

The Case Head

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

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He's Ready, Are You?

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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In This Issue

Editorial	Page 2
Product Review: Brownell's Spray Grit	Page 3
March Meeting Minutes	Page 4
Will We Learn From Mumbai?	Page 5
Ever Wonder Why Airsoft Equipment Is So Hard To Find?	Page 9
Police Concerned About Popular Toy Guns	Page 9
MPTC Introduces Changes To Firearms Instructor Training	Page 10
Full Spectrum Policing	Page 11

Editorial

In the last week in March, police officers in Milton faced an unspeakable tragedy. Twenty three year old Kerby Revelus went on a tirade attacking his three sisters. Samantha Revelus, 17 was the first to die - stabbed to death. Before dying, she told 9 year old year old Sarafina to call the police. As the first officer arrived, Kerby Revelus had turned his attention to defenseless 5 year old Bianca. According to reports, the officer heard the cries for help and made entry into the dwelling just in time to see Revelus decapitate Bianca. Revelus then turned his attention to 9 year Sarafina chasing her into a back room stabbing her. With only seconds to act before a third victim fell to this madman, officers acted according to their and shot Kerby Revelus.

Reporting on this story on Channel 7's 10 o'clock news Monday night, reporter Dan Hausle stated the Milton officer "gunned down" Revelus.

This struck me the wrong way and I did something I hardly ever do - I wrote a letter to the editor or in this case, to Channel 7's programming manager.

Dear Programming Manager, I would like to express my extreme disappointment and anger over reporter Dan Hausle's description of the Milton police officer's response to Kerby Revelus' murder of his two sisters and attack on a third. On Monday nights 10 o'clock

news, Mr. Hausle stated the police officer "gunned down" Revelus.

I am appalled at Mr. Hausle's choice of words. That police officer just witnessed the brutal murder of one sister and was chasing after him as he targeted a third victim. To describe the officer's actions in that fashion puts a derogatory slant on the report when in fact the officer did the only thing he could do and in fact, saved the third girls life.

The quality of media reporting, especially television, has declined over the years with sensationalism becoming more important that accuracy and credibility. Does anyone check on what your people are going to say one the air? Did you consider how that officer will feel after you have accused him of "gunning down" a child killer? More importantly - do you even care? In Mr. Hausle's haste to deliver another sensational report, did he consider that the image of that girl dying in front of the officer and having to take a life will NEVER leave his memory?

In my opinion, your reporter owes that police officer, his family and the Milton Police Department a public apology. He also should apologize to your viewers for his poor choice of words, lack of compassion and unprofessional performance.

Not surprisingly, Channel 7 and Dan Hausle did not have the testicular fortitude to man up to the poor choice of words. The program manager deflected the letter to Hausle who sent me the following response. By the way, the grammatical errors and poor spelling are all his, not mine.

Thank you for your feedback. I'm

sorry you took offense to the use of the phrase 'gunned down' in reference to the police actions. I think it was clear in the context of the story and certainly in the context of our overall coverage that no one in questioning the police decision to fire. In fact, some of our coverage just the day before death (sic) extensively with the difficulty police were having dealing with what they saw.

My editors and I think very much about the words we use and we're glad you take note even when you disagree. With faceboojk, (sic) e-mail and other tools our coverage is more of a two way street than ever... and we want you to keep it that way. Sincerely, Dan Hausle Seven News

So much for professional journalism and checking your work. This response speaks volumes to the priority this reporter and his employer place on fair and impartial journalism.

Unfortunately the media is a regular part of our job. Sometimes we screw the pooch and the media rakes us over the coals. We don't like it but we have no one to blame but ourselves. In this case, a brutal child killer was seconds from taking his third victim. The officer did the only thing he could do. For this, his actions are labeled by a so called professional journalist the same way we'd expect a street shooting to be described. I hope that this information will stick in your mind the next time you have occasion to speak with Channel 7 or Dan Hausle.

Todd Bailey, Editor & 2nd V.P.

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 - Brownell's Spray Grit

Reviewed by Todd Bailey

In my never ending search for a better grip on my polymer framed pistols, my latest experiment has been with Brownell's SPRAY GRIT on a Glock 23. I have been using Decal Grip sections to provide better hand to weapon contact. The problem I encountered was, despite the high tech adhesive, the Decal Grip pads had a tendency to pull loose at the corners.

Numerous presentations and recoveries from the holster plus the wear and tear a duty pistol will take had caused the upper rear corner on both sides to pull away. The Decal Grip was functional and I liked the feel however it began to look ratty and that was unacceptable for me.

Spray Grit is an epoxy based aerosol coating which contains synthetic grit particles with no sharp edges. It is available in four colors - black, grey, brown and green. I chose black to match the frame of my G23. According to Brownell's, the 12 oz. aerosol can will cover 24 square feet of surface area.

Preparation was pretty much in line with what you would expect with any coating. I had to remove the Decal Grip sections I've been using for the past several years. There was some adhesive residue left behind which I cleaned off using Goo-Gone. I then roughed up the surface using a wire wheel to provide better adhesion for the coating. The surface needs to be squeaky clean so a quality degreaser was used to remove any Goo-Gone residue.

I warmed up the frame and Spray Grit by placing them in front of the Modeen heater in my shop. The manufacturer recommends you apply the coating at temperatures between 70 and 90 degrees for best results.

You are going to have to shake



the daylight out of the can before you begin. This is critical to get all the grit from the bottom of the can and into solution. I recommend you spend at least four minutes doing this. You want to hear the ball roll around freely.

The next step is to mask off the areas you do not want coated. There is no reason why you could not coat the entire frame however I only wanted the grip area treated where my hand makes contact. The more time you take with this step, the better your project will look. Plug pin holes to prevent coating from entering and interfering with the fit. I removed the magazine release since I was afraid the grit might adversely affect the operation.

The first coat was just a light dusting to get the feel how the product was dispensed and covered. It's better to be to far away than to close in the beginning. I used a disposable rubber glove to keep from painting my hand. Through experimentation, I found keeping the nozzle 14 to 16 inches from the surface produced the best coverage. I sprayed five

very light coats to get the desired affect then hung it to cure. The directions stated it would dry to a tacky feeling in 15 minutes and would be dry to the touch in an hour. Full curing takes at least 24 hours and it suggested circulating warm air around the project to speed curing time.

The finished product felt good in my hand and had enough grit to provide a fairly good non-slip surface. I would have like a little more texture however this would mean more "paint" on the grip which was not acceptable. There are a couple of other negative points to this product. The finish coat is too glossy for my liking and does not match the Glock frame. I felt it gave the frame a "painted look" and fresh out of the shop it looked pretty cheesy. This may dull out over time and with use but the initial appearance was not what I was looking for. The Decal Grip product I removed had a rubber like feel which made for a very secure feel. Spray Grit does not come near this feeling.

The coating does not add any thickness to the grip which is a big advantage. Not having to bake the coating made it easier to do and Brownell's claims it works well with all properly prepared metal, aluminum, wood and fiberglass surfaces. Cost is \$10 per can which makes it much cheaper than many custom grip treatments. How well it stands up to the abuses of the range and duty use remains to be tested. We'll keep you posted.

Spray Grit was an interim solution pending having Boresight Solutions perform a grip reduction and rubber coat to my Glock 23. Unfortunately, Boresight was overwhelmed with orders after the SHOT Show and discontinued performing the Rubbercoat package and has temporarily suspended accepting new orders. Good for Boresight - bad for me.

March Meeting Minutes

Date: 3/24/09 Location: Westminster P.D.
Meeting called to order at 10:05 A.M. by President Bert DuVernay

OFFICERS' REPORTS:

2nd VP (T. Bailey) – The Spring edition of the Case Head will be out in 2-3 weeks.
Secretary (J. Picariello) – Dues continue to come in. The reading of the minutes of the February meeting were waived.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. By law change:
In light of the recent meeting cancellations and the election issues raised, the By-Laws Committee proposes the following changes to the current by-laws:
Article IV - Nominations for Office
Insert the following after the first sentence: "In the event the December meeting is canceled, the President may call for nominations by mail (to include E-mail)."
Insert the following after the second sentence: "In the event the January meeting is canceled for reasons beyond the control of the Executive Board, the President may postpone the election to the next regularly sched-

uled meeting."

Article IV - Voting Method

In the second sentence, delete the word "January".
Above by law change was seconded and passed unanimously.

2. By law change:

Article IV of the bylaws reads:

AMENDMENTS - Proposals for amendment to these By-Laws shall be made in writing and shall be served upon the Secretary at least thirty (30) days prior to any vote taken thereon; and the Secretary shall serve a copy of such proposed amendment upon each Active Member at least 15 days prior to any vote taken thereon. The fifteen and thirty day notice requirements may be met by notification using Electronic mailing systems and the posting of proposed amendments in a secure (members only) area of the official Association web site. No change, alteration or amendment to these By-Laws shall be made, except by an affirmative vote of three-fourths (3/4) of the Active Members present, presuming the presence of a quorum. The presence of 15 or more members at any meeting where such proposed amendment, change or alteration is made shall constitute a

Continued on Page 13

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Will We Learn From Mumbai?

In November of last year, ten radical Muslim terrorists conducted an organized military style attack against high profile targets in Mumbai, India. Their stated goal – kill 5000 people in what they hoped would be viewed as the 9/11 of India. Fortunately the terrorists were unable to meet this goal however it was not for a lack of trying.

According to published reports, the terrorists trained at a Lashkar-e-Toiba (Army of the Pure) camp in Pakistan for several months in preparation for the attack. Lashkar-e-Toiba is dedicated to restoring Islamic rule over India and was outlawed by Pakistan in 2002. It is considered by the U.S. as a terrorist organization with ties to al-Qaeda and the Taliban. This training included advanced techniques in handling weapons, explosives and maritime operations. The one terror-

ist who was captured alive states they were specifically indoctrinated to “cause maximum casualties in Mumbai” and “to target whites – especially Britons and Americans”.

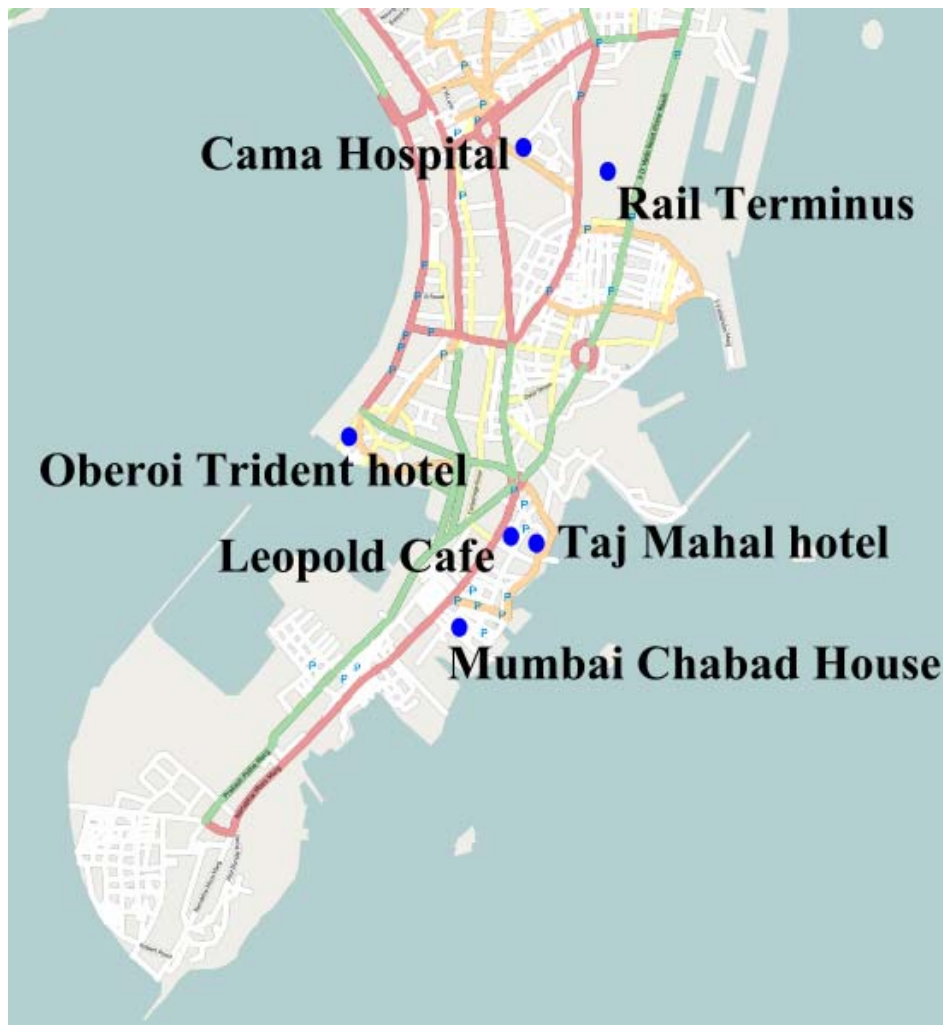
Initial reports were sketchy and indicated at least one terrorist may have arrived by land and secured a hotel room where he stashed explosives for the operation. It now appears that all the terrorists infiltrated via a seaborne route. After sailing from Karachi, Pakistan in a small cargo vessel, they hijacked the 14 meter fishing boat *Kubar* killing all the crew except for the captain. They used the *Kubar* to sail the 400+ miles to Mumbai. Once close to their destination, the terrorists killed the captain (he was beheaded), boarded inflatable boats and made their way to shore, landing on the beach at Badhwar Park in the southern part of

the city. This was witnessed by several locals and area fisherman who were told by the terrorists to “mind their own business.” Calls to police were not taken seriously despite the fact the men were carrying weapons.

Once ashore, the terrorists split into five 2 man teams and proceeded to their assigned targets. On this list were locations popular with western tourists or those with Jewish ties - Taj Mahal Hotel, Oberoi Trident Hotel, Leopold Café, Metro Cinema and orthodox Jewish owned Chabad House complex. They also targeted the Chhatrapati Shivaji Terminus Station which is the major transportation hub in the southern part of the city and the Cama Hospital. Each man wore typical clothing to blend in with the population but was equipped with a Chinese Type 56 (AK-47) automatic rifle, and a haversack containing spare ammo (at least 6 extra magazines), eight hand grenades, 9mm pistol with 2 magazines, cell phone and a supply of food. They also possessed 5 kg IED's constructed of RDX and ball bearings.

The extent of the attack was well documented by the news media. Reports indicate terrorist handlers in Pakistan were able to closely monitor the situation via the media and communicate these updates to the terrorists via a satellite phone and their BlackBerries.

Walking boldly into the targets, the terrorists sprayed the crowds with rifle fire and tossed grenades. From newspaper articles, it seems at least one terrorist went out of his way NOT to kill a camera man filming the carnage. It was as if they wanted the video documentation to further their goals. Tourists and commuters who dove for the ground were shot where they lay. Several reports from the London Times indicate the Jewish hostages taken prisoner at the Chabad Center were tortured before being executed. Over 170 people were killed (including 6 Americans) and up to 324 were wounded in the running gun battle which lasted over 60 hours. Ten perpetrators were able to hold off over 800 police officers





and military special operations operators. All but one terrorist were eventually killed.

The sole survivor, Azam Amir Kasab is a 21 year old Pakistani national was one of the terrorists who assaulted the train station. When armed police units began to gain control of the train station, he withdrew with his accomplice towards the Cama Hospital where they shot and threw grenades at the building. Fleeing in the direction of the Chowpatty Beach area, both were engaged by police where Kasab was shot in the hand by police. The other terrorist with Kasab was killed in the gunfight along with one policeman. When questioned, Kasab admitted to training at the Lashkar-e-Toiba camp and that this was a suicide mission. He

stated, "I was ordered to kill until the last breath."

After action reports indicate the resources available to Mumbai may have been severely limited. Because of the lineage to British policing, many of the Mumbai police are not armed. Typically police constables are normally unarmed except for a bamboo stick called a "lathi" which means long stick in Hindi. "Armed Police" are normally armed with a .38 caliber revolver or a 9mm pistol. Video from the train station shows two constables, one unarmed and one holding a SMLE No. 1 rifle seeking cover behind a concrete pillar. Neither appeared inclined to engage the killers.

The (London) Times reports that the police may not have had adequate training. Their actual range training on these weapons may have been very limited or even non-existent. On the other hand, it is reported the terrorists were equipped with night vision goggles, communicated with Blackberry phones and navigated with GPS receivers.

Some officers said they were not given enough weapons training because of a shortage of ammunition and shooting ranges. All officers are supposed to shoot 50 rounds per year however in practice, only senior officers get their full quota of small arms training. The rest may get a portion or none. A senior police official noted that even when the officers get to shoot a .303 caliber

rifle at the range; it is target practice and not a suitable training for use of the weapon in urban policing.

CCTV cameras and journalists recorded the events in the Chhatrapati Shivaji train station. Sebastian Souza, a photo editor for the Mumbai Mirror stated he saw the gunmen firing from the hip at anything which moved. "They saw me taking pictures but they didn't seem to care." Souza also reported that the terrorists were very professional. One fired while the other reloaded. "They were heavily armed and knew how to use their rifles." The shooters strolled calmly through the station shooting both civilians and police. He stated many of the armed policemen did not fire back and actually failed to follow the gunmen when they left the station.

Similar scenes played out in the first 24 hours of the attack which led to the deaths of at least 16 police officers. Other video footage showed Hemant Karkare, the head of the Mumbai Anti-Terrorist Squad donning body armor and a helmet as he arrived on the scene in a van with two other ATS officers and 4 police constables. Karkare was hit in the chest with three rounds and died as did all but one of the constables. The terrorists drove off in the police van.

In India, elite anti-terrorism units are generally part of the military rather than a local law enforcement function. Mumbai had a small Anti-Terrorism Squad but the extent of the attack seemed to overwhelm their capabilities. The Marine Commandos (MARCOS) and National Security Guard (Black Cat) commandos are the primary anti-terrorism units. When the call went out these special troops had to come from the capital which is over 700 miles away. According to published reports, no military flights were immediately available and other arrangements to get them on scene had to be made. Needless to say, their arrival was severely delayed.

CONCLUSIONS

We can draw several conclusions

Continued on the next page.



Will We Learn From Mumbai? (continued from previous page)

based on the after action reports:

1. This was the work of a radical religious (Muslim) terrorist organization. The targets were locations where Americans, Britons and Jewish tourists were likely to be found. It should also be noted that hundreds of Indian commuters were targeted at the train station. The sole survivor confessed their mission was to target "whites – especially Americans and Britons".

2. They wanted to kill as many people as possible and not to take hostages. Even when they took hostages, they usually killed them shortly thereafter.

3. The terrorists worked in groups (not alone), stood their ground and fought it out. There was substantial pre-planning to the extent the terrorists had floor plans of their targets. They used fire and maneuver tactics; one terrorist covered the other as he reloaded. They carried food and plenty of spare ammo. All this indicates they planned on a long engagement and came prepared. While some reports stated this was a suicide mission, others indicate they may have had escape routes. We should be careful not to let previous incidents color our thinking with this attack.

4. The terrorists arrived by boat completely bypassing the usual border checks by immigration and security forces. Jurisdictions along the coast should take note of this. How easy would it be for small boats to land on a beach or waterfront area in your city or town?

Some may label this as merely another rift in the ongoing religious clash between Muslim Pakistan and Hindu India. While I am not an "expert", I believe this goes much further. This was a well thought out attack which was designed not only to kill infidels but to further incite hatred and unrest between Hindu India and Muslim Pakistan. Whether it is the Middle East, Beslan, Indonesia, Philippines, the 1st WTC bombing or 9/11, the common denominator is radical individuals with strong fundamental Islamic beliefs looking to attack



Patrons which were predominantly western tourists in the Café Leopold were shot where they sat by two terrorists.

others with differing religions. The actions of this radical minority do not reflect the beliefs of all Muslims however what is the "peaceful" majority doing about it?

Just like Beslan, Mumbai is a vivid peek into the playbook of the terrorist. Since 9/11 we have been scrutinizing the borders and airports for terrorists trying to enter the country. In Mumbai, they merely sailed in and stepped out on the beach. America has a long coastline and there are numerous potential targets which lie within walking distance of the shoreline. It does not even have to be a major city. Think how much havoc a dozen heavily armed terrorists could create attacking a crowded beach on July 4th weekend. Unlike other more conventional targets, how many people are likely to be armed while at the beach?

As budgets are cut back in response to lean financial times, we are likely to see training reduced if not totally ignored. Training within the Mumbai police was also ignored with disastrous results. Little or no fire-arms training led to a lack of confidence on the part of many police constables. Sending an unarmed officer up against a terrorist carrying grenades and an AK is ludicrous but that is what happened. American police officers are armed however

many have only their service pistol. Will we learn from Mumbai or are we destined to suffer the same results?

The Mumbai attackers did an in depth reconnaissance over a year in advance using at least one Indian national. He was actually captured with diagrams and plans which led to heightened security in hotels for 2 months. Because this inconvenienced the guests, it was relaxed.

We need to be ever vigilant as we patrol our jurisdictions. Unfortunately there are individuals living here in the U.S. whose sympathies lie with the enemy. It is more than likely that al-Qaeda has cells and sympathizers already in place ready to be mobilized to provide information or take action. Our opponent is not going to be dressed in desert garb. They will look like our next door neighbor - in fact, it may be your next door neighbor! Who is a tourist and who is conducting a recon of the area? Most major tourist attractions are loaded with people taking pictures. How do we decide who is taking pictures of Mom and the kids and who is documenting potential targets for a future attack?

Patrol rifles are a necessary tool. The service pistol is only a defensive weapon which buys you time to access your patrol rifle. The police



shotgun is a very versatile tool however it lacks range and magazine capacity when going up against this type of threat. Extra ammo is not an option. The terrorists have demonstrated they will come prepared. We must be ready for a protracted engagement. You will need more than 20 rounds. The old dogs who try to tell you "If you can't get the job done in 20 rounds, you shouldn't be here" are not up to speed on today's threat. Body armor is also a necessary tool. The higher the rating - the better. Our standard issue Level II and III vests will not stop a 7.62x39mm round. Keep that in mind when choosing your cover.

Training is critical to keeping our skill level up where it needs to be. Active shooter training is ideal for dealing with this type of threat since the terrorist is an active shooter. Keep in mind that there are big differences between the Columbine shooter and terrorists. The first will act like a tough guy while they are the only one with a gun. When confronted by trained law enforcement officers with the right weapons, they usually commit suicide. The terrorist is not going to go down without a fight. Taking prisoners is probably not going to happen. If a terrorist is wounded and taken prisoner, search them thoroughly for anything that could be used as a weapon. Secure their hands and feet. Watch them like

a hawk. Remember that if you are wounded, you will not be given medical care by the terrorists. You will be used to their advantage and then most likely killed. If not immediately, then after they have gained some leverage from your condition.

If your department does not provide adequate training, find it elsewhere. The SWAT guys reading this will probably continue to get some level of tactical training for this type of event however the patrol officer may see his training (if they had any to begin with) disappear due to lack of money. Many cops get jaded to the point where they develop the attitude "If the department won't pay for it, I'm not doing it." Guys, this training might just save YOUR life. What price can you put on that? We need to do it for us and our family. Use of cover, fire & maneuver and basic skills will keep you alive and in the fight.

First responding patrol officers will make initial contact in a terror attack like Mumbai. If they fail to engage, the casualty count will continue to rise until units who are willing to engage arrive. We, the first responders, owe it to the people who pay our salary to at least make the effort to take out the threat. The extent of our success will depend on our equipment, training, preparation and mind set. Attackers must be overwhelmed by accurate

rifle fire in the earliest moments of the attack. Terrorists encountering a determined officer will be bogged down. As long as they are tied up with us, they are not shooting innocent civilians. Hitting the terrorists hard can stop the attack early on. At the very least it will tie them up until our SWAT units arrive. If we cower behind cover like some of the Mumbai police, the terrorists will continue unhindered and more people will die.

Be prepared to lead. In the initial fog of battle, there will be indecision and a lack of command. Someone needs to take the initiative and lead from the front. Hopefully you have an effective command staff which will arrive and establish command & control but in the meantime, someone is needed to take the bull by the horns. This will most likely be the officer with the most training and confidence. Your initiative may well through the attackers off balance especially if they expect unarmed victims and poorly trained police. Elliot Chudoff wrote, "This is not a criminal justice issue; it is a war."

The Mumbai attack is no longer on the nightly news however the threat is still ever present. Forewarned is forearmed. We have been warned several times that the attack is coming. We do not know where or when but it is coming.

Ever Wonder Why Airsoft Equipment Is So Hard To Find?

ATTORNEY GENERAL MARTHA COAKLEY SECURES DEFAULT JUDGEMENTS TOTALLING OVER \$75,000 AGAINST INTERNET BB GUN RETAILERS

BOSTON – The Office of Massachusetts Attorney General Martha Coakley obtained default judgments against two Internet retailers in connection with the alleged sale of “look-alike” BB guns and air rifles to minors yesterday afternoon. Suffolk Superior Court Judge John C. Cratsley ordered two out-of-state companies, Jungle Toy, LLC, of Chino, California, and Tactical Innovations, LLC, of Milford Ohio, to pay fines and penalties totaling \$78,500. Judge Cratsley also granted a permanent injunction prohibiting the two companies from such sales in the future.

“While many may think of BB guns as ‘toys,’ these weapons are dangerous, and do not belong in the hands of children,” Attorney General Coakley said. “In recent years, local police have founds that these look-alike guns create a risk for the user when police assume they are real guns or they are being used to commit real crimes, and kids are even bringing them to school. The resolution of these cases is a step toward preventing not only more crimes, but equally importantly, the injuries that can result from these weapons or the response to these weapons.”

In December 2006, the Attorney General’s Office filed suit against Jungle Toy and Tactical Innovations, as well as five other online retailers, as the result of an undercover sting operation in response to growing concerns among local police departments about the misuse of “look-alike” BB guns and air rifles. The Attorney General’s Office enlisted the assistance of a 16-year-old boy who was easily able to purchase these guns online from Jungle Toy and Tactical Innovations. Massachusetts law prohibits the sale of an air rifle or BB gun to a minor under 18 years of age.

The guns, commonly referred to as “airsoft” guns, are high powered, often semi- or fully automatic, and fire plastic pellets that can inflict serious bodily injury. They pose an additional safety risk because they are designed to look and feel exactly like real guns. Incidents of violence involving these “look-alike” guns are on the rise both locally and nationally. The Center for Disease Control reports that an estimated 20,000 injuries caused by these guns occurred in 2003. Anyone with questions about certain weapons and the Massachusetts law should check with their local police department.

The Attorney General’s Office also filed similar suits against five other Internet retailers, which were settled in December 2006. The five companies agreed

to pay penalties and to halt future Internet sales to minors in Massachusetts. Dick’s Sporting Goods, The Sports Authority, and GSI Commerce Solutions agreed to cease all Internet sales of airsoft and BB guns into Massachusetts, and to pay a total of \$20,000 in penalties. The companies are still permitted to sell the products to adults in their Massachusetts stores. Airsoft Atlanta, Inc., of Norcross, Georgia, agreed to an injunction against Internet sales to minors in Massachusetts, and to pay a \$15,000 penalty. And Xtreme Action Paintball in Norwood, Massachusetts agreed to improve its in-store systems to prevent illegal sales, and to pay a \$5,000 penalty.

Under yesterday’s default judgment, Jungle Toy and Tactical Innovations will each pay a \$10,000 penalty. Jungle Toy is required to pay \$36,400 in attorneys’ costs, and Tactical Innovations is required to pay \$22,100. The permanent injunctions ordered by Judge Cratsley prohibit both companies from selling BB guns to minors.

Assistant Attorneys General David Monahan and Scott Schafer of AG Coakley’s Consumer Protection Division handled these cases, with assistance from Investigators Dante Annicelli and Eric Funk of the Investigations Division.

Source: *Mass. Atty. General’s web site.*

“Police” Concerned About Popular Toy Guns

Associated Press
FORT WAYNE, Ind. — Indiana State Police are concerned that the growing popularity of toy guns that closely resemble real firearms could lead to tragedy if officers mistake the toys youngsters use in backyard games for a deadly weapon. State Police Detective Mark Heffelfinger said the black plastic “airsoft” guns are so realistic that children and young adults who use them for fun could put themselves in danger if they encounter a police officer while playing fantasy games. “If you look at these guns from 3 feet away, you can’t tell the difference,” he said, pointing one of the pistols menacingly. “Not enough to bet your life on.” Heffelfinger said own son, Cory Heffelfinger — an Auburn police officer — almost shot a teenager who was carrying a plastic handgun closely resembling a Beretta 9

mm pistol. The plastic replicas shoot plastic BBs at low velocities. When the younger Heffelfinger responded late one night in August 2004 to a report of three juveniles with a weapon, he drew his service pistol and pointed it at one of the teens when the youngster approached with his friends, carrying the airsoft pistol. Luckily, Cory Heffelfinger didn’t fire, but when the teen was told that he had almost been shot, he asked officers to take away his plastic gun. Airsoft guns blur the line between real firearms and toys and elevate the old game of playing backyard wars or cops and robbers to a whole new level. On the streets, police officers say they don’t have the luxury of checking to see whether a weapon is a fake. They are forced to confront airsoft guns as if

they’re the real thing. “We can’t afford to worry about those things,” Mark Heffelfinger said. “You can’t wait to see if it’s real.” The plastic guns come in countless shapes, sizes and price ranges, but they’re all patterned after real firearms, and most are meant to look as close to real as possible — sometimes down to trade marked logos. Usually the only way to easily tell them apart from real guns is the distinct orange tips on the ends of the barrels. If those are painted over, taped up or broken off, they can become indistinguishable. The toy guns originally came from Japan where firearms laws are strict. Because there are no legal age require-

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“Police” Concerned About Popular Toy Guns (Continued from previous page)

ments to buy or own an airsoft gun, school officials say parents don't realize the problems that could arise from putting a toy resembling a real weapon in a child's hands.

“Parents need to understand these dangers. They're not illegal, but they are dangerous,” said Anita Gross, the school-safety officer at Southwest Allen County Schools.

Serious players, who treat airsoft as a sport, say the guns themselves aren't the problem.

Matt Traster, a Butler police officer who is one of the founders of the Butler Airsoft club, said the toy guns provide a new way to play war games and cops and robbers.

Traster, 34, and about 25 other men make up a group of airsoft players who dress in camouflage and combat fatigues on the weekends and use their airsoft guns to play advanced and highly realistic combat scenarios.

He said playing airsoft is a way to get some exercise and hang out with his buddies. But he said that as a police officer he's had his own run-ins with irresponsible use of airsoft guns.

“I don't even like to call them toys,” Traster said. “If you're going to use an airsoft gun, you should treat it as a real weapon.”

Commentary: How soon we forget! I may be dating myself but I remember the toy guns of my youth (early 60's) being very

realistic as well. Perhaps not to the detail that we seen in todays Airsoft guns, but certainly accurate enough so that it would be difficult to identify it as a toy at a distance, in dim light or if you only had a second to react. I seem to recall a vocal element back then advocating outlawing toy guns.

While we may have run around the woods in back of the house playing “army” or cowboys and Indians, if we ever pointed a toy gun at an adult, we would have got our butt smacked and lost the use of the toy gun for a few weeks.

There's a couple of novel concepts – parents punishing a child and children being held, accountable for their actions.

MPTC Introduces Changes To Firearms Instructor Program

MPTC Firearms Coordinator Bill Leanos has introduced the latest updates to the firearms program. A result of several months of round table discussions with the Firearms Training Steering Committee, the updates are part of an ongoing program to the program cutting edge.

According to the Firearms Coordinator, he receives numerous inquiries each year regarding how long the MPTC certification is good for. It is and always has been two (2) years.

Firearms Instructor/Trainers run on a different schedule. They must recertify annually. On the odd numbered years they will have a combination classroom and range program. On the even years the instructor/trainers will meet for a 4 hour classroom update. This will bring them up to date with any mid-term issues which require immediate action. If an I/T misses the 4 hour update they will loose the I/T status until this requirement has been fulfilled.

- They loose their certification to train new firearms instructors;
- They loose their certification to train and recertify firearms instructors;
- They may not teach for the MPTC;
- They must attend an 8 hour recertification within two years to be reinstated.

They can qualify and re-qualify their own department's officers provided they have maintained the minimum requirements as a firearms instructor.

Another question which comes up is, “What other firearms instructor certifications does MPTC recognize and what is the procedure?” MPTC will recognize firearms instructor certifications from Smith & Wesson, Sig-Sauer Academy, and the FBI. Other certifying bodies may be recognized on a case by case basis. Contact the Firearms Coordinator if you have any questions.

As in the past, instructors will be required to qualify with at a 90% score. This applies to all weapons they desire to be certified in. Starting this year, instructors will be required to score 100% at the 3, 5 and 7 yard line stages of the Pistol Qualification course. This was introduced to all instructors over the past two years and is now policy. Recruits and non-instructors must still score an 80% or better.

New to the instructor requirements is a policy of 100% round accountability. This essentially means that all your rounds must hit a scoring area of your target. Putting this in real world terms, we do not want stray rounds. You are ethically and morally responsible for every round you fire. Where does the round go which misses the intended target? Straight to court! By holding instructors to this higher standard, it is hoped more attention will be paid to achieving maximum accuracy with each shot.

Instructor training will utilize the IALEFI-Q(P) target. There has been some confusion on this. The target change applies to the instructor level

only. Your department does NOT have to purchase new targets unless you want to change over.

Another significant change is a MPTC Firearms Instructor may not let their certification lapse for more than four (4) years. If they do, they must retake the 8 Day Basic Firearms Instructor course all over again.

The 50 round Pistol Qualification With Movement is now the standard handgun qualification course for all personnel. This was phased in during the 2007/2008 program. Changes have been made to the 3 and 10 yard line stages based on feedback from instructors. As with any good training program, it will be constantly reviewed and updated as it is a work in progress. You should note that the old static course of fire is now obsolete.

During the 2009/2010 program, a new 50 round Patrol Rifle Qualification program will be introduced. The old 20 round course was a familiarization program introduced in response to the L.A. Bank Robbery incident. The new program is a dynamic program which was designed to introduce more reality into the training. This course of fire will not become standard until 2011 so there is no need to go to panic stations if you have already submitted your ammo budget based on the 20 round course.

Some of the more frequently asked questions are: “Is there a state standard?” “How often does my department need to qualify?” and “If I don't do it, what will happen?”

FULL SPECTRUM POLICING by Fred Leland

Adaptation, Trust and Building Resilient Cops and Communities

"Be willing to make decisions. That's the most important quality in a leader." -

General George S. Patton, Jr.

You are a police officer patrolling the streets when you observe a vehicle run a red light and pull into the parking lot of the hospital. You activate your emergency lights and pull the car over. You notify dispatch of the car stop and have dispatch run a check on the vehicle and its owner. As this is going on, you approach the car and begin to speak with the driver and its occupants. The driver in an excited voice tells you "my mother in-law is dying and we are on our way in to see her before she passes." The other two occupants excitedly tell you the same thing. You observe the driver with his hands on the wheel, breathing rapid and deep and that from time to time he rubs his forehead and scalp as he exclaims; "we need to get inside the hospital my mother in-law is dying!" The two passengers in the car are fidgety looking back and forth at each other and at you. They both appear to be anxious and upset. **How do you handle this situation?**

Does a law enforcement officer follow his training which is based on policy and procedure and step by step guidelines? Does he *go by the book* and procedure and hold the subject there because of a minor traffic infraction? Or does his awareness, ability to absorb and orient to the incoming information allow him to adapt to the situation, make decisions and then take actions based on, the philosophy that law enforcement officers *protect and serve the public*? As the officer orient's to the environment (*hospital grounds*) and climate of the situation (*excited and anxious demeanor of driver and passengers*) and their story, in combination with a law violation, warrant a prolonged inquiry or do the patterns of behavior depict something

else, that may outweigh a motor vehicle citation?

Would a little *less focus* on numbers, rules and regulations, policy and procedures and processes with a little *more focus* on awareness, communication, interaction, innovation and discretion help an officer balance safety concerns and service in a way that helps the officer orient too the root of the problem? Could this ability to use insight, imagination and initiative assist an officer in adapting to either danger that may be present or, just maybe, this case requires use of intellect, intuition and compassion to see things as they are and adapt accordingly? Is the way in which a law enforcement officer handles this example above; related more towards the personality and background of an officer, or is it more directly related to how he/she is trained and the procedures he is to follow? Obviously it's a combination of all these factors, yet educational research shows it has a lot more to do with learning and development than any other factor.

The Full-Spectrum Police Officer

Today's climate is dangerous to those in law enforcement and to those within their communities, whether its conventional crimes and crime problems or new and emerging threats, such as, transnational crime and terrorism. All pose risks from unknown facts and circumstances and can unfold in any given number of circumstances, including minor traffic violations. This fact requires police officers who are both capable and disciplined; who possess situational awareness, mental calmness and a willingness to show compassion and communicate, and build communitywide relationships. Yet they must as well possess, the willingness to use force, including deadly force to protect both the public and themselves when it's both reasonable and necessary. This is a balance that

is difficult at best in the probabilistic, uncertain and often chaotic world we live in. The complexity of the world and its conflicts demands, a new type of policing—the full spectrum police officer. Full spectrum policing requires building specialized individual police officers and hybrid forces capable of operating in a range of environments and missions. They must be able to transition between community policing and investigations to public order and riot control missions to high-intensity operations ranging from gang control to counterterrorism and counterinsurgency.¹

Full-spectrum policing also demands training officers, using a better alternative to the traditional "input-based" or "competency theory" philosophy that currently governs police training programs as well as U.S. public education at all levels. It requires training based on the Adaptive Leadership Methodology. ALM is perhaps best described as "developmental training," i.e. the development of the individual within the training of a law enforcement task. It emphasizes teaching the "why" behind actions through an emphasis on the fundamental principles that should guide future actions and decisions. ALM is best suited to nurture innovation and

**RANGE SAFETY
BEGINS WITH
YOU!**

**SIGHT & HEARING
PROTECTION**

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Full Spectrum Policing (continued from previous page)

adaptability, the characteristics that are absolutely essential on today's complex streets.²

To prepare and evolve into the future a cultural shift in law enforcement is needed to one more adaptable and agile, allowing decisions and initiative at the frontline supported by the community. This emboldens and empowers individual officers to be creative and allows them to take ownership of the situations they respond to based on the situation taking place verses what the book and procedures state. Canned procedures get you canned responses which can be very

ineffective and at times dangerous in dynamic situations.

Development of full-spectrum police and adaptive methods will assist in making law enforcement more responsive to the problems themselves and their community face, as well as build more trust and resilience within the community. There has been a lot of talk about innovation and initiative when it comes to law enforcement and full-spectrum policing; it is time we in law enforcement start *walking that talk* if we are to be effective solving the problems and building and nurturing cohesive and resilient com-

munities as they are meant to be.

Footnotes:

1 Postcard from Mumbai: Modern Urban Siege John P. Sullivan and Adam Elkus, Small Wars Journal article 2009

2 Unpublished article; Adaptive Leader Methodology (ALM), Something Different, but Better for Our Development, LT Fred T. Leland Jr and Major Don Vandergriff (US Army ret), 2009

MPTC Introduces Changes To Firearms Instructor Program (cont. from Page 10)

In this fiscal year, the program will try to answer these questions and provide the instructor with information which they can bring to the administration to substantiate the firearms program.

As most instructors know, the Commonwealth of Massachusetts has no "state standard" qualification or training program. The state provides a basic firearms training program for recruit police officers and training for instructors. The instructors are expected to bring their expertise back to their agencies. It is up to the individual agency to establish its own training standards.

Many instructors see this lack of guidance as a negative aspect. This author personally feels it can be used to your advantage. Since the state has no standard, we must rely solely on case law to determine what our department standard should be. While it takes quite a bit of reading, the courts have spoken quite clearly what they feel is adequate.

Instructors will get a good look at three important cases which have tremendous significance to our training -

- City of Canton v. Harris
- Oklahoma City v. Tuttle
- Popow v. City of Margate

Canton v. Harris is a training standards case which applies to all training not just firearms. In a nutshell, it says if was customary for the municipality to provide inadequate or no training, that could be interpreted to be "policy". A policy of inadequate training may be grounds for a finding of gross negligence

in a 42 USC 1983 civil rights claim against the city.

In Oklahoma City v. Tuttle, the Superior Court jury found in favor of the officer but against the city for \$1.5 million. The case went all the way to the Supreme Court. The court found that the level of training provided by the city was inadequate which equaled gross negligence as it was found the failure to train amounted to a conscious choice by the city. Since the policy makers deliberately chose a program of inadequate training, the municipality was found liable. Since this case dealt specifically with a firearms training issue, the Justices made some enlightening statements which we should take note of. This information is provided for the instructor.

We often quote Popow v. Margate as what can happen if a department fails to properly train its officers. What many instructors don't realize is, Margate P.D. went to the range twice a year. They were found negligent because the city failed to recognize that the training received at the range was inadequate for what their police officers were likely to encounter in the course of their duties. Furthermore, the officers never viewed films or participated in simulated scenarios such as force on force or judgmental training. There was never a review of the city's Use of Force policy.

The city's failure to train officers to shoot in low light conditions, residential areas and at moving targets was deemed so reckless or grossly negligent as to make future police misconduct almost

inevitable.

A clear understanding of these cases will give the instructor a better picture of what the courts see as adequate training.

The Firearms Coordinator has commented that based on his research, departments should be qualifying at least annually with each weapon system they authorize. Additionally, they need to include:

Use of Force Training
Department Policy & Procedure
Safe weapon handling & proficiency
Judgmental Training such as "shoot/don't shoot" scenarios
Low light training
Shooting while moving
Shooting at moving targets
Engaging multiple targets, and
Shooting in urban areas.

It is the responsibility of the firearms instructor to develop a program to meet these requirements. If they can not, they need to outline the reasons why to their superior. This should include why they can not train to this standard, what it would take to complete the required training including recommendations on cost, time and training descriptions.

Most municipalities play the odds that they will never need to justify the poor support given to the agencies firearms training program. The instructor should be prepared to document existing inadequacies and if they do not receive the support to change, they need to have sufficient documentation so that the liability will be assumed by the city not them.

quorum.

Proposed change: In the event a vote cannot be taken for two consecutive meetings due to the lack of a quorum from the membership, the Executive Board shall be allowed to approve the proposed change by an affirmative vote of three-fourths of the Board members.

Above by law change was seconded and passed unanimously.

3. Proposed training classes: Last month a number of training courses were suggested. An e-mail went out to the membership seeking what interest there was for these classes. The association is continuing to pursue this matter. More information to follow when available.

4. Firearms Instructor recertifications: The association will continue to offer these recerts for our members. We are looking for a location in eastern Massachusetts to hold one of these classes. Mike Cloonan and Mike Barry have volunteered to check several locations in their area. Kevin Cooley said the Barre Sportsmen's Club would like to host a recert like they did last year.

We have been asked to put on a recert in western Massachusetts by member Alan Lambert. If we can get 15 members to attend, we will put one on at the Franklin County Sportsmen's Club.

Regarding recerts- There have been some changes:

a. There is a new 50 rd. patrol rifle course. There is a 2 year process in adopting this course so departments can still use the old 20 round course this year.

b. The old 50 round static handgun course is no longer valid for qualifications. The 50 round handgun course with movement is now the standard.

c. Firearms instructors can have no misses at the 3, 5 and 7 yard line of the handgun qualification course. All shots at the 10 and 15 yard line must hit the grey area of the IALEFI-QP target. Passing continues to be 90%.

All the above information will be given to you when you recertify in 2009-2010.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Instructor insurance: Last month it was voted on to seek liability insurance for the primary instructors of the association. The secretary has contacted the insurance company that

handled our insurance for last year's conference and is working with them on this matter.

2. A proposal was made and seconded to budget \$150.00 per year for maintenance of the association trailer. Motion passed unanimously.

3. Fellow MLEFIAA member Ron Glidden has asked permission to use the MLEFIAA LEOSA course in a CD he is putting out. The executive board has approved this request. There will be a discount to MLEFIAA members when it is available.

4. Brite Strike (a corporate sponsor of MLEFIAA) has come out with a distance learning Dim Light instructor certification. It is available at www.brite-strike.com. The cost is \$49.95. Once the course has been successfully completed, you will receive a certificate, training material and a \$50.00 discount on a Blue Dot flash light.

5. ATC '09: The dates are September 22 (expo and classroom presentations), 23-25 (range sessions). The location for the range sessions will be Harvard Sportsmen's Club and the expo and classroom presentations will be at the Devens Common.

Instructors are still needed. Please contact the secretary at secretary@mlafia.org if interested.

We are also looking into the possibility in 2010 of combining our conference with the N.E. Sniper Summit. The executive board has entered into talks with Ed Gross on this topic.

6. There was a question from the floor if there was any interest in running an 8 day firearms instructor class. The MPTC has cut the budget forcing the cancellation of all firearms training except for several firearms instructor recerts. Discussion followed. One concern was if we offered this class, what motivation the state would have to do any future 8 day instructor classes. One difference between the MPTC and MLEFIAA class would be cost. Departments who attend the MPTC class attend for free even though the cost to the state runs in the thousands of dollars. MLEFIAA would have to pass on the cost of running this class to the attendees. More information will be sent when available. Meeting adjourned at 11:10 A.M.

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