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The Case Head

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

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2008 FIREARMS INSTRUCTOR RECERTIFICATIONS
June 10 (Rockport/Gloucester) & June 24 (Barre S.C.)

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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Cover Photo courtesy of Derek Bailey

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Letters to the Editor

Todd,

I read your product review article of RangeMaster Pro in the Winter 2007 - 2008 Case Head and couldn't help notice that you were apparently not aware of our product FIREARMS MANAGER Pro. HY-TEK was incorporated in 1982 and has been producing FIREARMS MANAGER for over 15 years. It is currently used by law enforcement and military organizations around the world.

You can download a free evaluation version for your review from our web site www.hyteklt.com. It comes in a stand-alone (non-network) version for \$695.00 and a Network Version for \$995.00. We do not charge for updates (same series version number) and our upgrades to a newer series release is only \$149.00.

Rather than go through the details of the software, I have included a document for your review that explains what FIREARMS MANAGER

Pro can do.

Last year we gave a course at the Annual Convention of the International Association of Law Enforcement Firearms Instructors (IALEFI) in San Antonio, TX entitled "The Fight Doesn't End in the Street" which detailed the legal background on what we should be training and why as well as what we should be keeping records on and why. As an integral part of that course, we included a live presentation on how to use FIREARMS MANAGER Pro for record-keeping. I am including a copy of that tutorial as well. Sgt. William Leanos of the Gloucester (MA) Police Department prepared the course material and requested us to assist in presenting the course, which we were most happy to do. We are an official Sponsor of IALEFI and have been exhibiting at their conferences for over 10 years.

We are currently at version 1.4.49 of FIREARMS MANAGER Pro and are about

ready to release version 1.4.50. We are always working to enhance FIREARMS MANAGER Pro based on input from our Customers.

Should you have an opportunity to review FIREARMS MANAGER Pro, I believe you will be very satisfied with your results based on your review of RangeMaster Pro. In addition, should you find any deficiencies, we will be sure to include those changes in the next release of the application. Robert M. Mroz, President & CEO, HY-TEK, Ltd.

Bob - Thanks very much for the info. My review of RangeMaster Pro was based on a product my department purchased. Regretably, MLEFIAA doesn't give me a large enough budget to purchase several programs to compare them side by side. Readers should note that Firearms Manager Pro is the program that Bill Leanos has recommended and uses in conjunction with his duties as MPTC Firearms Coordinator. Ed. Continued on Page 6

Monthly Meeting Calendar

Jan 22, 2008
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 2008
TBA

November 2008
TBA

December 2008
TBA
E-Board
Nominations

Watch your E-mail for
details

New Active Shooter/4th-5th Generation Warfare CD-ROM-based Program Available

The Police Officers Safety Association has become a fantastic resource for law enforcement firearms instructors and trainers. POSA is a non-profit organization and their Training Director is MLEFIAA member Ralph Mroz.

POSA's newest training program, **Active Shooter and 4th-5th Generation Warfare—How to Minimize the Loss of Life as Crime and Terrorism Blend**, is now available free by download or for a \$10 replication and handling fee in physical form.

This CD-ROM contains a 100-slide PowerPoint resource that's dense with information. It summarizes current Active Shooter training, spotlights its weaknesses, and evaluates its

effectiveness over the last decade. It then describes what we are likely to face as terrorists adopt active shooter-like tactics, using the Beslan massacre as a learning example. Every officer in America should understand what happened at Beslan. This event received too little press here in the U.S. because it occurred in a "third world" nation. The disc contains Al-Qaeda training video which shows the viewer how the enemy is training to attack us. These are similar tactics that were used in Beslan. Our schools and shopping malls are basically unprotected. In 2001 we saw how unprotected airline travel was. What will it take for us to tighten security in our communities?



Finally, it lists dozens of ways that agencies and individual officers can prepare for such an event. Since this item can be downloaded for free, there is no excuse for not adding it to your training library.

Product Review - Smith & Wesson Model SW1911PD

Reviewed by Todd Bailey

OK, I'll be the first to admit that it's highly unlikely your department is going to issue this pistol or probably even allow you to carry it on duty. That said, what a nice pistol!

Smith & Wesson has historically hosted our January meeting at their academy. Historically, my wallet has been much lighter leaving Springfield than when I got there. Such was the case this past January when stopped into the National Shooting Sports Center retail store after the meeting.

I have always like 1911s. They feel good in my hand and can be very accurate if the parts fit right. The .45ACP is also a nice big round which, if nothing else, can be counted on to make a nice big hole. In whatever it hits. Over the years I've acquired several, sold a few and even built one. As I became more active in the law enforcement end of training I began to focus more on models from Glock, SIG-Sauer and other manufacturers with models for law enforcement. It was time to

get back to the basics and I specifically was looking for a 1911 with a light rail and had my eye out for a Kimber since they have a good reputation for making a great 1911 for the money right out of the box. Unfortunately, Massachusetts has had a series of AG's who have seen fit to regulate which firearms we can purchase in the name of "consumer protection". One has to wonder where they were when people were sucked into variable rate mortgages they couldn't afford but that is probably a topic for another journal.

The SW1911PD Tactical Rail is a full size 5 inch barreled version with a Scandium frame and stainless steel slide. This reduces the weight of the pistol by 7 ounces compared with the stainless steel version (32 oz. versus 39 oz.). The addition of the rail adds only four ounces over the non-rail 1911PD. The pistol comes standard with Novak Lo-Mount 3 Dot sights. Considering the manner this pistol will be used, I would think tritium night sights would be standard. In any case, both front and (continued on next page)



Talks With Harvard Sportsman's Club Continue

The MLEFIAA Executive Board has entered into negotiations with the Board of Directors of the Harvard Sportsman's Club regarding range fees for the conference and keeping the storage container at the club. Jim Ring in his role as Training Coordinator and Chief Rangemaster is also sitting in on the talks. Both Jim and Joe Picariello are members of HSC so they have valuable insight into both sides of the issue.

As reported previously, a leadership change at HSC precipitated the talks and it was a good opportunity for both sides to get to know each

other better. Harvard Sportsman's Club is one of the premier shooting facilities in the state. While we still have the use of several other ranges around the state, HSC is centrally located and has a smaller footprint which allowed for better management of the conference.

A major point of contention is accessibility. We resolved part of this by providing the HSC President with a key to the container. The issue of how MLEFIAA will get to our property remains to be ironed out. The club is reluctant to reciprocate in providing access gate keys.

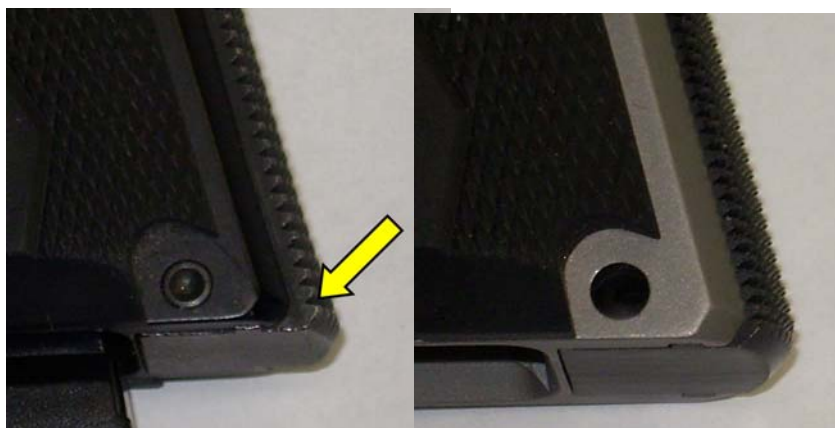
HSC has raised the range use fees for police and other users. As we all know, the current state of economy is not helping our training budgets. Firearms training is a low priority and range use costs will be among the first items to be cut as money gets tighter. The club has a great facility and is to be commended for trying to improve it further. Hopefully they will realize that as their home towns tighten purse strings, range and training fees will be cut in favor of fuel, paper, pencils and medical insurance. It isn't a pleasant thought but it's reality for all of us.

Product Review SW1911PD (continued from previous page)

rear sight are mounted via dove tail slots and replacement is simple. The 1911PD has the important features a buyer looks for in a factory defensive pistol. A non-ambidextrous extended safety lever, match grade trigger and beavertail grip safety are provided. The grips are "diamond" style checkered rubber panels by Hogue. The black Melonite finish is advertised as having a surface hardness of 68 on the HRC scale.

I expected the felt recoil to be significantly more with the scandium frame but that did not turn out to be the case. Both 230 grain ball and Cor-Bon 200 grain +P JHP were comfortable to shoot. Accuracy was more than acceptable.

A buddy of mine bought the stainless steel framed version which I used as a comparison. The fit and finish on both was generally excellent and the trigger pull weight was more than acceptable for a factory stock pistol. I really liked shooting this pistol and having a 1911 that I can mount a tactical light on is a plus. To be fair, there were two minor things I felt could have been done better at the factory. First, I felt there was a little too much slop in the trigger to frame fit. This was easily remedied with a new trigger



that was hand fit. The second thing was the fit between the mainspring housing and frame. As can be seen in the photo on the left, the lower corner of the grip frame on the Scandium version does not extend out quite as far as the stainless version. This may be due to different suppliers of the main spring housing but I think the machining specs on the Scandium model are oh so slightly different than the stainless version. You would not think that this would make much of a difference but it is quite noticeable when wearing the weapon in a concealment holster that rides close to the body. This does not affect the operation but the lower corner of the mainspring housing can dig into your side when you are carrying it. These two items are not deal breakers in

an of themselves but on a pistol that retails for over a thousand dollars, I would think a little more attention to detail would be in order.

Finding a good concealment holster for the SW1911PD was a little difficult. I found most that holsters which fit the Kimber TLE (Rail) will work well. Leather holsters can be soaked in water and boned to fit around the rail. That worked for the S&W/DeSantis holster I got with the pistol.

S&W has come a long way in the past few years to bring their quality back up to what we expect from them. I highly recommend stopping in the National Shooting Sports Center and visiting the retail store. If you are in the market for a great 1911 out of the box, you won't be disappointed with this pistol.

Another Great Product From Safariland - The ALS Duty Holster

Safariland is probably the premier duty gear manufacturer today. One of the reasons is they seem to think a problem through from all angles and their engineering is sound. The latest example of this is the ALS (Automatic Locking System) series of holsters.

The ALS holster is a natural follow on to the SLS (Self Locking System) products that have been around for several years now. The SLS is a rotating hood arrangement that replaced the conventional retention strap across the top of the holster body. The advantage to this was the user did not have to fumble with snapping up the strap. The hood was connected to the holster via a hinge arrangement and by merely rotating the hood to the rear, the weapon was retained in the holster. The hood secured into place with a positive locking mechanism which was operated by the thumb on the weapon hand.

The Automatic Locking System takes the weapon retention one step further. Taking advantage of the squared off corners on the ejection ports of most semi auto pistols, the lug of the ALS engages the ejection port and positively retains the weapon in the holster until the mechanism is

disengaged. Even if the SLS hood is rotated open, the weapon can not be drawn from the holster from any direction. The shooter will find the natural position of the thumb during the draw is directly in contact with the ALS disengagement lever.

Kevin Boucher, Safariland's NE representative, was kind enough to supply the Case Head with a T&E holster for the Glock 22 with a tactical light to test this new system. I have been using it since January as my primary duty holster when working patrol shifts and teaching on the range. It has exceeded my expectations. Even the longer version which accommodates the tactical light was comfortable when seated in a cruiser. I expected the holster to be pushed up slightly with the full size pistol and light combo but that was not the case. I expect if you bought the 1.5 inch drop version you may find a problem. I did find the protective guard got caught frequently on the seat belt. It appears that if it became a major issue, it could be removed easily although I doubt the company will approve.

The holster design is outstanding for three reasons - the weapon can be drawn quickly, the weapon can be secured quickly and familiarization is fast and easy.

During the draw, the shooters thumb will disengage all the retention devices without compromising the shooters initial grip. Once unlocked, the weapon draws straight up and clear. Recovery back to the holster is even easier which is a blessing when your situation has de-escalated away from deadly force and you need to transition to an intermediate weapon. The SS-III (#070) holster



I replaced was a great holster in its day but was cumbersome to secure. Not so the ALS. Seat the weapon which engages the ALS lug. Rotate the hood until it locks and the weapon is now secured. It takes about a half second - less with practice.

The holster itself is molded plastic which holds up to just about any kind of abuse you can throw at it and is available in plain black, basketweave, Hi-gloss black and STX which goes well with nylon web gear.

I wish Safariland would go back to the old style of belt loop. I find the new molded style uncomfortable as the upper corners of the loop dig into my side. I have been told that this new style is stronger, lighter and easier to manufacture. I expect it's just cheaper to make and they have sacrificed some comfort which the older and "more rounded" crowd. If you are listening Safariland, we like the old style better and it looked better on dress duty rig. At least give us a choice of the two.

I liked this holster so much I went out and bought the open top version at full retail price. See Kevin, your T&E sample to the Case Head did generate retail sales!



Photos courtesy of Safariland

Letters to the Editor (continued from Page 2)

The following was received from Chief Curtis Deveneau of Royalston PD who contacted MLEFIAA regarding a problem he was having with an officer's Glock 22 pistol malfunctioning. It is a good example of what we (as armorers) need to be looking for any time we receive a weapon for inspection or maintenance. Do NOT take anything for granted. Just because the officer says the weapon is working fine and swears he has never disassembled it beyond what you have recommended is not justification for giving the weapon a once over and returning it back.

We suggest that you carefully inspect every weapon you receive with the expectation that something has been incorrectly assembled or is about to break. Most of the time you will find nothing but that is not a reason to stop looking. Be alert for that hairline crack or excessive wear stop which could forecast a serious problem down the road.

Glock cycling problem solved. It turns out, the officer has been breaking down his Glock 22, including the slide. After receiving all your great suggestions of what to look for, I

began breaking the firearm down and found the Extractor Plunger in backwards. I corrected and reassembled. I slowly fired a 15 round magazine through it, and then quickly fired another 15 rounds through it. Functioned fine. Remedy - Firearm properly assembled and the officer advised not to help the armorer by breaking his gun down to pieces.

Thank you all, Chief Curtis Deveneau
- Royalston MA. PD

ASK THE TRAINING OFFICER by Lt. Ed O'Leary

Ed. Note: Ask The Training Officer is a new column by Ed O'Leary who works for the Randolph (MA) P. D. Ed is also the First V.P. with the Association. Hopefully we can continue to get him to pass along interesting info and this will become a regular piece.

As Police Officers, we come into physical contact with many people over the course of a day, whether assisting someone into or out of bed, working with persons involved in accidents, taking intoxicated persons into custody for their own protection, grappling with and arresting persons for crimes, or any other of the many circumstances we are familiar with.

We all know that this close physical contact with all tiers of the popu-

lation places Police Officers at increased risk for contamination with the many health risks prevalent such as HIV, Hepatitis B & C, Tuberculosis and all the rest.

In order to prevent contamination we have and should always utilize latex gloves as part of our personal protection gear to provide a barrier to skin-to-skin contact.

The leather patrol gloves many Officers wear, however, do not provide such a barrier and in fact provide a hospitable environment for some of the above mentioned health risks. The moisture from our hands is enough to keep the germs and viruses viable for long periods of

time and will allow them to come into contact with the Officer's or other persons we come into contact with skin.

The only effective barrier would be to cover the leather patrol gloves with latex gloves, and doing that is impractical.

Leather patrol gloves increase the risk to Officers and to the further spreading of these risks by Officers. Therefore I recommend that Officers NOT wear them when coming into contact with the many persons we contact each day, or if that is unavoidable then the gloves should be decontaminated or properly disposed of immediately.

MLEFIAA / MPTC FIREARMS INSTRUCTOR RECERTIFICATION CLASSES

JUNE 10, 2008 (8 a.m. start) @ ROCKPORT P.D.

JUNE 24, 2008* (10 a.m. start) @ BARRE S.C.

* In conjunction with the June monthly meeting

Members wishing to attend should contact MLEFIAA Secretary Joe Picariello to pre-register. Recertification in Pistol, Revolver, Patrol Rifle and Shotgun will be offered.

TOP TEN FIREARMS HANDLING MISTAKES By John T. Myer, Jr. (Team One Network)

Somebody recently asked me what the biggest mistakes in handling firearms are. Guess what: I'd never quantified that question before. So after some thinking, and discussion with our Team One Instructors, here's what I came up with.

The most critical firearms handling mistake you can make are not following what we at Team One call the four Cardinal Rules of Firearms Handling. I've discovered that religiously following the CRs will eliminate most gun-handling mistakes.

- One: treat every firearm as if it were loaded.
- Two: point your firearm in a safe direction—one where an unintentional discharge will cause NO HUMAN INJURY and at most, minor property damage. (At Team One we call this THE LASER RULE)
- Three: Keep your finger off the trigger and outside the trigger guard, indexed along the frame or slide until you are on target, have a legal right to fire and have decided to fire.
- Four: be sure of your target/threat, backstop, and beyond.

If people followed these four basic principles, negligent discharges and other mishaps would be virtually eliminated. But that isn't to say there aren't other gun-handling mistakes to consider. But let's start with the most basic one.

The Number One gun-handling mistake would be not following the four Cardinal Rules.

Mistake No. 2 would be multi-tasking when handling a weapon. In other words, people trying to do two things at once may trigger—no pun intended—an involuntary muscle reaction.

Mistake No. 3 is not protecting the trigger. Look, if you put yourself in a situation where your 4-1/2 pound trigger isn't protected from being pressed, pulled, snagged on clothing or hit by you, by some other person—like the criminal trying to get it away from you—the firearm is going to go off.

Mistake No. 4 would be choosing a poor holster—one, for example, that doesn't protect the trigger—or, not using a holster and sticking your firearm in the waistband of your trousers. Mistake No. 4-A would be not practicing your draw and reholstering your weapon. You'd be surprised how many people start to holster their weapons with their fingers still on the triggers or with the hammer cocked back with a double action weapon.

Mistake No. 5 is wearing poor choice wardrobe. I've seen instances where the cinch drawstring lock gizmo in an officer's jacket got caught in his trigger guard thereby discharging the weapon when he tried to reholster.

Mistake No. 6 is taking a shortcut and skipping the six-step procedure for rendering your weapon safe. The six steps are:

- Point your firearm in a safe direction – one where an unintentional discharge will cause NO HUMAN INJURY and, at most, minor property damage (Yes, that's the Laser Rule again).
- Keep your finger off the trigger and outside the trigger guard at all times throughout the clearing/unloading process.
- Place the SAFETY ON. (If applicable)
- Remove the magazine.
- Cycle the action several times then lock the bolt or slide to the rear.
- Visually and physically inspect the chamber to confirm that the firearm is unloaded.

Never, never, never pull the trigger to dry fire, or pull the trigger prior to disassembly WITHOUT following the six steps above and physically and visually checking the chamber. Never!

Mistake No. 7 is assuming that your secret hiding place is secret! It is NOT. How many times did you find stuff your parents hid from you? So what makes you think your kids and their friends aren't as smart as

you? Keep your weapon in a safe, or use a trigger lock (and for God's sake, never use a trigger lock on a loaded weapon).

Mistake No. 8 is not understanding how your firearm works or not being intimately familiar with it. Yeah—intimately. Put your ego on the shelf. If you don't understand something about how the weapon works, ask someone who does.

One of our top firearms instructors once told a student that he works with *his* firearm at least ten minutes a day to stay proficient.

Now, some people might think that sort of dedication was being obsessive. It's not. After all, why do people who are in really good shape still go to the gym? To stay that way, of course. We have to maintain our proficiency with our firearms. That doesn't mean shooting every day, but it does mean working with an UNLOADED weapon, practicing our draw and reholstering techniques, dry-firing, reloading drills, breaking the weapon down and reassembling it.

Look at it this way: if you only used a computer program twice a year (most officers qualify only every six months), you'd have a damn hard time producing a complicated piece of computer work in just a few minutes. And it would be even tougher if you knew your job depended on the quality of your work.

Same thing goes for firearms. You're going to use your weapon under stress. So, you have to take the time on a regular basis to become v-e-r-y familiar with the tool that's going to save your life. End of sermon.

Mistake No. 9 is using your firearm for something it wasn't designed for. It is not a hammer, a pry bar, or an impact weapon. Exception being as a last resort, then hammer away. No matter what the flashlight ad says, please, don't use your gun to drive nails.

And **mistake No. 10** is being complacent. Firearms are firearms. Put (continued on Page 8)

From Flashlight to Tactical Illuminator Part III in a Three Part Series

PUTTING TACTIC IN TACTICAL LIGHTS

You will never get the most out of your light until you learn good Light Tactics. Rule #1 is never use your light with your gun hand. It's really very simple - Light Hand / Gun Hand. This way you will avoid doing a circus juggling act when it comes time to engage the target you have been illuminating.

The biggest drawback to the large duty lights of years gone by was we tended to leave them in the car during the day. Invest in a light holder/holster for your duty belt if you have a small tactical light. We need to have our tactical light with us 24/7. I submit that this includes those of us who carry off duty. Just like spare ammo, we need to have our light (even if it is a small one cell version) available to illuminate the threat.

Wear the light on the side opposite where you carry your weapon so you get in the habit of using your non-dominant hand to draw and operate the light. Practice accessing and operating the light using only your non-dominant hand. If your department does not conduct dim light training, practice light tactics with a Blue Gun until you feel comfortable with a couple of techniques. If you have a full length mirror at home, this provides good feed back on what the bad guy will see (or won't see) when you light

them up. Learn how to "pop" your light. This is using the momentary function to create a flashbulb effect allowing you to briefly see without totally destroying your night vision and broadcasting your position constantly to the threat. Use light as concealment, use light to blind or distract.

I am generally not a fan of carrying your pistol mounted light on your duty belt. I believe that your pistol mounted light is a dedicated tool that remains attached to your duty weapon and is separate from your general illumination tool. Drawing and reholstering your weapon are one handed skills. We train this way because we know that in many cases we will be using that non-weapon hand to defend ourselves or to carry out another necessary function such as holding a violent suspect or door open. Tying up the support or non-dominant side hand with attaching or detaching a light may not be good tactics here. If the officer's only light is fixed to the muzzle of their service pistol, do you unwittingly encourage them to search with the muzzle of their weapon?

The introduction of the Rapid Light System by Safariland brought this argument to a head. The RLS is a small belt mounted light which can be rapidly attached and detached from your weapon. Watching it

demonstrated by the company representative, I had to admire how easily it worked but remained convinced it needlessly tied up the officer's other hand when they may need it the most.

There are situations where this product can be advantageous. The first is in off duty or plain clothes where the typical concealment holsters do not provide for carrying a weapon mounted light. Another is where the officer's department has strict equipment policies and their issue holster does not accommodate a weapon mounted light. The officer may be reluctant to defy policy thus risking the punitive actions of the resident chicken shit house mouse supervisor.

In the end, having the light is the most important factor. Having one for general searching and another affixed to your pistol is even better. There are a host of companies out there today that make high quality lights. More are coming on line every year so it is a buyers market. Before you decide on a light, carefully compare construction materials and brightness. Buying a \$20 light because it is cheaper than the \$150 model will generally get you a much cheaper light all around. There is nothing wrong with finding a bargain but make sure it is not at the expense of quality and reliability.

Top Ten Firearm Handling Mistakes (continued from previous page)

your mind in gear before you engage your hands. Take nothing for granted. When you handle a firearm turn the mental switch ON and keep it ON, if something distracts you, you should immediately re-check your firearm; magazine out, open slide/bolt and check chamber... you can never be too careful.

On the other side, tactically, as a responsible person carrying a firearm to protect yourself and others you should always confirm that the firearm is loaded. The two loudest noises are the **BANG** when you

thought there should be a **CLICK** and the **CLICK** when you thought there should be a **BANG**. After all, every gun is loaded, right?

John T. Meyer, Jr. is President of Team One Network, LLC a company established to test, evaluate, train and market various manufacturers' products to the Law Enforcement community as related to officer survival. He is also the Director of Tactical Operations for Fox Valley Technical College in Appleton, WI, responsible for the development and implementation of new curriculum offering tactical training courses.

John spent 15 years with Heckler & Koch, Inc., ultimately rising to the position of Vice President of Sales and International Training. John was a Lieutenant with the DOD Police, where he served as a special reaction team leader. He is Vice President of the International Association of Law Enforcement Firearms Instructors (IALEFI) a member of the PoliceOne.com Advisory Board and a member of the American Society of Law Enforcement Trainers (ASLET) Firearms Committee.

This article was originally published on PoliceONE.com. www.policeone.com

Perceptual Blindness - It's Not Our Fault But Most Cops Are Blind

Derrick Bartlett is one of the most respected names in precision rifle training. In conjunction with Derrick and POSA, MLEFIAA is offering a four hour block of instruction called TACTICAL VISION on the subject of perceptual blindness. The class will be held June 23, 2008 at Westminster PD from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. The cost is \$50 and checks should be made payable to MLEFIAA.

This training is open to members and non-members however pre-registration is required as seating is limited. Please contact MLEFIAA Secretary BEFORE JUNE 2nd if you are interested in attending. We need a sufficient number of attendees to make this happen.

Tactical Vision or perceptual blindness is a new area to tactical training and one that is extremely important. This class will open up a new LE relevant training discipline to the attendee. The focus of this seminar will be perceptual blindness as it relates to driving, investigations and use of force. Derrick describes the program as follows:

It's not there fault but most cops are blind. Because they are blind, their investigative skills, driving skills and survival skills are all compromised. They may miss evidence at crime scenes even though it is in plain sight. They have traffic accidents, often hitting objects and other vehicles they simply did not see. They are assaulted by assailants never noticing obvious visual cues or weapons prior to the attack. They are involved in controversial uses of force based on observations made under mental conditions which further impaired their ability to see. Unfortunately, most cops don't realize they are afflicted and therefore won't do anything to correct their condition.

The condition is known as perceptual blindness and has been studied extensively in scientific circles for decades and is only now finding practical applications in fields like police work. For a profession in which observation skill plays such a critical role, understanding this is extremely

important. Perceptual blindness affects everyone to varying degrees. It is a breakdown in the complex visual recognition cycle and can manifest itself in several ways.

Inattentional Blindness - The scientific definition is the inability to detect unexpected changes or movements because we are not paying attention. Because vision requires attention, being distracted can cause you to miss what your eyes are sending to your brain. One can literally look at something and fail to see it.

Change Blindness - the failure to notice large changes across different views of a scene, especially if it occurs during an extraneous disruption of visual continuity such as rapid eye movement, flicker, blink or distraction. Based in scientific data, a person may be physically blind as much as 90 minutes of every day.

Cognitive Blindness - Vision is closely tied to recognition and memory. In observation, many times the brain will take shortcuts accessing a limited amount of actual visual input and then relying on memory to fill in the blanks. As a result, people often see only what they expect to see even if it isn't really there or they are specifically looking for and ignoring otherwise obvious things.

Combined, these various elements of Perceptual Blindness affect police officers in every aspect of their daily duties regardless of assignment. The visual evidence shown in this class is compelling and frightening. Words can not do justice to the scope of the problem. This powerful presentation has to be seen to be believed.

The Tactical Vision course has the following learning objectives:

1. Make officers aware of the scope of the problem of perceptual blindness and how it affects their performance and safety.
2. Teach officers the mechanics of vision.
3. Introduce officers to the various components of perceptual blindness.
4. Teach officers how to recognize the limitations of their vision and

give them the training tools to overcome the problem.

5. Teach officers how to integrate their new skills into daily activities like investigations handling calls for service and driving - both routine and pursuit.

TACTICAL VISION is a four hour class that will actually show police officers how to become "trained observers". To supplement the classroom instruction, officers will receive a proprietary CD containing over 50 training exercises which they can do at their leisure to develop and maintain their observation skills. The Tactical Vision program was originally designed for special operations personnel but is highly recommended for all police officers.

For more information, please use

these internet links:
<http://nivea.psychology.univ-paris5.fr/ECS/ECS-CB.html>

<http://www.awuaticssafetygroup.com/perceptions.html>

<http://home.att.net/~jeff.dean/blind.htm>

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Inattentional_Blindness

http://viscog.beckman.uiuc.edu/djs_lab/demos.html

<http://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2003/01/030129080944.htm>

<http://www.quirkology.com/UK/index.shtml>

TACTICAL VISION *A Seminar On What We See Versus What Is Really There*

June 23, 2008
8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.
Westminster Police Department
\$50.00
 (payable to MLEFIAA)

**Register at secretary@mlafiaa.org
 before June 2, 2008**

\$27 Patrol Rifles - Welcome to the 1033 Program

If your police department is anything like mine, money is short - especially funds for the purchase of new firearms. So what if you could purchase a brand new patrol rifle for less than the cost of 100 rounds of ammunition?

I just took delivery of six brand new M16-A1 rifles from the 1033 program for the grand sum of \$27.50 each. That's right, it was not a typo - twenty seven dollars and fifty cents apiece. They are brand new, packed in the original shipping box from Colt and included the paperwork indicating the cost in April 1976 when they were made was \$446.00 each. So what do you need to get a brand new rifle for less than thirty bucks? In one word - PATIENCE.

Title 10 USC Section 2576a authorizes the Secretary of Defense to transfer DOD property to federal and state agencies including small arms and ammunition. Basically, an eligible agency must be engaged in law enforcement activities with a preference for agencies engaged in counter terrorism and counter drug operations.

There are several conditions which must be met:

- The property is drawn from existing stocks;
- The recipient must accept the property as is and where is;
- The transfer can not cost the federal government any money;
- All costs subsequent to the transfer are borne by the recipient.

At one point, there were a number of weapons available including .38 caliber revolvers, .45 caliber pistols, 12 gauge shotguns, M14 and M16 rifles. The latest info indicates shotguns and .38's are no longer available. I have been told (but have not seen anything on the website) that M14's are no longer available. This may be a result of the Designated Marksman Program in the Marine Corps which has created a renewed interest in the .30 caliber rifle. You can still request .45 caliber pistols and M16 rifles. The program will allocate 1 rifle for every 5 officers and pistols on a 1 for 1 basis.

To request weapons, your agency must submit a written request on department letterhead to the State Coordinator who is appointed by the Governor. No on line requests are accepted. The letter must address all the required information indicated in the Weapon Request Procedures.

This includes:

- Administrative Data including name, address, phone and fax numbers of the requesting agency;
- Full name of the Chief Executive Officer and additional points of contact;
- A statement that the Chief Executive Officer has read and understands the terms and conditions applicable to the weapon transfer.
- A statement the agency is able to maintain, operate, finance and properly store the requested weapons;
- A statement the department is familiar with the BATF regulations governing the registration of the weapons received.
- The type and quantity of weapons being requested, their intended use and the impact they will have on the agency's jurisdiction; and
- The size of the requesting agency's jurisdiction by population and area.

The letter is forwarded to the State Coordinator for review and approval. If you neglect to include any of the above information, you have not met the terms of the program and your request will be denied. Presuming you got all your ducks in a row and wrote a good letter, it will be approved and is then forwarded to Law Enforcement Support Office for action. At this time you will be advised of the cost. Payment must be made with a certified check. The price per weapon is determined by the shipping cost from Anniston Arsenal (or other location where the weapons are stored) to your agency.

Do not underestimate the importance of what you include in the letter. If 10 departments are requesting the same item, the one that articulates a greater need will prevail. Has your department just joined a local or regional special response team? Will the members need special weapons? Does your jurisdiction include strategic targets like railroad hubs, nuclear power plants, large municipal water supplies or major tourist attractions? Does your sleepy little town of 500 blossom to 50,000 due to a particular event? Does a major highway which could be used to transport illegal drugs run through your town? These are all valid factors which should be included.

This is where the "patience" comes into play. I wrote our letter on March 8, 2007 and it was immediately acknowl-

edged. We received notification the request was approved about a month later (April '07). In November, we were advised rifles had been allocated and would be shipped shortly. They were received the first week in February '08. Am I complaining? HELL NO! Interestingly enough, they were delivered by the postman. Do you suppose he knew he was dropping off six machine guns?

Speaking of this, one of the requirements is you must comply with all BATF regulations. This means you will need to complete an ATF Form 10 on each weapon. No big deal but you must forward a copy of the approved form to the State Coordinator as well. Another thing to bear in mind is these weapons are on loan. They remain the property of the Uncle Sam. If you had any bright ideas about getting cheap full auto weapons and trading them in for newer weapons - forget it.

The rifles are all packed dry in a protective paper wrapper with a oil impregnated craft paper tube run down the bore. Each came with a simple web sling and one 30 round magazine (both brand new circa 1975 in the wrapper). For some reason, all showed very minor oxidation on the forward sling swivel. The rifles were completely disassembled cleaned and treated with Tuf-Glide by Sentry Solutions on all surfaces. Tuf-Glide is a dry film lubricant and rust inhibitor. The Tuf-Glide will penetrate into the smallest of spaces and when the mineral spirit carrier evaporates, it leaves behind a protective dry film lubricant which has bonded to the surface of the metal. Great stuff and is very popular with the troops stationed in desert conditions.

Since the M16-A1 is a full auto weapon, some agencies may opt to convert them to semi auto only. While some may like the option to go full auto, it really does not have a place in the typical law enforcement environment. Rarely do we need "suppressing fire". We are responsible for every round we fire and clicking over to full rock and roll is not conducive to 100% round accountability.

Initially we looked at using the Lock Plate as an alternative to changing out the entire fire control group (hammer, trigger, disconnect and selector). The Lock Plate is a sheet metal device that is (Continued on next page)

\$27.00 Patrol Rifles (continued from previous page)

mounted between the pistol grip and receiver. This extends up and prevents the safety/selector switch from being rotated into the Full Auto position. I want take this opportunity to thank all the members who responded to my inquiry about this part. Based on the overwhelming response from those who have used Lock Plates, I opted not to go in this direction.

Several members advised that changing out the entire fire control group was not necessary. Rendering an A1 to semi-auto only can be done by exchanging the safety/selector switch with an AR15 version (semi only) and removing the full auto sear and pin. Armorers who attended the Colt school years ago report this was the method taught back then before the bean counters got into the act.

Another member advised that all fire control group parts had to be removed because the BATFE regards any AR rifle with M16 full auto parts to be a "machine gun". That is good advise for someone with an AR15 however these rifles were registered as "machine guns" on a Form 10 so this does not apply here.

Above right - Brand new, unfired M16-A1 as delivered from Colt in the original box and protective wrappers in April 1976. Class III collectors - Eat your hearts out!

Middle - Inside the bore was an preservative impregnated craft paper tube to prevent rust in the bore. This is common with rifles that have been placed in long term storage at government facilities such as the CMP program.

Bottom - Rifle removed from the protective wrapper. It was dry with no preservative coatings except for in the trigger mechanism.



Above - There appeared to be some mold from storage on the plastic parts including the pistol grip, stock and fore end. This was removed easily with mild solution of soapy water.

Below - The upper receiver was very dry and showed a couple of minor areas of oxidation around the steel barrel nut and aluminum receiver. This cleaned up easily with a little Hoppes #9 and a toothbrush.



The \$27.00 Patrol Rifle!



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