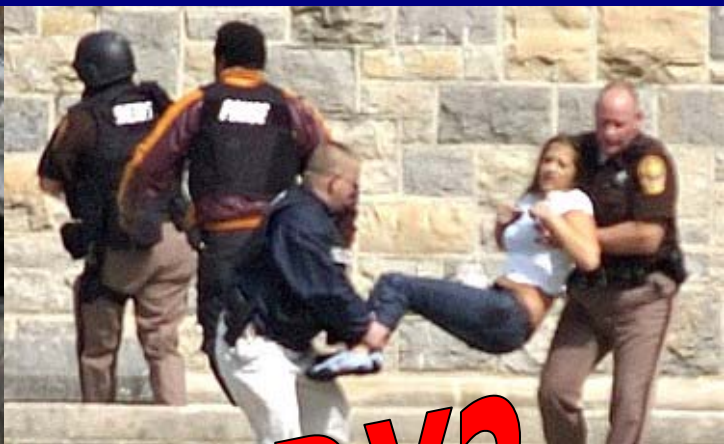


The Case Head

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

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SUMMER 2007



ARE YOU READY?



2007 FIREARMS INSTRUCTOR DEVELOPMENT CONFERENCE
Devens Conference Center / Harvard Sportsman's Club
September 25-28, 2007

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.

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 INFORMATION

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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Letters to the Editor

What's In A Name?

In this months (Spring '07) case head you referred to a Pepperball device that killed Victoria Snelgrove. Because we use the Pepperball device in Taunton, I'd like to correct an error in that article. It was an FHN FN303 launcher that was responsible for Snelgroves death. This is important because the Pepperball projectile is approximately 2 grams in weight, traveling at approx. 300 fps. with an effective target range of approximately 7-9 inches at 30 feet. The FN303 projectile is approximately 8.5 grams in weight, traveling at approximately 270 fps with an effective target range of 150 feet and maximum range of 300 feet. This is not to say that the Pepperball, if not deployed properly, could cause a similar outcome. But, comparatively speaking, the FHN is a much more amp'd up device.

The Case Head looks great, keep up the good work. Take care, Randy

Randy, thanks for writing. You are absolutely correct. In the article, the word "pepperball" should not have been capitalized indicating a brand name. It was meant as a generic term and in hindsight would have been better served with the word "projectile". In the editing of the article to fit the available space, the part that identified the tool as the FN303 was cut out. I'll take the hit for that since the Case Head has a staff of 1 - me. It was completely unintended but I think this mistake illustrates the point the article was trying to make. The FN303 is a completely different tool than the Pepperball launcher but we tend to lump all these specialty tools with one label. This is a perilous trend since all expandable batons are not ASP's and all chemical irritant sprays are not MACE.

Excellent job on the Spring 2007 edition of the Case Head. I know allot of time and effort must have went into it. (I would imagine you may be heading to divorce court, if not already there). It is appreciated.

Just a comment on the

What's In A Name Article; I remember the media referring to the projectile that struck and killed Victoria Snelgrove as a "pepper spray pellet", "pepper spray bullet", or pepperball round, none of which are correct of course. I am not even sure what FN-Herschel calls that particular projectile. It is a bismuth weighted plastic projectile with shotgun slug type rifling on it and has the powdered agent encapsulated within.

When this incident occurred, I had to explain to my Chief that this was not the product, or pepperball projectile that is marketed by Pepperball Technologies Inc., of San Diego, which we have in our inventory. I believe that "Pepperball" is a trade mark name for that company's product- a .68 cal hard plastic spherical projectile filled with OC powder - similar to a paintball.

(Continued on Page 8)

Meeting Calendar

Jan 23, 2007
S&W Academy
(Elections)

Feb 27, 2007
Mass. State Police
Logan Airport

Mar 27, 2007
Braintree Rifle & Pistol Club
(hosted by Randolph PD)

Apr 24, 2007
Lancaster P.D.

May 22, 2007
Peabody P.D.

June 12 & 26
HSC
Instructor Recerts

July & August
No meeting

Sept 25-28
Annual Instructor Conference
Devens / HSC

October 2007
Open

November 2007
Open

December 2007
Open

Watch your E-mail for details

BESLAN - An Analysis of Terror

At the Association's April meeting hosted at Lancaster P.D., member Mike Lupachini of Upton P.D. gave a great presentation on the terrorist attack perpetrated by Al-Qaeda backed Chechen terrorists. On September 1, 2004, the worst school attack in memory occurred in Beslan, North Ossetia which is part of Russia. The attack on Beslan School No. 1 resulted in over 330 civilians killed of which 172 were children. A score of Russian special forces troops and emergency workers died as well. The attack was pre-planned, organized and had command & control from the outside. The 32 terrorists were brutal to the captives. Men and older boys were executed immediately as a deterrent to other captives from attempting escape or hostile action. Woman and older girls were sexually assaulted by the terrorists. It is a misconception that Islamic religion forbids this type of behavior. It only forbids it against other Muslims. To defend the faith, a Muslim may do anything to an infidel without retribution. It was a bloody attack with the sole intent to kill non-Muslim's. The crowds began to gather – some were armed and out for blood. The Russian military and police were initially disorganized which led to some severe criticism from the Monday morn-

ing quarterbacks. The crowds began shooting at the school building in frustration.



The terrorists broke out the windows in the school building to prevent the introduction of gas as was done in the Moscow Theater incident the year before. They placed explosives in the rooms where the hostages were kept and wired them to dead man switches in addition to conventional detonators. The terrorists made several unreasonable demands which allowed them more time to prepare while the authorities scrambled to respond. It is estimated that about 1200 people were held hostage. Fifty nine teachers, 900 students and the balance were parents and family who routinely attend the first day of school. Most were crammed into the Gymnasium – a room about 10 meters wide by 25 meters long.

The stand off went on for three days

before a poorly secured explosive device hung from a basketball hoop in the gymnasium exploded when it fell. The resulting explosion caused the terrorists on the dead man switches to move to cover which detonated more charges. Some terrorists thought the explosions were caused by Russian troops attempting an attack and began killing hostages. It was mayhem.

Faced with the impending deaths of the hostages, the Russian military began a rescue operation plan that had not been fully worked out or rehearsed. The doors and windows to the buildings had been blocked with furniture and debris by the terrorists so there was no clean way in. Frustrated, the Russian's ordered a tank to blow a door open.

Continued on Page 7



Product Review - Insight Technology's SSL-1 Tactical Light



Reviewed by Todd Bailey

Insight Technology's SSL-1 Tactical light is the logical follow on to their successful "M" series of lights albeit with several improvements. First and in my mind, most significant is the use of a high quality LED as the light source. The 80 Lumen Luxeon LED produces a brilliant white light

which illuminates a situation much better than incandescent or halogen lamps. LED's have a much greater life span - usually measured in tens of thousands of hours rather than hundreds. They draw less power which makes for greater battery life. Finally, LED's are generally more rugged with no filament to break. Like most other lights, it is powered by two CR123 lithium cells.

The SSL-1 fits much tighter on my Glock 22. Insight has a stiffer latch spring which should preclude the embarrassment of having your tacti-

cal light go flying down range (which has happened with my M3). The SSL-1 attaches via Slide-Lock® technology in the same manner as Insight's other lights. The mounting system is adjustable for different sized rails. The tight fit I initially experienced was easily adjusted so the light slides on and off easily.

The reflector is pre-focused to illuminate a human target at 25 meters and can not be adjusted. After using a wide beam LED light, I have come to prefer this to the focused beam which has a narrow hot spot. The

Are You Ready To Deal With A “Beslan” Style Attack?

In the humble opinion of the author, law enforcement in the U.S. has not paid enough attention to the attack in Beslan. Since it happened in Russia, it is off our radar. Historically, we tend to be near sighted and this could very well present problems in the future. We ignored Hitler's “Mein Kampf” in the 30's and had to play a hasty game of catch up in the early days of WWII. Just as the National Socialist Party created a war in Europe that cost millions of lives, Al Qaeda and fanatical Muslim extremists are the evil we must deal with in the 21st century. They have successfully attacked inside our borders twice and our interests overseas three times. They have declared America as “the enemy”. If we don't remove our heads from the sand we are going to experience this in our own front yard. Unfortunately, Al-Qaeda is not a political state like Nazi Germany. It is difficult to declare war on a non-governmental group of terrorist facilitators.

The radical Islamic extremists do not play the rules. There is no Geneva Convention for them. There is no rule that says women and children are non-combatants. Watch the news from the Israel and Iraq. Attacks on the civilian population by suicide bombers is the norm. Buses, schools, market squares and any other crowded area are likely targets. This

is how the Islamic extremist will attack. They strike where it will put the most fear into the populace. What would affect the American public more than an attack on our children? Are we prepared to see scores of body bags being carried out of the local Middle School?



The attack on Beslan School No. 1 was a benchmark. It put the world on notice that the radical Islamic movement has no qualms about specifically targeting innocent children. The terrorists had no problem denying their women and children hostages water and food. Why bother since they were going to be killed anyway? Women were sexually assaulted. If Americans think we are exempt from this, they are sorely mistaken. Do not mistake what happened in Beslan as another incident in the long standing Chechen problem with their neighbors. There were two factions of terrorists at Beslan. Most apparent were the

Chechens and Ingushetians who were most likely fueled by long standing hatred for Russians and Ossetians. More importantly were the outsiders from middle east countries who were there to die. There are clear indicators that some of the terrorists expected to escape and that they were blindsided by ‘stand and die’ tactics of the outsiders. There is further evidence that the attack on Beslan School No. 1 was to be diversion for the main attack which never occurred due to the overwhelming influx of military forces in to the area.

Our enemy specifically targets the innocent in the name of their twisted Islamic beliefs. Some in this country will make excuses and try to convince us that if we keep an open mind and concede to the demands of the terrorists, they will be satisfied and go away. After 9/11 they blamed U.S. policy in the Middle East for the hijackers desperation. After the bombings at the Madrid train station, the majority of the Spanish population blamed their government's support of the US in Iraq and voted in a new government. The liberal press in this country blame the hard line policy of Israel against the Palestinians after each suicide bombing there. So who was to blame in Beslan – the children? (Continued on Page 7)

Product Review - Insight SSL-1 (continued from previous page)

wide beam illuminates the entire vehicle on a traffic stop which means you don't have to scan with the weapon to see.

The SSL-1 body is Milspec type III anodized aluminum which is a step up from the plastic body of the old “M” series lights. This should add to the durability of the light. Speaking of durability, this light is rated waterproof down to 66 feet.

Insight has redesigned the switch on the SSL-1. There are two independent rocker switches located at the

rear of the light. Depressing either switch down will momentarily activate the light. Pushing either switch lever up locks the switch in the ON position. The obvious advantage is the ease of use with both left and



right handed shooters. Matched up with a truly ambidextrous pistol like the S&W M&P, it makes a nice set up. The only negative point I could find with the light was it appears to be slightly wider in the body than the M3/M6 series. The light fits a little tighter in my Safariland holster making the draw a little slower. Insight makes a locking latch that fits better however I found there is some friction along the sides of the body as well. This would probably be better described as a holster issue rather than a problem with the light.

Beslan - The Rest of the Story

Beslan was a horrific attack on innocent civilians, the majority of whom were school children. The sheer disregard for human life and lack of compassion the terrorists displayed shocks the conscience of Americans who live a very quiet and peaceful life in comparison to the rest of the world. If you have read Giduck's book **Terror at Beslan** (\$25 from Archangel Group) you begin to get an idea of just why this attack should not have been a surprise. In fact, Giduck points out that authorities in the region were on alert for an attack of some sort.

The unrest in the Caucasus region of the Russian Federation has been fermenting for centuries. The neighboring Russian republics of North Ossetia, Ingushetia and quasi-independent Chechnya are located on a narrow strip of land between the Black and Caspian Seas north of Turkey and Iran. Because of the location, this area is a mixture of Christians from the north and Muslims from the south. As both religions tried to push into neighboring regions, they were funneled through this area and conflicts have abounded since the 7th century. The ongoing conflicts have fueled the hatred between Ossetians who are Orthodox Christian and the Ingushetians and Chechens who are Sunni Muslim. The basic social struc-

ture of the Chechens is oriented around the family or clan. Outsiders, regardless of nationality are not to be trusted as is the way with most "clannish" societies. Islam came to Chechnya in about the 8th century and the first Russian attempt to colonize Chechnya came in 1663. This effort lasted until the 18th century when the Russian government finally had some semblance of control over Chechnya. Bloody battles between the Russians and Chechens went on until 1859 when the resistance effort failed. The Russians slaughtered thousands and deported as many as 700,000 Chechens from their homeland in 1865. Many of these deportees went to the Middle East which accounts for the strong ties there today.

While the Czar's army may have conquered the land, they did not conquer the people. As with many clannish societies, Chechen children are raised to fight any perceived enemy. They are taught from an early age there are no rules, no compassion and no surrender when it comes to fighting. To quote Giduck, "They are indoctrinated early on in the techniques of terror and Chechens insist there will always be enough fighters to continue the battle against Russia. From an early age, boys are taught the fundamental

code of Chechen warriorship: ***Do not fear the enemy, he may not have a weapon. If he does, it may not be cocked. If it is cocked, it may not fire. If it does fire, he may miss. If the bullet strikes you, you may not die. If you die, you then gain Allah's grace.***"

Oil was discovered in the region early in the 20th century further fueling Russia's desire to control the region. The Bolsheviks offered independence to the Chechens if they agreed to support the revolution against the Czar. As could be expected, the Communists lied to the Chechens and things were perhaps worse under the new government. The Soviet Union annexed Chechnya and the Red Army quashed any rebellion. This is why we really knew nothing of the Chechen history or the latent unrest in the region. As with most of the Soviet Union, Moscow's iron fist kept a lid on everyone's petty differences with their neighbors. In 1944, Stalin deported the region's entire population to Siberia and Kazakhstan.

It's estimated that up to 50% of the Chechen population were killed in this relocation. Stalin then encouraged Ossetians and Cossacks to move into the vacated territory. In 1956 under the reconstruction of Nikita Khrushchev, the Chechens were allowed to return but found their land occupied by Ossetians and others and any claim to their homeland was lost.

When the USSR began to disintegrate, the ethnic differences between the many and diverse regions began to reappear. The fear of the Communist government and the dreaded KGB diminished and was replaced by old enmity and rancor. Former Soviet republics declared independence and the new Russian Federation fought to hold on to as much territory as it could.

(Continued on next page)

Randolph P.D. Hosting Glock Armorer School

The Randolph Police Department will be hosting a Glock Armorer School on Thursday, October 25, 2007. This is a factory sponsored program and covers all Glock's models available to law enforcement in the U.S.A. Course fee is \$150.00. Anyone interested in taking this class needs to register on Glock's web site in the Training section (www.glocktraining.com). Classes are only open to Law Enforcement personnel who are U.S. citizens. Registration forms and more information can be found on the Glock Training web site.



Beslan - The Rest of the Story (continued from previous page)

This situation led to many skirmishes, thousands of deaths and two wars with Russia. Chechnya has been a painful thorn in the paw of the Russian government for centuries and the hostility that exists on both sides can not be appeased by political rhetoric or treaties. Kidnapping, murder and an active slave trade are every day occurrences in the region. It's like living in a war zone. The Chechens obviously hate Christians in general and the Russians in particular. There is no love lost on the Russian side either. Giduck quotes a Spetznaz colonel's feelings on the Chechens in general. "Chechens are a people that don't work, and won't work, even if given the opportunity." "For them, the very best thing to do is to commit fraud and hurt people of other religions. They live for this 'game', as they see it." He further states, "Historically they would rob, steal, kidnap and sell slaves for money rather than ever developing an economy. They can betray anyone at any time, no matter the friendship." This is ironic because the colonel has lived in Chechnya and has Chechen friends. He states that he knows they will turn on him in a heartbeat if advantageous or financially rewarding to them. The colonel says, "The only answer to Chechnya is to drop bombs on the entire region. They are like a cancer.

There is no dealing with them. As soon as countries like the U.S. and Great Britain accept that Chechnya is a cancer, President Putin will have the freedom he needs to deal with them like a cancer." "The Russian people want to see the war in Chechnya won. They want a FINAL SOLUTION (emphasis added) to this problem and realize there won't be such a solution unless they are all killed."

If this statement is reflective of the general feelings in Russia, they are suggesting genocide is the only answer to the problem. While many will focus on Giduck's book for the information on the actual attack on the school, I believe the information on the history of the unrest in the region is far more profound. Giduck also points out that the majority of terrorism we face today is rooted in the countries we freed at the end of WWII. Former colonies of the USA, Britain, France, Holland, Belgium and Germany such as the Philippines, the Middle East, Angola, Indonesia, Somalia, Pakistan, Afghanistan and Malaysia are all hot beds for Islamic terrorism. Ironically, many of these countries suffered under colonial rule or the domination of a dictatorship prior to WWII. The countries that allowed these nations to be-

come self governing are generally the targets to the terrorism they breed today. The U.S., Great Britain and Russia and to a lesser extent Canada and France lost millions in the battle to overthrow Nazi Germany and Japanese Great East Asia Co-Prosperity Sphere. Look who are the primary targets for these radical elements today. France continues to placate the Arabs by selling them munitions and playing both sides of the fence while saying whatever it takes to keep the oil flowing. Canada has seen a huge influx of immigrants and is the gateway for most terrorists entering the U.S. despite their best efforts to screen them.

Reading between the lines, we have a long and hard battle ahead of us. There appears to be no peaceful solution that will settle this religious based hatred. While having little to do with specific firearms training, we need to keep an open mind to the environment we will be training in. There are millions of moderate Muslims who remain silent when terrorism strikes locally. Where is the outrage? Where is the condemnation? Where is the pressure to cut support for these terrorists? Is this a message we need to be hearing? It is going to get a lot worse before it gets better. Be prepared.

Support Your Association by Supporting Conference Vendors

As many of our long time members have seen, the annual training conference has developed into a premier event here in New England.

No longer a "local" event just drawing a handful of members, the MLEFIAA Firearms Instructor Training & Development Conference is a most significant training event for firearms instructors in the northeast. A measure of our success is the caliber of instructors we attract on a regular basis. Noted authors Jim Cirillo, Mike Boyle and Mike Conti are regular presenters. We have

instructors from foreign countries who are sent to teach with us because of the reputation of this program. This program does not just happen. A lot of hard work by a handful of people make the conference what it is.

The conference is fifty percent of the Association's revenue generating program. The minimal fees charged to attend this training are only what the Executive Board has determined is necessary to run the program without incurring a loss. The only way we can make money is to bring

the vendors in for the Expo. These companies support MLEFIAA by purchasing table space and taking time out of their schedules to attend the conference.

Even if you are not signed up for the Conference, please take the time to attend the Expo on Tuesday, September 25th. Admission is free with your law enforcement ID. If you anticipate equipment purchases in the fall, please talk with the vendors to see if they can fill your needs. Supporting the vendors also supports your Association.

BESLAN - An Analysis of Terror (cont. from Page 3)

The rest is history. In the end, only one terrorist was captured. Several escaped; of these, one was beaten to death when recognized by the fathers of several victims. Another was lynched by the crowd wanting revenge.

Mike relied heavily on John Giduck's book "**Terror at Beslan**" and did a great job setting up a time line so we could fully understand the situation in the short amount of time the meeting allowed. As has always been the case with the old Soviet Union and Russia,

identifying the players can be difficult. The various government directorates and para-military units that responded are confusing unless you have a working knowledge of who's who. His presentation stirred up valuable dialog among those present on what this country may be facing (see related story in this issue).

For those members who could not make the meeting or have an interest in this topic, Mike Lupachini will present an enhanced version of this at the MLEFIAA Firearm Instructor

Training Conference and Product Expo this September. The conference offers extensive classroom and range training in relevant topics. While those attendees who have paid for classes have first preference, the classroom training held on the first day is open to sworn law enforcement officers who attend the Vendor Expo. This is a great way to check out many new products and take advantage of the special show pricing that many vendors offer. You can also sit in on some of the classes if space is available.

Are You Ready To Deal With A "Beslan" Style Attack (cont. from Page 4)

How many must die before we wake up to the reality of the situation? It is going to get worse before it gets better. Al Qaeda has become the boogeyman of the media however I submit that organization is only the tip of the iceberg. While they have been the driving force behind numerous attacks and continue to be a significant security threat, the true enemy is the radical fundamentalist Islamic movement. The politically correct media fails to properly acknowledge the intolerance of these people. They have no tolerance for anyone that is not Muslim or who do not live by their moral code. This same moral code includes stoning women and puts no value on the life on anyone considered an "infidel".

Al Qaeda's notoriety has created a new threat for the world. The recent plot to attack soldiers at Fort Dix, NJ could not be tied directly to Al Qaeda. The independent perpetrators were imitating Al Qaeda. Just as demented students have mimicked Klebold and Harris' attack at Columbine High School, we are now seeing 'wannabee' terrorists looking to imitate Al Qaeda. This is an important transformation as Al Qaeda no longer has to finance and supply leadership to radical cells – they only have to antagonize hatred and inspire the motivation to act on that hate.

Our borders are porous, our laws

are designed to protect the accused at the expense of the innocent and we (as police officers) generally lack the determination to engage a terrorist threat. The municipalities we are sworn to protect against this threat have cut our training budgets to the bone. This type of threat is not one we are currently prepared for. It is ignored in the academy and brushed over at in-service.

Local law enforcement can do nothing about terrorist networks overseas however we can prepare for and shore up our defenses here at home. To be safe, we must make our communities hard nuts to crack forcing terrorism to go elsewhere. Radical Islam is not going to throw in the towel and declare a truce. This is a religious conflict that dates back to the Crusades. Until the moderate Muslim world condemns the actions of the radical minority, cuts off their funding and takes a firm stand against the terror, we must expect the worst.

So, how does affect you the fire-arms instructor? Can the individual officer do anything? YES! Like the Boy Scouts, we must be prepared. When (not if) this happens here in America, responding officers will need rifles and plenty of ammo. Work with your superiors to be sure you have patrol rifles and they

are in your cruisers. If they are locked up in the station, people are going to die while someone wastes time bringing them to the scene. Along with your rifle, you are going to need plenty of ammo. This is not going to be the statistical FBI UCR gunfight of 3.4 rounds fired at a distance of 21 feet or less. The terrorists are most vulnerable at the onset of the attack before they have established a toe hold in the building and had time to consolidate their gains.

Our training must focus on rapid intervention of the terrorists plan. They perceive Americans as weak and lacking resolve. In some cases, this may be true. We need to train our officers to be alert and ready. The terrorists at Beslan were at their weakest during the initial assault. They had very little time to train together. If local police can counter attack immediately, this may throw the terrorist's time table off enough to permit better trained officers (regional or larger agency tactical teams) to respond. The training you give your officers needs to instill a confidence in their ability and equipment. Active shooter scenarios – be it a high school student with a grudge or a band of terrorists need to be dealt with immediately. We know that containment and waiting
More on Page 9

Ruger PC9 Failure - Shooter Fails To Pay Attention

The internet can be a wonderful resource especially when you are looking for ways to illustrate what not to do. This information was found on Dean Speir's website the Gun Zone (www.thegunzone.com) which I've found to be an interesting resource.

The Ruger PC4 carbine is commonly used as a patrol rifle in law enforcement circles especially by departments that issue Ruger .40 caliber semi-autos as a duty weapon. As can be seen in the photos,



the carbine suffered a catastrophic failure due to the shooter's total disregard for what the rifle was telling him.

In December 2000 at the Manchester Firing Line Range in New Hampshire, the shooter apparently experienced a squib round (a round that did not receive a full charge of powder and when fired, does not have sufficient energy to propel the bullet clear of the barrel) and failed to notice.

Squib rounds rarely if ever have the energy to cycle the action on a semi auto when the bullet fails to leave the barrel. This indicates the shooter must have manually cycled the action to chamber a fresh round when pressing the trigger failed to deliver the expected "bang".

As firearms instructors we are charged with overseeing the safety and operation of the range. Unfortunately we can not rely on having shooters who will recog-



Letters to the Editor (continued from Page 3)

When I went to the Pepperball instructors course we were cautioned not to refer to the pepperball as a "round", as it conjures up images, or the impression of, a lethal firearm cartridge.

So, as your well written article mentioned, due to the media's ineptitude of reporting the correct facts on just about everything we do and that incident in particular, I had to correct their mistake, and tell the Chief, and just about every Officer on the Department that our equipment was not the same.

In fact, I am still correcting their mistake to this day when we show, or talk about the pepperball equipment to our citizen academy classes, and other dog and pony show type event.

Anyway, good job on the case head!
Stay Safe,

Mike Lupachini, Upton P.D.

Thanks for taking the time to write and for the input Mike. As mentioned in the last letter, the term "Pepperball" was not meant to single out that product.

The ammunition - Sellier & Bellot, is a brand that is frequently found at discount mail order sites and not commonly used in law enforcement. As the photos show, the first round lodged in the barrel and the subsequent rounds piled up behind it until the barrel failed under the pressure of the .40 S&W load.

The PC4 is a blow back operated semi automatic rifle fed by a standard Ruger pistol magazine of the appropriate cali-

nize a potentially hazardous situation. We have ingrained in them to perform a malfunction drill any time they do not get the desired noise and recoil of a normal shot. It pays to keep an eye on your shooters even when they appear to be performing properly. No one was injured however the result may have been different if this was a Mini 14 firing the .223 Remington round which develops much higher pressures. (Photos by Jim Crump)

The Randolph Police Department would like to thank the association for the use of MLEFIAA's airsoft equipment. We just recently completed training the entire department in rapid response to an active shooter incident. Included in this training were force on force simulations utilizing the airsoft equipment. This was the first time training with force on force simulations. The feedback from the Officers was nothing but positive. Some of the comments were, "That was the best training we've ever done. When can we do this again. We should do this every year." We conducted the training in the Randolph High School during April vacation week. Officers not only received great training, but had a lot of laughs as well. The training was video taped and reviewed at the conclusion of the training. This received great feedback.

I would like to especially thank Todd Bailey for his help and time. Todd spent a Saturday fixing some of the airsoft guns and then meeting me to deliver the equipment. Todd was also helpful with a few tips in regards to force on force training with the airsoft that I found very helpful.

The association has a great arsenal of airsoft guns. We were given 13 pistols, 2 M4 rifles and a shotgun. All guns that our Officers have on the street. Any member thinking of training their department utilizing airsoft has this same equipment just waiting to be used. This was a first for Randolph, but definitely not the last.

Thanks again from the Randolph Training Division:
Lt. Edward O'Leary, Lt. John Courtney
Ptlm. Dennis Crowley and Ptlm. Richard Hughes

Are You Ready To Deal With A “Beslan” Style Attack (cont. from Page 7)

for SWAT will only result in greater casualties. Immediate and effective action is the key to success. If our initial response is forceful enough, it can minimize the advantage of surprise that the terrorists have.

Police officers need to be ready to go 24/7 in their community. If you are working a detail a half mile

from the target, are you prepared to respond? Even if you don't wear a vest on a detail, do you have it with you? Do you have a rifle with 2 or 3 spare magazines? We need to start thinking like volunteer firefighters. When the balloon goes up, we hot foot it to the scene and have the equipment to fight the battle. If you

aren't willing to be a sheep dog, you better resign yourself to be one of the sheep.

Sadly, it will take one or two attacks and many casualties to bring this point home. America is historically slow to react. Hopefully we will have sheep dogs on duty when it happens.

Integrated Response To Active Shooters

At the Association's April meeting hosted by Marty Gannon of the Lancaster P.D., a timely presentation on Response to School Lockdowns was presented by our host. Marty used his experience with the local schools to illustrate the problems and solutions to instituting a integrated response to a school lockdown.

The critical element is to integrate Law Enforcement, Fire, EMS and Communications into the training and response. All four elements will be required for a successful outcome to this type of incident. Marty stated up front that one of the biggest hurdles he had to overcome was getting the school system to cooperate. Lancaster is somewhat unique in that for a small town, it has a fairly large number of schools. In addition to several public schools, the Perkins School and Assumption College

Any reader who has attempted to conduct training inside the local schools will have experienced this to some extent. Some school administrators have a distinct bias against police in the schools. When forced to have a School Resource or D.A.R.E. Officer in their midst, they will often require them to be unarmed or where a suit & tie rather than the traditional uniform. Our host explained that he had several face to face meetings with the school administration before he was able to make any headway. With persistence, patience and the threat of making a formal issue as a parent, Marty was able to get his foot in the door. Like the proverbial camel's nose under the

tent, once Marty got in he was able to begin conducting meaningful training. At the same time, he was able to present the reality of an active shooter scenario to the school administrators and teachers which helped win them over to the idea. The Virginia Tech shooting brought the reality of the scenario in a college environment to the local Assumption College. You don't have to approach the schools with “Active Shooter Training”. It may be easier and more acceptable to propose “natural disaster” drills and training. This includes closing the blinds to simulate power outages, moving pupils away from windows and evacuations to pre-designated points.

Once you have the local school administrators on board, you will need to coordinate the Public Safety elements. Most training we do completely ignores the people who will handle our calls. This needs to change. Your department's response to an active shooter or lock down situation will begin with a call to the Communications Division or Dispatch. In terms of manpower, Dispatch is very limited especially when things get busy. Most small jurisdictions will have 1 or 2 people to take incoming telephone calls, handle radio traffic, page out the response, gather information and relay communications between agencies. An active shooter incident will quickly overwhelm even the most skilled dispatcher.

Once Dispatch puts out the call, the varying responses need to be ad-

dressed. On duty officers will respond in the traditional manner and will most likely be the first on scene. This has been addressed in detail before. In smaller jurisdictions, response will most likely include calling in off duty officers and a mutual aid response from adjacent towns. Marty told the members that his department has issued raid jackets to officers. This will allow them to respond with clear identification as police officers without having to change into a uniform. Another source of responding officers could be those on details. Depending on the detail officers location, they could be the first officer on scene. If so, they need to be prepared. Since most detail officers do not wear sufficient equipment to deal with a serious call, some prior planning needs to take place. An ballistic assault vest loaded with cuffs, spare magazines, tactical light and possibly a full size weapon makes for a quick way to go from schooner rigged to fully equipped. Forward thinking officers will also have a long gun with spare magazines handy. There is a strong argument to be made for departments issuing a patrol rifle to each officer in addition to a duty pistol.

Active shooter incidents are not just a police call. Fire, EMS and DPW will be involved. Most communities integrate Fire and EMS. For those that do not, we will need the Fire Department on tap to cover Med-Flight LZ's, silence fire alarms (which are often pulled in these incidents) and respond to fire events which
(Continued on Page 11)

2007 Annual Firearms Instructor Development Conference

September 25 - 28, 2007

Devens Common Center (former Ft. Devens)
(Vendor Expo and Classroom Sessions)
Harvard Sportsmen's Club
(Live Fire Range Exercises)

MLEFIAA Members: \$185.00

Non-members: \$245.00

The cost includes admission to the Vendor Expo and up to eight hours of classroom training on September 25th plus your choice of up to 24 hours of live fire range sessions on September 26th - 28th. On the live fire days, lunch is provided at the range for participants that have signed up. Class size is limited and participants will be registered on a first come – first in basis. Most classes are 4 hours in length. Attached is a tentative list of programs that will be offered.

Reduced rate accommodations for law enforcement personnel are available at the host hotel – Devens Spring Hill Suites. The hotel is part of the Conference Center and is conveniently located 10 minutes from the range.

This is the best value training you will ever come across. The cost value works out to less than six dollars per hour - and we feed you at the range! It doesn't get any better than this.

Safariland Holster Issue

At a firearms instructor recertification in May, a possible problem with Safariland's Model 6005 SLS style holster came up. This is the popular model featuring a rotating hood and will accommodate a pistol equipped with a tactical light. The design of the holster features an enlarged section of the holster body which the tactical light fits in to. The bottom of the holster has a solid plug where the light is positioned.

While on the line, a shooter experienced difficulty holstering his service pistol. The officer had completed the course of fire and attempted to holster the pistol which would only go in approximately 90% of the way. In this position the rotating hood would not properly retain the weapon leaving it unsecured. The problem was traced to an empty cartridge case which had

fallen into the holster. The case came to a rest on the solid plug. When the pistol was inserted into the holster, the lens of the attached tactical light made contact with the case. Fortunately the officer did not try and force the pistol into the holster. This would have likely resulted in breaking the lens on the light. One can imagine the predicament if this happened in combat situation. Imagine the officer being in a situation where a deadly force situation had de-escalated to a hands on situation. The officer attempts to holster and secure their pistol but it will not properly seat or secure. The officer now has to go hands on with an unsecured weapon.

After examining the design we concluded Safariland most likely designed the holster in manner so that should

an officer inadvertently holster their weapon with the tactical light on, the plug will prevent the officer from illuminating himself. Unfortunately this can also present a serious safety problem for the officer. We do not recommend removing the plug from the holster as it may provide structural support to the holster body.

One solution could be to create a hole in the solid plug so that any debris large enough to prevent the weapon from properly fitting into the holster would fall free.

MLEFIAA recommends users of this holster contact Safariland and voice their concern over this problem. The company has been very customer service oriented in the past and hopefully will address this issue.

Integrated Response to the Active Shooter (cont. from Page 9)

may develop. EMS services are self explanatory. Forward thinking departments will look toward creating Tactical EMS billets with their response. Active shooter incidents will mean casualties suffering from gun shot wounds and other trauma. Integrating medical personnel into our response only makes sense. The contact team enters and moves toward the threat to deal with it. As difficult as it may be, their goal can not be diverted by the wounded. Pausing to render aid or drop officers off to handle casualties will only result in a delayed response or making the contact team less effective when the threat is encountered. The Rescue Teams are tasked with rendering aid and evacuating victims. Putting trained EMS personnel in these teams has several benefits. Foremost is bringing medical attention to the wounded sooner. Secondary is additional manpower which could mean additional Rescue Teams. Once casualties have been confirmed, declare a MCI (mass casualty incident). This

mobilizes more assets and cuts through red tape.

The DPW is often overlooked in this type of response. An event of this magnitude is going to attract the media and on lookers. If the event happens in a school, you will have a lot of parents responding to cell phone calls from their children. To get an idea of what the traffic situation will be like, look at the number of parents who drive their kids to school and double it. Without some sort of control, it will be a mess. One way to keep traffic out and the roads open for emergency vehicles is to post road blocks. Sawhorses manned by police officers will not be effective. In addition to sucking valuable manpower away from the threat, how can one officer keep back a dozen frantic parents without creating a bigger problem? If the parents are not willing to obey the officer's orders, does the officer use force to keep the parents out? Imagine how that will look in the newspaper the next day. It is likely the offi-

cer would be tied up with one parent and others will drive right around the road block making it pointless and a waste of manpower. A better plan would be to block the selected road with heavy machinery or a dump truck, lock the doors and walk away. Pre-plan these locations to maximize the effectiveness and have manned access points for emergency vehicles. Realistically, traffic and roads are going to be a nightmare on top of an already bad situation. Expect parents to abandon their cars and approach the scene on foot. It should be expected that some will not be willing to listen to reason and may want to enter the building to retrieve their child. This is especially true if the children are younger. If your schools are grouped together, expect parents of children on other campuses to want to pick up their children. Preparations for this should be anticipated and an area set aside for parents to be reunited with their children established.

Is the Revolver Obsolete?

Can you think of a law enforcement agency that carries the revolver as the issued service weapon? When is the last time you saw a wheel gun on an officer's duty belt? The only uniformed personnel I see wearing a revolver are the occasional armed security guard and armored car personnel. Sure there is a market for large frame revolvers in the target shooting and hunting market but there is no place for the old wheel gun in law enforcement...right? If that's the case, why does Smith & Wesson offer THIRTY FIVE different small frame revolver options in their present catalog? The J-Frame revolver has never been more popular and the selection of models has never been greater.

The revolver may have seen its day as the primary service weapon however it is still extremely popular

as a back up gun and off duty carry piece. The Chief's Special has been around since 1950 when it was introduced at the International Chiefs of Police Convention. In those days, only Modern metallurgy has allowed companies to chamber these small framed wheel guns for the .357 Magnum cartridge. Those who have fired full house magnums in these small guns will attest that they can be a handful. The short barrel does not allow the round to achieve its full ballistic potential and the small grip makes it hard to hold on to. We can feed them a steady diet of +P ammo which would have created problems in the older guns. The "plus P" loads are hot enough to get the job done in serious social situations and controllable.

As I write this I am packing for

the Police & Security Expo in NJ and needed a handgun that performed well WITHOUT hollowpoints. Along with the 1911 went a S&W 640 loaded with 158 gr. Jacketed soft points.

Unfortunately most departments and training authorities have retired the revolver in their minds. This is a mistake. The wheel gun perseveres albeit in a different mode. Even with agencies that only issue semi auto pistols, the revolver can be found as an off duty gun. Both S&W and Taurus offer lightweight models constructed of titanium and scandium. While a bit on the harsh side to shoot, the lightweight materials make them a pleasure to carry all day. When the sun goes down, that is what these small guns are for – carrying.

MLEFIAA Hosts Ruger Armorer School

At the beginning of May, MLEFIAA hosted a Ruger Rifle Armorer School at the Westminster Police Department. This three day program covered basic disassembly, maintenance, inspection and reassembly of the Mini 14 and Police Carbine series of rifles. The instructor was Bob Wood from Ruger's Newport, New Hampshire facility. Bob went through all the variations of the Mini 14 and explained how Ruger is adapting the rifle to the needs of law enforcement. While Ruger has never seriously chased the police market, Bob told the armorers that they have a substantial niche in the corrections field with the Mini 14 and a number of police departments use this weapon as a patrol rifle because it does not look like an M-16. To address the needs of those departments that prefer the Ruger rifle and want it more "tactical", Ruger has introduced a new variant with a collapsible stock, Picatinney rails and a 16 inch barrel. The shorter barrel makes it much

easier to get the rifle in and out of a cruiser rack. The Mini 14 as most of us knew it has been discontinued. Ruger has adopted the Ranch Rifle configuration for all Mini 14's regardless of configuration. This permits mounting of scope rings and optics and the buffer system prevents damage to optics.

Day 3 was devoted to the Police Carbine (PC). For a department that carried Ruger semi auto pistols and was not opposed to a patrol rifle in a pistol caliber, this rifle made a lot of sense. It is accurate, light weight and uses the same magazines as the officers duty weapon. How many of us with M4's carry two spare magazines for our rifle on our duty belts? Unfortunately it was only made in 9mm and .40 S&W which can not match the ballistics of a rifle round. Another drawback was it would only accept Ruger magazines. We understand the factory was able to adapt the rifle to take S&W and SIG mags however the legal department felt that could be a liability issue and nixed the that idea. While there is nothing theoretically

or mechanically wrong with the rifle, it never achieved the sales that the factory hoped and was recently discontinued.

The instructor gave some very interesting info on a new rifle in the Mini 14 line that should be appearing soon. In response to the interest in an alternative to the 5.56mm round, Ruger will chamber the Mini 14 in 6.8 SPC. Physically similar to the Mini-30 carbine, the new rifle should answer the needs of departments looking for a more effective round than the .223 Remington / 5.56mm NATO. If you are contemplating a 6.8 rifle and you like the Mini 14 design, hold off on putting a down payment on that custom barreled Ruger. You may get one right from the factory.

The Association would like to thank Lt. Mike McDonald and the Westminster Police Department for offering the use of their training room for the class and making this class a success.

Improvements To MPTC Firearms Training

As was reported in the fall '06 edition, Sgt. Bill Leanos of Gloucester P.D. has assumed the duties of Firearms Coordinator at the Municipal Police Training Committee. Bill has some big shoes to fill but after attending the April Firearms Instructor/Trainer recertification in West Springfield, it appears the right man was selected for the job. He is in the process of revamping the firearms instruction program for those agencies that train under the guidelines of the MPTC.

The Firearms Training section of the MPTC website is now being updated about every other week. Check this frequently as new classes will be coming on line. Two new programs have been implemented as of this writing. The first is a formal Instructor/Trainer recertification. Instructor/Trainers are those MPTC firearms instructors who have been certified to train at the instructor level. Similar to the regular instructor recertification, these are scheduled to keep I/T's up to date on changes, new training methods and additions to the program. Unlike the Instructor Recert, I/T's will recertify annually and they will have a separate qualification course which sets higher standards including a mandatory 100% score from 7 yards in. Bill said he envisions conducting the traditional range exercises with round table forums to discuss training issues on alternating years. Instructors will continue to be recertified every two years as in the past. In July, Bill will hold the first of several "Advanced Firearms Instructor" classes. These are designed to take the instructor beyond the entry level program and get them to begin thinking out of the box as they improve their department's program with tactical movement. A website devoted exclusively to firearms instructors is being developed. When up and running, www.firearmsinstructor.org will be a great resource for department instructors here in Massachusetts.

Instructor recertification will continue

to be an 8 hour block of instruction for pistol, revolver, shotgun and patrol rifle. Instructors who were initially certified by bodies other than the MPTC such as Smith & Wesson, SIGArms Academy, and FLETC will be accepted provided proper documentation and certificates are provided. Beginning this year, the initial MPTC instructor certification program will increase from 40 hours (5 days) to 64 hours (8 days). The additional instruction will be on long gun training. As this new curriculum is implemented, we will see weapon retention and defensive tactics integrated more into firearms training. This makes sense as your department's use of force training should include all aspects from verbal to deadly force. A new Power Point presentation and course CD have been developed to augment the new material.

Record keeping continues to be an import but often neglected aspect of firearms training. Instructors should not send score sheets or other records to the Firearms Coordinator. It is imperative that each instructor document training including lesson plan development, courses of fire, range conditions, ammunition and scores. These records remain with the department. The subject of training ammo vs. duty ammo was discussed. As conventional outdoor ranges become scarce, departments have had to adapt to indoor ranges which often require frangible ammunition. Due to its construction, frangible bullets are often lighter in weight than their conventional counterpart. This can change the point of impact. The bullet weight of the department's selected duty round may not have a comparable "training" round. Before adopting a training round, the instructor will have to test it to use to insure the point of aim and point of impact are identical to their chosen duty round. At this time there is no legal case law to draw on to sample the courts

interpretation of this topic. Until there is, we should conduct comparison testing and document the results to cover our selection of training ammo. It is clear the MPTC is aware of the financial impact that restricting training ammo could have on a department's training budget.

An important aspect of firearms training is an officer's ability to manipulate their service weapon with the support side hand. Shooting with the support side hand was eliminated from the MPTC Qualification course several years ago. It's back and that's a good thing. When under stress such as in a gun fight, human instinct causes us to focus on the threat - the weapon. Tunnel vision sets in and unless a shooter has committed hundreds of hours of training, they are going to forget their front sight.

This is where I have to disagree somewhat with the MPTC program. There is no question that the front sight is the key to marksmanship and that this must be the cornerstone of basic marksmanship instruction taught at the academy - especially to new shooters. However, the overwhelming majority of police officers do not practice enough to overcome the basic instinct of focusing on the threat and to focus on the front sight under stress. The number of injuries to the weapon hand area of the people we are forced to use deadly force against supports this hypothesis.

Until we can fund training to the extent where we are able to overcome instinct, we need to pay more attention to the concept of point shooting. Read *Kill or Get Killed* by Rex Applegate or *Police Pistolcraft* by Mike Conti and see how police officers really react in a shootout and how to adapt your training to this. I do not see this as a negative point but rather it should create some excellent dialogue at the I/T round table discussions.

COURSE OF FIRE by Joe Picariello, Princeton P.D.

Semi-Auto Pistol Evaluation Exercise (SAPE)

This will be the first of a series of articles dealing with various courses of fire. Bill Peterson and I have been using the semi auto pistol evaluation course for a number of years. We first heard about it from John Farnum (Defensive Training Institute). The course has also been credited to Jerry Lane (Off-Shoots Training Institute) and Larry Nichols (Burbank CA PD).

We took the course and modified a couple of stages for our training. This course is used as the standard qualification course for the departments we train. In blue are the pre-stage set up needed to complete the course. The target used is a Q target.

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. **[50 Round Course of Fire] Passing Score: 80%**

Load one magazine with six rounds

3 Yards: From the holster-2 rds in 3 seconds 6 rds
Move back to the 5 yd line. Load 2 magazines each with 3 rds.
Start with empty chamber. Load 3 rd. magazine. DO NOT chamber round.

5 Yards: Draw and fire 3 rds. In 5 seconds (includes tap-rack-access). Done twice. 6 rds.
Load 3 magazines each with 2 rds. Load 1 magazine into pistol and chamber a round.
Other 2 magazines placed in magazine pouches. .

5 Yards: Slide Forward; reload drill from the holster 12 rds
Draw and fire 2 rds, reload, fire 2 rds, reload and fire 2 rds. Time limit: 15 seconds per string. Done twice.
Load 1 magazine with 6 rounds. Load and chamber round.

5 Yards Body Armor Drill from the holster. 6 rds
Draw and fire 2 rds in the torso and one in the head in 5 seconds. Done twice.
Move back to 7 yard line.
Load 2 magazines each with 5 rds.
Using a dummy round, set up a double feed.

7 Yards Double Feed Clearance Drill from the shooting position 6 rds
From ready position, perform immediate action drill and fire 3 rds in 15 seconds. Repeat one more time.
Three magazines loaded with 2 rds per magazine. Load 1 magazine and chamber round.

7 Yards Slide lock back and reload drill from the holster 6 rds
Draw and fire 2 rds, reload, fire 2 rds, reload and fire 2 rds. Time limit: 15 seconds per string. Done once.
Using 2 magazines. Load the first magazine with 5 rds
Load the second magazine with 3 rds.
Load 5 round magazine in the gun and chamber a round. Place magazine with 3 rds. In magazine pouch.

15 Yards Tactical reload drill from the low ready position. 8 rds**
Draw and fire 4 rds., perform tactical reload and fire 4 remaining rds. Time limit: 20 seconds

** - Loading magazines in this way is to accommodate a 50 round box of ammunition.

As you can see by the above course of fire, the officer must perform 2 types of immediate drills, 2 types of reloading drills, speed shooting, failure drills and long distance shooting. If instructors don't teach the tactical reload, a slide lock reload can be substituted at the 15 yard line. Cover positions should be provided so officers perform the double feed clearance drill from behind cover.

I am going to use this course later this year during our downed/disabled officers drills and the officer will have to perform all of the stages except the 15 yard stage one handed.

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