



NRA LAW ENFORCEMENT QUARTERLY

TRAINING • COMPETITION • EDDIE EAGLE

Obsolescence: The Police Firearms Training Dilemma

BY THOMAS J. AVENI, MSFP
THE POLICE POLICY STUDIES
COUNCIL

In an era largely defined by rapid technological advances, we've become somewhat accustomed to how quickly many of our tools and entertainment indulgences have become obsolete. The Sony Walkman™ - a must-have of the late 1980s, gave way to portable CD players and then Apple iPods™. Analog audio and video formats gave way to digital formats. CRT displays, even the better ones, have given way to LCD and Plasma screens.

The law enforcement community has embraced many useful advances, such as dashboard cameras, MDTs and Tasers. Cutting-edge LED flashlights are rapidly replacing those with incandescent bulb technology. We've seen GPS technology being integrated into sophisticated crime mapping software and hardware. We've also witnessed officers transitioning from revolvers to some of the newest generation pistol designs, and we've seen shotguns largely being supplanted by AR15 rifles, many equipped with Rail Interface Systems and electronic sights.

But, when it comes to the way in which we train police officers to assure their own survival, and the survival of others, we've clung to old, problematic paradigms. Obsolescence is usually self-evident within the technological realm, and it should be equally as obvious in the police training realm. If what we're training officers to do isn't remedying persistent problems associated with decision-making skills, we, as police trainers, have become part of the problem.

How Did We Get Here?

Police training, especially police firearms training, has witnessed an enormous

amount of commercialization over the last two decades. Where there was once a mere handful of police firearms training entities (i.e., the NRA-LEAD, Gunsite, S&W Academy, etc.), there are now literally hundreds of commercial training establishments, both regional and national. They're all competing for slices of a pie (police training budgets) that hasn't gotten much bigger over the last two decades. So, in an attempt to distinguish themselves from the pack, competing training companies feel compelled to "out-SWAT" each other. How often do you see police training marketed with imagery of trainees in black BDUs, Kevlar helmets and bloused combat boots? Or, perhaps more tellingly, how often don't you see po-

lice training marketed with a SWAT motif?

Beyond the marketing imagery lies the real problem. We know, from even a casual perusal of annual Uniform Crime Reports (UCR) and Law Enforcement Officers Killed and Assaulted (LEOKA) publications, that we're losing officers to similar mistakes that we've always lost officers to. Much of that has to do with the basic nature of policing, which doesn't change much. We're duty-bound to take some risks and place ourselves in some predicaments that we would rather not be in. But, when we look critically at what we see the vast majority of commercial trainers impressing upon officers,

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NRA Law Enforcement Instructor Training Reaches Record Number of Students

For the past seven years, the Law Enforcement Activities Division of the National Rifle Association has set a record for student attendance in their Law Enforcement Firearm Instructor Development Schools.

In 2008, more than 2,150 new students participated in the training program. Glen Hoyer, Director of the NRA's Law Enforcement Activities Division, or LEAD, said the increase was expected. "The demand for quality training within the law enforcement community has been rising every year for quite a while," said Hoyer.

NRA Law Enforcement Firearm Instructor Development Schools develop and enhance both instructor and firearm handling skills. The schools are intended for public and private law enforcement officers and military personnel assigned as law enforcement firearm instructors. The curriculum is designed to prepare student instructors to properly present safe and effective firearm training. Classroom instruction and practical range exercises provide a model for



student instructors to use in creating their own agency training programs.

"Our record-breaking attendance in 2008 shows the law enforcement community's commitment to high standards, and the NRA's willingness ability to assist the law enforcement community," said Hoyer. "Additionally, the NRA is pleased to see U.S. military personnel constitute a growing segment of our student base."

For more information about NRA's Law Enforcement Firearm Instructor Development Schools, and the upcoming school schedule, go to www.nrahq.org/law/training/instructorschools.asp.



NRA Business Alliance Benefits for Law Enforcement

Recent economic conditions have tightened many budgets. So joining the NRA may be a great way for your organization to save money! For only \$35 a year, your organization can take advantage of the NRA's pre-negotiated rates, and save money on products and services ranging from insurance policies and travel expenses, to FedEx shipping and office supplies.

Benefits the NRA can provide your organization:

- **Review of your agency's courses of fire and lesson plans by the Law Enforcement Activities Division**
- Discounts on Range Technical Team Services
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- Eligibility for educational grants for conducting shooting sports programs
- Discount Office Products Program through Corporate Express
- \$10 commission for each new member recruited

This agency membership is different from your individual NRA membership. Remember, a public police officer's individual membership also includes a free \$25,000 line of duty death benefit.

For additional information, please check us out at <http://www.nrahq.org/clubs> or contact us at 1-800-672-2582.

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we're likely to see aggressive, proactive techniques geared heavily toward active-shooter scenarios. This should come as no surprise, since many of the most influential commercial trainers have little if any police experience.

So that there is no misunderstanding here – there should be no doubt or misunderstanding about the importance of active-shooter training. The issue is to what degree active-shooter training reflects the challenges that patrol officers are most likely to face. Undoubtedly, much of the active-shooter training being provided to officers is fundamentally sound, and it inarguably imbues skills and tactical reasoning in officers that has substantive value. But, as the LEOKA indicates, it is barely relevant to beat and plainclothes officers, when viewed within the totality of circumstances associated with officers being slain in the line of duty.

During the 1996-2005 LEOKA reporting period about 3% (19) of all officers slain (575) during this ten-year period were sorted into the "Tactical Situations" category. It might be safe to say that a substantial number of that (3%) number of officers were assigned to specialized units (SWAT, HRT, etc.) when slain. Compare this "tactical" category with the 25% ratio of officers slain in "Arrest Situations," the 18% slain in "Ambush Situations," the 16% slain in "Disturbance Calls," and the 12% slain in "Investigating Suspicious Persons/Circumstances" incidents. Only three other categories have a lower ratio of officers slain than the "Tactical Situations" category.

My point?

The most prevalent activities associated with officer fatalities continue to be almost exclusively those that are associated with the core responsibilities of beat officers and plainclothes personnel. This isn't rocket science. Nor is it difficult to grasp the fact that selling officers what they need (versus what they think they want) isn't an "easy-sell" for police training merchants. It's easier, for instance, to sell officers training geared toward active-shooter scenarios than it is to sell training oriented toward vehicle stops, pedestrian stops, domestic disputes, etc. To some extent, it's also probably easier for agency trainers to convince their administration that active-shooter training is a more compelling concern, especially in the aftermath of a nationally-hyped school shooting that has occurred. Again, this isn't to suggest that active-shooter training isn't justifiable. I'm merely suggesting that other needs are likely more relevant and compelling.

As much as the police profession has changed over the last two decades, little has changed with regard to how police are feloniously slain. It's easy to fall prey to the slick marketing apparatus and the sex appeal associated with "quasi-SWAT" training. Most of us would like to be identified with having training similar to an elite unit within our agency. But, are you truly addressing the core competencies necessary to best-perform the functions of a beat or plainclothes officer? Probably not.



About the author

Tom Aveni has been a career law enforcement officer, having served on the local and state levels in three states (NJ, UT, NH). His police career began in 1978, and he has served as a police trainer since 1983. From 1990 to 2001 Tom served as a police "Training Coordinator" with the prestigious Smith & Wesson Academy.

In 2001, Mr. Aveni co-founded the Police Policy Studies Council, a multi-disciplinary organization that brings together the diverse talents of clinicians, physicians and police practitioners in an ongoing effort to elucidate complex criminal justice issues.

Tom still serves as a sworn police officer on the municipal level in New Hampshire.



WANTED: REFEREES!

Are you familiar with PPC shooting? Interested in becoming a referee? If so, we need to know. We are in need of PPC shooters who are interested in becoming referees for Regional Matches, or possibly the National Police Shooting Championships.

If you are interested, please e-mail us at lead@nrahq.org and place the word "Referee" in the subject block. We will need to know your name, address and contact telephone and e-mail addresses, along with your background in PPC shooting.

GUNSAFE® NOTES

Eddie Eagle Mascot Costume Contests Award Four New Eddie Eagle Costumes

**BY ERIC LIPP
EDDIE EAGLE
PROGRAM MANAGER**

This year, the Eddie Eagle GunSafe® Program was fortunate enough to receive *Friends of NRA* State Grants in four states to hold Eddie Eagle Mascot costume contests. These contests are run by the Eddie Eagle program staff and are eligible to all law enforcement agencies in those states that use the Eddie Eagle GunSafe Program. Program staff accepts all eligible agencies' applications to review and determines a winner based on several factors including the amount of children that the costume will reach and the proximity to other Eddie Eagle costumes. The winner then receives a \$2,650 Eddie Eagle mascot costume free of charge for use in their community.

This year we held costume contests in Arizona, Southern California, Northern California, and Mississippi. After four

long, hard deliberations, the staff was finally able to select four new agencies to receive new Eddie Eagle mascot costumes.

In Goodyear, Arizona, Officer David Acero of the Goodyear Fire Department submitted the winning application for the 2008 Eddie Eagle GunSafe Program mascot costume competition. The Goodyear Fire Department started the Eddie Eagle GunSafe Program over 12 years ago, and the new costume should reach up to 10,000 children per year.

In Southern California, Heather Howard of the Fontana Police Department in Fontana, California, submitted the winning application for the 2008 Eddie Eagle GunSafe Program mascot costume competition. With the Eddie Eagle Mascot Costume the Police Department has the potential to reach 37 elementary schools each year to teach Eddie's life-saving message.

In Northern California Samantha La Violette of the Gridley-Biggs Police Department in Gridley, California, submitted the winning application for the 2008 Eddie Eagle GunSafe Program mascot costume competition. The Eddie Eagle GunSafe Program started two years ago in Gridley, and the department is working to incorporate the program in all local schools.

In Mississippi, Captain Mike McCain of the Cleveland Police Department submitted the winning application for the 2008 Eddie Eagle GunSafe Program mascot costume competition. The Eddie Eagle GunSafe Program started over ten years ago in the Cleveland area, and the costume will certainly be a great addition to the effectiveness of their program.

We would like to congratulate all of the winning agencies and, most importantly, the *Friends of NRA* for supporting the contests and helping to further enhance local Eddie Eagle program's effectiveness.



SAVING HISTORY

Coulda-been manhole cover brings range joy to veterans

**BY JIM SUPICA
DIRECTOR,
NATIONAL FIREARMS MUSEUM**

How to dispose of confiscated and forfeited firearms is a question that nearly every department faces. When guns are indiscriminately scheduled for destruction, there is a tremendous potential for waste of both financial value and historical significance.

The NRA National Firearms Museum welcomes donations of firearms from law enforcement agencies throughout the country.

The Museum is located in the NRA Headquarters Building at 11250 Waples Mill Rd. in Fairfax, VA. It's open to the public, with no admission charge, every day of the week from 9:30 a.m. to 5 p.m., and open late Saturdays until 7 p.m., closed only on major holidays.

The Museum's collection is approaching 5,000 firearms, with about half that number on display in over 80 display cases in 13 galleries, including a display dedicated to the guns of law enforcement. Around 30,000 visitors each year come to the museum, including youth groups, students field trips, and veteran and law enforcement groups, to view the exhibits and gain a deeper appreciation of America's firearms heritage and the role safe, responsible firearms ownership plays in both history and daily life.

Guns in the Museum collection which are not on active display may be loaned to other museums, used in traveling displays, or included in the Interpretive Collection which may be used for special range events or shooting displays.

One of the guns in the interpretive collection is a high condition Colt Python .357

Magnum revolver. The Python is often referred to as the "Cadillac" of revolvers, and is a valuable and desirable firearm.

This Python was recently used on the NRA Range by the Museum staff as one of the guns made available for a special Veterans' Day Shoot. NRA extended an open invitation to all U.S. veterans from all eras and all branches of the service to visit the range on Veteran's Day for a shooting event. NRA provided a number of special firearms and free ammunition to all veterans who wished to participate. There was no charge, and each veteran was sent home with a "goodie bag" as a token of our thanks for their service.

The Python was a favorite of the veterans, many of whom commented on the

outstanding shooting characteristics of this finely crafted firearm.

However, the Python almost didn't make it to the Veterans' Day Shoot. It was a law enforcement confiscated firearm that had been scheduled for destruction. Fortunately, a gun-savvy officer realized that this was too fine an artifact to reduce to scrap metal, and arranged for its donation to the National Firearms Museum.

The National Firearms Museum staff is eager to work with law enforcement agencies that are considering possible donations of firearms. They are glad to review lists of firearms scheduled for disposal to help identify which may be of special historical or technological interest.

Any firearms are eligible for donation. Guns which are not needed for the Museum collection may be deaccessioned through specialty firearms auction houses with Federal Firearms Licenses in full compliance with all Federal, State, and Local laws and regulations, with the funds going to The NRA Foundation for educational purposes. If a department wishes to only donate guns which will actually be retained in the Museum collection, the staff will be glad to advise which firearms would be retained for display and interpretive purposes so that only those may be donated.

You can contact National Firearms Museum Director Jim Supica or Senior Curators Doug Wicklund or Phil Schreier at 703-267-1620, or email NFMStaff@nrahq.org. Better yet, come visit the Museum if you're ever in the Washington D.C. area and see for yourself the type of contribution your department can make to historical preservation and firearms education.



Participants at the Veterans' Day Shoot at the NRA Range enjoyed shooting a Python donated to the National Firearms Museum rescued from destruction.

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BAD GUYS
ARE GOING TO FEEL.

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Law Enforcement Benefits from NRA Foundation Grants

With budgets getting tighter for law enforcement agencies, where do you turn? Have you considered applying for a grant from The NRA Foundation?

The NRA Foundation strives to support your communities by funding programs and various community events. Funds raised through *Friends of NRA* events support a wide range of activities. Fifty percent of the net funds raised from *Friends of NRA* events in a given state are earmarked by The NRA Foundation to support qualified projects at the grassroots level in that state. These funds are made available to qualifying groups through NRA Foundation State Funded Grants.

Training, education and safety continue to be a primary focus of The NRA Foundation grant program. A Foundation grant may be the missing ingredient to expanded training opportunities or enhance community benefits. Law enforcement agencies across the country have received Foundation grants that fulfill needs in their agencies such as: K-9s, portable defibrillators for patrol cars, tire spikes, training, Eddie Eagle costumes and materials and more, providing increased benefit to communities.

Some of those receiving grants in the last year include agencies in Texas, Colorado, California, Louisiana, North Carolina, Nebraska, Indiana, South Carolina, Alaska, Arizona, Illinois, New York and Georgia.

Those interested in applying may obtain information by calling 1-800-423-6894 (X1131), or e-mail the Grant Department at selkin@nrahq.org to request application information or by contacting their respective NRA Field Representative from the listing on the website at www.nrafoundation.org.



Smith & Wesson Proudly Supports NRA Law Enforcement

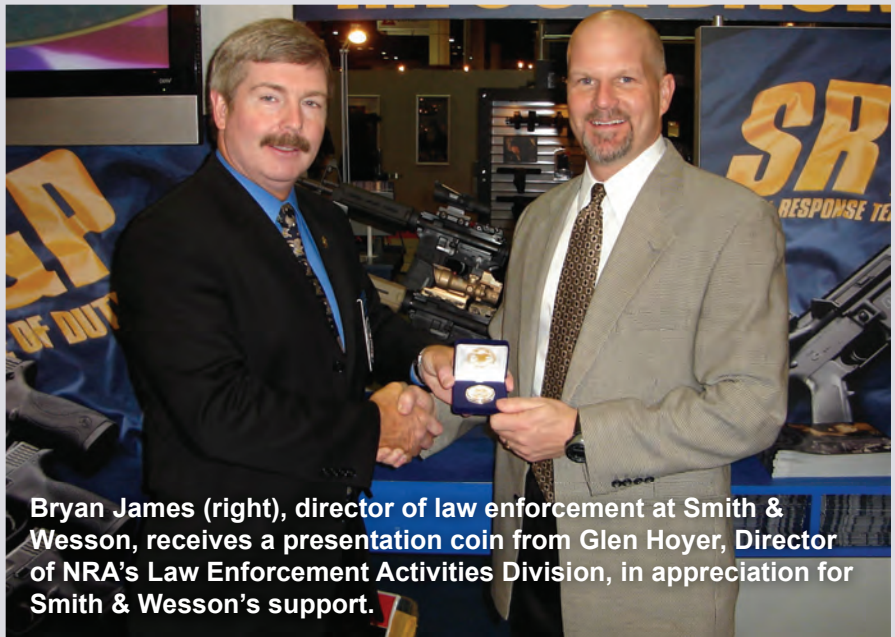
There were many changes at the 2008 National Police Shooting Championships (NPSC) in Albuquerque, New Mexico. The biggest was the retirement of nine-time National Police Shooting Champion Philip Hemphill. But one thing that hasn't changed throughout the 46 years of this historic shoot is the support of Smith & Wesson.

"Smith & Wesson comes out here every year," said Regional Law Enforcement Manager Troy Imes. "We happily provide armorer's who fix and adjust any competitor's gun and offer any other assistance that's needed."

"Without the help of a sponsor like

Smith & Wesson, well, who knows what the National Championships would come to," reflected NRA's Law Enforcement Activities Division Director Glen Hoyer. "Last year alone, their armorers worked on over 150 guns – an incredible amount of labor. And we haven't even talked about what they provided by way of donations."

For those lucky few who successfully found their marks, there were 26 Smith & Wesson M&Ps waiting for a new home. "Absolutely gorgeous pieces," said Hoyer. "Each pistol is engraved with the NPSC logo. Makes me wish I was a better shot."



Bryan James (right), director of law enforcement at Smith & Wesson, receives a presentation coin from Glen Hoyer, Director of NRA's Law Enforcement Activities Division, in appreciation for Smith & Wesson's support.

Mark your calendar! We will be attending ILEETA with our information booth and providing training or presentations:

International Law Enforcement Educators and Trainers Association 2009 International Training Conference and Expo

April 20-25, 2009 in the Greater Chicago Area

For more information, visit their web site:

www.ileeta.org

2009 NRA Law Enforcement Firearm Instructor Development Schools

www.nrahq.org/law/training • lead@nrahq.org • (703) 267-1640

New schools are added often. Check website frequently for current Training Schedule.

Range fee, if any, is payable to some hosting agencies; amount varies.

NRA Tuition = \$525 per person

HANDGUN & SHOTGUN

March 2-6	Purvis, MS
March 2-6	Shreveport, LA
March 9-13	Ford City, PA (west)
March 16-20	Panama City, FL
March 23-27	Florence, AL
March 23-27	Miami, FL
Mar 30-Apr3	Walnut Gove, MS
Apr 6-10	Grand Junction, CO
Apr 6-10	Tucson, AZ
Apr 13-17	Reno, CA
Apr 20-24	Pearl, MS
May 4-8	Pittsburgh, PA (west)
May 11-15	Tupelo, MS
June 1-5	Rochester, MN
June 8-12	Gulfport, MS
June 8-12	Allentown, PA (east)
June 15-19	Allentown, PA (east)
June 22-26	Norman, OK
July 6-10	Lansing, KS
July 13-17	Lewisberry, PA (east)
Aug 10-14	Canon City, CO
Aug 10-14	Florence, AL
Sep 28-Oct2	Las Vegas, NV* (public LE only)
Sep 28-Oct2	Miami, FL
Sep 28-Oct2	Smithton, PA (west)
Oct 12-16	Charleston, SC
Oct 12-16	Pearl, MS
Oct 19-23	Defiance, MO (public LE only)
Nov 16-20	Memphis, TN
Dec 7-11	Florence, AL
Dec 7-11	Panama City, FL

HANDGUN

May 11-15	Castle Rock, CO (public LE only)
Aug 10-14	Castle Rock, CO (public LE only)
Oct 12-16	Lusby, MD

PATROL RIFLE

April 6-10	Baton Rouge, LA
April 6-10	Bethlehem, PA
April 6-10	Ford City, PA (west)
April 13-17	Lubbock, TX (public LE only)
April 20-24	Covington, TN
Apr 27-May1	Florence, AZ
Apr 27-May1	Jordan, MN
May 18-22	Canon City, CO
June 15-19	Charleston, SC
June 15-19	Gulfport, MS
June 15-19	Hoquiam, WA
June 22-26	Pittsburgh, PA (west)
July 6-10	Rangely, CO
July 13-17	Amarillo, TX (public LE only)
July 20-24	Cottonport, LA
July 20-24	Florence, AL
July 20-24	Norman, OK
Aug 17-21	Castle Rock, CO (public LE only)
Aug 24-28	Fairfax, VA (public LE only)
Aug 24-28	Smithton, PA (west)
Aug 31-Sep4	Gunnison, CO
Sept 14-18	York, PA (east)
Oct 5-9	Bethlehem, PA (east)
Oct 5-9	Ford City, PA (west)
Oct 5-9	Miami, FL
Oct 12-16	Rolla, MO
Oct 19-23	Lusby, MD
Oct 26-30	Gulfport, MS
Nov 2-6	Panama City, FL
Nov 2-6	Pearl, MS
Nov 16-20	Las Vegas, NV* (public LE only)

PRECISION RIFLE

Apr27-May1	Fairfax, VA (public LE only)
May 4-8	Pearl, MS
Sep 28-Oct2	Bethlehem, PA (east)
Oct 19-23	Buckeye, AZ
Oct 19-23	Florence, AL
Nov 2-6	Las Vegas, NV* (public LE only)

SELECT-FIRE

May 11-15	Ford City, PA (west)
May 18-22	Tupelo, MS
June 1-5	Fairfax, VA (public LE only)
June 22-26	Florence, AL
July 20-24	Ontario, CA

TACTICAL SHOOTING

March 2-6	Alton, VA
April 20-24	Bethlehem, PA (east)
April 20-24	Florence, AL
May 4-8	Plano, TX
May 11-15	Stapleton, AL
May 18-22	So. Williamsport, PA (east)
May 25-29	Tupelo, MS
June 22-26	Smithton, PA (west)
July 6-10	Allentown, PA (east)
July 13-17	Panama City, FL
Aug 31-Sep4	Hibbing, MN
Sept 14-18	Castle Rock, CO (public LE only)
Sept 21-25	Bethlehem, PA (east)
Oct 5-9	Ontario, CA
Oct 12-16	Norman, OK
Oct 19-23	Las Vegas, NV* (public LE only)
Oct 26-30	Charleston, SC
Nov 2-6	Gulfport, MS
Nov 2-6	Pittsburgh, PA (west)
Jun 7-11 2010	Alamosa, CO

TACTICAL SHOTGUN

April 13-17	Bethlehem, PA (east)
May 18-22	Plano, TX
July 13-17	Allentown, PA (east)
Aug 24-28	Windom, MN
Sept 14-18	Bethlehem, PA (east)
Sept 21-25	Florence, AL

* To apply to Instructor Schools in Las Vegas, marked with an asterisk, call Vern Zuleger, (702) 828-4291.

NRA Law Enforcement Firearm Manuals and Training Aids



To order training aids and materials on CD:
www.nrahq.org/law/training/

To order printed manuals:
<http://materials.nrahq.org/go>



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