

# The Case Head

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

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SUMMER 2009



2009 Firearms Instructor Development & Training Conference  
Devens Conference Center / HSC Range Complex  
September 22-25, 2009

# 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 and Australia. 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](http://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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### Editorial: Good Public Relations & Patrol Rifles - Can We Have Both?

As you read this month's edition of the Case Head you will see how the lack of a good patrol rifle public relations program severely impacted Boston P.D.'s ability to deploy patrol rifles on the street. To further compound the issue, the Governor and Executive Office of Public Safety suspended the surplus rifle program for law enforcement agencies after a Boston Globe article presented their usual twisted view of anything related to firearms.

It is quite possible that the Boston Police Department could have avoided a lot of negative publicity if they had presented the acquisition of rifles in a slightly different manner. The Globe reported this plan as Boston cops running around the city streets carrying machine guns. We all know that is not the case but none the less, the Globe put the story out with this tone.

The police had several factors they could have used in their favor. First and foremost, these rifles were obtained at little or no cost to the city. In these cash strapped times, the money the department was able to save was substantial and demonstrated a great deal of initiative.

Where other agencies have ignored the availability of surplus rifles and purchased expensive new ones, Boston saved the city tax payers thousands of dollars.

Contrary to the Globe's frantic warnings that Boston cops would be roaming the streets with "fully automatic machineguns" (sic), these rifles can and would be converted to semi automatic only. The simple (and inexpensive) removal of the auto sear and replacing the full auto selector switch with an after market semi auto only version would make these rifles operate the same as the officer's issue Glock pistols.

Federal law (10 USC 2576a) authorizes the transfer (loan) of surplus federal property to state and local law enforcement agencies. This includes military property such as aircraft, vehicles, small arms and ammo. The property must be drawn from existing stock and the agency must accept the property "as is and where is". The property remains the property of the U.S. government and is subject to audit. Agencies must register a NFA weapon with the BATFE in accordance with the law.

The Globe published records showing that 82 cities

and towns have made use of the federal Defense Reutilization & Marketing Service to obtain small arms from the DOD. The Globe report portrayed the police departments to appear like children in a candy store - grabbing whatever guns they could get their hands on. It was eluded that West Springfield's request for M-79 grenade launchers was excessive. This could not be further from the truth.

Agencies which took advantage of this program should be commended by their communities. First, for being forward thinking to acquire the hardware to counter violent attacks which seem to occur more frequently and second for being fiscally responsible by acquiring these tools at no cost. As for requesting a grenade launcher, it was a very cost effective way to obtain a 40mm launcher to handle specialty impact and riot control munitions.

The Boston Globe alleges that inconsistencies were found in how the program is monitored and that some communities may have received more weapons than they should have. If this is true, it must be viewed in the proper

*Continued on Page 12*

## Monthly Meeting Calendar

**Jan 27, 2009**  
**S&W Academy**  
**(Elections)**

**Feb 24, 2009**  
**Randolph PD**

**Mar 24, 2009**  
**Westminster PD**  
**(Ed Gross)**

**Apr 28, 2009**  
**Peabody P.D.**  
**Vest Shoot**

**May 26, 2009**  
**Lancaster PD**

**June 23, 2009**  
**Barre Sportsman's Club - Instructor Recert**

**July & August**  
**No meeting**  
**Summer Break**

**Sept 22-25, 2009**  
**Annual Instructor Conference**  
**Devens Conf. Ctr.**

**October 2009**  
**TBA**

**November 2009**  
**TBA**

**December 2009**  
**TBA**

*Watch your E-mail for last minute changes and details*

## Product Review - Boresight Solutions Grip Reduction & Texturing

Review & Photos by Todd Bailey

To many, the advent of polymer framed handguns was the end of firearms as an art form. There are numerous bolt on parts for the most popular polymer framed pistols, there is no artistry to adding them. While I am the first to admit that polymer framed pistols are great utility guns, I have always been a person who appreciated 30 line per inch checkering and a high luster blue finish. So how does one personalize the 22 ounce framing hammer version of a pistol? Enter Ben Simonson of Boresight Solutions.

At the 2009 S.H.O.T. Show I was fortunate to be located next to Ben's booth which he shared with Bushido Tactical. Ben had several examples of his work on display and I had an opportunity to examine them closely over the three days of the show. His skill is readily apparent the first time you pick up one his pistols. Gone is the "blocky" feel of the Glock grip. The pistol literally fits lower in your hand. The texturing process adds a great deal to the "feel" of the grip. There is none of the slippery feel of the smooth checkering on the stock grip. This all equates to less movement in your hand when you shoot.

Boresight Solutions offers several packages and services. The basic grip reduction and texturing consists



of a 360 degree reduction and texturing, undercut and radius the trigger guard and beavertail areas which leads to the more comfortable and ergonomic grip. You can also opt for a more radical reduction which gives the grip more of the feel you get with a 1911 with a flat mainspring housing. Boresight Solutions also shortens grip frames to compact or sub-compact size, removes or adds finger grooves and polishing surfaces in and around the trigger guard.

I opted for the basic reduction with medium texturing on my Glock 23. Since it was an older model, I had him add finger grooves. The result was a completely new feel to the pistol which I felt was a huge improvement. Boresight offers a more radical reduction which you may find more to your liking.

It is important to note that Boresight Solutions does not randomly cut away material which could leave the frame weakened. Material is removed judiciously with due regard to maintaining the integrity of frame. Even the more radical reduction showcases the craftsmanship and strict attention to detail that is Ben's trademark.

Boresight Solutions will perform work on any polymer framed pistol such the Glock, Springfield XP and

now Smith & Wesson's M&P series. In addition, the company works on polymer MP5's, Surefire fore ends for shotguns and AR butt stocks. Obviously you will not be able to have this work done on a department issued duty pistol, however, if you own a Glock, Springfield XP, Smith & Wesson M&P or any other polymer framed weapon, you may want to take a good look at this. Personally owned off duty guns such as the sub-compact Glock and M&P come to mind immediately as likely candidates to receive this treatment.

Ben reports that he does most of his work on Glocks but the new M&P is now a strong second place edging out the XP. I really like the shape of the M&P grip so I would hesitate to make any changes there but I think a medium or sharp texture modification would greatly enhance the "gripability" especially if you prefer a more textured surface on the grip surfaces of your working guns.

I found Boresight Solutions is more than happy to work with their customers to deliver what the client needs. They get two thumbs up and a highly recommended rating in my opinion. For more information, go to: [www.boresightsolutions.com](http://www.boresightsolutions.com) and contact Ben. You'll be very happy.

## Meeting Minutes

Date: 04/28/09 Location: Peabody PD  
Prior to meeting a vest shoot was put on by Protective Products  
Meeting called to order at by 2nd VP Todd Bailey at 11:45 A.M.

### OFFICERS' REPORTS

President: No report

1<sup>st</sup> VP: No report

2<sup>nd</sup> VP (T. Bailey) – The summer edition of The Case Head will be out at the end of June or beginning of July. If you have an article to contribute, please send it to tabai-ley@mlafiaa.org.

3<sup>rd</sup> VP: Nothing to report

Secretary (J. Picariello) – Reading of last month's meeting notes was waived by on a motion from the membership.

Motion made and seconded to accept officers' reports.

Unanimously passed.

### OLD BUSINESS

1. By law changes made at last month's meeting are now in effect. See March's meeting notes for details.
2. Armorers classes- MLEFIAA is still looking into hosting the following armorer classes- Remington 870, AR15/M16. More info to follow when available.

3. 12 gauge S.I.M. recert. It will be offered as part of the September conference.

4. One day revolver instructor class- looking at late summer at the Swift River Sportsmen's Club. More information to follow.

5. June 23rd Recert at Barre Sportsmen's Club. We have approximately 20 members signed up for this recert. There are still openings. Contact secretary@mlafiaa.org if interested.

6. MLEFIAA is still pursuing instructor insurance for our senior training staff. This was passed at a previous meeting by membership.

7. There is still a possibility of an 8 day firearms instructor class offered by MLEFIAA.

### 2009 Conference Update

The following instructors have accepted the invitation to present at the conference:

Rance DeWare- Close Quarter Pistol operator (8 hrs)

Bill Leanos- to be determined

Mike Boyle- Concealed carry for LEO: Things they never told you at the academy.

Ulf Peterssen and Peter Fredriksson- Point shooting

*Continued on Page 12*

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## Menino Says "NO" To Patrol Rifles for Boston Police Patrol Units

Story by Todd Bailey

According to various sources and information obtained by the Case Head, the Boston Police Department has obtained approximately 200 military surplus M16 rifles. The obvious intent was to provide a reliable patrol rifle to the department at a very reasonable cost - free. As word leaked out about this acquisition, politicians and community leaders began the usual hand wringing and waffling dance they are known for when it comes to dealing with serious threats to the community.

According to an article which appeared in the Boston Globe, Menino said he would not approve BPD's plans to arm neighborhood officers with semi automatic rifles.

The mayor was quoted as saying, *"There are conversations. This is equipment that's been given to us by the federal government. Other cities have done it. But we haven't made any decision. I would not want them on regular patrols."* Mayor Menino said he had not been briefed on the plan until a few days ago. The mayor expressed lukewarm support for equipping specialized units with the rifles, *"...maybe on specialized units, at special times, yes."*

Mayor Thomas Menino is no fool even though he may not come across as the most articulate person when interviewed. There is not much that happens in Boston without his office knowing about it. Several vocal community leaders were upset about this plan questioning the reasoning behind arming patrol units with patrol rifles and lashed out at Police Commissioner Ed Davis.

*"It seems like people wanted to get their free toys, and now they have to make up rhyme and reason for what to do with them,"* said Jorge Martinez, executive director of Project RIGHT, which runs violence prevention programs in Roxbury. *"They come up with these ridiculous ideas. What's wrong with this commissioner? This guy is supposed to be a national leader in community policing."*

Darnell Williams, President of the Urban League of Eastern Massachusetts said residents should have been



consulted before the Boston Police ordered patrol rifles. He felt that because he is invited to a few ribbon cuttings that he is qualified to determine what equipment the police department needs to accomplish its job.

Patrol rifles are not about community policing. They are about dealing with serious deadly threats that are actively killing innocent citizens who Mr. Martinez claims to represent. The first units to respond to the scene will be patrol units and if they do not have the tools to deal with the threat, they will either be ineffective or become additional victims.

Law enforcement agencies realized the need for a weapon which could deliver accurate fire at longer ranges and defeat after several high profile school shootings. This point was driven home with the attacks at Beslan and Mumbai.

Stopping active shooters and terrorists has nothing to do with community policing. In these situations, people are dying and action is needed - now! For this reason, community activists need to take a step backwards and let the police department equip itself for these situations. Community policing or good neighborhood / police relations are important and can lead to the exposure of potential active shooters or terrorists. But once these elements have gone active, the police need certain tools to deal with the threat. The patrol rifle is at the top of this list and it needs to be in the hands of every single police officer in this country. In a perfect world, we would issue a patrol rifle to our officers along with their service pistol and they would receive as much if not more training with it.

Commissioner Davis understands what he is up against if a terrorist attack like the one which occurred in Mumbai last November was ever to happen in Boston. While Boston's SWAT team is very mobile, heavy traffic will limit its response and in the end, it will be the patrol units that will have the first opportunity to stop the attack. In an apparent attempt to soft pedal this idea, the Commissioner stated his idea was to issue the rifles only to specialized units, sergeants and supervisors and that it would be impossible to train every officer on every weapon.

The Case Head respectfully suggests that this completely misses the point and ignores the mission of the patrol rifle. The SWAT team already has weapons of this type. The supervisors and sergeants are going to be required to provide leadership and organization to a serious incident. They will not be at the tip of the spear engaging the threat or at least they should not be. Equipping senior leaders with critical equipment like patrol rifles falls into what can be best described as the "Captain Kirk Syndrome". This comes from the old TV show 'Star Trek' where the captain of the ship always beamed down to the planet and fought the bad guys while the rest of the crew stayed safely back on the ship. While a senior officer should be leading from the scene, if they are at the head of the stack focused on one immediate threat, they can not oversee the "big picture". Unless you plan on having the patrolmen run the show from the command post and the sergeants, lieutenants and captains will run into the building to engage the threat, it really makes no sense to equip supervisors with the patrol rifles.

This begs the question, if the city trusts each officer enough to issue them a service pistol, are these same officers not responsible enough to be issued a rifle or at least have access to one in their cruiser? They can be trained and trusted to leave their pistol holstered in situations where it is not acceptable to have it out. Why can't they be trusted to leave the patrol rifle secured in their cruiser until it is needed?

In 2005 after Victoria Snelgrove died as a result of being struck by a FN 303 round during a post game celebration outside Fenway Park, the Stern Report suggested that Boston PD provide training for all officers who might be required to use a special weapon.

One can not help but sense a bit of irony in that in the big sophisticated city of Boston police officers are not trusted to even be trained with patrol rifles yet in small towns in the western part of the state, each officer is not only trained on the patrol rifle, they are issued one.

When terrorists attacked Mumbai they were able to out maneuver and hold the police at bay until specialized military units arrived because they were better trained and armed. Many Mumbai police are not armed and those that are do not receive quality training. When Eric Harris and Dylan Klebold began their deadly rampage in Columbine High School the followed protocol and surrounded the school awaiting the arrival of SWAT.

If we fail to learn from the past, we are doomed to fail in the future. Columbine and other "active shooter" incidents demonstrated that police can not afford to contain and wait for specialized units when people are being killed. Every 30 seconds law enforcement delays in taking the offensive, another person dies. It is a simple formula - the longer you sit and wait, the higher the death count.

After Mumbai there were reports of cowardice on the part of the police. A close examination of the event shows

quite the contrary. Unarmed officers did seek cover when being fired upon, however, this can not be considered anything short of common sense. Armed police did engage but were simply out matched. The terrorists were armed with Kalashnikov type rifles while the police had handguns and bolt action Lee Enfield rifles. If you think the police acted in anything short of a heroic manner, consider the actions of Assistant Sub-Inspector Tukaram Ombale who rushed the car containing two terrorists and grabbed the muzzle of AK which the terrorist was shooting. He took several rounds in the chest and died of his wounds, however, his actions allowed other officers to shoot one terrorist and capture the second.

Boston is a major city with numerous potential terrorist targets. That it has not been the target of an attack is in no small part due to the diligence of Boston PD as well as federal and state agencies. It would be foolish to presume that an attack will never happen and that there is no need to prepare for it. Sadly, the mayor and police commissioner are allowing politics and the vocal opposition of a few community activists to steer policy. With all due respect to Mayor Menino and Commissioner Davis, they may have dropped the ball here. The community has the right to a certain degree of transparency with the police department however the Urban League, Project RIGHT and all the other well meaning civic groups are not running the show. They and the general public have no clue about patrol rifles and the Boston Globe has done nothing to help the situation. This is a great tool and the police department may need to create a public education program to present the concept to the taxpayers.

If a disgruntled employee decides to seek revenge on his co-workers such as what happened at Wakefield's Edgewater Technology with Michael "Mucko" McDermott in

2000 or if a terrorist attack similar to Mumbai was to occur, it will be patrol officers who respond first and they will need the proper tools to deal with the threat. This tool is the patrol rifle. It is the duty and responsibility of the police department to educate the mayor and civic leaders in why these rifles are very likely to save lives in Boston.

Commissioner Davis remarked that it is impossible to train every officer on every weapon. That is true however this is one weapon that every officer should be trained on. The city saved about \$150,000 by acquiring surplus weapons instead of buying new. It will take an investment in training time and ammunition but the end result is well worth it.

If there is a lesson to be learned here, it may be that this was more of a public relations problem than equipment issue. Some how this got out to the media as the police department wanting to arm their officers with machine guns. The picture this paints would naturally create an adverse image in the public's mind. In fact, this was not the case at all. Boston P.D. had the opportunity to acquire rifles for free which would be converted to semi-auto only. Free patrol rifles is a huge asset for both the department and the community. Any concerns the community has can be easily laid to rest with a demonstration of the weapon system. The patrol rifle has greater accuracy and less penetration in building material than the .40 caliber pistol round. It is a tool which will only be deployed in high risk situations. Police officers will not be taking patrol rifles out when conducting traffic stops. It is also a tool that law enforcement has used successfully for many years.

Kudos should go out to the Boston Police Department for looking a cost saving ideas while trying to give their officers the tools to keep them safe. These rifles will do no good sitting in a station house. They need to be on the street where they will be immedi-

## Off Duty Carry Training Should NOT Be Optional

Story by Todd Bailey

In the closing days of May, New York City police officer Omar Edwards was walking to his vehicle in his street clothes after a shift with the Housing Bureau Impact Response Team. It was about 10:30 p.m. and as he approached his car he noticed a man had broken the driver's window and was riffling through the car. Officer Edwards grabbed the man, later identified as Miguel Santiago, and they fought briefly before the thief broke free and ran down the street. Officer Edwards gave chase with his pistol drawn.

At the same time, a Sergeant and two officers assigned to the Anti-Crime Unit out of the 25th Precinct were patrolling down 125th Street when they noticed a black man with a pistol chasing a Hispanic male. They made a U-turn and confronted the individual with the handgun.

What exactly happened next is unclear. One of the Anti-Crime Unit officers, Andrew Dutton, a four year veteran, drew his 9mm Glock and fired six times. Officer Edwards was hit three times - the forearm, chest and the apparent fatal wound which entered the lower left back area. When the officers ripped the victims shirt open to begin first aid, they say a police academy T-shirt and searched his pockets where they found his badge and ID. Officer Edwards was pronounced dead at Harlem Hospital Center at 11:21 p.m. He had been on the job for 2 years and leaves behind a wife with two small children.

So called "Blue on Blue" shootings happen far too often. The FBI's 2006 Uniform Crime Report lists 43 police officers killed by other officers since 1987. In 2006 NYPD Officer Eric Hernandez was shot and killed by an on duty officer and in 2008 an off duty Mount Vernon officer holding a pistol on an assault suspect was killed by a Westchester County officer. Closer to home, Officer Cornell Young was shot and killed by a fellow Providence PD officer in January 2000. This resulted in a \$20 million law suit against the Providence PD for failing to train offi-

cers on how to react in just such a situation.

When an officer dies in the line of duty it is a tragedy. When this death is a result of the actions of a fellow officer, it is a double tragedy. The media likes to use the term "friendly fire," however, there is no such thing. At this time we do not have all the facts as our only source of information has been what was released to the media. It would be premature to attempt to determine fault in this article. However, we can look at the available facts, examine similar cases and begin to formulate training to keep this from happening again.

State P.O.S.T.s and administrators need to look at training both sides of the fence. The Law Enforcement Officer's Safety Act (H.R.218) grants active police officers and retired officers who meet the requirements to carry concealed nationwide with a few restrictions. Police officers are more likely than ever to encounter an armed off duty officer. It only makes sense to prepare police officers for this situation. If an officer is going to carry off duty, they need to take several factors into consideration. First and foremost, if an officer is outside their legal jurisdiction, they have no police powers beyond those granted to a private citizen. That urge to step in and be a hero should be tempered with the reality that the officer may well be acting entirely on their own without the indemnification they would normally have while on duty.

They must do nothing that will be interpreted as a hostile or threatening action by responding officers. An off duty officer, especially one from out of town is not going to be readily recognizable as a police officer in this type of situation. The off duty officer should automatically assume a worst case scenario and that they will be seen as a perpetrator even if they verbally identify themselves as a police officer. Turning abruptly towards a responding officer with a firearm in your hand is a very poor response.

NYPD used to use "the color of the day" and this was shared with

neighboring departments and agencies. If a officer was challenged with a random color, he or she was to respond with the correct color thus identifying themselves as a police officer. The latest information is the officer is supposed to identify themselves by stating, "I'm on the Job."

So, what happened? How did this go so wrong? NYPD apparently has protocols for off duty encounters. If so, were they used? If they were, are they as effective as they could be? Without all the facts it is difficult to say.

Suffice to say that we need to implement some sort of uniform protocols in our firearms training to minimize the chances of this happening again. In small and medium sized departments it is probable that you will be personally acquainted with all your fellow police officers. This may not be true with large agencies like the NYPD. In the Cornell Young case, one of the officers involved in the shooting was an academy classmate of Officer Young yet failed to recognize him until after the fact. This illustrates that even if you know all the officers on your job, you may not be able to immediately identify them in such an encounter.

A national protocol on identifying yourself as a police officer is unrealistic. Getting every police agency in the nation to agree on a single system is not going to happen and it is not possible to keep such information secure so only police know about it. This means we need good common sense protocols.

These can be narrowed down to:

1. If your weapon is out, your badge and/or ID should be out. Your badge will not be taken at face value so be prepared to let the responding officer take full control of the scene.
2. Upon the arrival of the police, immediately identify yourself as an off duty police officer. Expect that this will not be taken for granted and be prepared to comply with all instructions regardless of how irrelevant they seem.
3. Follow the officer's instructions to



the letter. If you are told to drop your weapon - drop it. Failure to comply will be seen as an indicator that you are not who or what you say you are.

4. Under no circumstances should you point your weapon anywhere near a responding officer. Do not make any sudden moves especially in the direction of the responding officers.

Every one's nerves will be on edge and you need to be extra careful not to

do anything which will cause an officer to see you as anything but a fully compliant subject. While it may be an unpopular statement, it is the sole obligation of the off duty officer to comply and defuse the situation. Put yourself in the shoes of the responding officers. How do you view a suspect who does not comply fully with your commands?

Academy training spends a great

deal of time emphasizing the specific protocols for on duty situations. That is a good format to follow for off duty encounters. Police trainers and administrators need to incorporate Off Duty Encounter instruction into their annual training and policy/procedures. This topic must go far beyond just appearing as an article in the Case Head or other professional journal.

## **2009 Firearms Instructor Training & Development Conference September 22 - 25, 2009**

**L. E. Product Expo & Classroom Training - Sept. 22  
at the Devens Conference Center**

**Range Training & Live Fire Demos - Sept 23 to 25  
at the Harvard Sportsman's Club**

**MLEFIAA Members: \$195      Non-members: \$255**

**Pre-Registration is required!**

**Contact [secretary@mlefiaa.org](mailto:secretary@mlefiaa.org) for more information**

Registration fee includes up to 40 hours of quality training by some of the most noteworthy trainers in the northeast plus lunch on the range days.

The 2009 Conference will tentatively feature the following topics:

Close Quarter Pistol

Handgun Point Shooting

Downed Officer Rescue

Reviving the Snub Nose Revolver

MPTC Firearms Instructor Recertification

12 Gauge Specialty Impact Weapons & Munitions Instructor

Using Action Pistol Shooting Sports in Police Firearms Training

LEOSA Retiree Qualification Course and much, much more...

Concealed Carry for the LEO

Extreme Close Quarter Shooting

Tactical Flashlight Instructor

Advanced Patrol Rifle Fundamentals

Combat Shooting

**Vendors who wish to participate are encouraged to contact the  
Vendor Coordinator - Bruce Klinger at [Expo@mlefiaa.org](mailto:Expo@mlefiaa.org)**

**Discount accommodations are available if reservations are made prior to August 15, 2009.**

## Counterfeit EOTech Holographic Weapon Sights Flooding Internet Market

### Story by L-3 Communications / EOTech Staff

Unscrupulous overseas manufacturers and criminal elements in the United States are selling counterfeit L-3 EOTech Holographic Weapon Sights to consumers, as well as police officers and soldiers. The counterfeiters closely replicated the outside appearance of the L-3 EOTech sights while some included L-3 EOTech Logos and labels to make them appear to be genuine L-3 products. Unlike the counterfeits, **ALL** L-3 EOTech holographic weapon sights as well as the consumer models sold by Bushnell are made in the U.S.A.

There are now three models of the L-3 EOTech holographic weapon sight counterfeits that are in the market, primarily sold through web sites based in China and Korea, EBay, and at local gun shows. They are the Model 552 which utilizes two AA batteries, the Model 551 which uses two N batteries and the model 553 (Military designation – SU-231/PEQ) which uses two CR 123 batteries and has two quick detachable throw lever mounts.

Genuine and counterfeit L-3 EOTech holographic weapon sights are shown in Figures 1, 2 and 3 for the three models. The sight on the left is a genuine L-3 EOTech holographic sight and the one on the right is a counterfeit. As one can see, the outside appearance is nearly identical. Also note, the counterfeit Model 553 sight shown in Figure 3 has the L-3 EOTech logo imprinted on it.

The counterfeiters copied the outside appearance of the L-3 EOTech

sight but the counterfeit sights are not clones. The counterfeiters do not have the technology to copy a holographic sight. They simply mimic the operation of the L-3 holographic weapon sight using older “red-dot” technology.

### Ways to Recognize a Counterfeit

In all photos, the sight on the left is a genuine L-3 EOTech holographic sight. The one on the right is a counterfeit. The counterfeits, regardless of model, can be recognized by their curved and reflective optics. The flat, anti-reflection coated optics of the genuine L-3 EOTech sight reflects very little light while the optics of the counterfeits reflects a bright and distorted image of the room light. This can be seen in the photos, viewing the sights from the front and the back. Very little of the room light is reflected. The optics in the counterfeit sight, on the other hand, are curved and reflective and it reflects a lot of the room light.

The reflection from the optics can be used to recognize the counterfeits of any model of the L-3 EOTech holographic sight.

Notice the difference in the reflection off the optics of a genuine and a counterfeit EOTech product. The difference in the amount of reflection from the two sights is easily discerned. Looking from the front of a Model 553 with the sights angled to reflect room light. Another feature that distinguishes a genuine L-3 EOTech sight from a counterfeit is the presence of an optical component

behind the top part of the front window of the sight. One can see an optical component at the top of the front sight window of a genuine L-3 EOTech sight. It rounds off the top edge of the sight window. The lack of the component indicates the sight is a counterfeit.

Another means to recognize a counterfeit is to look at the bottom of the sight. Of all the counterfeits identified so far, none have the L-3 EOTech manufacturer and serial number labels affixed to the bottom of the sight. However, on EBay, a seller has been identified that sells L-3 EOTech labels for use on counterfeits. So while the absence of labels is a good indication that a sight is a counterfeit, one cannot be certain that a sight with the labels is a genuine L-3 EOTech sight.

For the Model 553 (SU-231/PEQ), one can also recognize a counterfeit positively by opening the battery compartment. The battery compartments of a genuine and a counterfeit Model 553 sight are very different. The counterfeit model uses two AAA batteries instead of two CR123 lithium batteries.

The battery compartments of the counterfeit Model 551 and 552 look very similar to the genuine L-3 EOTech Holographic Weapon Sights. Again, the Model 553 has (2) throw lever mounts for quick detachment and reattachment. The genuine throw lever mounts are from our supplier, Atlantic Research Marketing Systems, Inc. (A.R.M.S. Inc). The design of the throw lever mounts are



Real EOTech product

Counterfeit



Real EOTech product

Counterfeit

patented and trademarked by A.R.M.S. Anyone manufacturing or marketing a copy of our Model 553 holographic weapon sight infringes on the trademarks of both L-3 EOTech and A.R.M.S.

If one inserts the batteries and turns the sights on, the difference in technologies also becomes obvious. The L-3 EOTech sight employs a unique holographic technology. The large ring/dot holographic reticle remains undistorted and parallax free over the entire sight window. The counterfeits utilize the old "red-dot" or reflex sight technology. The ring reticle distorts when viewed through any part of the sight window other than right on center.

In the photo shown on the next page, the view of the reticle is shown through the sight window away from

center. The L-3 EOTech holographic weapon sight presents a distortion free, parallax free aiming reticle regardless of the part of the sight window through which the reticle is viewed. The counterfeits using the old red-dot technology, offer a reticle that is not parallax free and the ring becomes visibly distorted when viewed away from the center of the sight window.

The counterfeits also do not have a Night Vision mode where the intensity of the reticle is lowered substantially so that it can be viewed with night vision goggles without blooming or saturating the image intensifier tube. When the NV button is pushed, a genuine L-3 EOTech sight goes into the night vision mode and the intensity of the reticle is reduced substantially to a point that it is not visible

by the naked eye. Pressing the NV button again toggles the sight between the normal and night vision modes. With the counterfeit sight, on the other hand, the color of the LED is changed from red to green when the NV button is pushed. Pressing the NV button again toggles the color of the reticle between red and green. There is not change in intensity and it will cause blooming when viewed with night vision equipment.

Lastly, a counterfeit sight can be identified if there is any light source visibly present when looking through the sight. A user cannot see the laser diode source anywhere in the housing of a genuine L-3 EOTech sight. Most counterfeits are designed with the light source facing the user's eye; fully exposing the light source.

#### Summary

The presence of counterfeit L-3 EOTech sights will most certainly have a negative impact on our company, but more importantly, it can jeopardize the safety and lives of American soldiers and law enforcement officers as many of these counterfeits were sold as genuine L-3 EOTech holographic weapon sights. L-3 EOTech has received many counterfeit sights for repair from victims of the fraud that include soldiers who bought the counterfeits with the intention of bringing the sights with them on upcoming deployments. These counterfeit sights are not parallax free, cannot hold zero and can easily break. Bringing a counterfeit to battle thinking that it is a genuine

*Continued on next page . . .*



*This photo shows the reflection off the optics of a genuine and a counterfeit Model 553. The difference in the amount of reflection from the two sights is easily discerned.*



## Counterfeit EOTech Gear (cont. from Page 10)

L-3 EOTech holographic weapon could cost lives. It is imperative that everyone understands these differences and communicates this information to all relevant parties.

In addition, one of our representatives was told by a seller of counterfeits at a gun show that what they are selling were “excess inventory from the Chinese factory manufacturing holographic sights for L-3 EOTech”. The counterfeits are **NOT** holographic sights; they are red-dot sights dressed up to look like a holographic sight. **ALL** genuine holographic weapon sights sold by L-3 EOTech and the consumer model HOLOSight sold by Bushnell are and have always been made in Ann Arbor, Michigan, in the industrial heartland of the U.S.A.

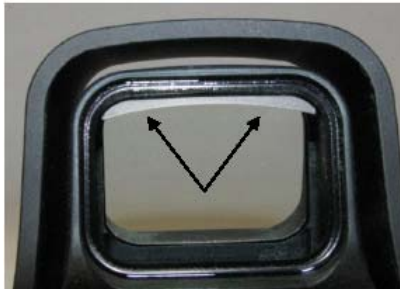
### KEY POINTS

- EOTech is the exclusive manufacturer of EOTech HOLOgraphic Weapon Sights and the Bushnell HOLOSight (consumer model).
- There are no other companies or manufacturers authorized to design or manufacture EOTech branded products or components anywhere in the world.
- Genuine EOTech or Bushnell HOLOSight products:
  - Use only red laser diodes and do not produce any products that offer switchable red to green colors.
  - Offer only the following battery types: CR123 (lithium 3v)  
AA Alkaline  
N Alkaline
  - They do not reveal any light signature, glass reflection, or the diode source.



Real L-3 EOTech Sight

Counterfeit



Real L-3 EOTech Sight



Counterfeit



Real EOTech Product

Bogus counterfeit product

**Meeting Minutes (cont. from Pg. 4)**

(handgun)

Matt Temkin- Extreme close quarter survival shooting

Jim Trifiro/Chris Provost- Downed Officer Rescue

Todd Bailey/Joe Picariello- Tactical Flashlight Instructor

John Catterall- Using Pistol Action Shooting Sports in Police Firearms Training

Bert DuVernay- Reviving the snub nose revolver

Pat Poirier- Advanced Patrol Rifle Fundamentals (8 hrs.)

Mike Rayburn- Combat shooting

Cliff Alves- to be determined

Bruce Spiewakowski- to be determined

Todd Bailey- 12 ga. Specialty Impact Weapon & Munition System

Rich Verdi- to be determined

**NEW BUSINESS**

1. If anyone knows of a vendor they think should be at our law enforcement product expo during the conference, please send info to secretary@mlafiaa.org.

2. It was suggested that MLEFIAA run a firearms instructor recert during one of the three range days at the conference. After a brief discussion, it was decided this will be added to the classes. Attendees to the conference may chose this as one of their range day activities.

Meeting adjourned at 12:32 P.M.

-----  
Date: May 26, 2009

Location: Lancaster P.D.

Meeting called to order at 1003 hours by President Bert DuVernay.

**OFFICERS' REPORTS:**

Secretary (J. Picariello) – Minutes read from April 2009 meeting and accepted.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

1. AR15 Armorers course: President DuVernay is in contact with Greg Lee of Memphis Metro PD to have armorer course inn near future. More info to follow when available.

2. 12 ga. S.I.M. Recert: Being offered as part of classes at September annual training conference.

3. There will be a firearms instructors' recert held at September conference as part of the program and not as a standalone program.

4. Revolver Instructor class: To be held in October at the Swift River Sportsmen's Club in Belchertown. More info to follow when available.

5. Barre firearms recert on June 23<sup>rd</sup>. You must be current active or retired member or Life member to attend. Lunch will be provided by MLEFIAA. This is an all day program.

6. Motion made and seconded to donate up to \$250.00 to Barre Sportsman's Club for the use of the range. Mechanism of payment to be determined by executive board. Passed unanimously.

7. Remington 870 Armorers class: Since meeting information re: class being hosted in N.H. was sent to all members via e-mail.

8. LEOSA course: To be offered as a standalone class at September conference.

9. August 22, 2009 Firearms instructor recert at Franklin County Sportsmen's Club in Deerfield: We need 15 current MLEFIAA members to put on class. We have 14 with several others who have signed up who need to either join or renew membership.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

LA County Sheriff's Department S&W M&P 9mm problem discussed. It was traced to one pistol.

Massachusetts Chiefs Training and Education Committee concerned with lack of uniformity with firearms training at various academies. Bill Leanos is working on new recruit training manual to be implemented.

Motion made and seconded for Air soft protocols with compensation for MLEFIAA instructors. Passed unanimously.

Articles need to upcoming issue of the Case Head. Please send them to Todd Bailey at [tabailey@mlafiaa.org](mailto:tabailey@mlafiaa.org).

Business Meeting adjourned at 1054 hours. 2<sup>nd</sup> V.P. Todd Bailey gave a presentation on terrorist attack at Mumbai.

Next Meeting at Barre Sportsmen's Club (FI Recert) on June 23, 2009 at

**Editorial (cont. from Pg. 2)**

context. The limits were placed to insure that every agency had a fair chance at obtaining the available surplus items, weapons included.

It is the opinion of this editor that every police officer in the country should be issued their own patrol rifle just like they are issued a service pistol. Since there is a limited amount of surplus equipment available, the DOD wanted to insure that every agency could take advantage of the program. Ironically, the program was under utilized for many years and thousands of weapons remained in storage. The administrators appear to have filled requests as received based on the agency's perceived need and not strictly on a numbers basis. Good for them!

As a result of the Globe's coverage, the Governor and EOPS felt it necessary to temporarily suspend the program. I think this is an over reaction and would strongly urge the Governor to reconsider. If a review of how the program administration is necessary, the investigation can continue with the program in place.

As firearms instructors, we know the benefits of the patrol rifle and why it is more safe in an urban environment than the service pistol and shotgun. It is our responsibility to educate key members of the community when necessary. The patrol rifle offers the police with an effective tool to deal with high risk threats from a greater distance with greater accuracy. It is not an every day tool. The 5.56mm cartridge will penetrate typical building construction less than the current .40 caliber pistol round. In short, an officer armed with a patrol rifle is less likely to miss their target and less likely to cause an unintentional injury than if they used their service pistol.

It is a sad day when the government begins playing at gun control with the police department. We've seen too much of that from the Attorney General's office already.

If you think I have no use for the Globe, you could not be more wrong. I am house breaking a puppy and use it every day.



## Zero to Ten Feet - The Deadliest Distance for Police

By Richard Nance  
From LawOfficer.com 11/10/08 edition

According to *Law Enforcement Officers Killed & Assaulted 2007*, 55 officers were killed by gunfire last year. Twenty seven of the officers killed were within zero to five feet from their offender and another ten officers were between six and ten feet from the offender. Two of the officers were killed with their own firearm.

So why are agencies still devoting so much of their allotted training time to shooting from the 15 and 25 yard lines? Why are agencies still treating firearms and defensive tactics as separate disciplines?

This should not be taken that we stop practicing from distances greater than ten feet but most officers need more comprehensive training in close quarter shooting. When faced with a deadly threat within five feet, we must be proficient with **fighting** with our gun.

We may have to use our non-gun hand to strike or deflect incoming strikes, creating an opportunity to draw our firearm. Additionally, we must be prepared to protect our firearm from this range to avoid being disarmed.

The closer an offender is to you, the closer you need to bring your firearm to your body. This will enable you to better control your firearm and reduce the chances of the offender avoiding the muzzle and attacking you. This is where the Two-Handed Closer Quarter Shooting Position comes in.

To illustrate this concept, let us assume that your arms are fully extended with your muzzle on target. As the offender approaches to within 15 feet or so, you should retract your arms so that your elbows contact the sides of your body and the pistol is held near the center of your torso. The weapon should be held just far enough away from your chest to prevent the slide from striking your body if you were to fire.

The contact between your elbows and sides of your body serves as a "reference point" to ensure that your body and firearm are properly aligned to the target. This is a very important concept in close quarter shooting since you will not be able to bring the

weapon sights up to eye level as in more traditional shooting methods.

This is a very stable position that affords you a great deal of control over your firearm. If the offender grabs the weapon, you should be able to extract from his grip. Your two handed grip is superior to the offenders single handed grip.

When using the non-shooting hand to deflect or block, it may be necessary to use the One Handed Close Quarter Shooting Position. This is generally within five feet of the offender and becomes more complex. Fighting from this distance requires you to pull the weapon in closer to your body to maintain control.

To transition from the two hand position to the one handed version, use your non-gun hand to strike or defend while simultaneously pulling the pistol back as far as you can. Cant the top (slide) away from your body to minimize the chance of the slide being caught in clothing and causing a malfunction.

It is important to have a physical reference point to ensure that your muzzle is orientated to the target since your view of the pistol is even more obscured than with the two hand method. Some instructors advocate having your thumb contact your nipple area to ensure the pistol is properly oriented to the threat while others suggest using the lower end of the grip to contact the body. Either works but which every you choose, use it consistently to build "muscle memory".

Unless we have made the decision to



fire, our finger must remain outside the trigger guard. In a life and death struggle, your hand muscles are likely to clinch instinctively. Should this occur, the last place you want your finger is on the trigger. While it is true that the use of deadly force may be warranted, using that level of force must be a conscious decision on your part based on the totality of the circumstances. The dynamic nature of the confrontation may cause your muzzle to cross parts of your body. Shooting yourself is never a good option.

When dealing with a potentially life-saving tactics, commonality of technique is of critical importance. You may already incorporate some of these tactics as part of your normal draw stroke. The one handed position is performed when you draw and orient the muzzle to the threat. Once you start to extend your arms and achieve a two hand grip, you are in the two handed close quarter shooting position.

In any fight it is important to seize the offensive to win the fight. If possible, shove the heel of your non-gun hand under the offenders chin to tilt their head back. From there, drive them back and assume the one handed shooting position as described. Once the threat's balance is compromised you will have triggered an important change in his mindset. Instead of focusing on you, the threat is focusing on what is happening to him.

We can not always immediately seize the offense. This being the case, we must minimize the damage we sustain while transitioning from defense to offense. Assume an overhead block so that your elbow and arm protects your head. The idea is withstand initial strikes while you draw your weapon and assume the one handed close quarter shooting position and engage with accurate rounds.

Some sources advocate a "contact shot" where you drive the muzzle of your weapon into the threat and press the trigger. This may have worked with a revolver however it can be a recipe for failure with a pistol. It is likely that by pressing the muzzle against the threat you will push the slide back out of battery and your weapon will not fire. In every case - always have a Plan B and never give up.



## Gas Piston AR's - Old is New

By Michael Lupachini

The AR15/M-16/M4 family of rifles and carbines has been our armed forces primary issued small arm for over 40 years. In the early 1990's law enforcement began to take an interest in this system and has subsequently adopted it as a primary patrol rifle and tactical weapon.

Over the past several years a sub-industry of parts manufacturers has grown and flourished providing a multitude of add-on's and accessories to improve the platform. The only part of the AR15/M16/M4 that has not received any improvement is the direct impingement gas operating system.

Unlike other gas operated firearms, direct impingement does away with a conventional gas cylinder, piston, and operating rod. The design is simpler in that high-pressure gas acts directly on the firearm's action, eliminating redundant parts, and thereby saving weight, lowering costs, and reducing the mass of the operating parts.

When the AR-15/M-16 was introduced to the military in the 1960's it was considered an improvement over the long and short stroke gas piston systems that were currently, or had been in service as the M1 Garand, M1 Carbine, and M-14.

When the M-16 was first issued to the combat troops in Vietnam, it was believed that the weapon with its new-fangled gas operating system was "self

cleaning". Initially no cleaning equipment was provided, and severe problems were encountered. The problems were also made worse by the incorrect type of powder that was being used in the issued ammunition. The troops in combat quickly found out that the "self cleaning" rifle was a myth. The problems were soon corrected by issuing cleaning gear, instruction booklets, and proper ammunition. Unfortunately, it was reported that there were many casualties on the battlefields due to malfunctioning weapons.

The main disadvantage of direct impingement is that the breech / upper receiver of the firearm becomes fouled more quickly. This is caused by solids from the high-temperature gas condensing as they cool and being deposited on the bolt face and primary operating mechanism. Combustion gases contain a great deal of vaporized metals, carbon, and impurities which are in a gaseous state until they are deposited on the cooler operating parts. Thorough and frequent cleaning is required to ensure reliability.

A further disadvantage of direct impingement is that combustion gases in contact with the gas tube, bolt and bolt carrier often cause these parts to become hot. During rapid fire exercises at night, gas tubes can be seen to glow red under the handguard.

Depending upon the particular rifle design involved, as well as the amount of rapid fire incurred, this heating may

accelerate wear and decrease the service life of critical operating parts such as the gas tube, bolt, extractor, extractor spring and gas rings. It also dries up lubricant and makes the operating parts difficult to handle if you have to clear a serious malfunction during extended or rapid firing.

As most of us know, a thorough proper cleaning of the AR15/M16/M4 is a long and tedious job. As a former Marine I was diligently instructed on the "art" of cleaning my M-16. The unwritten rule was for every day of firing, we had a rifle cleaning session each day for the next three days. I learned that there are "clean" rifles, and there are "Marine Corps clean" rifles. Being the Department Armorer, I spend a lot of time performing this dreaded task on our patrol rifles, as well as acquiring the tools needed to do the job right. Lots of Q-tips® and pipe cleaners, bolt carbon scraper, dental picks, fine steel wool, and scrub brushes. With proper attention to cleaning and maintenance, direct impingement rifles such as the AR15/M16/M4 are reliable and will serve you well as they have the military and law enforcement for many years.

Over the past several years almost every major manufacturer of the AR15/M-16/M4 platform has introduced gas piston operation versions of these rifles. Several manufacturers have conversion kits to replace direct impingement operation on existing weapons.

*Continued on next page*

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## Gas Piston AR Rifle (continued from previous page)



*Stock AR gas system showing gas tube and associated parts*

On the gas piston version, the gas tube of the direct impingement system is removed and replaced with an operating rod and piston assembly. The gas key on the bolt carrier is also changed to a solid piece in which the op-rod contacts and cycles the rifles action. The gas rings on the bolt are no longer needed.

Externally the weapon and controls are the same, reliability remains, accelerated wear of critical parts is reduced, thorough cleaning and maintenance takes less than half the time as the di-

rect impingement system. The only drawback to the gas piston rifle is the increased cost over the direct impingement version.

If your department is contemplating purchasing or replacing patrol rifles, and the funds are available, the gas piston system is your best choice. Gas piston upper receivers are also available from many manufacturers as a replacement for direct impingement systems which would be a reduction in cost over a complete rifle.

Presently the military is not preparing to replace the direct impingement system on its rifles, although many of the armed forces' special operations units have gone to gas piston versions on their weapons.

The gas piston rifles from LWRC, HK, Colt, Bushmaster, POF-USA, and DSA carry the higher price tag as compared to the direct impingement models however they are what I would call "near perfect" for military and law enforcement applications. Borrowing and improving on the gas piston operation used on some of the best combat rifles of their time, i.e.: the M1 Garand, M1 Carbine & M14, Eugene Stoner's original AR15/M16 has reached a pinnacle of achievement in its concept and design. What was once old is now new, and in this case, new is good.

Now if we can only replace the 5.56mm round with the 6.8 SPC we'll be good to go, but that's fodder for another Case Head article.

*Editor's Note: Many thanks to Mike for contributing. I can't wait for his article on the 6.8 SPC. It will create a great deal of discussion.*



*"Cup & Nozzle" gas piston system of an LWRC M6 rifle. The principle improvement comes from the incorporation of a self regulating short stroke gas piston system. This eliminates the venting of hot, carbon laden gases into the receiver and bolt carrier group, thus eliminating the intensive cleaning process. The bolt carrier group is not subjected to high heat which is one of the major causes of small parts failure. This makes the gas piston rifle more reliable.*

## **Smith & Wesson M&P Pistol Armorers School**

**Wednesday, August 19, 2009 at the Plymouth Police Dept., 20 Long Pond Road, Plymouth, Mass.**

**Sponsored by S&W and the Municipal Police Training Committee**

**Registration through Bill Leanos, MPTC Firearms Coordinator**

## State Suspends 1033 Surplus Weapon Program

By Todd Bailey

In a surprise move, Governor Patrick and Executive Office of Public Safety, temporarily suspended the program which has provided local police departments with surplus rifles at little to no cost. Terrell Harris who is the EOPS spokesman, said that the program will remain suspended until a full review has been completed including which departments got rifles and how many. The report cites growing concerns with the scale of guns handed out and the lack of oversight involved. It did not specify who was concerned.

The Boston Globe reported that Gov. Patrick ordered the suspension of the program following a Globe article on plans by the Boston Police Department to equip their officers with surplus M16 rifles converted to semi auto (see related story on Page 5). The Globe reported that 82 Massachusetts police departments had received over 1000 surplus military weapons over the last 15 years.

The program is administered by the State Police and is called the 1033 Program. Law enforcement agencies (LEA) current in the 1033 Program can request weapons from the DOD reutilization program through the state police coordinator. The weapons currently available through the program are M14, M16 rifles and M1911 .45 caliber pistols. Agencies requesting M14 and M16 rifles can request a quantity equal to 20% of their full-time and part-time officers. Agencies requesting .45 caliber pistols can request a quantity equal to 100% of their full-time and part-time officers. Shotguns and revolvers were previously available.

In order to request weapons, the agency must submit a letter addressing all of the required information in the Weapons Request Procedures. The letter must also include the number of full-time and part-time officers. The M14 and M16 rifles are required to be registered with the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms & Explosives (BATFE). Once the LEA receives approval from the BATFE, copies of the forms must be forwarded to the POC.

Weapons obtained from the 1033 Program CAN NOT be sold as they

remain the property of the U.S. Govt.

In July 2006, LESO required a mandatory 100% weapons inventory check for all weapons issued through the 1208 and 1033 Programs. The purpose of the mandatory check was to verify the weapons information on file at LESO. Until the inventories were validated by LESO, all pending weapons requests for agencies were put on hold. Massachusetts completed the mandatory check and received validation.

The Globe article stated "even the most quiet of hamlets have received high powered weaponry including M16 full automatic machineguns (sic) and M14 semiautomatic rifles. In West Springfield, police received two military issue M79 grenade launchers. In most cases, the departments obtained the weaponry without any type of community or legislative input."

The article seems to ignore several facts which put an entirely different light on the circumstances.

- When an active shooter incident occurs, the patrol rifle is the best weapon to counter this type of attack once it gets underway.

- Terror attacks such as the one which occurred in Mumbai, India last November will only be ended quickly and successfully by the police armed with patrol rifles.

- There is no such thing as a "quiet hamlet" in this day and age. The people of Columbine, Colorado thought they lived in a nice quiet community. The residents of Nickel Mines, Pennsylvania were mostly peace loving Amish. The majority of residents in small towns believe that "it can't happen here". Well guess what... You live "here".

- America is a target for radical Islamic terror groups. We have been attacked several times and will be attacked again.

- Most agencies which have acquired these rifles have rendered them semi-auto only or have policies which mandate semi-auto fire only.

In the event an attack happens and the police are unable to react in a timely fashion, the public will (justifiably) demand to know why. The Boston Po-

lice Dept. has moved in the right direction and should be supported for their foresight.

Next to training, the patrol rifle is the most important thing an officer can have in an active shooter situation. Retired FBI trainer John Willis stated, "The street officer faces just as much danger as the SWAT officer. Moreover, the street officer usually never has the time to gear up." The patrol officer will be the first on the scene and may well be the deciding factor on the outcome of the incident. This piece of equipment starts at about \$750 and can increase dramatically if you begin to add a light and optic. The 1033 program provided departments with a source for high quality rifles at no cost. As a taxpayer, I would consider it close to inattention to duty if the local police department failed to at least consider the 1033 program for purchasing patrol rifles.

The Globe article implied that some departments may have received more weapons than they were allotted. I suggest that a ratio of 1 rifle per five officers is unacceptable in an Active Shooter Incident. This ratio was established prior to Columbine and subsequent incidents. Islamic terrorists attacking us here in our own country was not on the radar screen back then. Times and circumstances have greatly changed.

Rules must be followed and if they were ignored or mistakes were made, we need to get that straightened out. More importantly, we need to look at the allocation numbers and ask if they are acceptable given the threats we face and availability of equipment. The 1:5 ratio was established to insure as many agencies as possible could take advantage of the available rifles. If the DOD has 100,000 rifles available and no one is asking for them, is it really a problem? As long as requests are reasonable, local use of this property should be maximized.

Governor Patrick and the EOPS Director should move quickly to resolve this issue and get it back on track. To use an old police saying, "If it's free, I'll take three."



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