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The Case Head

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

WINTER 2008/2009



MERRY CHRISTMAS & HAPPY NEW YEAR

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

The article on the PMags (see the Fall 2008 Case Head) is right on with my experiences. Going on 15 months with some of the originals and no problems experienced yet. As you can probably guess, I keep track of my gear pretty closely. The PMags went through Pat's class in Gloucester, stayed loaded in my call out gear, and were used in three team training days and a dozen more in-service classes run for my department's officers. Lots of rounds fired and many reloads/unloads in live fire and demonstrations.

Early S&W M&P15's had an issue with PMags. I have learned that is was not uncommon with a certain pro-

duction run but was quickly corrected. I actually saw this first hand with a M&P15 that has been at Steve Assad's agency for over a year. The PMag would insert almost all the way in but would get stuck and fail to lock. Turns out it wasn't mag related. When examining the S&W compared with some Colt M16's, the bevel on the flared opening of the S&W magazine well was non-existent. PMags have that area in the top of the plastic which is wider than aluminum magazines which causes the issue. Dighton PD bought some new M&P15's this summer and the issue has been taken care of.

The magazines are top notch as is the customer ser-

vice at Magpul. I had five really old PMags made during their first months of production. They never gave me a problem. But when some minor issues popped up with other users, Magpul tweaked the design a little to make sure nothing went wrong. They then offered anyone who had one of the early production mags a swap for a new production magazine body. No cost to the consumer and all shipping paid for by Magpul. I didn't know this until reading their website a year later but called and they sent me five new magazines with a shipping label to send back the old ones.

Jay Borges, Somerset PD

Monthly Meeting Calendar

Jan 2009
S&W Academy
(Elections)

Feb 26, 2008
Duxbury PD

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

Apr 22, 2008
Berlin P.D.

May 27, 2008
U.S. Postal Insp.
Service - Boston

June 24, 2008
Barre Sportsman's
Club - Instructor
Recerts

July & August
No meeting
Summer Break

Sept 23-26, 2008
Annual Instructor
Conference
Devens

October 21, 2008
Westminster PD

November 2008
Sig Sauer
Academy

Dec. 16, 2008
Westminster PD
Nominations / Ed
Gross sniper
presentation

Watch your E-mail for
details

ARE YOU A RECENTLY CERTIFIED FIREARMS INSTRUCTOR? LOOKING FOR A REVOLVER INSTRUCTOR CLASS?

MLEFIAA is working on hosting one or two classes in the late winter and/or early spring. This will be a one day MPTC approved course and will focus on short barreled off duty & back up weapons. Interested instructors should contact MLEFIAA Secretary Joe Picariello at secretary@mlefiaa.org for more info.

Product Review - Insight Tech Gear's Procyon Tactical Rail Mounted LED Light

Reviewed by Todd Bailey

Insight Tech Gear has been making rail mounted lights for some time. The M3 and M6 series of lights have been industry icons but they had several drawbacks due mainly to their dated design. The plastic construction kept weight low but was not as rugged as newer lights with aluminum housings. LED technology has made the incandescent lamp obsolete.

Enter the Procyon. Aluminum housing, 125 lumen LED, independent switches and a strobe function. The light has adjustable rails and comes with two latch bars so that it will fit both Mil-Std M1913 and non-standard rails such as Glock. Two lithium 123A batteries provide power for at least 90 minutes. Insight claims the light is waterproof to 30 feet

The dual independent switches are probably the best activation switch design on the market. I personally do not care for the Surefire and Streamlight designs. The independent design is truly ambidextrous. To activate the momentary function, press and hold either switch down. Constant on is achieved by moving either switch up into the detent. The Procyon has a strobe function which is activated by pressing down twice on either switch. If you wish to lock the strobe function on, merely press the other switch up into the constant on position while still holding the first one in the momentary position. This actually is a lot easier than it sounds. With few minutes of practice you will be able to master the



technique. The downside of this is it requires the use of two fingers and one will be your trigger finger. In my humble opinion, that finger needs to be available 24/7 to press the trigger and only to press the trigger. This could very well cut down on your reaction time to respond to a deadly threat.

The 125 lumen LED is more than sufficient to illuminate threats at handgun ranges. A multi faceted reflector design gives you a wide corona but with some dark rings. I was a little disappointed in the quality of the beam. Given what some of the competition is putting out, I expected a better reflector design. Due to the switch design, I think adapting this light to a long gun may not be practical. Insight has remote pressure switches for the M3 series however their website does not show one for this light.

The XTI Procyon was field tested on a Glock Model 22, Smith & Wesson M&P 40, 1911PD and a Blue Gun for classroom training using Safariland SLS and ALS holsters. It performed flawlessly on these weapons. As anticipated, the locking sys-

tem kept the light secure on the rails and the internal electronics withstood the recoil of both the .40S&W and .45ACP rounds. During the test, another manufacturer's LED chip and lens separated from the heat sink resulting in a total and terminal failure of the light.

Insight designed the Procyon so that if you have a holster that accepts their M3 or M6 light, you do not need to purchase a new holster. This is definitely a strong selling point for a department looking to upgrade their weapon lights or the individual officer who already has invested in holster designs for earlier designs. Not having to purchase new holsters can save a substantial amount of money.

Normally it is the policy of the Case Head to purchase any product tested for this column, this light was donated by Insight for the specific purpose to test and evaluate for the membership of MLEFIAA. Insight Tech Gear understood up front that this would be an honest evaluation. I would like to thank Insight Tech Gear for their support. They did a good job with this product and it gets a definite thumbs up.



Association Streamlines Operation

Acting in response to concerns from the membership regarding expenses and a call to streamline the Association's operating budget, the Executive Board took measures to eliminate re-occurring expenses which we had no control over.

At the October meeting, the pending contract with the Harvard Sportsman's Club was a major discussion item. The E-Board presented the contract with a recommendation to approve the one year deal which would continue MLEFIAA to keep the forty foot maritime container on HSC property. The contract proposal was a result of several months of discussion with the HSC Board of Directors. The membership raised several issues including cost and longevity.

As most of you know, the Association purchased the container several years ago to store targets and range equipment which we had begun to accumulate after hosting the conference with Action Target. Ten months ago the newly elected leadership at HSC informed the Association that we would have to pay rent or move the container off the property. They also wanted the container moved to a location closer to the ranges. This was a benefit to us as much as to the club. The Executive Board met with the HSC's Board of Directors and we worked out an agreement that seemed satisfactory to everyone. Unfortunately, no one foresaw the severity of this economic down turn and the effect it was going to have on municipal budgets.

(sadly) this is one of the first items to get axed when the money dries up. The general consensus of the membership was to eliminate the storage container because it was a piece of equipment we could not "operate" without a fixed location to support it. A motion to divest ourselves of the container carried.

We were very fortunate to be contacted by a department looking for a storage container and deal was made to transfer ownership in a timely fashion. The new owners insisted on taking delivery right away and were willing to cover the cost of the move.

Earlier in the fall, MLEFIAA purchased a small utility trailer to "take our program on the road." We frequently found we needed more equipment at various locations we taught at and this seemed to be an ideal solution. MLEFIAA has consolidated its operation into the smaller trailer and excess equipment which could not be stored elsewhere was sold off. We have target stands, targets, steel and frequently used range supplies to support almost any program we teach. A small generator is able to provide auxiliary power and lighting if needed. The seventeen foot trailer was gutted and refurbished with metal storage racks and shelving to secure the equipment.



The general membership brought a number of concerns to the table. Training budgets are shrinking and in some cases drying up entirely. MLEFIAA is solely engaged in firearms related training for law enforcement agencies and

LEOSA Course Approved

The Colonel of the Mass. State Police has approved the LEOSA Retiree course submitted by MLEFIAA. The course number is LEO-002. Other approved courses include one from the MPTC and Sig-Sauer Academy.

Massachusetts had no state standard course of fire which made implementation of the Law Enforcement Officer's Safety Act problematic at best. The Executive Office of Public Safety proposed new regulations which established the State Police as a certifying agency for programs and instructors as well as setting standards for active and retired officers here in Massachusetts.

In a nutshell, active officers here in

Massachusetts are able to carry concealed with their department ID provided they have qualified with their weapon and are not under disciplinary action, under the influence or are otherwise prohibited from carrying a firearm.

The rules for retirees are a little more complicated. The retiree must have retired in good standing after 15 years of service (or on disability) and had power of arrest while active. They must have non-forfeitable rights to benefits in a retirement plan and possess a Retired ID card issued from the agency which they retired from which meets the requirements set forth by the state. Retirees then obtain a Training & Qualification card from a certified LEOSA instructor upon completing an approved training course. Provided they are not under the influence or otherwise prohibited from carrying a

firearm, they would then be authorized to carry concealed nationwide. More detailed information can be found on the MLEFIAA website. To purchase a firearm or ammunition, a retiree must still comply with all other laws including possession of appropriate permits and licenses.

Questions have been raised regarding the status of auxiliary officers who volunteered many years of service, worked shifts, carried weapons and wore body armor just like their full time counterparts. The law remains curiously silent with regard to their service. One has to ask just how a non-forfeitable pension benefit can be the deciding factor between being permitted to carry a concealed firearm after retirement. The underlying statement is being a cop only matters if you get paid and are entitled to pension benefits.

Knowing The Limits Of Rust Preventives

By Steve Schmidt, Brownell's Tech Staff

(Ed. Note - This article was sent to me by Dave Noyes and originally appeared on Brownell's Bench Talk. Credit for all the photos and information goes to the author and Brownell's. Check out their website for great products and information.)

What's Best?



Quite often, I'm asked to recommend the best rust preventive for firearms applications. I know this sounds like a fundamental request, but providing a good, comprehensive answer is not as simple as it seems. More often than not, my initial response ends up being a lot of additional questions like: ***How long will the gun be in storage?***

What type of environmental exposure will it encounter?

How frequently will it be handled with bare hands? And...well, so on and so forth.

Modern rust preventives are similar to today's hi-tech, chemical gun solvents - no single product is perfect (or best) for all conditions, all the time. If you do a lot of shooting and cleaning, I'm sure you'll agree not all solvents are created equal. Some stomp out powder and carbon fouling with more authority than others, a few work particularly well on lead and copper - still others perform almost magically when it comes time

to strip out stubborn wad fouling from a smooth bore.

Likewise, rust preventives are tailored to meet or exceed specific criteria established by the individual manufacturer. A good majority of them are multi-purpose formulas designed to lubricate and/or clean and condition in addition to fighting rust. Products with large percentages of lubricating and cleaning additives may or may not perform to your required level of corrosion protection.

On the other hand, products providing maximum corrosion-resistance may be too messy or difficult to remove for daily use. Understanding these properties is a must in order to select products that meet or exceed your particular application.

To help put things into perspective, let's compare two, very real scenarios. Nowadays, it's not uncommon for large stores, such as Scheels and Cabela's, to practice a "help yourself" or "browse at will" policy that permits customers to "pick-up and fondle", leaving behind the remnants of sweaty, acidic fingerprints on every gun they touch. I'd like to believe most shops wipe down their inventory on occasion, but to assume this happens on a daily basis teeters on absurd. Obviously, this situation requires at least a medium-duty, rust preventive that guards against rust caused by daily handling for a full workweek or so. On the contrary, an antique arms collector, who keeps his priceless heirlooms in a humidity-controlled gun safe, and handles them only once or twice a year, can probably get by with something less protective, less messy, maybe even less expensive.

Developing A Test

Brainstorming for this month's **Cleaning Clinic** generated some interesting thoughts, opinions and speculation from some of our techs and other crew here at Brownells. Summed up, there appears to be an enigma surrounding the performance of different types of rust preventives. What works well for some shooters, could very well fall short for others. So, I felt the best way to assist you with product selection was to try and show the limitations of some of the more common products by subjecting them to a simple 72-hour, environmental test. Since I probably have more in common with Dr. Frankenstein than an Ivy League science graduate, I knew the toughest job would be keeping the test realistic, achieving some identifiable results, and not going too overboard with it. This is what I came up with.

I began by selecting ten products commonly used to protect firearms from rust and corrosion. These were: **Birchwood Casey Sheath, Boeshield T-9, Break-Free LP, Break-Free Weapon Wipes, Brownells Cosmoline, Brownells Rust Preventive No. 2, Hoppe's Lubricating Oil, Rig Universal Grease, and Tetra Gun Lubricant.** To curb my own curiosity, I also threw in a couple extra lubricants - Valvoline 5W-30 motor oil and the universally recognized WD-40.

The test-bed would consist of 1/8" thick, raw, flat steel plate cut into individual pieces measuring about 5" to 6" long x 1 1/4" wide. In order to achieve accurate results, each test-bed would need to be as consistent as possible, so I bead blasted the plates to a uniform surface texture. This process removed any pre-existing corrosion and exposed a fresh, unadulterated test surface so every sample would start on the same playing

field. Bead blasting also produced millions of microscopic pockets in the metal that would help capture moisture and accelerate rust formation on what would otherwise be a smooth, polished finish.

Starting with the letter "A," I then hand stamped each plate with an identification letter to prevent mix-up during the three day testing process. Plate "A" would be the designated CONTROL plate, left untreated to weather the storm without the protection of any rust preventive whatsoever.

Applying The Test Samples

After designing and printing-out a datasheet, it was time to get down to business and kick-off the study. I wrote "CONTROL" next to the letter "A" on the datasheet and moved the plate stamped "A" temporarily off to the side; then, proceeded to record the name of each product next to one of the remaining letters ("B" through "L") on the datasheet. I made sure to check the datasheet twice just to be sure everything was correct.

Since it's not unusual to use rust preventives on a daily basis, especially if you shoot a lot or carry a concealed weapon, I do consider ease of application and odor to be important factors in the selection process. Therefore, I established a crude, four-level scale for rating sample thickness (or weight). These were: ultra-thin, thin, thick and heavy. Odor would be rated on a numerical scale of 1 to 5, one being no detectable odor and five being knock-your-socks-off, wife-kicks-you-out-of-the-house stinky!

To avoid contamination factors, each test plate was thoroughly degreased with its own, clean rag saturated with Brownells TCE Cleaner Degreaser, then allowed to dry completely prior to applying the rust preventives.

Each sample, with the exception of Break-Free Weapon Wipes, was

applied to its respective test plate with a fresh, cotton bore patch to prevent cross-contamination. Weapon Wipes are pre-saturated cloths ready for use, so transferring the product to a patch was not necessary. Since the fluid consistency of the samples varied, I applied them with the mindset that I was protecting a firearm for six months of indoor storage, be it a cabinet or humidity-controlled gun safe. This meant one, even, easy to apply layer on the front face and edges of the plate – no puddling or extra thick coverage was allowed.

Let The Testing Begin

All test plates were positioned flat, sample side up and spaced approximately 2" apart on an unprotected picnic table in my backyard for three days. If you're at all familiar with weather in the Midwest, you know it's not uncommon to experience two or three seasons of weather in a single weekend — this particular 72-hour period was no exception. We had high humidity, scorching heat, followed by some horrific thunderstorms that produced pounding rains and cool evening temperatures – perfect conditions to grow some serious rust and corrosion on raw steel!

The test plates were inspected at around 24 hours into the study with negligible results, but by day three, things had shaped up nicely.

The Results

After 72 hours of exposure, all test plates were brought indoors for evaluation and photographing. You will notice there are two photographs per plate. The first photograph shows the plate immediately after testing. The second depicts the same plate after degreasing with TCE to remove all loose corrosion. It provides the

more accurate representation of overall protection. Note that raw steel is especially susceptible to corrosion and is not a true indication of how blued, parkerized, plated or painted gunmetal will react to different environmental conditions.

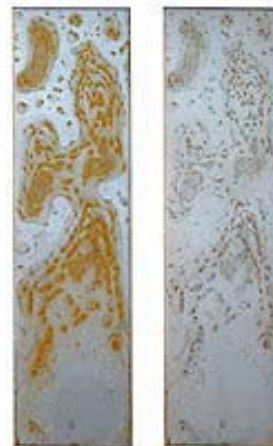
Plate "A"



Control

The control plate was degreased and left unprotected for the duration of testing. As a result, it exhibits the heaviest amount of rust and pitting, covering nearly 100% of the surface area.

Plate "B"



Continued on next page

Knowing The Limits Of Rust Preventives (continued from previous page)

BIRCHWOOD CASEY SHEATH

Thickness: Ultra-thin liquid
Odor Rating: 4 (moderate to strong)

Sheath Rust Preventive is a unique, oil-based formula featuring a special FPR (finger print remover) agent. Its ultra-thin consistency applies easily with a soft cloth and creeps into hidden crevices for thorough coverage. Excellent choice for general wipe down and long term, indoor storage of firearms. Suitable for daily protection in the field, especially in humid and salt-air climates. Factory recommended as a bore cleaner as well. Available in 4.5 oz. and 1 gal. containers, 2 oz. and 6 oz. spray aerosol cans.

Test plate examination shows the water displacing properties of Sheath. Mild pitting and staining is evident; overall metal condition remains good.

Plate "C"



BOESHIELD T-9

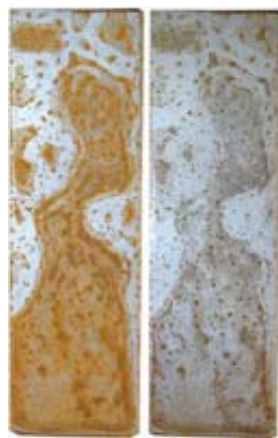
(12 oz. aerosol)
Thickness: Ultra-thin liquid
Odor Rating: 3 (moderate)

Boeshield T-9 is a heavy-duty, rust and corrosion preventive developed by The Boeing Company for lubrication and protection of

aircraft components. Specially formulated combination of solvents, waxes and lubricants coats and protects smooth and porous metals from rust and corrosion. Displaces moisture and lubricates at the same time. Dries to a thin, waxy film that will not harm paints, plastics and vinyls. Not easily removed once dried; requires mineral spirits or degreaser. For firearms applications requiring better than average protection against moisture indoors and outdoors. Good choice for long-term exposure to salt-air environments, areas with high humidity or extreme wetness. Available in 4 oz. and 1 gal. containers, 4 oz. and 12 oz. spray aerosol cans.

Test plates reveal minimal moisture penetration and negligible rust formation. Collection of some dust/debris on surface is present. Minor blemishes present after degreasing. Overall metal condition is excellent.

Plate "D"



BREAK-FREE LP

Thickness: Thick liquid
Odor Rating: 2 (minimal)

Contains polymerized, synthetic oils for excellent lubrication at high temperatures and pressures, plus built-in preservatives

to help guard against rust and corrosion. Reduces wear and resists thermal breakdown. Good, dual purpose, lubricant/preservative for the internal workings of semi-auto weapons that receive routine cleaning and maintenance.

Test plate shows moderate rust formation and shallow pitting.

Plate "E"



BREAK-FREE WEAPON WIPES

Thickness: Ultra-thin liquid
Odor Rating: 4 (moderate to strong)

Weapon Wipes are soft, non-woven cloths pre-saturated with Break-Free CLP, a Mil-Spec oil with cleaning, lubricating and protecting properties. Convenient to use; offers good indoor and outdoor protection against rust when used regularly. Easy to apply and remove.

Test plate shows moderate rust formation, less pitting than Break-Free LP.

Plate "F"

BROWNELLS COSMOLINE

Thickness: Heavy grease
Odor Rating: 2 (minimal)

Continued on next page

Heavy weight grease specifically designed for maximum protection against rust and corrosion on all types of metal. Rated to protect polished steel panels from rust for one year in Open Shed Storage and 30 days, minimum, in a humidity cabinet. Thick grease consistency requires more effort to apply and remove. Apply with brush or rag at room temperature or melt in a double boiler for use as a dip treatment. Excellent choice for long-term storage in all environments, especially during shipping. Remove with chlorinated solvents like TCE. Available in 1 and 4 lb. containers.



First test plate shows collection of dust/debris on treated surface but no moisture penetration or rust formation. Slight darkening of the steel was apparent after degreasing. Overall metal condition is excellent.

Plate "G"

BROWNELLS RP2

Thickness: Ultra-thin liquid
Odor Rating: 4 (moderate to strong)

Special blend of petroleum distillates neutralizes fingerprints, displaces moisture and helps protect against rust and corrosion. Ultra thin consistency creeps into hard-to-reach areas for complete

coverage. Suitable for all day field protection and long-term, indoor storage of firearms. Excellent choice for general wipe-down of all metals. Will not harm stock finishes. Available in 1 pt., 1 qt. and 1 gal. containers.



Test plates show the water displacing properties of RP2. Minimal rust formation and pitting is evident.

Plate "H"



HOPPE'S LUBRICATING OIL

Thickness: Thin liquid
Odor Rating: 1 (odorless)

Lightweight, high viscosity, general purpose oil safe for all metals and woodwork. Lubricates moving parts while protecting them from rust and corrosion. Specially formulated to resist gumming and hardening; will not become rancid. Highly purified and odorless, so it's a pleasure to

work with and safe for stock finishes. Applies and removes easily. Excellent, wipe-down and bore protecting oil for firearms stored indoors. Provides good protection in the field if re-applied daily.

Test plate shows significant rust formation and disruption of the bead-blast finish over the majority of the surface area. Obvious discoloration and mild pitting is present after degreasing.

Plate "I"



RIG UNIVERSAL GREASE

Thickness: Heavy grease
Odor Rating: 1 (odorless)

Clean, viscous grease designed specifically for heavy-duty rust prevention. Applies with a clean shop cloth or cotton swap. Wipe off all excess to leave a thin, protective film that fights rust indoors and out. Leave the application thicker for excellent protection in salt-air or extremely wet or humid conditions. Not easily removed, use degreaser. Available in 1 oz., 3.75 oz. and 15 oz containers.

Test plate on left shows the typical collection of dust/debris common with grease-based rust preventives. No evidence of rust formation or discoloration. The degreased plate shows the metal is unmarked

Continued on next page

Knowing The Limits Of Rust Preventives (continued from previous page)

Plate "J"



TETRA GUN LUBRICANT
Thickness: Thick liquid
Odor Rating: 3 (moderate)

Fluoropolymer penetrating lubricant and conditioner designed to reduce friction/wear and fight corrosion. Thick, tacky consistency adheres well to all metal surfaces. Wipe off excess for a good, protective coating indoors and while in the field. Displaces water well. May discolor painted surfaces. Available in 1 oz., 4 oz. and 8 oz. squeeze bottles.

Test plates show uniform water displacement and generally good protection overall. Mild pitting is present.

Plate "K"

VALVOLINE 5W-30 MOTOR OIL

Thickness: Thick Liquid
Odor Rating: 2 (minimal)

#1 choice of top mechanics, but not recommended for firearms applications. In a pinch, new motor oil of any type/brand will offer decent protection against rust until the firearm can be thoroughly cleaned and lubricated. In emergency situations, I've used both motor oil and kerosene as rust preventives on exterior gunmetal without incident. However, avoid

contact with stock finishes and optics.



Test plates show some water displacement value in motor oil. Pitting is present, but the metal is in better condition than CONTROL Plate A.

Plate "L"



WD-40

Thickness: Ultra-thin liquid
Odor Rating: 4 (moderate to strong)

WD-40 lubricates, cleans and displaces moisture to prevent rust. Manufacturer recommended for firearms and other sporting equipment. Easy to apply formula contains petroleum distillates that

could affect certain stock finishes. May cause gumming on internal components and inside receivers. Long-term use on gun metals has been thought to limit the effectiveness of certain bluing solutions. WD-40 has been around a long time and earned the reputation as an excellent rust preventive for exterior surfaces of firearms. A favorite among old timers.

Test plates show excellent moisture displacement. Minimal rust formation is present; almost no pitting is visible after degreasing.

Pick What's Right For Your Needs As shown, the properties and limitations of different rust preventives vary dramatically. This allows gun owners to select products that best fit their maintenance style and demands, whether indoors or out in the field. Obviously, storage in a dehumidified gun safe does not present the same challenges as a pack hunt for black tail along the Pacific Coast. Keep this in mind when selecting the best rust preventive for your application. And, be open to switching between products as your firearms change environments.

**RANGE SAFETY
BEGINS WITH
YOU!**

**SIGHT & HEARING
PROTECTION**

BODY ARMOR

ADEQUATE BERM

Take The Initiative - Observe, Orient, Decide and ACT by Fred Leland

It does not matter which professional discipline you are from law enforcement, security, or the military. Whether you are the cop on the street being sent on the call, security officer on a roving walking post who comes upon a group of youths acting rowdy, a soldier or marine in a hostile country observing an approaching vehicle; whatever the circumstances taking initiative, strategically doing something that makes sense to keep you and those around you safe! **ALIVE!** "Lets you go home at the end of your tour" is what it is all about when we are tasked with handling dangerous encounters.

When danger presents itself in an obvious manner; "we know it is a bad set of circumstances we are walking in to" a fight, shots being fired, hostage situation, high risk warrant services etc. in these types of circumstances we professionals handle ourselves quite well. We put ourselves in "win" position, we establish command, identify kill zones, set up inner and outer perimeter, we set up command posts and staging areas and bring in the resources necessary to bring about a successful resolution.

The focus of this writing is not these types of incidents. I would like to discuss the unknown risk calls we

handle, the disturbance, the car stop or encounter with the unknown individual, the alarm, and the trespasser etc. These so called "routine" things we do that are getting us injured and killed. Why is it happening? Is it physical skills or lack there of? Is it Training? Is it fear? Fear of getting in trouble with the administration, fear of being sued, criticized, ridiculed by the media? Is it complacency or the "it" will not happen here attitude?" Probably all of these contribute some degree to the friction that slows down the decision making process and makes us vulnerable to attack.

It seems to me from doing this work for quite sometime now that we professionals let our guard down and put ourselves at great risk, because we simply do not look for the signs of danger. Oh yah! We look for the move to the waist band or the move under the seat, the fists come up and punches start our way or the crazy person doing something so outrageous we know we got trouble. But what about the professionals being killed not even getting their gun out of the holster or worse yet getting their gun taken and used against them by the bad guy?

I do not want to get into statistics in this article but one that has stuck out in my mind over the years I have been training is from the FBI Officers Killed in the Line of Duty publication that stated; "in gunfight situations where law enforcement professional were killed in the line of duty 98% of the time the suspect fired first." 98%! This statistic has scared the hell out of me for years now. I thought why? What are we doing wrong in the field to have the bad guy get the upper hand on us in 98% of the situations?

The last 6-7 years I thought often of all the training I have had over the years from my days in the USMC as an infantryman and the 20 years in law enforcement as a street cop, patrol sergeant and now lieutenant. With all the defensive tactics training, firearms training, impact weapons, OC spray, handcuffing techniques, CQB, active shooter, sniper training

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Take The Initiative - Observe, Orient, Decide and ACT (continued from previous page)

etc. Most professionals get this type of training or some semblance of it through the years, so, why? Why are we still getting caught in disadvantageous positions? My answer; my opinion; we are not paying attention. Not paying attention to the signs, subtle signs of danger that lurk on the calls we respond to. It is the mental mindset or lack thereof we put ourselves in, that costs us in the end.

"You alone can deny victory to the enemy. Only your enemy can allow you to win." ~Sun Tzu

So what can we do? What can assist us in gaining the advantage and keeping it through out our contact with the unknown? The answer lies within the concept of the Boyd Cycle.

Much has been written on Colonel John Boyd and his O-O-D-A Loop also known as the Boyd Cycle over the last few years. His ideas on conflict and how we process information during it have had great implications on the military and how we now fight war. Boyd's work on conflict including 327 briefing titled "a Discourse on Winning and Loosing" spanned close to 50 years. From his time as a fighter pilot over the skies of Korea in the 1950's till he died in 1997. He was dedicated to understanding conflict and teaching those of us who handle conflict how to get the advantage or "take the initiative" as he put it. He discovered that Conflicts are time Competitive **Observation, Orientation, Decision, and Action** cycles! The O-O-D-A Loop! The Boyd Cycle gives us protection professionals an advantage by giving us a better understanding of conflict how it unfolds and how we can control it and keep our advantage. Basically the O-O-D-A Loop gives advantage through better SITUATIONAL AWARENESS! This in turn keeps us alert to the information exchange between "us and them" if you will. Information both verbal and non-verbal is huge to staying ahead of the curve in conflict. The more we know the better tactical decisions we make. The decisions we make help us

to take and maintain the initiative, or we lose the initiative because we make lousy decisions. We see; yet do not orient to the dangers presented to us early on in the contact. It is imperative we pay attention to what is going on around us from beginning to end of contact.

We must look for signs of cooperation or non-cooperation as I like to call it early in the encounter. If we note anything that leaves us uncertain about the potential outcome of the situation we must do something, something based on the current situation and our current environment with regards to the contacts we make whether we resolve them through verbal persuasion or some other level of force.

"Plan an advantage by listening. Adjust to the situation. Get assistance from the outside. Influence events. Then planning can find opportunities and give you control." ~ Sun Tzu

Example: Three officers respond at 3AM to the call of a disturbance. When they arrive there are three people present, two males and a female. One male is intoxicated; I will only focus on him for the purpose of this example. Intoxicated male is spoken to by responding officers. They tell him to call it a night and to go to bed and sleep it off. He says he will and turns to go into the house. The officers continue gathering information identifications and such for the report they will have to file. While speaking to the other two people involved the "intoxicated Male" comes back outside to talk, he is mellow and is again told to go back inside or he will be placed in protective custody for the night.

The officers spend another 5 minutes gathering information, and are about to leave when they see the "intoxicated male" standing at the front door waving good bye. The officers decide to bring him to the police station for his safety. At the station the booking process is done by the Sergeant, during which the

"intoxicated male" talks about police beating up innocent people and asked several times if they were going to beat him up. After booking, the sergeant and one patrol officer went to put the man in a cell for the night and all hell broke loose. A fight broke out in which the subject attempted to escape. He punched, kicked, clawed and scratched the three officers inside the station and made his way outside where a fourth officer got involved in the altercation. An attempt on an officer's gun was made by the subject without success thankfully. In the end four officers were injured on duty, three were out for over a week, the other returned to duty that morning. In the end we were lucky no one was seriously hurt. What caught my attention later were the reports filed by the officers involved. Every report I mean all of them stated **"The individual was cooperative throughout contact including the booking procedure until we went to place him in the cell."** All the facts as described above were in the reports all the indications of non-cooperation were present from the time the officers arrived and through booking. Why did these officers not see them? Or better yet why did they see them and not orient to the possible dangers? Let's also note that these are outstanding officers handling this incident that I personally know and have worked with throughout my career. So why and what is it they did not relate to, what is it they missed or saw and ignored and why did they ignore it?

During an after action review of the situation, the officers involved stated they did not think of his coming out of the house after being told to stay in and sleep it off as a sign of non-cooperation, even after the second time, even when they were bringing him in. When asked why they brought him in they responded he was not doing what he was told. At this point we all began to laugh a little although the circumstances were not funny the responses I got were both funny and alarming. We continued the discussion and agreed the

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individual was indeed non-cooperative and therefore a possible threat, requiring close “monitoring and control” from contact to release.

This left me with the realization that we Protection Professionals do look for “obvious” signs of danger but most of us do not look for the “subtle signs” of danger and that ATTENTION TO DETAIL is critical to survival.

We do not look for the subtle signs of conflict, as we should, in the majority of cases we are involved in. Obviously some professionals are more attuned to their surroundings than others because they train themselves to be, they take initiative to educate themselves and become tactically proficient in all areas, mental, moral and physical aspects of conflict. This fact gives these 5% an advantage over the subjects they come in contact with because they understand the phases of conflict and prepare. They understand conflict is unpredictable and that they need a strategy to win.

Conflict is described by the Marine Corps in Warfighting as:

“The essence of conflict is a struggle between two hostile, independent, and irreconcilable wills, trying to impose itself on the other. Conflict is fundamentally an interactive social process. Conflict is thus a process of continuous mutual adaptation, of give and take, move and counter move. It is critical to keep in mind that the adversary is not an inanimate object to be acted upon but an independent and animate force with its own objectives and plans. While we try to impose our will on the adversary, he resists us and seeks to impose his own will on us. Appreciating this dynamic interplay between opposing human wills is essential to understanding the fundamental nature of conflict.”

The definition says it all it “us vs. them” and “them vs. us” There are at least two people involved in the conflict. Have we lost this aspect of it somewhere in our training or sometime during our careers?

Another angle I have thought about is the equipment we have, is it hindering our ability to think on our feet? We have state of the art stuff to make our jobs easier. Bullet proof vests to make us safer, thermal imaging for tracking and pursuits, semi-automatic pistols and now rifles, portable radios for constant communications, K-9, stop sticks, etc. you name it the list goes on. This is all necessary equipment I know. I think sometimes however it makes individual professionals in our field feel safer than they actually should feel. Take a look at this quote below from a law enforcement trainer that gets to my point.

“Today's environment of accelerating scientific discoveries and technological change bring ever-improving hardware to the end user. In this climate is it easy to overlook and even abandon the core foundation of any weapon system, the interplay and perceptions of the human mind in a combative situation.”~ Ken J. Good (article: got a second, Boyd Cycle-ODA Loop)

“The interplay and perceptions of the human mind” Boyd said it best with this quote: “Machines don’t fight wars. Terrain doesn’t fight wars. Humans fight wars. You must get into the minds of humans. That’s where the battles are won.” Just replace the word “war” with “conflict” whether we are talking war or individual conflict, the interplay of the human mind is the most critical aspect of winning. I am not saying the physical aspect is not critical it is, you must always be able to do what needs to be done, but if you were Gandhi (communicator), Bruce Lee (hands on DT) and Carlos Hathcock (firearms) all rolled into one, “what a human weapon” you would be. All these skills you can handle any situation; verbally, hands on or if necessary deadly force. But if you were not making good observations (using all your senses), that tell you something (orient) then the decisions you need

to make and the action you need to take would not get done because you basically were not paying attention to your surroundings. How do you take “initiative” if you do not see a problem to respond too?

Enough on what we do wrong. How do we fix the problem is the question? As Sun Tzu said; *“Position yourself where you cannot lose.”* Good observation, orientation, decision and action cycles are as Boyd said “Time Competitive” therefore we need to position ourselves on the winning side of the loop. Use our observations all our senses to get the full picture of what it is that is going on.

This picture or “snap shot” of what our senses are telling us about the situation is critical. The orientation phase of the cycles is based on all our senses and I do mean all; sight, hearing, smell, touch and taste. I believe our 6th sense the so called hunch or better described as intuition is also critical. The way we see things is based on our backgrounds, previous experiences, education, cultural traditions, new information which is continual throughout the situation, and how we breakdown (analysis) and put together (synthesis) the circumstances we are observing. Based on our observations and what we believe is happening (orientation) we make decisions. Decisions to take initiative and control our circumstances in our current environment and then we do it, take action. This action could come in the way of words, tactical communication, movement whether it is to move in and control the subject with any level of force that is reasonable under the law. To move away, redeploy to keep the subject confused and not quite sure what you are doing, deceiving him till you are in a position of advantage.

“Warfare is one thing. It is a philosophy of deception.” ~Sun Tzu

The goal as Boyd put it is the *“ability to operate at a faster tempo or rhythm than an adversary enables*

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one to fold adversary back inside himself so that he can neither appreciate nor keep-up with what's going on. He will become disorientated or confused. Unless such menacing pressure is relieved, adversary will experience various combinations of uncertainty, doubt, confusion, self deception, indecision, fear, panic, discouragement, despair, etc., which will further: Disorient or twist his mental images/impressions of what's happening: Thereby Disrupt his mental/physical maneuvers for dealing with such a menace: Thereby Overload his mental/physical capacity to adapt or endure: Thereby Collapse his ability to carry on." In a simple word we "confuse" him with the unexpected so he does not know what to expect. And when the timing is right you move in and control the subject. Control the subject from first contact till you release him or close the cell door behind him.

We must remember we cannot create an opportunity. We do not control our competitive environment. We control only our position within it. We are constantly looking for an opportunity to advance, but that opportunity must be provided by others who leave us an opening. Remember the quote above from USMC Warfighting: *"It is critical to keep in mind that the adversary is not an inanimate object to be acted upon but an independent and animate force with its own objectives and plans."* The skill of positioning through fast tempo O-O-D-A Loops is putting us in the right place at the right time to take advantage of the opening

presented. We can, however, confuse others about our intentions and abilities so that they don't know what to expect. Play the "Barney Fife" or "Colombo" role; pretend you know nothing when you know more than enough. Move around instead of standing still. Keep conversation friendly when you want to shout stern commands. This deception will possibly confuse the adversary or at least keep him guessing as to your motives are. Opponents will make mistakes and give us an opportunity, but only if we mislead them about our true condition. We have to be patient. Eventually, we will discover an opening that will allow us to move forward.

"Be skilled in attacking. Give the enemy no idea of where to defend. Be skillful in your defense. Give the enemy no idea of where to attack." ~ Sun Tzu

When to move in is something I believe cannot be taught by a trainer. It must be taught by the individual he or she in the arena based on his or her perception (orientation) of what is taking place. Sun Tzu said; *"Victory comes from knowing when to attack and when to avoid battle."* The individual protection professional can be taught strategy and tactics but the individual alone must develop the feel for the circumstances he is in at the time. This can be done through training but the exact of how and when comes down to the individual.

Tactical survival skills must be practiced and developed continually.

The Boyd Cycle based on Col. John Boyd's dedicated work and service to this great country is a tool every cop, security officer, soldier or marine should know thoroughly if we are to improve on our safety in the field. Understand this! Winning a fight actually has very little to do with what you are armed with and a great deal to do with what you are thinking at the time! Don't just stand there! Take the initiative and develop your O-O-D-A Loops and strategy to win.

What is the aim and purpose of strategy?

"To improve our ability to shape and adapt to unfolding circumstances, so that we; (as individuals, as groups, as a culture, or as a nation-state) can survive, on our own terms." ~Col. John Boyd

Fred Leland is a current Police Lieutenant and a former United States Marine. He is an experienced trainer and a graduate of the FBI National Academy Class 216 where he specialized in terrorism related topics as well as leadership and management. His specialties include handling dynamic encounters, terrorism awareness, use of force, impact weapon techniques, chemical spray, handcuffing, firearms, small unit CQB, and patrol procedures.



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