



The Case Head

The Official Publication of the Massachusetts Law Enforcement
Firearms Instructors & Armors Association

Winter 2007-2008



**JANUARY MEETING AT SMITH & WESSON ACADEMY
JANUARY 22, 2008 10:00 A.M.**

The Case Head

The official publication of the
Massachusetts Law Enforcement Firearms Instructors & Armorers Association
P.O. Box 253, Princeton, MA 01541-0253

MISSION STATEMENT

The Massachusetts Law Enforcement Firearms Instructors' & Armorers' Association was formed to promote professionalism, continuing education, improvement in training methods and techniques of the proper law enforcement use of firearms in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

The Association strives to promote and foster mutual cooperation between instructors. Through discussion and a common interest in law enforcement firearms training, officer survival and tactical skills, MLEFIAA hopes to keep the members at the forefront of firearms training. Through our monthly meetings and annual training conference, we provide a means for the exchange of ideas and information regarding law enforcement firearms training, training methods, educational activities and new firearms technologies.

MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

MLEFIAA currently has over 400 members. While mainly from Massachusetts, our membership extends internationally to countries as far away as Sweden. The Association endeavors to secure new members from the law enforcement training community who are engaged in the field of firearms training, maintenance, education or related fields. Our goal is to continuously upgrade the level of firearms training of law enforcement personnel here in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

Membership is offered at two levels - Active & Associate. Active membership is open to all duly sworn law enforcement officers of any local, county, state, federal or specialized law enforcement agency within the Commonwealth of Massachusetts; whose official duties include the training of law enforcement personnel in the proper use of firearms; or whose duties involve the maintenance and repair of firearms for their respective agencies.

Associate membership is open to sworn law enforcement firearms instructors and armorers from agencies outside of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, non-sworn firearms instructors & armorers working within an agency within the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and representatives of private industry who are engaged in the design, development, manufacture, or training in firearms, ammunition and other related technologies designed for law enforcement use.

Complete details can be found at our website: www.MLEFIAA.org

Articles & Letters to the Editor

Articles and letters should be no more than 1000 words in length and submitted in MS Word. Any photos should be in JPEG format. MLEFIAA encourages a healthy discussion of training issues but we require that you keep it level headed and respect opposing views. You do not have to agree, but we will not publish articles that are inflammatory or otherwise do not uphold the reputation of this Association.

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2007 Instructor Training Conference Successful

The 2007 MLEFIAA Instructor Training Conference was held in September and was very successful. The Conference Committee worked hard to put together a program that would be beneficial and fun for all that attended. By acting immediately after the '06 conference, the committee was able to negotiate very favorable rates for this year's event.

MLEFIAA would like to thank the vendors who either made alternative arrangements to attend both or made the decision to attend our show because the people who attend are actually interested in the products and buy them. These vendors include Triple Nickel, Pro-Active Sales & Marketing, Armor Holdings/BAE Systems (Safariland), Hawill's, Hero's, MAGS LLC, Jurek Bros., First Choice Armor and Brite-Strike Technologies. The Asian American Officers Assn. also had a table to educate the members about their efforts. If you find you need a product or service, please keep these vendors in mind. They support our Association and we should support them when the opportunity presents itself.

Our gratitude goes out to all the instructors who volun-

teered their time to make the program a success. Coming from as far away as Sweden or as near as the next town, they all worked hard to provide MLEFIAA is not able to pay any of the instructors so we try to cover hotel and meal expenses. Despite this, there is still a considerable expense for each to come and teach. Without their dedication, this event would not happen.

There is a lot that goes into putting on the conference and MLEFIAA would like to recognize several organizations and individuals who were key players in making it happen this year. The Westminster Police Department made their training facilities available for the Building Search class. We also want to extend our deep appreciation to the Harvard Sportsman's Club for practically shutting down their facility for the three days so our members could have the run of the ranges. The Devens Conference Center and Springhill Suites did a fine job of taking care of our members who stayed over.

As with any event like this, it would not have been possible without the tireless efforts of a few individuals. The membership doesn't see what it takes to put this on and how many hours are

invested before the first round goes down range. Association Secretary Joe Picariello and 3rd VP Bill Peterson began working on this event even before the previous one had drawn to a close. Negotiating the contracts, fielding questions, handling registrations and seeking out instructors began back in October of 2006. This year we had two instructors back out at the last minute which forced Joe Picariello to find replacements and reschedule students so they got the classes they wanted. Bruce Klinger spent countless hours calling businesses to convince them that participating as a vendor made good business sense. When vendors started backing out to go to the R.I. Chief's show, he convinced several to send products to be used in the raffle.

We extend our sincere thanks to Jim Ring for acting as our liaison with the Harvard Sportsman's Club and as Chief Range Master. His services were invaluable. Helping Jim out on a daily basis during the training were Bob Draper and Ed Woodruff. Several other members helped out on single days and our thanks go to them also.

Monthly Meeting Calendar

Jan 22, 2008
S&W Academy
(Elections)

Feb 26, 2008
TBA

Mar 25, 2008
Braintree Rifle & Pistol (hosted by Randolph P.D.)

Apr 22, 2008
Berlin P.D.

May 27, 2008
TBA

June 2008
HSC
Instructor Recerts

July & August
No meeting
Summer Break

Sept 23-26, 2008
Annual Instructor
Conference
Devens / HSC

October 2008
TBA

November 2008
TBA

December 2008
TBA
E-Board
Nominations

Watch your E-mail for details

Executive Board Nominated

At the November meeting, the membership re-nominated the current Association Executive Board for re-election. Per the By-laws, elections will be held at the January meeting which is scheduled to be hosted by Smith & Wesson at the S&W Academy in Springfield.

The 2008 slate includes: Chief Bert DuVernay (New Braintree PD) PRESIDENT; Lt. Ed O'Leary (Randolph PD) 1ST VICE PRESIDENT; Officer Todd Bailey (Duxbury P.D.) 2ND VICE PRESIDENT; Officer Bill Peterson (ret.)

(Wayland Aux. PD) 3RD VICE PRESIDENT; Officer Joe Picariello (Princeton PD) SECRETARY; Marty Michelman - TREASURER; and finally, Officer Bruce Klinger (ret.) (Boxford PD) M-A-A.

President DuVernay called for other nominations from the members who were present - there were none. As in the past, the ballot will contain spaces for members to write in candidates.

After the election in January, the Executive Board will present names to the

President to fill the appointed positions within the Association. These positions include three Training Coordinators, Quartermaster and Editor of the Association's newsletter - The Case Head. The by-laws permit the President to appoint members in good standing to these positions on the advice and consent of the Executive Board. Their terms coincide with the current Board. Any member interested in serving in these positions is asked to contact the Executive Board with their choice.

What Is The Standard For A Retention Holster?

As I was browsing through the latest cop/gun magazine I noticed another retention holster has hit the market. Now before going any further I need to make it clear that the following is based solely on what was written in ad and information posted on their website.

Uncle Mike's has introduced the EVO3 which they claim offers the "ultimate level of security". For those of you who are unfamiliar with the EVO3, it is a Kydex holster that features a rotating hood and retention system which locks into the ejection port. The rotating hood is somewhat similar to the design found on Blackhawk "Serpa" holster.

The advertisement states the holster offers maximum security and the single thumb lever releases all three retention devices for a fast draw. The three retention points are:

1. Rotating hood
2. Ejection port latch
3. Close tolerance between weapon and holster.

At this point I began to shake my head. What constitutes a retention device? Holster manufacturers have created their own definition of what a "retention device" is and I'm not sure that it is uniform between companies or even if it is valid. There is no standard or continuity within the industry. This has led to a muddled view of what a "security holster" really is.

What is a "retention device"? Are all retention devices a level of security? Looking at the full spectrum of holsters on the market, we see many different ideas of what constitutes a retention device. Most common is a strap with a snap which holds the handgun in place. On several new designs, this has been replaced by a rotating hood which must be unlocked by depressing a button lock of some sort.



Uncle Mike's EVO3 "Triple Retention" holster showing the two retention mechanisms. Where is the third? Courtesy of Michael's of Oregon.

Depending on the handgun, it may be retained in the holster by the molded shape of the holster around the cylinder or a rigid block which engages the ejection port. In this case the weapon may have to be rocked forward or to the rear to disengage the retention system before it can be withdrawn from the holster. A similar system requires the weapon to be twisted before it can be pulled up and out. All these have one feature in common. They positively retain the weapon in the holster unless the person physically manipulates the device to release it.

I have to draw the line when a holster company tries to tell me that a snug fit is a security feature. The holster companies like to call this close tolerance, friction fit or molded fit. I get the feeling that the people who design the holsters and write the ads have never carried a pistol on duty.

Getting back to the new EVO3, the ad states the single thumb actuated unlock device releases all three retention

points. Is this a Level I or Level III holster? I have a Safariland "Top Gun" holster which the company rates as a Level I holster because it takes one motion to unlock the existing retention features. If it takes but one motion to release all the retention devices on the EVO3, why isn't it called a Level I holster?

Since there is no industry standard, it can be anything they want to call it. There is a fine line between making a holster secure against an unauthorized draw and one that you can smoothly draw in an emergency.



Safariland's Raptor is a true example of how a triple retention holster works. Courtesy of BAE / Safariland

While it may seem disloyal to say so, most officers are really naïve when it comes to purchasing a holster. The greater majority will purchase a holster based on price or regulation. If their employer does not specify a particular model, they will generally purchase the cheapest holster on the shelf. If the package or the clueless clerk behind the counter tells them it is a Level 5 holster, who are they (Continued on Page 6)

Product Review - RANGEMASTER PRO Firearms Record Keeping Software

Reviewed by Todd Bailey

While record keeping has always been a part of the firearms instructor's duties, it was never a task that was looked forward to. Fortunately the personal computer has made this task more organized if not easier. For many years I used a spreadsheet program to record the information likely to be needed if ever summonsed to court. In the past few years, several companies have marketed software that is specifically designed to ease this process.

The department I work for recently purchased Rangemaster Pro by Cornerstone Applications. We were looking for software that would combine inventory, maintenance, training and qualification records under one source. Cornerstone offers a free download trial version so you can give it try before you purchase. The trial version is limited in how long you can use it but does give you a good idea of what the software can do. In retrospect, I feel I should have spent more time with it.

The program is password protected and can be configured so that a user can view data but not edit. Prior to entering the data for individual officers you will need to identify your instructors and armorers. It is a good idea to also input your qualification and training courses of fire. This is where I found the first aspect of the program I didn't like. If you have many courses in your library, you have a lot of data entry ahead of you.

Your key tracking data for employees is a unique ID you must assign everyone. We happened to use initials for simplicity. In addition to the ID and name, key info such as Status (active, reserve, retired), Dominant Hand & Eye, Gender and Corrective Lenses are listed. From there you can assign a weapon or weapons and equipment to the officer. Also entered under the officer would be qualifications, training and weapon maintenance. When entering data for an officer's trip to the range, you will confirm what weapon, holster, # of rounds and score(s). The program does not record the type of ammo issued or used. You can add it in under a supplemental field however I find this time consuming. Perhaps a minor complaint, but one I thought important.

The software will assign a weapon to either an officer or the armory. There is no provision to assign a weapon to any

other location other than the armory. This proved a problem because we have four patrol rifles and two shotguns that are assigned to a specific cruiser. I thought I could shortcut around this by creating an officer named CarXXX but that skews the reports when you are looking at performance and training. I ended up assigning these weapons to the armory and noting their actual location as a supplemental field description.

When recording the results for a day at the range, you must input each officer separately including weather conditions, # of hours trained, # of rounds expended, the instructor, type of training and the date. Since all of this data is the same for every officer who trained that day, it seems like a great deal of repetitive typing. I feel a better way would have been to create a training or qualification session and then add the officer and their scores.

Our department uses the Pass/Fail system of recording qualification scores. While a P or F is all that is recorded, I like to keep track of the raw score to measure improvement or lack of it. Rangemaster Pro will not allow you to do this. You can either record the raw score in the conventional manner or create a Pass / Fail system where a score of 1 is pass and 0 is fail.

There are several things I did like about this software. The biggest benefit is the ability to generate reports based on the inputted data. While I happen to feel that the less paper, the better; there are times when this can be a huge advantage. If you want an increase in your budget, this is a great way to document what you have done with one push of a button. You don't have to go to multiple sources and do a lot of compilation so it is a huge time saver. The other positive aspect is it puts all your firearms data under one roof. No longer do I have to keep separate spreadsheets for training, qualification, maintenance and inventory. There is a darker side though - we should be doing integrated training and documenting the use of DT, OC and other tools along with firearms. There is no way to easily do it with this program.

Cornerstone Applications has a great customer service program. The representative, Annie, contacted me about 3 weeks after we purchased the program to see how we liked it. At the time I was

still confused about how to do certain tasks and did not have a very high opinion of the product. They were very patient while I vented my spleen and coached me through my problems. They also pointed out that most of my complaints had been addressed in the latest version which was released 22 days after our purchase.

Like any other consumer who buys a product only to see it upgraded or go on sale a week later, I felt like we had been screwed. No so, Annie told me. They did not know the release date so were reluctant to promise it to a customer. She did offer an upgrade that would be priced competitively with the cost of the new version. Alas, my poor department could barely afford the \$400 for this version never mind another \$350 for the upgrade!

I only have my old system of using Excel spreadsheets to compare this software to so judging it in comparison to other software may be unfair. On a scale of 1 to 10 with ten being a perfect score, I would overall rate this product as a 7. It scores high on ease of generating numbers for the bean counters however much lower on ease of use and flexibility. As with any other software, the more you use it, the easier it gets. There are several shortcomings with the program which only upgrading to the newer (and more expensive) version will solve.

The new version - Rangemaster II costs \$749 for a single user. Additional user licenses are available for \$85 each. Free demo and trial versions are available and I highly recommend you go this route before purchasing.

For more information and system requirements - go to www.cornerstoneapplications.com.

Are you an instructor who has a great instructional program?

MLEFIAA is looking for quality instructors to present at the 2008 Instructor Development & Training Conference

Contact secretary@MLEFIAA.org

October Meeting Minutes submitted by MLEFIAA Secretary Joe Picariello

Date: 10/23/07

Location: Westminster Police Department

Meeting called to order at 1005 hours by President DuVernay. Seven members present.

OFFICERS' REPORTS:

President – Nothing to report

1st VP (E. O'Leary) – Not present

2nd VP (T. Bailey) – Still is looking for articles for *The Case Head*. The next issue will be in December. Send material to tabailey@mlafia.org.

3rd VP (Bill Peterson) – Nothing to report
Treasurer (M. Michelman) – Given by Secretary Joe Picariello:

Checking- \$3,787.16

Savings- \$5,873.31

Total- \$9,660.47

This does not include conference monies collected this month.

Secretary (J. Picariello) – Dues are now due. Please send to MLEFIAA, P.O. Box 253, Princeton, MA 01541-0253.

We still have 21 members with tuitions to September's conference still due.

If you have recently retired, please contact secretary at secretary@mlafia.org.

OLD BUSINESS:

None

NEW BUSINESS:

- There is a new 8 day MPTC firearms instructor class. It will cover handgun and instructor development for 5 days and long guns for the remaining 3 days. The first class will be in March of next year on the south shore and May 2008 at Devens. More info can be found on the MPTC web page.

- Vendors for expo - A motion was made by T. Bailey and seconded by B. DuVernay. The cost of a table at the 2008 annual training conference/expo will be \$350.00 if paid prior to June 1st. The fee includes a year's Associate MLEFIAA membership. After June 1st the cost of a table will be \$400.00.

Motion passed 7-0.

- Conference tuition- A motion was made by T. Bailey and seconded by J. Dunn. The Annual Training Conference tuition will include the membership dues. This was requested by several members to the Secretary and 2nd VP. If payment is received prior to September 23, 2008, the tuition will be discounted \$40.00. One of the problems we have had recently is tardy payment of tuitions to the confer-

ence. The motion was discussed briefly.

The motion passed 7-0.

- A number of options were discussed relative to next year's conference schedule. After some discussion, no definite plan was made. The executive board will look into the various plans proposed and report back at a later date.

- Range brass - A motion was made by T. Bailey and seconded by B. DuVernay regarding range brass. The motion was discussed at length. This has become a valuable commodity and we should make use of it. The brass would be given to Harvard Sportsmen's Club. If they don't want it, the brass would be put in 5 gallon buckets and a silent auction would be held. The money made on the silent auction would be donated to the Gun Owners Action League.

The motion passed 7-0.

- Conference range staff - A motion was made by T. Bailey and seconded by B. Klinger. MLEFIAA would grant up to 4 free tuitions to members who volunteer to assist at the annual training conference. The volunteers would be responsible for setting up ranges the day of the expo as well as making sure the ranges were ready for each range date. They would also be responsible for breaking ranges down on the last day of the conference. One range volunteer would be on call for each of the 4 hour blocks of instruction each day. When not on call or assigned to range break down on the afternoon of the last day, they would be able to attend range sessions (space permitting) as a student with tuition waived. In addition, those members who volunteered for all 4 days of this year's conference would be given preference for next year's conference volunteer staff.

Motion passed 7-0.

- A motion was made regarding non-profit organizations at expo by B. DuVernay and seconded by J. Dunn. The discussion was brought up by member R. Draper previously. Non-profit organizations who wanted to have a booth at our annual expo would be charged \$100.00, if the organization was using table for informational purposes and not conducting sales of products. A vote was taken after a short discussion.

The motion passed 7-0.

- The subject of a change in caterer for the 2008 annual training conference was discussed. At this year's training confer-

ence, the fee for the caterer was in excess of \$2700 - approximately 20% of the members' tuition payments. Jim Ring had spoken to several executive board members about Pat Natoli who does catering for the Harvard Sportsmen's Club. After the business meeting, several board members met with Pat at HSC and she will be providing us with several menus and prices for the catering. More information to follow at future meetings.

- Corporate Sponsorship - Motion made by E. Woodruff to have Corporate Sponsorship decided by executive board. Members of executive board did not feel that it was correct for them to second this amendment and the only other voting member present would not second the motion. The motion died for lack of a second.

An alternative motion was made by B. Klinger and seconded by J. Dunn. MLEFIAA would offer corporate sponsorship for a fee to be determined by the executive board. MLEFIAA will provide the following to these sponsors:

- Associate membership to a company representative;
 - 1/2 page ad in *The Case Head* for four issues;
 - Free second table at the expo with payment for first table;
 - An opportunity to sponsor special events for MLEFIAA members.
- There was a lengthy discussion.

Motion passed 7-0.

With no further business on the table and nothing for the good of the membership, a motion to adjourn was made by B. Klinger and seconded by T. Bailey. Motion passed 7-0 and the meeting adjourned at 1135 hours.

Next Meeting at Sig Arms Academy on November 27, 2007. It will be a dim light class with Brite Strike and Insight Technology having samples of their tactical illuminators available for members to use.

**Looking to buy or sell
a gun? Check out
MLEFIAA's
TRADING POST
on the website
www.MLEFIAA.org**

What Is The Standard For A Retention Holster? (cont. from Page 3)

argue?

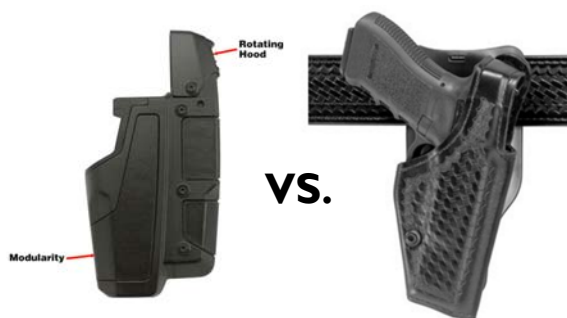
In order to be considered a Level III holster, I feel the user must go through three separate motions to free up the weapon. Good examples of this are the SSIII and Raptor by Safariland or the Galaxy by G&G. A Level II holster would require two separate motions and likewise with a Level I holster. Using this standard, the friction between a holster and the weapon or the "closer tolerance" between them is not a retention mechanism.

I submit the current system leads the purchaser of an EVO3 to believe they are getting the same security level as the SSIII. NOT TRUE! The dirt bag who makes a gun grab against the EVO3 only has to defeat a single release to draw the weapon. Against the SSIII he must defeat three release mechanisms which provides

the officer with time to react and counter the threat. Chances are with the EVO3, the gun will be out of the holster before the officer can react. That is why we got away from Level I holsters in the first place.

I want to emphasize that I have nothing against products from Michael's of Oregon. In fact, I own several. I do have

a problem with the industry at large with respect to how various holsters are advertised. This product happened to be a perfect exemplar of how the holster industry has muddied the waters. If the holster industry can't get their act together, maybe someone needs to step forward and establish a standard rating system. Food for thought...



On the left is the Uncle Mike's EVO3 and to the right is Safariland's "Top Gun".

Both holsters require the user to manipulate ONE retention device to draw the weapon.

Uncle Mike's calls their holster a Level III; Safariland rates theirs as Level I.

Does the current rating system work?

November Meeting Minutes submitted by MLEFIAA Secretary Joe Picariello

Date: 11/27/07

Location: Sig Sauer Academy
Prior to the business meeting, the Director of the Sig-Sauer Academy - George Harris, welcomed members and introduced members of his staff. It should be noted that there has been a name change and the name SIGARMS is no longer used.

Meeting called to order at 1023 hours by President Bert DuVernay

OFFICERS' REPORTS:

President (G. DuVernay)- Bert brought the new Ruger SR-9 which he received from Sue Ferri at Interstate Arms. The SR-9 is Ruger's new striker fired pistol that features an interchangeable back strap and polymer frame. Like other pistols designed for law enforcement and the serious civilian shooter, it has a rail molded into the frame's dust shield. The factory describes it as a Picatinney rail which would indicate it meets the M1913 MILSPEC however it should be noted that the MILSPEC rail includes more than one locking slot. The grip was very slim for a high capacity (17 rounds in 9mm) pistol and very comfortable for someone with smaller hands. The magazine release button and manual frame mounted safety are ambidextrous. The factory indicates the trigger pull is 6.5 pounds.

1st VP (Ed O'Leary) - not present

2nd VP (T. Bailey) - Nothing new to report regarding By-laws. Still looking for articles for the Case Head.

3rd VP (Bill Peterson) - Nothing from the Awards Committee.

Treasurer (M. Michelman) - Given by Secretary

Savings- \$6, 281.65

Checking- \$16,439.05

Total- \$22, 720.70

There is still a substantial amount owed by conference attendees.

Secretary (J. Picariello) - 2007-2008 dues are now being collected. Please get in payment as soon as possible.

Reading of last month's meeting notes were dispensed with on motion and by unanimous vote of attendees.

OLD BUSINESS: None

NEW BUSINESS:

Nominations for 2008 election of executive board. A motion was made by K. Cooley and seconded by P. Oberton to re nominate entire slate of current executive board members:

President- G. DuVernay

1st V.P. - E. O'Leary

2nd V.P. - T. Bailey

3rd V.P. - W. Peterson

Master at Arms- B. Klinger

Treasurer- M. Michelman

Secretary- J. Picariello

The President called for other nominations. There were none.

Motion passed unanimously.

Due to the 4th Tuesday in December falling on Christmas, the December meeting has been canceled. The next meeting will be at Smith & Wesson Academy on January 22, 2008 at 10 a.m.

A motion was made and seconded to adjourn. The meeting adjourned at 1033 hours.

After business meeting, several manufacturers of flash lights put on a presentation of their products. Members were then able to use these flash lights on the Sig Sauer indoor range.



**Please support your
Association by
attending meetings
and recruiting new
members.**

From Flashlight To Tactical Illuminator - Part 2 of 3

"SIZE MATTERS"

Part One of this piece appeared in the last issue of the Case Head and the final installment will be in the Spring 2008 issue. For the purposes of this article, we will classify lights into three categories – Weapon Mounted, Large Hand Held and Small Hand Held lights.

Weapon mounted lights are those which are attached to your service pistol or long gun for the purposes of illuminating a deadly threat you may be forced to engage. The size of the light may be dictated by the weapon it is to be mounted on and type of mounting system. Dedicated long gun mounts such as the Surefire fore end light give you a built in high intensity light source that is always with your weapon. The popular Picatinney rail mount systems are highly versatile and give the user many mounting options. Long gun lights usually mean a remote switch of some sort so the operator does not have to shift their grip to energize the light. When choosing a light for your patrol rifle, be sure to select one that enough lumens to illuminate your target. Here's where the difference between lumens and candlepower become apparent. You may desire a more focused beam than you would select for a handgun used in more close quarters.



Insight SSL-I

Hand gun lights are best typified by the Insight SSL-I, Streamlight TLR-I and Surefire X-200. The major benefit to this system is the officer able to shoot with two hands like they have been trained and are not juggling a light and weapon is almost a guarantee for reduced performance. To truly benefit from this system you will need a holster that will accommodate your pistol with the light in place. While this somewhat limits your choice of duty leather, it is the way to go. I would strongly suggest that making your officers wear their weapon light on the duty belt is a recipe for disaster. This greatly complicates the draw because it is difficult to mount the light in a high stress situation without placing your off hand in front of the muzzle. Equally hazardous is it requires



the officer to dismount the light when holstering the weapon. Imagine a situation where you must holster your weapon while holding on to a violent subject. The weapon will not fit into a conventional holster with the light in place and to dismount it, you must have two hands.

With the proliferation of Picatinney rail mounting systems and 1 inch diameter lights, almost any light can be mounted on a long gun. The M-4 carbine has lent itself to customization and there are hundreds of after market parts available for mounting everything but the kitchen sink to your rifle. This market has become so lucrative that the major gun companies are now offering their rifles all tricked out right from the factory.

The major issue which many writers have failed to acknowledge was the inability of most lights to reach out to the ranges that we would likely have to use the patrol rifle. It's true that some manufacturers had a light that could illuminate a threat at 100 yards but the cost was hefty. Typical is the Surefire M-500A which is rated at 225 Lumens with the optional lamp assembly. Bring your



Surefire M-500B

bank book because this light will cost you almost as much as the rifle you'll be mounting it on. That is changing as light technology has begun to catch up to the needs of the rifle shooter. Brite-Strike Technologies has introduced a new version of their Tactical Blue Dot series which boasts a 198 Lumen LED and the

reflector design produces a unique light pattern which not only reaches out to almost 100 yards but also produces a wide corona which provides peripheral illumination. All this in a small hand held light which can be mounted in a standard 1 inch ring and costs half the price of its nearest competitor.



The large hand held light of years gone by has largely been made obsolete by smaller rechargeable lights like the Stinger and Novus T4. These lights are just as bright but half the size. These are excellent primary lights for patrol. The rechargeable battery reduces battery replacement and the newer models have LED's which extend battery life. Since a light of this type is likely to be used for searching, chose a light with as much luminance (lumens) as you can find or a more focused beam. The polymer body will not conduct the cold when you are directing traffic around a MVA in 10 degree weather.

Perhaps the greatest strides have been made in the smaller tactical lights. These are small enough to be carried comfortably on your duty belt and when equipped with the high intensity LED, perform almost to the same standards as a light three times their size. Since the introduction of the 6P, police officers have had the ability to have a powerful illumination tool at their side 24/7. There are several excellent lights of this size on the market today from companies such as Brite-Strike, Insight, Streamlight and Surefire.

The quality of a small tactical light varies. You can certainly buy \$25 lights which look like their more expensive cousins but I have a drawer full of junk lights that prove you get what you pay for. Most lower grade lights are made of 3003 Aluminum – the same material that aluminum siding is made from. Look for body construction of 5053 or 6061 aluminum alloy or a high strength polymer. Some manufacturers use 7075 grade which is the same material the receiver of your AR-15 is constructed of. Aluminum bodies should be anodized to prevent corrosion and make the surface harder. Look for Mil-spec Type II or Type III anodizing. Beware of less expensive processes which merely paint a coat-

From Flashlight To Tactical Illuminator - Part 2 of 3 *(continued from previous page)*

ing onto the material which can (and will) flake off. Make sure the switch works comfortably for you. Sometimes the little things make all the difference. Brite-Strike reversed the pocket clip so you can clip the light to your epaulet or jacket to use the light hands free when writing a citation or notes. It took ten

years for someone to figure this out! Buyers have a choice in either a momentary/on or high/low power switch with LED lights. For patrol, the momentary/on switch seems to make the most sense. K-9 handlers and others who may need a light for long periods such as working a track may prefer the high/low

switch since the batteries will last up to 6X longer on low power. The heart of every light is the illumination source. On small lights, you will get the most illumination for the size with an LED.

Because your small tactical light will normally be used for close in (less than 30 yards) work, pick a light that will give you maximum illumination of the area. I recommend looking not only for the brightest light, but also one that gives you a wide angle or flood type beam. The wide angle beam allows you to illuminate a large area with little or no movement of the light. A narrow beam effectively gives you tunnel vision – something we preach avoiding. If you can find a light that does both – buy it and have the best of both worlds. It takes an exceptionally bright light to push a wide angle beam out 20 or 30 yards so pick your lights carefully. This brings up another point. When you buy a light, try it out in a large dark area where you can get a realistic feel for what the light will do. Don't let a store clerk shine the light on the wall of a brightly lit room to prove the light's ability. All this tells you is the light is capable of projecting a hot spot on a wall 5 feet away. Never buy a light without trying it out unless you don't mind throwing money away.



Brite-Strike® Tactical Blue Dot Series



MLEFIAA Quartermaster Official Association Logo Items

All items are available directly through the
Association Quartermaster - Dick Forrester at
sgtdickie@comcast.net



SEMI-AUTO PISTOL EVALUATION EXERCISE (SAPE)

Submitted by Joe Picariello, Princeton PD

Course Objective: This course of fire is used to demonstrate fire control, multiple shots, loading & unloading, reloading and safe handling of the semi-auto pistol. The officer will demonstrate his/her skills by clearing malfunctions and hitting the target within specified time limits. **ONE HAND ONLY** (35 Round Course of Fire) **Passing Score: 80%**

Load one magazine with 8 rounds.

3 Yards: From the holster-2 rds in 3 seconds. Done 4 times. 8 rds
Do 2X dominant hand only from the holster and 2X support hand only from ready position

Use empty magazine in pistol. If officer can lock slide back, drill performed correctly,

5 Yards: Empty Chamber-Tap, rack, ready; from the low DRY
 ready position. 3 rds in 5 seconds x 3
 (Done twice dominant hand only and once support hand only)

Load three magazines with 2 rounds each.

5 Yards: Slide forward reload drill from the holster 12 rds.
 2 rds/RL, 2 rds/RL, 2rds/RL, 2 rds x 2
 Time limit: 15 seconds per string.
 (Done once dominant hand only and once support hand only)

Load one magazine with 9 rounds.

5 Yards Body Armor Drill from the holster. 2 rds in the 9 rds
 torso and one in the head. 3 rds x 3.
 (Done twice dominant hand only and once support hand only)

Load two magazines with 2 dummy rounds.. .

One empty casing in chamber. Insert magazine for

Double feed. If officer clears empty case and charges pistol with dummy round, they have passed stage.

7 Yards Double Feed Clearance Drill from the shooting DRY
 position. Clear in 15 seconds x 2.
 (Done once dominant hand only and once support hand only)

Three magazines, 2 rds per magazine.

7 Yards Slide lock back and reload drill from the holster 6 rds
 2 rds/RL, 2 rds/RL, 2 rds/RL. Done once.
 Time limit: 20 seconds.
 (Done once dominant hand only)

HSC Leadership Change Affects MLEFIAA

On December 9th, MLEFIAA was advised that the present HSC president had resigned and an interim president was appointed by the HSC Board of Directors. One of the first acts of the new president was to propose significant increases in the fees for law enforcement agencies that use the club for training.

More disturbing is the interim president's insistence to have keys to all storage trailers on the property including the MLEFIAA storage trailer which contains no club property.

There is no reason for the HSC leadership to have open access to MLEFIAA's equipment. There is no club property inside our trailer and Jim Ring, who handles law enforcement activities at HSC has a key. The Exec. Board feels no further access is required especially since it is very unlikely HSC reciprocate by giving MLEFIAA's Executive Board key access to the club facility.

In response to this news, Jim Ring has announced he will run for President of the Harvard Sportsman's Club at the regular

election in February. If you are a member there, please support him. If not a member, please consider joining if you live in the area.

Our relationship with HSC has been great and very beneficial to both organizations. It is our ultimate desire to continue this partnership with whomever sits on HSC's Board of Directors. MLEFIAA's Executive Board must look after the best interests of our Association while working hand in hand with the Harvard Sportsman's Club on this.

Contact & Cover - Do You Stress This In Your Training?

In last April's issue of Law Officer magazine, there was an article entitled "Contact & Cover". After I finished reading it I got to thinking that because my department does not use two man cars, we tend not to think much about that concept. Things being what they are, the thought got put on the back burner and nothing further came of it. Last week I happened to be riding with one of our newer part time officers and his actions (or lack of them) got me to thinking back about what the article said.

By definition, the contact officer is responsible for conducting the business of the stop. He begins the field interrogation, takes information, handles radio traffic and makes the arrest if necessary. If suspects need to be searched; contraband seized, people handcuffed or arrests made, the contact officer will do it. Essentially, the contact officer does everything EXCEPT for two things which are the sole duties of the cover officer. These duties are to constantly observe all suspects and to maintain a command presence that will deter assaultive actions by the subjects. The cover officer will monitor the radio to make sure no information is missed by the contact officer and generally keep an eye on everything. If additional officers arrive on the scene, they should assume cover officer duties. It is important that the cover officer not become distracted by what the contact officer is doing.

The concept of contact and cover is easy to fall by the wayside when we work predominantly with one man cars and in quiet towns. While we all know very well that anything can happen anywhere and at any time, it is a fact we tend to get lazy over time when there is nothing to keep us on our toes. As the article points out, it is also very easy to start cutting corners

with our contact and cover procedure when we do have more than one officer on the scene.

I'm sure everyone reading this can think of at least one situation where the cover officer lost focus and began acting as a second contact officer. Chances are it was probably in a very minor situation which probably involved kids. After the initial contact was made and it was decided that there was no threat the roles began to blur.

Another situation where the officer's roles may have become confused is when an inexperienced officer made the initial stop and has begun the roadside interaction. A more experienced officer arrives shortly after and takes over for whatever reason. While this may be done with the best of intentions and with what the officer feels are sound reasons, it corrupts the concept of contact and cover.

There are several good reasons to maintain the integrity of the concept.

- Due to budget cutbacks, more mentally and emotionally disturbed people are on the street than before. Turned out onto the street due to the high cost of institutional care, these people are unpredictable and can pose a serious problem at the drop of a hat.

- Greater than 50% of assaults on police officers take place in front of other officers. Many of these officers are slain with their own duty weapon.

- People who are under the influence can be very impulsive and volatile. Logic may not enter into their reasoning process.

- If you start modifying the concept, you risk confusing other officers who are relying on you to conform to a standard.

Your firearms training program is the obvious place to review and reinforce the contact and cover principle. Set up realistic scenarios which simulate what your officers

encounter on the street. Put them in positions that emphasize good tactics. Get your officers to think like a team. This is especially important if you have part time officers that work patrol. Obviously it is best to have them well trained so they can completely intermesh with the full time force. In most departments it doesn't happen this way. You may even have some part time officers who as capable as the full time force but others who are not. What you need is a standard operating procedure so if it is necessary to make a transition from contact officer to cover officer, it can be done smoothly. There may be situations involving two regular officers which would make reversing roles tactically sound. This can include foreign language situations, expertise in narcotics, gangs or other specialty areas. The key is clear and concise communication preferably in a manner that is not understood by the suspects. Hand signals, Ten-codes, or occupational jargon can be very effective. Whatever your choice, it must be universally understood and used by everyone.

Your training should emphasize all the above. The concept is only as effective as the people who use it. If one officer takes short cuts or begins rewriting the rules, it will confuse the issue. You need to stress everyone must maintain their assigned duties. If the cover officer feeling they can do a better job, they need to exercise self control and maintain their assigned task. As much as they may want to step in and take over, that can only lead to confusion if it is not done in accordance with your training.

If this is happening in your department, it may be time to include it in your training.

2008 Firearms Instructor Recertification
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Do You Carry Off Duty?

2007 started off with Virginia Tech and finished up with the church shooting in Colorado Springs. Shootings in Michigan, Omaha and several other locations were scattered in between. Add to this the specter international religious terrorism which hangs over our heads since 9/11. The main thing these incidents have in common is they occur in busy public places – schools, churches and shopping malls.

If you have taken any “Active Shooter” training, you know that the standard protocol is for the first officer on scene to wait for at least two or three other officers to make up the Contact Team then make entry through a side entrance or other portal to avoid potential booby traps with the intent of locating, containing and/or neutralizing the shooter(s). Officers responding after you will make up the Rescue or Evacuation Teams and Perimeter Security.

If you take a good look at active shooter incidents that have occurred over the past few years, there are very few that were protracted long enough for the police to arrive on scene, form up and deploy in accordance with the training we’ve received. In actual fact, in the majority of cases the shooter has either committed suicide or having completed their mission, have sat down and do not put up a fight. The purpose of this article is NOT to diminish the importance of good active shooter training. Instead, it is to get you to think about what you will do if an active shooter incident happens with you present and off duty. It is very interesting to note that at least two incidents which took place this year were either deterred or stopped by a lawfully armed citizen.

Many police officers do not carry a weapon when off duty. Taking a very unscientific look at this, we find most are not “gun guys”. Their duty pistol is a necessary evil which they would gladly leave in their locker. Probably the biggest reason they state is when they are out of their jurisdiction, they are just like any other citizen. They tell us that their duty is to be a trained observer. In a strict legal sense, they are absolutely correct. Having said that, passage of the Law Enforcement Officers Safety Act by Congress sent a message that a police officer’s training and skills do not go away when the shift is over. While they may not have the power of arrest, an officer who has

the training and ability to end the taking of innocent lives can not hide behind “I’m off duty” while an active shooter systematically shoots people. Can they morally do nothing? Unless the active shooter just gives up and sits down, arresting the subject will not be top on our list. Our off duty presence in an active shooter situation will be oriented towards using our training and ability to neutralize the threat.

Obviously training, ability and moral duty aside, an officer can do nothing if they are not properly equipped. If you are reading this, you have probably already made the decision to be armed off duty. Let’s take a look at what you are carrying. For many years we were merely concerned with self defense. Two shot derringers and pocket pistols such as the Seecamp 32 were common choices because the concealed easily and were considered adequate. I suggest that these are inadequate for a first line defensive pistol today. There have been volumes written on this but as a rule of thumb, I think a defensive pistol or revolver of a suitable caliber (.38 Spl or better) with at least 10 rounds of ammo should be considered a bare minimum. Whatever you carry – have at least one extra magazine or speedloader available.

Not being in uniform makes you blend in with the frightened crowd. Use this to your advantage. Your training should tell you that the person dressed in the trench coat carrying a semi auto rifle through the mall is not a good thing. While the crowd stands there like a deer in the headlights, you need to be moving to a position which offers you the best cover and field of fire. Part of the motivation for the active shooter is a feeling of superiority that is fueled by the fear of the crowd. The shooter will expect to see people running and hiding. Your repositioning to cover will be masked by the crowd’s movement. If possible, choose your cover well. Not only for your protection but to give you a clear line of fire to the suspect in the confusion. Verbal commands to drop the weapon are probably fruitless and will not be heard over the noise but use them anyway. More on this in a minute. If the shooter has opened fire, your responsibility is to neutralize the threat.

Police will respond and you need to take action to prevent a case of mistaken identity. By using your verbal commands, identifying yourself as a police officer and exhibiting the characteristics of a police officer,

you begin to separate your behavior from that of the bad guy. It is difficult to display your ID and engage a threat at the same time. Have it handy for you will need it.

Put yourself in the shoes of the responding officers. They are responding to a “man with a gun” call at the Mall. You fit that description. When you see responding officers, have your ID ready. Comply instantly with all commands including dropping your weapon. A tragedy that occurred with the Providence (RI) Police could have been avoided if the off duty officer had complied immediately with the uniformed officer’s commands. Once uniformed officers are on scene, your continued role (if any) becomes secondary.

At the Salt Lake City mall shooting, Ken Hammond, an off duty Ogden (UT) police officer armed with a 1911 .45 caliber pistol engaged and kept the shooter distracted until the arrival of uniformed officers. Local authorities credited Hammond’s actions with saving numerous lives. Hammond stated, “I did what I had to do” and allowed that he wished he had a spare magazine.

Jeanne Assam is a former Minneapolis police officer who had volunteered to perform security for the New Life Church in Colorado Springs after an earlier church shooting in Arvada (CO). Her actions saved many lives when Matthew Murray entered the church armed with a semi auto rifle, 2 handguns and over 1000 rounds of ammo. Murray opened fire on the worshipers but was engaged and hit multiple times by Assam. Murray eventually shot and killed himself however Assam’s actions were clearly a deterrent and the list of fatalities would have been much longer had she not acted.

When legal to do so, carry off duty. Carry a spare magazine or two. Think tactically no matter where you are and remain in Condition Yellow. Do not be a victim. Do not let your family become victims. Before you state your oath to protect the citizens of the community stops at the town line, ask yourself if you could stand idle while innocent people are killed? Is your duty solely a “trained observer”? Will you be able to face the families of the dead and say, “I got a great description of the shooter before he killed himself



California Police Commanders May Be Indicted For Other Officer's Shootings

By Thadeus Greenson and John Driscoll
The Eureka Times-Standard

EUREKA, Calif. — The expected grand jury indictments of former Eureka Police Chief David Douglas and Lt. Tony Zanotti would be unprecedented ground for Humboldt County, and possibly the nation.

"This is the first time I've heard of an indictment of police officers in the command aspect of a situation who weren't actually involved in the shootings themselves," said Golden Gate University School of Law Professor and Dean Emeritus Peter Keane, who has served as a legal analyst for CNN, the BBC and MSNBC and is former vice-president of the State Bar of California. "Generally," Keane continued, "when you do see prosecution of police for unusual use of force or manslaughter, it's the officers that are actually involved in the shooting."

A source familiar with the grand jury proceedings told the Times-Standard Tuesday the jury will hand up indictments of involuntary manslaughter to Douglas and Zanotti, who are scheduled to be arraigned Monday. The source requested anonymity, due to the secrecy of the proceedings. Messages seeking comment from Humboldt County District Attorney Paul Gallegos had not been returned as of Wednesday evening.

Cheri Moore, who had a history of mental illness, was shot and killed April 14, 2006, by Eureka police officers in her second story apartment at Fifth and G streets. During the preceding two hour standoff, Moore brandished a flare gun, threw things from her second-story window and threatened to burn down the building. Police have said they believed Moore had put down the flare gun when the decision was made to storm her apartment. Upon entering, officers said they came face to face with Moore, who was pointing the flare gun at them. Officers shot Moore several times.

Part of what is interesting about the grand jury's decision, according to Keane, is that it chose not to indict EPD officer Rocky Harpham and Sgt. Michael

Johnson, who fired the fatal shots. In an interview Wednesday, Eureka Police Chief Garr Nielsen said he felt that decision was the right one. But, like Keane, Nielsen said in his almost 30 years in law enforcement he has never heard of indictments being handed up to commanding officers after an officer-involved shooting. "I think that this decision by the grand jury is going to have far-reaching impacts on command personnel in tactical operations all over the state, and maybe even the nation," Nielsen said.

While Nielsen said this can serve as an important reminder to command officers in tactical situations of the possible effects of their decisions, he said losing a human life is enough to hammer that point home. Nielsen said he is confident the decisions Zanotti and Douglas made did not amount to a criminal act, and he has faith in the justice system.

"We need to remember there is a presumption of innocence," Nielsen said. "Even though it is a drain to have this potential indictment hanging over us, they are innocent until proven guilty by a jury." Nielsen said he felt his organization had turned a corner in recent months, but this has picked at old wounds and had an impact on morale. He made clear Wednesday he stands by his officers, saying he would not place Zanotti on administrative leave.

"In no way do I believe he is a threat to the community," Nielsen said, adding his only change would be to keep Zanotti out of the role as a site commander. Even that decision, Nielsen said, has nothing to do with his confidence in the lieutenant, and is only intended to protect him. Also reached Wednesday, Eureka City Attorney Sheryl Schaffner said she hadn't received any official word on the indictment from the DA's office.

"Until we do, it's just speculation," she said. But generally speaking, she said the City Council is authorized -- but not required -- to provide for the defense of an active employee who was acting in the course of his duties. That would mean hiring a criminal defense attorney to defend them, she said.

Zanotti may also be a member of the Police Officers Research Association of California, which has a legal defense fund. An e-mail inquiry to the association's

president, Ron Cottingham, was not returned by deadline.

Humboldt County Sheriff's Department spokeswoman Brenda Godsey said she had no response to the indictment, at least until it's made officially public.

Gordon Kaupp, an attorney representing Moore's son, David Moore, in a civil case against the city and the involved officers, said news of the indictments came as a surprise to David Moore, who had essentially lost faith in the DA's office. While he said he felt the individual officers involved should also face indictments, Kaupp said he felt the decision to indict the commanding officers was a good one. "The thing here is the grand jury recognized that they should have never stormed the apartment," he said, adding that, if anything, Moore's putting the flare gun down should have been seen as a sign of de-escalation rather than reason to move in. "Clearly, the decision makers put the shooters in the position to shoot when they had them in the position to enter the apartment."

Down in San Francisco, Keane had a similar take.

He said it is likely the grand jury felt officers should have waited it out longer, made more attempts to negotiate or tried using non-lethal means, like tear gas.

"Once there was that decision to enter into the house, and there is someone in there with the possession of a weapon, it's almost a certainty that they are going to have to kill that person," Keane said.

Arcata Police Chief Randy Mendoza was surprised by the news, saying he'd heard of civil lawsuits against police leadership, but not criminal charges against commanding officers. Mendoza said he's not intimately familiar with the facts of the case, but expected indictments in such a situation could create concerns for law enforcement. "It's hard enough to fill police chief jobs in California," Mendoza said.

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