

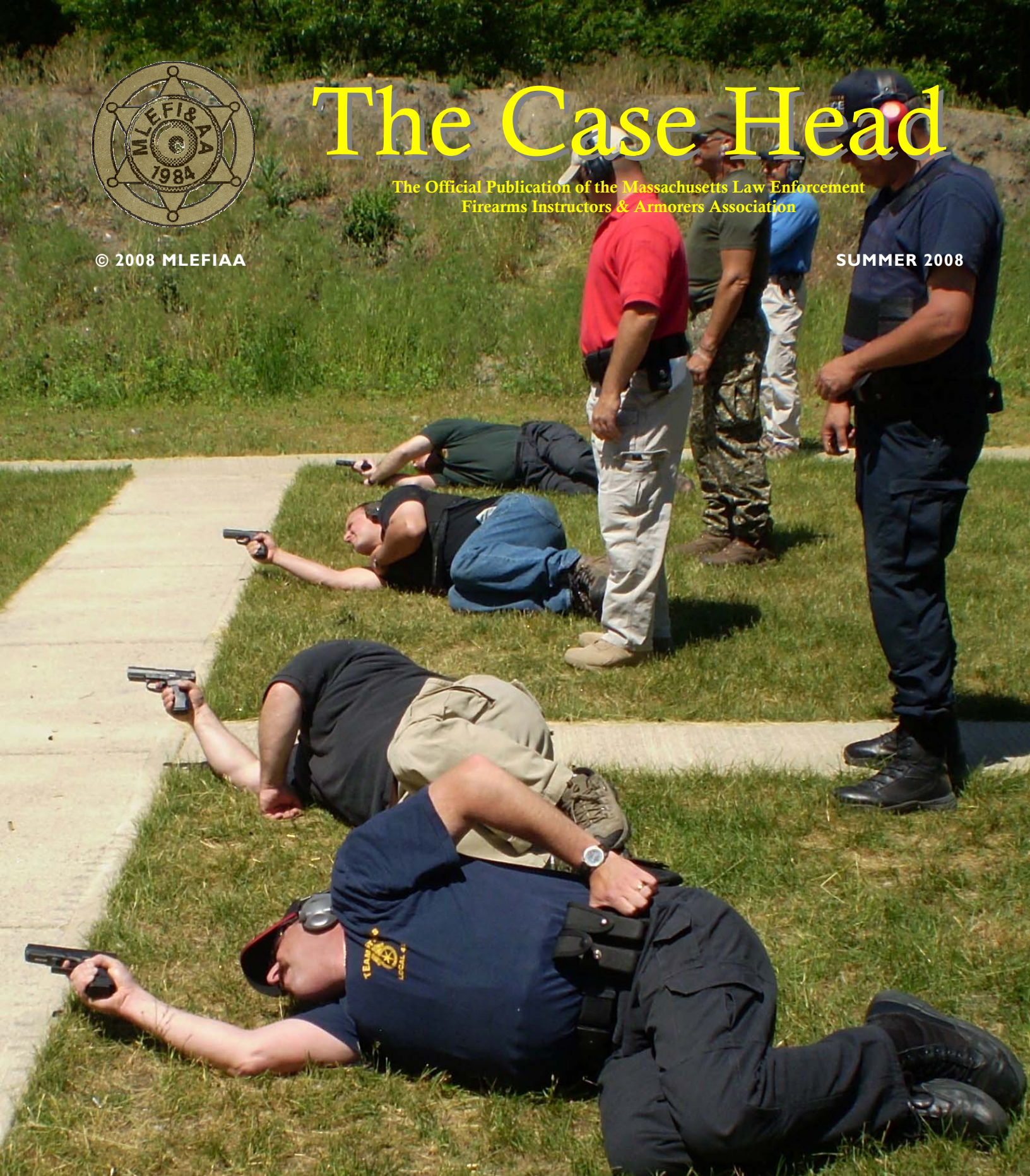


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The Case Head

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

SUMMER 2008



**2008 FIREARMS INSTRUCTOR DEVELOPMENT CONFERENCE
SEPTEMBER 23-26, 2008 DEVENS CONFERENCE CENTER**

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 Todd Bailey

In This Issue

Ask The Training Officer	Page 2
Unintentional Discharge Report	Page 2
Product Review - Quick Detachable Optic Mounts by GG&G and A.R.M.S.	Page 3
Talks with HSC Yield May Yield New Agreement	Page 4
Storage Container Moved	Page 4
Another Look at Response to the Active Shooter	Page 5
John Giduck Speaks to Mass. Police Officers	Page 8

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 respond to a variety of emergency calls for service, and all too often these calls involve violence including shootings and stabbings. Among the many duties at such calls is the responsibility to safeguard the Firefighters that respond for medical care, particularly when large, unruly, and hos-

tile crowds are present.

Dispatch Officers should advise Fire Dispatch of the exact nature of the call, and numbers of potential casualties whenever that information is available, and also provide the Fire Department with a staging area which is removed from any crime scene and completely out of view.

The Fire Department apparatus will remain at the staging area until the Police Officers are able to secure a safe area for the apparatus to respond.

The Patrol Supervisor will normally make that determina-

tion, and should radio that SCENE SAFE message to dispatch where a Dispatch Officer will relay the SCENE SAFE message to Fire Dispatch who will in turn radio that SCENE SAFE information to their apparatus.

Upon response to a reported shooting or stabbing or any other type call, as information develops relative to MULTIPLE VICTIMS, all of that information should be forwarded to the Fire Department via the path discussed above. This allows the Fire Department to begin response with additional personnel and equipment.

UNINTENTIONAL DISCHARGE REPORTED

Member Lt. Bill Terry reported a unique unintentional discharge which occurred with a member of his department.

Bill passed along the story of an officer who recently had an unintentional discharge with his Glock Model 22 .40 caliber pistol and Safariland Model 070-83 SS-III triple retention holster.

Upon returning home after a detail, the officer exited his personal vehicle while wear-

ing his duty belt with the pistol and holster mentioned above. As he exited, he grabbed a small soft sided cooler from his front passenger seat. The cooler had a zipper around the top with a metal zipper pull 1-1/2" long. The zipper pull slid past the holster into the trigger guard and in front of the trigger. The cooler jammed against the steering wheel forcing the cooler to remain where it was but the officer continued his upward move-

ment. The holster acted as a fulcrum forcing the zipper pull upward, defeating the trigger safety and firing the weapon.

The round passed through the officer's clothing, through the cooler and lodged in the floor of his vehicle. Fortunately the officer was not injured other than a bruised posterior and bruised ego. There was no one in the area at the time. The officer is a former firearms instructor and is keenly aware of safety.

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

Product Review - Quick Detachable Optic Mounts by GG&G and A.R.M.S.

Reviewed by Todd Bailey

This product review began as a dilemma – how to accommodate a Trijicon A.C.O.G. and EOTech optic on one patrol rifle. I have been running the EOTech for several years and recently acquired the ACOG. I intended to set the EOTech up for CQB work and the ACOG for shots beyond 50 yards. The reasoning behind this is to have the rifle set up for CQB/Active Shooter type scenarios with an optic with no magnification. Recognizing there may be perimeter situations which will exceed 50 yards and possibly go beyond 100 yards, mounting an optic with magnification would give me the accuracy I was looking for. One of the drawbacks to getting older is your eyes are not as sharp as they used to be.

The major problem was how to mount the optics in such a way that I could swap them out as required without a loss of accuracy.

Atlantic Research Marketing Systems is a local business located in West Bridgewater and has been in business since 1983. The Mil Std 1913 “Picatinney” Rail is a result of the dovetail dimensions which originated at ARMS. Their name has become synonymous with weapon rail mounting solutions. It was also the logical source for a quick detachable mount for my Trijicon TA01NSN optic.

The stock Trijicon base was removed and the ARMS #19S ACOG Single Lever Mount was screwed on with a few drops of Loc-tite to make sure everything was going to stay where it belonged.

Finding a solution for mounting the EOTech was not as easy. Every mount I initially found were going to raise the optic at least a half inch. This adversely affects my cheek weld. I like the way the EOTech rides on the flat top rail. The iron sights are positioned in the center of the window giving the shooter maximum flexibility in viewing what is



going on down range. GG&G had the answer with their EOTech Accucam Quick Detach Mount.

GG&G is a Tucson, Arizona based company that supplies a wide variety of mounts, sights and tactical accessories. I have used their folding rear sight on my M4 for several years and found it was of excellent quality. Their Accucam Quick Detach Mount looked like the perfect solution because it does not raise the optic higher on the rail. The mount retrofits directly to the body of the EOTech by replacing the socket head mounting screw with the Accucam system. GG&G supplies the 7/64” hex and Torx head wrenches required to perform the operation. Like the ARMS mount, the manufacturer claims repeatable accuracy of 1/2” MOA or better. It was now off to the range to see if all this was worthwhile.

The EOTech was zeroed at 50 yards from a supported prone position. After printing an acceptable group, the unit was then removed and replaced with the ACOG. The same procedure was followed. The ACOG was then replaced with the EOTech / GG&G

mount and another three round group was fired to determine if there was a shit in zero. There was no significant in the point of impact. The same results were found with the ACOG / A.R.M.S. mount.

Very few departments will outfit patrol rifles with two optics so, admittedly, the concept of having one optic zeroed for CQB and a second for perimeter work is the by product of this “firearms aficionados” mind and having too much time on his hands. That said, it does illustrate the ability of high quality quick release mounts which can be taken on and off without a significant loss in zero. Most users will be more interested in taking the optic off to use their BUIS (back up iron sights). Either of these mounts is a great choice if you are looking for this capability. The GG&G mount retails for \$85 and the A.R.M.S. mount for \$114.



Talks With Harvard Sportsman's Club May Yield New Agreement

As was reported in previous issues of the Case Head, the MLEFIAA Executive Board has entered into negotiations with the Board of Directors of the Harvard Sportsman's Club regarding maintaining our 40 foot container on the property and holding the 2008 Conference at HSC.

After lengthy discussion, a tentative agreement was agreed upon where the Association will be charged \$125 per month for rent to keep the container on the property. The HSC Board of Directors insisted on a Tenancy at Will agreement where they have the right to evict us at will with a 30 day notice. No reason is required under this type of agreement. These same provisions allow us to leave with the same 30 day notice without being penalized for breaking a lease. The previous HSC administration had invited us in and allowed the container to be kept at the club at no charge.

One of the major items of discussion was access. HSC's President demanded a key to MLEFIAA's container which after a great deal of discussion the Association complied with. We requested a reciprocal gesture and asked HSC for two access cards to the HSC electronic security gate but the club was firm in denying our request. In fairness to HSC, they had been plagued with people taking advantage of the ranges without paying for membership. The club direc-

tors reported several new memberships because users could no longer just drive in at will and shoot.

While the terms were not exactly what we had hoped for, the E-Board feels that what we tentatively agreed on is something we can live with and hopefully it will develop a better working relationship between the two organizations.

E-Board members have received several negative comments regarding this situation however in the big picture, the HSC Board of Directors (like MLEFIAA's E-Board) is just trying to look out for the best interests of their organization. HSC is looking to making a number of improvements to the club and nothing comes cheap these days. Unfortunately for MLEFIAA, this came unexpectedly. Since we operate as a non-profit and there is no budget for these new expenses, the funds will have to come from other projects.

In early July the Executive Board received the formal proposed agreement as drafted by the Harvard Sportsman's Club. It contained the basic fundamentals we agreed on however it appears HSC took a standard rental agreement for an apartment and included the agreed upon provisions. The E-Board has several concerns over some of this wording and is reluctant to sign a binding le-

gal document which would lock us into terms we never discussed with the Harvard Sportsman's Club Board. Without getting into details, the proposal included provisions which would make impossible to perform maintenance to the container without written permission from the landlord (HSC). The "boiler plate" wording is standard for a landlord / tenant agreement where the property owner does not want the tenant painting or making structural changes to the building. In this case, the container is our property and if we choose to paint or make structural changes to the interior, that is our prerogative. The wording also prohibits placing (parking) any vehicles on roadways. It is doubtful that HSC intentionally included this wording to prevent MLEFIAA from parking cars on the property when we are using the ranges, if we sign the document as is, we must live by the terms. The Executive Board is obligated to protect the interests of the Association.

When the Board reconvenes after the summer recess, we will discuss these issues and submit the proposed changes to HSC.



Storage Container at HSC Moved To New Location

One of the issues raised by HSC when their new BOD took over was the location of our forty foot storage container at the club. Several years ago we made a gentleman's agreement with HSC to keep the container on the property and the club asked that it be put in a specific location to be used as a billboard for upcoming events and range regulations. MLEFIAA was glad to be a part of the HSC's operation and gladly agreed to this.

Earlier this year, HSC's President advised MLEFIAA that the container would have to be moved as it constituted a violation of wetland regulations and

the club no longer wanted it in that location. What initially appeared to be a hardship turned into a windfall for MLEFIAA. Harvard Sportsman's Club assumed financial responsibility for the move and made the arrangements with the moving company. The icing on the cake was the new location put the container closer to the ranges.

The biggest obstacle was the actual move since it required that all the equipment inside be removed, including the four tons of steel targets, so the flatbed could pick the container up. Many thanks to Brian Neeley, Dick Forrester, Jim Ring, Joe Picariello and Todd Bailey who

showed up to make the move.

We would be remiss if we did not acknowledge the efforts of the HSC members who chipped in and worked just as hard to make the move a smooth one. Clarence Floyd humped just as much steel as guys half his age and was there to the bitter end driving the club's dump truck. Greg Newman, Don Stephens and Carl Adams from the Grounds Committee provided the tractor and assistance with the actual move. We don't want to forget Pat Natoli who supplied Gatorade to keep us all hydrated on a hot day.

Another Look at Response to the Active Shooter

Law enforcement tactics to deal with an active shooter have evolved over the years - usually in response to a shooting. Columbine was the wake up call that surrounding the incident with officers and containing the threat until SWAT teams arrived to deal with them was flawed. Police officers and deputies were forced by policy to stand by helpless while two demented gunmen reeked havoc in the school. The current philosophy is for responding officers to wait until three or four officers arrive on scene and then deploy as a team into the building moving directly to the sound of gunfire to stop the threat(s). This is certainly an improvement over contain and wait for SWAT but is it a realistic deployment model for smaller rural departments?

Ron Borsch is a veteran law enforcement trainer who runs the South East Area Law Enforcement Regional Training Academy in Bedford, Ohio. With 30 years on the job, Ron has been around the block once or twice. Through an article featured in the Force Science Research Center Newsletter, Ron has proposed that in certain circumstances, single officer entry is an appropriate and necessary response to the active shooter.

For those of us who live and work in small towns, the concept of waiting until 3 or 4 officers arrive to form a team has often conflicted with the need to respond quickly to stop the killing. Smaller jurisdictions may only have one or two officers on the road. The third and fourth officer will most likely be responding from an off duty status at home or on mutual aid from a surrounding town.

Borsch's research convinced him that if the initial officer on the scene had not waited for additional assistance, the death toll in several incidents could possibly have been lessened. He has been promoting this theory for more than two years now and people are starting to take notice.

I support this theory for several reasons. First and most important is his

observation that the sooner we enter and address the threat, the sooner the killing stops.

Borsch has calculated that the "rapid mass murder episode" of the incident lasts about 8 minutes. "The murderer's timeline begins when he says it begins. Any prevention, deterrence or delay efforts have failed up to that point, and the police are handicapped with catching up whenever they are notified." Time is the biggest hurdle in these situations. The longer we wait to encounter the threat, the higher the death toll will likely be. Borsch calls this the "Stopwatch of Death". When the shooter has made the decision to start killing, victims fall every few ticks of the second hand. We find ourselves behind the eight ball from the start.

As Borsch researched active shooter incidents, several interesting facts came to light.

- 98% of active shooters act alone.
- 80% have long guns, 75% have multiple weapons (typically 3) and they are apt to bring hundreds of rounds of ammo.
- The active shooter misses his target over 50% of the time despite the heavy armament and close range.
- Most active shooters are not capable of defending themselves against a trained police officer. They rely on ambush, surprise and terror to overcome their unarmed victims.
- Active shooters do not take hostages or negotiate. They are on a mission to kill for whatever perverted reason.
- We generally have not seen active shooters lie in wait or hide from police. While they may plan to die in a blaze of glory, most will cave when confronted by armed officers.
- Surrender or escape is unlikely. 90% have committed suicide as police closed in.

These facts illustrate that the typical active shooter is not the hardened

felon who has practiced killing police officers. In fact, they are a cowardly predator who is not the equal in ability and motivation of the average police officer. They choose unarmed defenseless victims for a reason - they have no spine for a real fight much less taking on an armed police officer. When backed into a corner, they kill themselves rather than fight. Borsch notes the active shooter may be one of the easiest "man with a gun" encounters an officer will ever face. Despite the fact active shooters are intent on killing, officers need to realize that they have probably faced more dangerous individuals from a personal safety standpoint. One important aspect of his findings is the boost in confidence this should give to the average officer who may face this situation.

Borsch's studies support police using a "shock & awe" concept to deal with the active shooter. Speed, surprise and violence of action are valid principles which can give the average police officer the momentum to put the shooter off balance and win the day. When we make contact, we need to be aggressive. Most of our training emphasizes taking cover, issuing verbal commands and only responding with deadly force when the threat initiates it. In the active shooter scenario, the shooter has already crossed that line. As long as they have a weapon in their hand, they are a clear and present danger to anyone they encounter. The officer must not hesitate. They must close with the threat and aggressively attack forcing the active shooter off balance and diverting their attention from the potential victims. Make the shooter react to you - not the other way around. Once you spot the shooter, take swift offensive action. If you seek cover, the shooter is apt to slip out of your sight and kill more victims.

If you are willing to accept the single officer entry concept, you will need to rethink your active shooter training. You will need to stress the



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www.MLEFIAA.org*

Another Look at Response to the Active Shooter (continued from Page 5)

importance of not waiting for additional officers. If you have a second car on the road and it is 30 seconds behind you, I would say the advantage of extra eyes and weapons is worth the very brief (and I emphasize "brief") wait. The preferred tool will be a patrol rifle and it should have at least one spare magazine.

Once inside, begin moving swiftly to the sound of gunfire. When you can hear gunfire, you can home in on the shooter's location. Knowing where the shooter is without him knowing where you are is an advantage for you. If you do not hear gunfire you are going to have to begin a search. Any intel you can gather from dispatch on the way in may be invaluable now. Dispatcher training for the active shooter scenario is critical but a topic for another journal. There is no easy solution so pick a direction and begin moving. Stay alert, keep your head on a swivel and use good tactics on corners and stairwells.

Borsch speaks of using a swift zig-zag movement down hallways, mastering an accelerated "slicing the pie" technique for taking corners and maneuvering up and down stairwells with the patrol rifle. He emphasizes "using sight, sound, smell and intuition to gather intel" that will assist the officer in locating the threat. While this seemingly blind search may seem haphazard, do you really have an alternative? Can you afford to sit back and do nothing until the shooter begins shooting again?

Borsch is realistic. He acknowledges that even with a swift single officer entry, the officer may not find the killer in time. Much will depend on dispatch receiving the call early and the officer arriving promptly.

MLEFIAA President and noted trainer Bert DuVernay noted at least two occasions where "a single officer stopped the shooter with no problem - Salt Lake City and the church in Colorado. Two officers were successful in Red Lake (MN). No incidents were noted where officers were over-

whelmed, significantly delayed or injured by shooters."

The story will change significantly if we are facing a Beslan style takeover and massacre. Facing a well trained, highly disciplined enemy will change the odds dramatically in favor of the terrorists. Even a team of 3 or 4 conventionally armed and trained officers will be facing long odds. Bert compared this with the havoc one or two highly trained, highly motivated officers could reek on the terrorists. "Their efforts would go a long way towards delaying the terrorists from consolidating their attack, particularly if key members of the terrorist team." While inside and in radio contact, officer's observations and intel would be invaluable. At Beslan, the terrorists were able to move at will through the school. Imagine if they had one or two determined officers harrying their efforts? This would cause the terrorists to divert valuable resources and delay their plans.

Statistically we are more likely to see the demented active shooter rather than a Beslan style terrorist attack. Until we know otherwise, I expect we are safe in responding as such. Forward thinking rural department are well served to close examine the single or two officer response. I submit that your children can not afford to have you do otherwise.

I also believe we need to encourage officers to take a more proactive approach to working details and even their off duty hours. How many officers do you know who carry nothing more than a compact pistol and perhaps handcuffs on a detail? I know tactical team officers who leave their gear at home or the station unless they are actually on a call out. To me, this borders on irresponsible. It is a complete waste of their training and skills should an incident occur and they have to waste 10 or more minutes to access gear. In contrast, I know part time officers who have a patrol rifle, shotgun, extra ammo and

body armor in their vehicle at all times. Some would call this excessive however I expect they may change their tone if their child's life is spared because the part time officer felt his obligation to protect and serve went beyond regularly assigned shift hours.

Bert closed out his thoughts on this topic well. He said, "I think it's clear that we have to get guns on the threat as quickly as possible, even if it's only one cop, if the second one is more than another minute or so away. Though it wasn't mentioned in this article, Borsch has indicated in other writings that one victim is shot about every 15 seconds the shooter is loose. Tic-tic-tic."

Looking at the other side of the coin, what about multiple shooter scenarios? This is addressed in more detail in the article beginning on the next page. The single officer response is valid when dealing with a single threat or a pair of shooters who have not split up. We may need to rethink this protocol if the trend continues where we see four, five or more threats working together. These numbers will allow the active shooters to split up and form teams. We should also expect them to study the police response to the active shooter and take preventative measures. These may include dedicating shooters to intercept and engage responding officers. These ambush teams could result in a nasty surprise for a single responding officer. It is bad enough we will probably have to deal with booby traps and other hazards on our arrival, having an ambush team waiting for us to charge to the sound of the guns with little regard to clearing rooms as we go may very well force us to rethink our S.O.P. once again.

Borsch has some good ideas - let's hope they are not a day late in coming.

Special thanks to the Force Science Research Center for publishing topic and keeping discussion alive.

John Giduck Speaks To Mass. Police Officers

John Giduck, author of *Terror at Beslan-A Russian Tragedy with Lessons for America's Schools* spent a day with over 100 police officers in Malden in July.

In a very informative presentation, Giduck outlined what happened at Beslan and how it should affect our thinking when looking at the possibility of an attack here in the USA. He tied this in nicely with his thoughts and information from other sources regarding active shooter incidents and school shootings in particular.

The active shooter - is a predator and demonstrates many of the predatory traits we find in four legged predators. Primary in this observation is their response to fleeing prey. In addition to hunting down individuals who they feel slighted by and have marked for death in advance, the active shooter gets a thrill out of the fear and terror they inflict on to the victims. This is demonstrated graphically in video footage of Columbine and other incidents where on site surveillance cameras caught the actions of the perpetrators.

In past events we have noted that with two teenage shooters, they worked together, systematically moving through the school carrying out their deadly mission. Psychologists attribute this to their immaturity and psychological dependence on each other during the event.

This led to our present SOP of forming an entry team, entering the building and moving to the sound of gunfire to neutralize the threat(s). This procedure works fine with one threat or a pair working together.

Recent events have indicated that we are likely to encounter up to 5 or 6 shooters and possibly as many as eight. Marshfield High School narrowly averted tragedy when a plan devised by four students went south after some good police work by the School Resource Officer and a falling out among the teens.

The common denominator in all attacks is the desire to out do the last attack. The larger the body count, the more media attention the attack will

garner. Like the terrorism, media attention is the goal of these attacks. The only way to draw the media is to make this attack more shocking than the last. That will mean more guns, more shooters and more killing.

The important point when dealing with larger groups is they will be able pair up and form multiple teams to address the police response they know is coming. While most of their training is video game based, we should not be too quick to dismiss the tactics they will acquire through this medium.

Expect them to form ambush teams to intercept and engage the first responders. There is plenty of information on the internet describing in detail how we plan to react to this type of incident. If we assume they are "just dumb kids", we only fool ourselves and put our officers at risk. Just as we study their methods, they study ours. Their research will tell them we will come in teams of 2 to 4 officers and move quickly to the sound of gunfire. They will expect the SRO to be the first officer on the scene. As such, the SRO is the 1st tactical hurdle they need to overcome. Expect this officer to be a primary target during their initial attack.

We must expect them to have established ambush teams which will hide in rooms, waiting for the team to pass before they emerge behind the team. If they are forward thinking, they will set this up close to another ambush team or the primary shooters to catch the police in a cross fire. Imagine being caught in a hallway between several shooters who are engaging you from cover. They could stage this at a corner intersection for the classic "L" ambush. The learning point here is the Rear Guard position becomes all important in protecting the team from an ambush.

At Columbine, police discovered upwards of 99 explosive devices designed to slow down or kill law enforcement responders. The killers barricaded doors to buy time to carry out their mission. For the police re-

sponding to the scene, time equals preparation for the killers. We can not afford to allow them any more time to prepare for our assault than absolutely necessary.

In an article appearing elsewhere in this issue, the topic of engaging with one or two officers when forming a team of 3 or four would take too much time was introduced. Facing multiple threats divided into several ambush teams will make life "interesting" for a responding one or two man team. At the very least, the officer who thinks outside the box is going to plan ahead to make entry at an alternative point. Since entry doors are limited and likely to be locked anyway if not booby trapped, having a tool to break glass to make entry through a ground floor window begins to make more sense. This may be as simple as adding a short, lightweight expandable baton to your assault vest.

Beware of diversions and distractions which are designed to draw the on duty officers away from the real target and thus give the attackers more time to prepare. Picture a small or medium size town PD suddenly receiving reports of car bombs or other high profile incidents. The typical response will be for everyone to rush to that area since that is where the action is. We all know that even when directed to maintain patrol in their assigned sector, most officers will tend to favor a location closest to the action so as to be involved.

If these are diversions, we have just played into the hands of the attackers. The forward thinking officer might recognize that the location(s) of these incidents is distant from the school or other prominent target and that the nature of incident is highly unusual and likely to draw all available resources away. If not immediately needed, this forward thinking officer might drift closer to the schools or other public high profile locations - just in case. In any attack, the attackers are most vulnerable at the onset of the attack before they have time to prepare a cohesive response to responding police. It is critical that the SRO be alert and tactically minded since they are not only

John Giduck Speaks To Mass. Police Officers (cont. from previous page)

likely to be the first speed bump for the attackers but also is likely to be the most effective in halting the attack IF properly equipped and trained.

So how does American schools, Beslan and Al Qaeda factor in to all this?

Americans tend to have a very narrow view of world events unless it directly affects their pocket book and even then, it is usually the result of a 10 second report by a biased network talk head. In other words, Americans are pretty naive about what's going on in the world. We all know that Al Qaeda has declared a Jihad against America but why? This goes far beyond short skirts, rock & roll music and women playing key roles in society.

According to Giduck, towards the end of the 11th century, Christians were attempting to rid the world of Muslims in what we now refer to as the Crusades. This was a no holds barred attempt at eliminating Islam as a religion. The result was the beginning of a holy war that exists even today. While initially only fought in the Middle East, the ultimate goal is Pan Islamic control of the globe. This was a 1000 year plan which we now find ourselves in the final 100 years of that project. Islam has spread to North and East Africa, South East Asia (Indonesia, Philippines, Malaysia and Thailand), several former Soviet republics and has gained a significant toehold in Europe and America.

It is significant that this trend has not been successful in countries which are overwhelmingly Catholic, Hindu or other traditional religions with strong values. Islam has not flourished in dictatorships such as North Korea and China for obvious reasons.

While the media and moderate Muslims tell us that Islam is a peaceful religion, the actions of the "radical" sector and the Koran tell a different story. Islamic mullahs have "authorized" the death of millions of Americans. While moderate Muslims may not condone the actions of the so called radicals, they are not doing anything significant to stop them. One

can only draw the conclusion that the Islamic connection is stronger than the humanitarian one.

Whether you subscribe to the belief that Al Qaeda is an organization or just an all encompassing title for several terrorist organizations, it is undeniable that we are at war and they are the enemy.

Terrorism requires three critical elements to survive - recruits, funding and a safe haven from which to operate. Giduck describes this as the Terrorism Triad.

Al Qaeda has already successfully attacked the United States several times. In addition to the first World Trade Center attack and 9/11, Americans were targeted in Aden (12/92), Riyadh (11/95), Khobar Towers (6/96), the USS Cole (10/00) and of course, Richard Reid the infamous but unsuccessful "shoe bomber" (12/01).

Al Qaeda has successfully influenced international events most dramatically illustrated by their actions in Bosnia and the Madrid train station bombings which affected national elections and precipitated the withdrawal of Spanish troops from Iraq. Al Qaeda's actions in Iraq created a strong anti-Republican sentiment and led to a Democratic majority in our Congress.

Giduck went so far as make some interesting predictions based on the upcoming presidential election. He predicts if Obama wins the White House and withdraws the troops from Iraq as promised, Al Qaeda will move there in force and create a safe haven for future operations. It is unlikely that a democratic Iraqi government could resist such a move. From there, they will move back into Afghanistan as American troops are withdrawn from that country. After securing a strong base of operations which are able to support training infrastructure, we will see attacks on the United States as Al Qaeda has promised to conduct.

Should McCain win in the fall, it is unlikely he will abandon Iraq before the government is self sufficient. In

this case, Giduck predicts Al Qaeda will strike directly at the U.S.

If you are shaking your head in disagreement there is probably no point in your continuing any further because it's only going to aggravate you. The terrorists have told us they will attack and they did. They have stated they will attack again and we have no real reason to disbelieve them. So if you believe past actions influence future behavior, read on.

Let's take a look at the likely elements of a terrorist attack on the U.S. Historically terrorists have preferred two types of attacks - Decimation Attack and Mass Hostage Siege.

The decimation attack is the homicide bomber who blows himself up in order to kill as many others as possible. Another form is the time or remotely activated bomb typically placed in a vehicle so the device can be as large as possible thus reeking more havoc. In the decimation attack, the role of the police is usually mop up and post event investigation. The nature of the tactic and device usually means there is a relatively small body count thus the event has only minor strategic value. The best example of this is Israel where car bombs have been frequent. Life there goes on as if it never happened. The government is determined that these acts will not influence government policy.

The mass hostage siege is a different animal all together. The goal is take a large number of hostages usually including children. The terrorists will drag the event out for several days to gain the maximum amount of media attention. If the media coverage begins to diminish, they will execute several hostages to regain world attention. In the end, the terrorists are likely to execute all the hostages in order to make their statement clear. In addition to the "hostages", the entire country (government) is held hostage to the demands of the terrorists. This makes the event truly strategic. In all cases, the terrorist strives for the maximum effect for the minimum effort.

Giduck (cont.)

What are likely targets for a terrorist attack? Many experts have identified numerous targets including critical infrastructure such as power plants (especially nuclear), public water supplies and major transportation hubs. These targets are high profile and usually well monitored. Crowded public buildings have also been identified as likely targets. It is unlikely that terrorist would succeed again in using airliners as cruiser missiles. While the destruction of the WTC towers was a graphic demonstration of Al Qaeda's hatred for America, it was also designed to kill many more than just the 2800+ victims in the towers and aircraft that struck them. The terrorists intended the towers to tip and fall rather than collapse on top of themselves. They anticipated over 100,000 deaths in New York alone. One can see that a large body count was and continues to be at the top of the terrorist goal list.

Terrorists prefer soft targets. There is usually a small number of them so they cannot afford to take casualties before they have achieved their goal. They endeavor to inflict the maximum amount of shock and terror on the hostages early on to establish control. Look at their actions on 9/11. After brutally slicing the throats of the cockpit crew and some flight attendants, they told the passengers that if they remained seated and did what they were told, everything would be alright.

Hope paralyzes humans. Even though the passengers outnumbered the terrorists by a wide margin, the hope that everything would be OK froze them in their seats. Only when it became apparent to the passengers of Flight 93 that they were being duped and what the hijackers intended to do from cell phone calls to family, did the "hope" evaporate and the passengers begin to organize resistance. The heroic actions of the passengers caused the terrorists to abort their plans and that group failed.

It is frequently acknowledged that a likely target will be our schools. We have many ranging from day care to universities so which is the likely tar-

get?

To identify the most likely targets, we need to look at the problem like a terrorist. The building or facility must be accessible. In our society, that usually is not a problem. Even in buildings with security doors, our polite society holds the door open for the person behind us.

After accessibility, what kind of hostage will be found? Daycare facilities and elementary schools will usually have a predominantly female staff who will be viewed as easily controlled when threatened with the execution of their charges. On the other hand, the young children are a wild card. They can not be easily controlled with reason or threats. As they become uncomfortable they become cranky and will get on the nerves of the terrorists. For this reason, daycare centers are not a likely target.

Colleges and high schools will have normally have more adult male staff, some who are likely to have prior military experience. There is also a large number of adolescent males with raging testosterone just screaming to prove their manliness. Neither of these elements is favorable to the terrorist.

This leaves our Middle Schools. The students are young enough to be easily controlled and the number of adult males or larger male students is lower than high schools and colleges.

Al Qaeda has told us they are coming. Giduck went on to explain what he felt we could expect should this occur. He based his comments on what he saw in Beslan and other similar mass hostage sieges.

Historically Al Qaeda has hit four targets to compensate for the likelihood of a team failing to achieve its goals. The attacks must occur simultaneously. If this spread spans time zones, an attack on the east coast may occur much later in the day.

The operation will consist of several phases. The initial phase is the attack or assault which must be accomplished in minutes so that the second phase can be achieved rap-

idly. The assault will most likely come at a time when all the students are in one location. This eliminates the need to round up the students and staff. Ironically it appears that school dances could be likely targets. Large groups of students are concentrated in one location and the attacked could be time so that a dance on the east coast was just winding down while one of the west coast was just getting started.

The attack will breach the security perimeter of the school and get the terrorists inside. Anyone in a uniform will be shot immediately. They are likely to show up in stolen or purchased school buses or other large vehicles which will blend in with the school and are capable of carrying the terrorists and their equipment. Giduck feels they are likely to be left idling out front in the event the terrorists encounter the police as they enter the building. This will give them the option of a quick escape if necessary.

The second step is the submission phase. Here the terrorists will kill any adults who appear to be a threat to their success. This usually means any large adult males, especially any with a tie which is sign of western decadence. After killing off potential threats, the terrorists will tell the hostages that no one more will be hurt IF they obey every order. Again, the hope that everything is going to be OK will paralyze humans into being passive.

The terrorists must get through these first two stages before the arrival of the police. Complete control of the hostages is necessary in order to keep the police away from the building. The terrorists will kill a hostage or two to show the police they mean business and to keep them back. Unfortunately this all plays into the hands of the terrorists. Every minute the terrorists are allowed to hold hostages is a minute they have to prepare for the rescue assault which is inevitable. The Israelis learned this the hard way and now have a policy of putting together the

Giduck (continued)

rescue assault immediately. They understand that some hostages will be killed however the number is lower than if the terrorists are allowed to prepare defense positions for the attack. Another method to buy time is to create a diversion to draw law enforcement away from the school and delay their response.

Simultaneous attacks are extremely likely. These attacks may come across the country to demonstrate that no one is safe. Perhaps one attack would be in New York City while another in a rural town in Iowa. The message here is you are not safe just because you do not live in the city. The terrorists may conduct several attacks in the same metropolitan area. The benefit to them would be to over tax the law enforcement resources in the area.

Once the hostages are under control, the "negotiation" stage begins. This term is very misleading because there is no intention of a negotiated resolution to a terrorist attack today. The only purpose to this is to create a media spectacle which and time to prepare defenses for the rescue attempt that must come. Modern "civilized" society is taught to abhor violence. This creates a great deal of pressure on the authorities to resolve the situation without bloodshed. Our reluctance to act quickly and decisively will likely result in a high body count. In the negotiation stage it is common to see infants, very young children and young mothers to be released as a "sign of good faith". This has nothing to do with compassion or good faith. The terrorists are getting rid of those hostages which will be a nuisance to them in the next 72 hours. It does not bode well for anyone if there are no demands or communications from the terrorists.

It will take them about 2 hours to prepare the initial defensive fortifications and 24 hours for all the defenses including setting of booby traps and other explosives. These preparations may include dead man switches which will trigger the devices if the terrorist is killed and

After this time, it is a waiting game

with the terrorists holding all the cards. Any attempts to cut electricity or water to leverage the terrorists will be met with bodies being thrown from the windows. We are not dealing with people who are reluctant to kill hostages to buy time.

During "negotiations" they will closely monitor security cameras to keep tabs on the outside. There may also be accomplices on the perimeter providing real time intel on the disposition of the police. This can be done via computer links or cell phone. Terrorists will also monitor CNN and other media outlets for real time information. It is easy to see why it is important to keep the media at bay while not interfering with their 1st Amendment rights.

Herein lies the ultimate goal of the terrorist - media attention. If all they wanted was to rack up a body count, they would operate like the "active shooter". Enter guns blazing, kill as many as possible before attempting to escape or committing suicide to avoid capture. This method would have their battle over before the media arrived which does not play into their game plan. Their goal is to drag out the event long enough so that the international media has a chance to arrive and begin broadcasting. Technology today will allow real time broadcasts from the site giving the terrorists multi-channel coverage 24/7. The longer they can draw out this phase, the more attention they get. Attention means greater funding and recruits. These are two of the three legs of the Terrorism Triad.

Also during this stage we can expect video to be released showing the hostages corralled in a room with explosives place around them. The implied message is that if a rescue attempt is made, the explosives will be detonated, the building will collapse and the hostages (and many rescuers) will die. This will create a great deal of pressure to talk rather than act thus playing further into the terrorist's hands.

It will be extremely frustrating for law enforcement, especially those officers who have taken the time to understand the enemy and know the only way to keep the casualties low will be

to immediately engage the terrorists before they can establish defensive measures and gain control of the hostages. The officer will be told to standby while negotiators bargain away for nothing. The release of infants and young mothers will be touted as a success by the police and the media will call it a demonstration of the "freedom fighter's humanity". The forward thinking officer will know this is crap.

As the days drag on, the hostages families will gather and begin to lose patience with the authorities. The crowds will grow and are likely to be armed. The police will be caught between armed citizens demanding action and armed terrorists with hostages. The police officers on the perimeter may even have family members who are hostages.

Standard military doctrine dictates a force attacking a fortified terrorist position with hostages involved needs a superiority of at least 10:1. One third of the force will be on perimeter duty, one third will be on stand down attempting to get some rest but ready to respond at few minutes notice and the final third will be training for the upcoming assault at a remote location. Presuming five terrorists, this would mean you need at least 50 police officers to conduct the assault. Since you need officers to relieve the perimeter force and train for the assault, this number is actually 150. In order to work well, these officers should have trained together in the past, have compatible equipment / radios and be dressed in identical uniforms for easy recognition. Sadly we are not likely to see this.

The terrorists will use amphetamines and other drugs to stay awake. As the siege drags on, they become on edge and less stable. They may not even be in control of their own destiny if the shots are being called by superior via internet or cell phone.

At the Beslan siege, the terrorists sexually assaulted some of the teenage girls and women. When Giduck was asked if this might be a factor here, he stated this might actually insight the hostages to fight back. In any case, it did happen at Beslan and it is clear Al Qaeda and other radical Islamic

groups consider us Infidels which means what they do does not matter.

Giduck points out that if Beslan can be used as a guide, American law enforcement is going to be in for a rough ride when the time comes to launch a rescue.

First our reluctance to act early will have allowed the terrorists time to prepare. At the first sign of the attack, the terrorists will probably detonate the explosives with the intent of bringing the building down and killing everyone inside. If other sieges can be used as guides, we can expect the terrorists to begin shooting the hostages that aren't killed by the explosives.

While the terrorists may not have the heavy weapons that were seen at Beslan, we should expect very stiff resistance. While not necessarily the Kamikaze mentality of the WWII Japanese, the terrorists will view dying in the battle as a guaranteed way to heaven should they kill the hated Infidel in the process. It is also a sure method of gaining international media coverage. We should not fall into the trap of assuming that we are dealing with simple minded people. While many homicide bombers are poor uneducated individuals looking to secure financial security for their families, the terrorist we are likely to encounter will be on a par with the 9/11 hijackers. They will be committed and have some higher level education. They are on a mission and determined to meet the goals of that mission. If they got this far, they were smart enough to integrate into our society, organize their cell, prepare for the attack and carry it out. Do not underestimate the enemy!

The question in many officer's minds is how do we respond? Unless the SRO happens to get the drop on them as they come through the door, it is likely the terrorists will have established a foothold by the time dispatch begins receiving 911 calls. If patrol officers are able to respond early enough, they may be able to delay the terrorists time table. The average patrol officer with only his service pistol and spare magazines is not going to be much more than a minor speed bump. If the officer brings his patrol rifle with 3 or 4 spare magazines, this may

tip the scales a little more in the officer's favor. Add a second or third patrol officer similarly armed and the terrorist's time table is going to be severely upset. Will our society tolerate a 2 or 3 officer response with patrol rifles to every call from the school regarding suspicious persons? I submit to you that it will AFTER several hundred children die in the first couple of attacks.

Many in our line of work like to say these situations are what we have the FBI HRT or the SWAT team for. Depending on your location and what formal agreements you have with other departments and regional teams, SWAT response can be anywhere from 30 to 90 minutes. The FBI HRT may take up to 18 hours until they are on scene. Patrol will be the first on the scene and at the time when the terrorists are most vulnerable.

Israel has dealt with this problem for years. They have developed protocols and tactics based on lessons learned and lives lost. There is an old saying which goes something like, "he who fails to study history is doomed to repeat it." The United States needs to begin examining the lessons learned in the Middle East. Even if society will not allow us to implement these protocols, we should have a game plan on paper, people trained and the logistics in place to carry out the plan.

Granted, this all easier written than done but there are some things we can do.

1. The only thing that stands between the terrorist and our families is us. As LTC Grossman likes to remind us, we are the "sheepdogs" for society. We need to understand that if this happens in America, the street cop that takes the call is going to need a warrior mentality.

2. Every officer needs to be proficient with the patrol rifle and have sufficient ammo for a prolonged engagement. Ideally, departments will issue rifles to officers just like they issue handguns. When you go to work, you take your rifle. When you do a detail, you take your rifle. When the balloon goes up, there are a bunch of cops on the scene - all armed with their rifles.

3. This is the one scenario where "suppressive fire" may have a place in

law enforcement. If a group of hostages is able to make a run for safety, we may need to lay down a hail of fire to keep the bad guy's heads down while the hostages dash to freedom.

4. Congress needs to pass and the President must sign a law which provides total immunity for a police officer who kills a terrorist or person acting like one in a pre-emptive type strike. We need to take the dark cloud of liability off the officer's shoulders for situations like this.

5. We must understand that these situations will require unconventional tactics - some of which may seem very unpalatable to officers raised in this kinder and gentler world we are told we live in. Imagine turning a corner and encountering a terrorist holding the detonator to the explosives rigged in a room filled with students. The terrorist is using a teenage girl as a shield. You have about 1 second to react before he squeezes the switch and everyone dies. There is no time for using verbal commands like "Police - Don't move!" Can you shoot through a hostage to kill a terrorist that is going to kill 40 people?

Giduck left us with a comment which every officer needs to think very carefully about.

"If not me, then who?"

Every police officer in the United States whether full time or part time; SWAT or not, needs to ask themselves if they are prepared for the worst. Patrol or the SRO will be on scene when the police are able to do the most to interrupt and derail a terrorist attack. They need the training, equipment and mindset to be victorious.

SWAT and other Special Operations units will be the people that will be charged with entering and rescuing the hostages after the authorities have wasted 3 to 4 days "negotiating" a resolution that was never going to happen.

Every officer is urged to read ***Terror at Beslan*** as it foretells what we are likely to see in the not so distant future.

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