Finally, nobody learns anything from "no-win" scenarios. An officer alerts himself mentally based on experience and hearsay. He will be more vulnerable to assault by a shoplifter than when responding to an armed robbery. Scenarios involving trained actors must be "winnable" if the trainee uses appropriate actions, and he should be taken advantage of *only* if the actors catch him making a tactical error. If your department conducts such training in what is now known as the "shooting-house," consider changing the name to "stress-house," or something similar.

In summary, firearms instructors willing to soften their image through the use of language and common sense are much more likely to turn the skeptical police manager into a supporter than those who continue to fight the system. Your training will continue to be just as stressful, and you may learn some things you didn't want to know about officers who do well when faced with "Shoot, Don't Shoot," but are unable to cope when faced with more than two options. I think all will agree that, given a choice, we'd rather be backed-up by the officer renowned for making fast "proper responses" than by the best marksman, unless of course, the same officer possesses both of these qualities.

Sidearm Training Must Be Valid

by Aron S. Lipman
Personal Protection Systems Ltd.

Over the last twelve years I have been active in side arm training for both the law enforcement and civilian community. During this period I have had the privilege of working with some of the most capable instructors in the industry. They include Ken Hackathorn, Massad Ayoob, John Farnham, and many others too numerous to mention.

What I have tried to do is take what I consider the best from each of these instructors and incorporate this knowledge into the training I offer my students.

What I have gleaned from all these instructors, which I believe is 100% valid, is that the following three principles must apply: 1) Under stress a person will react as they have been conditioned, and under stress it is the person's subconscious that takes over. That is why conditioning is so important. 2) KISS (keep it simple stupid). This is not meant as an insult, but logically, the least number of steps necessary to accomplish a task, the easier it will be to train a person's subconscious. 3) Under stress a person will only attempt what they believe can be accomplished.

The side arm is primarily a reactive, and not a proactive weapon. For those people involved in law enforcement engaging in a dangerous situation, the long arm would be the weapon of choice, and as everyone in the instructional field knows, the side arm is the most difficult to maintain proficiency and master.

People involved in law enforcement training agree that under stress an individual will lose a minimum of 30% of their normal proficiency. It is also agreed that side arm encounters are usually over in less than three seconds at under thirty feet, ten feet or less being the norm.

Peter Tarley, of Police Training Division Inc., sent me the following statistics: Of all side arm training and qualifications, 95% is done on some form of modified PPC course. With a maximum score of 300 based on the 3, 4, 5 scoring system, usually up to a maximum of twenty-five yards. Of all officers qualifying, the average score is 85%. Yet, in actual statistics from law enforcement encounters, the score is only 15%. In other words, in qualifying at much longer distances than are normally encountered, 85 out of every 100 shots engage the target. In the real world, where distances are extreme close quarter, only 15 out of every 100 shots engage the target. This should give thought to those of us in the instructional field of ways in which we can better prepare our students to face real-world situations.

Since we moved into our new facility with indoor range two years ago, I have had the privilege of putting over one hundred students through various training programs.

From statistics and other instructors I have worked with, I am convinced that if the problem, whether it be single or multiple assailants, is not solved in approximately three seconds, you would then become the victim.

We have been working with ARM-STEEL Electrically Controlled 180 degree Targets, Action Target Mover and the Realistic Target System, which allows the instructor to switch from "good guy to bad guy." Training is done under different lighting conditions and attempts to represent the types of scenarios the students will come across in *their* real world.

Obviously a civilian who keeps a firearm at home purely for self defense does not require the types of scenarios that a tactical officer would need doing entries. Also, a uniformed officer requires different training than an undercover officer. I would suggest to those of us involved in the instructional field that we should first analyze the types of situations our individual



student might come up against. This is not difficult to do, by analyzing the reports in previous situations in that particular environment. We should then design the training scenarios to meet the individual needs of the students.

In conclusion, I also believe in the adage, "... a chain is only as strong as its weakest link." If a particular technique will only work for the strongest students and not the weakest, this technique should be abandoned or modified to find the technique that will work for the weakest students, as it will work brilliantly for the strongest students.

BIG versus Small: The Final Chapter

by David M. Grossi

Somewhere, hidden under all those dusty ballistic tables of the 10mm, 38 super and 40 S&W, a very important concept in "stopping power" has been lost. The real truth to delivering "stopping power" is bullet placement. You can be firing a cannon, folks! But unless you're hitting your target, you aren't delivering stopping power.

Generally speaking, *bigger bullets are better*. Only a myopic, narrow-minded novice would dispute the scientific evidence that BIG, WIDE DEEP HOLES in the vital, blood-bearing organs of the body will increase the odds of rapid and sudden incapacitation. All the ancient hype about muzzle velocity has generally been disproven when it comes to delivering reliable deadly force with a handgun. In fact, most modern, knowledgeable firearms instructors now agree that the handgun is generally a very ineffective method of delivering deadly force. As a Vietnam combat vet, I can attest that TRUE "stopping power" is a 50 cal with 5,000 rounds of API. But it's also not practical for today's street cop to cart around anything larger than a 4" or 5" barrel sidearm.

In today's mechanized "street beat" environment, we have to settle for medium to heavy caliber handguns that run the gamut from 38's to 45's with a good deal of variance in between.

Reams of irrelevant trivia have been written by a host of authors, some espousing their own esoteric theories, others authenticating their own real life incidents, and still others reporting their "basement ballistic" tests into everything from wet telephone books to jello-filled store mannequins.

But, as we say in Calibre Press' *Street Survival*® seminar, the truth is that WHERE YOU HIT IS MORE IMPORTANT THAN WHAT YOU HIT WITH!

I've had the pleasure, and the honor, of studying under one of today's most knowledgeable persons in the area of wound ballistics. Col. Martin Fackler, M.D., from the U.S. Army Wound Ballistic Laboratory, at the Letterman Institute in San Francisco, California, conducted one of the most exhaustive studies in the area of wound ballistics several years ago. His initial objective was to investigate rifle ammunition ballistics, but his tests later identified handgun rounds and their capabilities in causing rapid and sudden incapacitation. He presented his facts to the FBI Firearms Training Unit during the 1987 Wound Ballistic Workshop at Quantico, Virginia. His results, coupled with the now infamous FBI shootout in Miami, led to the FBI's adopting the 10mm semi-auto as their duty sidearm and the 10mm "lite" subsonic hollowpoint as their duty ammunition. Thereafter, the 38 super was "re-invented" and the 40 S&W caliber was designed and is now being manufactured by a host of gun companies and has been adopted by several agencies. As a career cop and trainer, I think this is great! But, I hope that through all of this, we haven't discarded the real issues and the most important factor in delivering effective, reliable deadly force and that is... marksmanship.

Recently, I had a discussion with a

fellow trainer from Florida who was telling me about the financial constraints he is experiencing regarding his range budget. He is being asked to make cuts in his 1991 firearms training budget. As it now stands, his agency trains twice a year with their new semi-automatics. They didn't follow his recommendations that suggested going to thrice annually with the new guns to maintain the "critical learning curve" in psycho-motor skills with semi-autos. Twice a year might have been fine with revolvers, but those fine motor skills with semi-autos need more frequent "reminders" and three to four times a year was suggested with the new semi-autos. Needless to say, it was discarded as excessive and an unnecessary luxury and the agency stayed at twice annually. Now, he is being asked to cut back to *once a year* training and qualifications.

From this author's perspective, here is an accident waiting to happen. The agency just adopted these new guns, and frequent training and practice is essential with these new weapons, so the psycho-motor skills needed to perform with them can become imbedded in their subconscious mind. Now that training time is being cut in half. An equipment solution to a training problem? Maybe. "We bought them new guns, that's enough." That mentality may come back to haunt them in millions of dollars after the first shooting with those new guns, and a knowledgeable expert comes into Federal Court and explains the learning curves of semi-automatics to the jury.

Which brings me back to my original point. Are we emphasizing the real needs here or is this new trend to bigger guns and more ammo missing the main point... *accuracy, marksmanship, and more training* in realistic type scenarios.

Let's put the argument to bed once and for all. The debate of BIG versus small isn't worth the ink, gang! What's important is hitting what you're aiming at. You're responsible for every

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shot you fire out there. Yeah, it's nice to have 15, 16, or 17 rounds. . . but if you're firing that many rounds to accomplish your task, and only hitting the target 3 times, maybe you better take a look at your training.

David Grossi is the Senior Instructor for the Calibre Press, Inc. STREET SURVIVAL seminar. He is the former Firearms Commander for the Irondequoit (NY) Police Department. He is an IALEFI member and his articles on Firearms Training and Use of Force have appeared in numerous publications and professional journals. He is a previous contributor to the IALEFI Newsletter. He has testified as an Expert Witness in both State and Federal Court on the righteous use of deadly force. He is a scheduled presenter for the 1991 ATC in Mesa, Arizona.

Some Thoughts on Police Firearm Training

by Dave Stanley

The majority of police recruits are not gun enthusiasts when they join. Nor are they particularly interested in pursuing any outside activity with the handgun after returning from their ten weeks at the Academy. However, when someone indicates a flicker of interest in a shooting program and shows promise in the advanced courses we encourage them to enter one of the local PPC or IPSC competitions. Doing so brings out the realization that it is necessary to really *try* when getting the shot off in order to make a satisfactory score. Among other things, it is an excellent means of learning proper trigger control.

This in turn, sharpens the performance under a mild amount of stress, which shows up advantageously in the departmental qualification program.

Experience has shown that most of whom might be termed as average police officers, seem content with just getting by with the handgun qualifica-

tion requirements and let it go at that.

Every IALEFI member will attest to that.

On the other hand, when an in-service handgun course is adopted to teach advanced firearm training and tactics, the door is opened for an officer to really get interested in improving himself.

Now, he can rate an EXPERT pin and, in some cases, the DISTINGUISHED EXPERT or MASTER bar.

What such an achievement does for the officer's ego and self confidence is very satisfying for all concerned. Benefits are realized for the Agency as well as the community. Of course it also brings a warm glow of satisfaction to a hard working Firearm Instructor whose patience and teaching expertise has been rewarded.

What has proven successful in most cases, is when enthusiasm for the program is shared by all parties involved; with positive results being virtually guaranteed.

This has not always been the case, as the following shows.

In the mid 1970's there was a Federal Law Enforcement program termed: CETA. In part, it provided funds for improving a variety of law enforcement activities on the local level. Benefits included: updating radio systems and equipment, older vehicles along with existing firearms could be replaced for the latest models and new people could be hired to expand the agency.

One of the most important benefits was financing the educational program for all sworn officers which, in turn, made them eligible for a 15% increment to their base pay. This required an officer's attending the Academy for ten weeks and here in Kentucky it created good response.

Our county, McCracken, decided to form a County Police under the CETA program. I was the first one hired, having just left the State Park Rangers. A fully equipped vehicle was ordered along with uniforms for those being hired.

Fortunately, the first order of business was to institute a training program for these new people, whether or not they had prior police experience. Learning the proper way to patrol along with a weekly trip to the range got top priority. This became one basis of whether or not the person would become a full time officer in the Department.

When the probation period was over, they were then scheduled to attend the Academy. In several cases we had developed some accomplished shots. They were firing in the high 90's on a qualification course prior to going to school, and I was pleased to learn that our officers' range performance, in nearly every case, put them at the head of the class.

In one amusing incident, when one of our men went to the range and fired his Colt Trooper for score on the test course at the end of the program, it was reported that his target for all shots showed one ragged hole. When the target was scored he got a very low grade. As you might expect, this caused quite a storm of protest to those in charge and upon checking, they learned that the scorer had been instructed to only count the bullet holes he could see. He had taken those making up the perimeter of the hole and scored the target accordingly.

I do not believe the Academy even blushed over that boo-boo but it does give pause for thought as to how well trained their graduate students really were with the handgun.

One thing was established: the handgun prowess of students coming from the McCracken County Police Department was something to be reckoned with.

CETA suffered the same fate as LEAA and the demise of Federal Assistance programs will often bring down local programs with them.

Out of each Federal program, law enforcement registers a gain. In the field of Firearm Training we have seen enormous strides. It wasn't too far back that the bullseye target was the

only thing you saw on the police range. The handgun was fired by one hand. New revolvers came in a box which contained a drawing of a policeman standing and aiming his gun. Back in the early 1930's this constituted police firearm training. The larger cities had ranges for their police but the training was still standing and firing with one hand at a bullseye target.

Then, along came the FBI, and J. Edgar Hoover.

An Academy was established at Quantico, Virginia and Mr. Hoover brought in a gentleman from Montana by the name of Ed McGivern to set up a firearm training program. McGivern's credentials included the proven ability to fire an out of the box Smith & Wesson Military Police .38 Special—6 shots, double action, in 2/5 second at 10 feet, with the five bullet holes grouped in an area which could be covered by a playing card.

Double action firing was now to become the conventional mode of shooting a revolver. I remember having a Military and Police Smith & Wesson. Always shot it single action and it was a long time before I ever ventured the double action mode. Could not even hit the paper, much less the bullseye. That all changed when the FBI training methods began to be adopted by police departments. Man size targets were introduced and the FBI course started at 60 yards prone, 50 yards barricade, then on to 25 and, finally, 7 yards.

Of particular interest to present day Firearm Instructors is that the shooters would all start at the same time at 60 yards. When finished with that six rounds they would run to 50. When finished there, on to 25 etc.

One problem was that the scores from the shorter distances got worse instead of better because the fast shooters were now ahead of the slow shooters who were still firing from the longer distances. Hardly an example of safe range practices. Some guys even got shot in the process so they

changed the rules by developing a new course whereby all the shooters started at 7 yards and moved back like it is done today.

It might be said that police firearm training has been improving steadily. In my estimation, the rate has been too slow. New procedures and methods have come about in some case as a result of tragedies. Cops being killed during night time hours so someone decides to program a night fire course. Now, it's part of most all the training scenarios. The practical benefits of the kneeling position were realized when it was taken from the 25 yard distance and brought up to 10 or 15 and made a tactical move when a barricade was not available.

Probably the principal motivation towards improving police firearm training programs has been the threat of liability law suits. It has received a whole lot of attention by every agency and all Firearm Instructors. In the number two spot, behind the welfare of the officer him/herself, is the innocent bystander. Not only someone in the line of fire from the officer but someone in the line of fire behind the officer, as well. All potential meat on the table for some hungry lawyer with a client.

Plenty of other worries, too. Hostages is one.

Very much on the plus side is the caliber of police Firearm Instructors available today. They do creative thinking and these ideas are published for the benefit of other Instructors as well as officers of smaller departments who do not have a qualified Firearm Instructor.

With all the ramifications associated with instructing police officers the art of handling and firing their handgun in a safe and effective manner, it requires a properly trained man or woman to get the job done.

That is why Police Firearm Instructors are rated as professionals in the field. A proud banner to bear.

Perhaps not all of them are members of IALEFI, but they should be.

Weapon Retention

by Paul Trautman
Springfield, PA

The most important area of weapon retention involves the proper mental condition and the appropriate response. If the individual officer fails to be mentally prepared and alert as to maintaining his/her weapon, then most other aspects of weapon retention become pointless.

Every officer must be fully alert to the fact that he/she has a weapon and does in fact take it on every call. If the officer is always conscious of this fact, then he/she will make decisions that enhance their ability to maintain their weapon and to reduce the opportunities of losing it. This mental attitude is transmitted to the proper use of tactics; from positioning to arrest techniques.

Positioning is probably the number one problem area for most officers; however, it is the easiest to correct. Proper positioning can reduce weapon vulnerability by placing the weapon in a position that increases the difficulty for its removal.

The officer should always use the proper interview stance even when speaking to non-threatening subjects. The basic interview stance begins by maintaining a reactionary distance between the officer and the suspect. This distance makes an upper body strike impossible without some type of movement that could be detected by the officer. Once detected, the officer could initiate the appropriate response.

The officer should also keep his body angled 30 to 45 degrees with the weapon side away from his suspect. When possible, an alert officer should use available barriers to make it more difficult for the suspect to reach the officer. Barriers could include the patrol vehicle's hood or a table which would impede the suspect's movement toward the officer. If no barriers

are readily available, then the suspect could be restricted by asking him/her to sit down. This would increase the difficulty for the suspect to mount an attack on the officer. This tactic is also excellent when involved with multiple suspects and while waiting for back-up units.

If proper positioning is used, weapon removal possibilities are dramatically reduced and the constant use of this positioning will eventually become second nature to each officer.

Another problem area in weapon retention is viewed during arrest techniques. Officers still use the wall or the vehicle, frisk and search tactic that allows the advantage to be with the offender. Once a decision is made to arrest, the suspect should be immediately handcuffed and then searched. This restricts his/her hands which in turn reduces their ability to mount any offensive action and it allows the officer to control the suspect during the subsequent search.

If the officer is involved in a "stop and frisk" where the actor is not arrested (yet), the officer should use a tactic which controls the suspect's hands during the frisk. There are several good methods currently employed and could be taught during in-service training.

Another common error made by a great number of police is the practice of unsnapping or unlocking the restraining device on their holster. It is assumed that this act would facilitate a "quicker draw;" however, the question remains, Quicker for who? the officer or the offender? The holster should remain snapped or the restraining device left in place at **ALL** times unless the weapon is being drawn. If reasonably practiced, the speed of the draw will not be affected; however, this will slow down the offender's effort to retrieve the officer's weapon.

Probably one of the most common and fatal mistakes made is impatience. Officers repeatedly fail to request or wait for another unit to assist

before attempting to stop or an arrest. This places the officer at a tactical disadvantage and increases the possibility of a weapon take-away. Numerous police officers are not in "prime" physical condition and are not much of a match for a "one on one" situation. Additional manpower can equalize the confrontation and move the advantage back to the police officer.

removal. Some comfort may have to be sacrificed in order to have a more retentive holster.

Equally as important is the position of the holster on each officer. Many officers wear the holster toward the front of the belt. This presents the weapon to the offender and may help suggest to the suspect to attempt a weapon take-away. This forward position may also assist the offender in the removal

Positioning is probably the number one problem area for most officers.

The final preventive area for weapon retention lies in the equipment used and its placement on the officer. There are many fine retentive holsters on the market that do exactly what they were designed to do; impede a quick, unwanted draw. This is accomplished in a number of ways which include the use of multiple snaps and retaining devices connected with changing the direction of the draw. The problem develops when the officer assumes that the holster will defeat a take-away attempt. The result of that assumption could have officers lacking the proper mental attitude and to dispense with good tactics believing them to be unnecessary. The officers fail to realize that if the officer can draw the weapon, so can the offender. Given enough time, an offender can defeat the security holster and secure the weapon. At this point the officer would be forced to use additional tactics to defeat these efforts.

Plainclothes officers also have to make certain decisions with respect to equipment. Detectives seem to have their favorite style of holster; however, most are chosen for comfort and concealability with almost no forethought for retention. Examples are holsters that fail to secure the weapon in it and also fail to secure the holster to the officer. Prior to purchasing any style holster, samples should be obtained and tested for ease of weapon

of the weapon from the holster. Holster positioning is of equal importance for plainclothes officers. Cross-draw and front holsters could reduce weapon retention allowing for easy removal or disarmament.

Provided the aforementioned items are utilized by officers, the need for overt weapon retention and take-away tactics would be greatly reduced. With this in mind, any training program for weapon retention should include mental attitude, survival tactics and employment of the proper equipment and its placement. After these objectives are met (viewed as preventive maintenance), then the instructor can begin to train weapon retention tactics for both in and out of the holster. Training should also include weapon take-away instruction in the event the situation is reversed.

Instruction should be as simple as possible. This helps the officer retain the techniques for both practice and for reality should it become necessary to utilize an appropriate tactic. As a resulting belief in the K.I.S.S. method of instruction, a simple four step procedure was developed which is easily taught, remembered and utilized. It is the result of the review of numerous retention methods and I would encourage instructors not to hesitate in developing their own methods which are tailored to their individual departments and needs.

The *first* step is to secure the weapon. In the holster, this is accomplished by placing a hand around and across the top of the holster/weapon. Once this grip is established, the weapon will remain in the holster. Out of the holster, the officer should insure he has a solid grip on the weapon.

The *second* step is to turn away from the attack. In the holster, this will place the offender off balance and fully extend his/her arm. Turning should be done with the whole body including the feet as this makes it difficult for the offender to prevent. It would be the same for out of holster scenarios.

The *third* step is to strike the offender's arm. This strike could be accomplished with a swift hit to the elbow area of the extended arm of the offender in an upward motion. This will cause the offender to release his/her grip on the officer's weapon. *GREAT CARE* should be exercised during instruction as it does not take much force to injure your training partner.

The *final* step is to disengage from the offender. This will create a gap which will allow the officer to initiate and effect an arrest of the offender by whatever method the officer determines is appropriate.

It should be noted that this procedure does not give specific instructions with regard to which hand the offender has used, etc. The procedure simply states what must be accomplished and allows for various holds and strikes that any officer may utilize. It is easily compared with the A.B.C.'s of C.P.R. "A" stands for airway and it does not dictate which particular method is employed as long as the goal is accomplished. "B" stands for breathing—mouth to mouth, mouth to nose, mouth to mask, etc. Get the picture?

Weapon disarmament methods are also numerous and no one method is the ultimate solution; however, the

same four step method can be utilized to effectively disarm an assailant. It is understood that disarmament should only be tried if certain conditions are favorable for the officer such as distance and weapon placement and it should be a last resort as it is dangerous to employ and a "miss" may cause the offender to act.

First, the officer should secure the weapon which can be accomplished by grabbing it using the same side hand that the offender is using.

Second the officer should turn the weapon to the inside which reduces the possibility of a discharge and also takes advantage of the weak spot of the offender's wrist.

The third step is to strike the offender with such force and placement as to convince his hand to release the

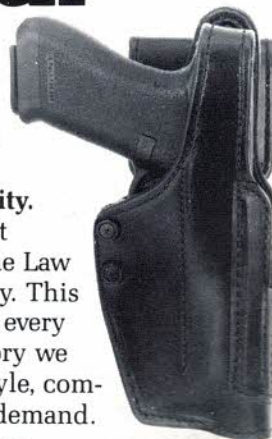
weapon. These strikes are most effective to the groin area or the eyes.

Once the offender has released the weapon the officer should disengage to allow for the formation of a plan of escape or arrest.

It should be understood that there are no perfect solutions that work 100% of the time and that without practice, no method is effective. Training programs should have certain flexibility built in which allows each officer to improvise if necessary.

The final and most important lesson for the instructor to relate to the students is the desire not to quit under any circumstances. Each officer should resist and fight to maintain their weapon as their life and the lives of their families depend on their success.

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