



NRA LAW ENFORCEMENT QUARTERLY

2015 NRA Law Enforcement Officer of the Year

The National Rifle Association honors Officer Marcus Pesquera as the NRA Law Enforcement Officer of the Year for showing valor and heroism in his quick, life-saving action during a gunfight that severely wounded his field training officer, Gabriel Garcia, in August 2014.

Around 2 a.m. on August 22, Field Training Officer Gabriel Garcia of the San Bernardino California Police Department and his trainee, Officer Marcus Pesquera, were on patrol together, checking some high-crime areas. At the time, Field Training Officer Garcia was a six-year veteran of the department, and Officer Pesquera had only recently graduated from the police academy and been in training for seven weeks.

Turning down a remote unpaved road, the officers came upon a group of people standing around a vehicle with its hood up and its doors open. Due to a recent spate of stolen vehicles and other serious crimes in the area, the officers exited their vehicle and approached the subjects on foot.

One of the subjects they were about to encounter was a documented gang member with a lengthy and violent criminal past that should have kept him off the streets. The officers had no way of knowing of his violent past, or that he was wanted.

The subjects were standing apart, so the officers moved away from each other by several feet to maintain a tactical advantage, with each officer maintaining visual contact of different subjects. Officer Pesquera then heard Officer Garcia say words to the effect of "come over here" and "let me see your hands," which was answered by immediate gunfire.

Officer Pesquera did not know that Officer Garcia had been gravely wounded by the gunman's fire. Despite his limited patrol experience, Officer Pesquera reverted to his training, drew his handgun as rounds

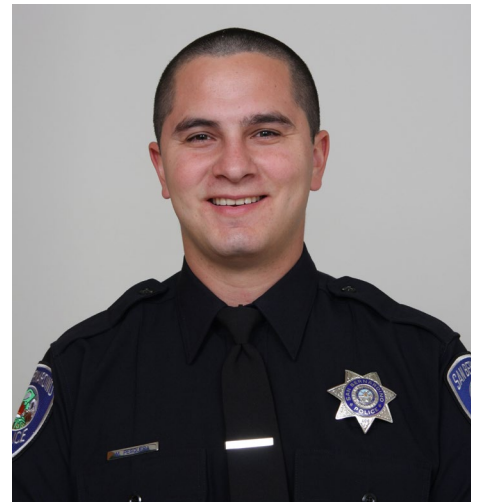
were being fired at him while dropping to the ground to get to cover, and began returning fire as dozens of rounds were exchanged.

During a slight lull, Officer Pesquera yelled to check on his partner. After getting no response, he left his position of cover to try to find him. Officer Pesquera found his partner shot in the head, not moving, and unresponsive. He then radioed the communications center that his partner was down and needed immediate medical assistance and that he was engaged in a gunfight.

Seconds later, another volley of 20 to 30 rounds was exchanged between Officer Pesquera and the gunman. The gunfight lasted for over a full minute before Officer Pesquera's rounds neutralized the shooter, ending the deadly assault and further danger to Officer Garcia, bystanders, responding officers, and medical rescue members.

Officer Pesquera's courage under fire and heroic actions allowed immediate response by medical personnel to reach Officer Garcia and begin life-saving measures. Officer Garcia was rushed to a local hospital, where he received emergency medical treatment for serious head and chest injuries. He was placed into a medically induced coma in an effort to save his life. Since then, thanks to the actions of Officer Pesquera, Officer Garcia continues to fight towards full recovery.

Officer Pesquera's heroic actions under the most stressful and dangerous circumstances are a credit to himself, his department, and the community he serves. They are in keeping with the highest traditions of law enforcement. The National Rifle Association recognizes Officer Marcus Pesquera of the San Bernardino California Police Department for his valorous actions by naming him the 2015 NRA Law Enforcement Officer of the Year.



Officer Marcus Pesquera
San Bernardino California
Police Department

"The more than 5 million members of the National Rifle Association would like to honor Officer Pesquera's courage, bravery, and quick thinking as the NRA Officer of the Year," said NRA President Allan D. Cors. "His heroic actions ended a deadly assault and allowed first responders to safely and quickly reach Officer Garcia to perform vital life-saving measures."



Program Spotlight: National School Shield Security Assessor Training

BY SHEILA BRANTLEY

For more than 50 years, the NRA's Law Enforcement Division has consistently set the standard when it comes to law enforcement training, ensuring curriculums are not only effective but also timely, addressing the ever evolving training needs of the law enforcement community. This leadership and expertise was recently leveraged in creating one of the NRA's newest training curriculums: the National School Shield's Security Assessor Training.

Each year, our nation's schools are entrusted to provide a safe environment for approximately 55 million elementary and secondary students in public, private, parochial and independent schools. Families

and communities expect schools to keep their children safe from threats; no task is more important than creating a secure learning environment for America's youth. A proven and effective way to enhance security in schools is for trained and certified law enforcement officials to conduct a comprehensive vulnerability assessment. These assessments provide an all-inclusive approach to analyzing a school's climate, physical security, communications systems, and overall preparedness. A proper vulnerability assessment not only highlights and reinforces best practices observed in school security but also seeks to document potential areas for improvement, providing the school with actionable intelligence to help make the campus more secure.

There is no question about the need for conducting school vulnerability assessments. Across the country, a lack of coordinated federal funding, along with a patchwork of state laws and regulations governing school safety requirements, leaves gaps in school security. A school's ability to keep its students and personnel safe largely depends on the organizational and financial resources available. To that end, vulnerability assessments can empower schools to recognize potential security deficiencies and take steps toward mitigating their vulnerabilities, ideally in partnership with local law enforcement.

The purpose of the National School Shield's Security Assessor Training is to

provide the knowledge and tools necessary for designated law enforcement to properly conduct standardized school vulnerability assessments. The training program is designed to encourage localities to play a more active role in better protecting their children. Perhaps most importantly, the National School Shield's Security Assessor Training seeks to facilitate the vital partnership between schools and local law enforcement who so often work together in emergencies but not as often in preparedness.



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Using a curriculum carefully constructed with oversight from experts in homeland security, law enforcement training and school security, the National School Shield's Security Assessor Training is a

five day course which consists of classroom instruction supplemented by hands-on exercises at a local K-12 school.

At the conclusion of our training, successful course participants are adequately primed to conduct school vulnerability assessments and assist schools in recognizing strengths as well as potential security deficiencies in a concerted effort to reduce security concerns and strive for overall preparedness. Feedback from course participants has been overwhelmingly positive:

- "Went into class with high expectations and they were exceeded."
- "Instructors were very knowledgeable and made the class interesting."
- "Great training. Great instructors and awesome info presented."
- "Excellent training that may be used not only for schools, but businesses, churches, etc."
- "I have improved and filled my security toolbox with this training."

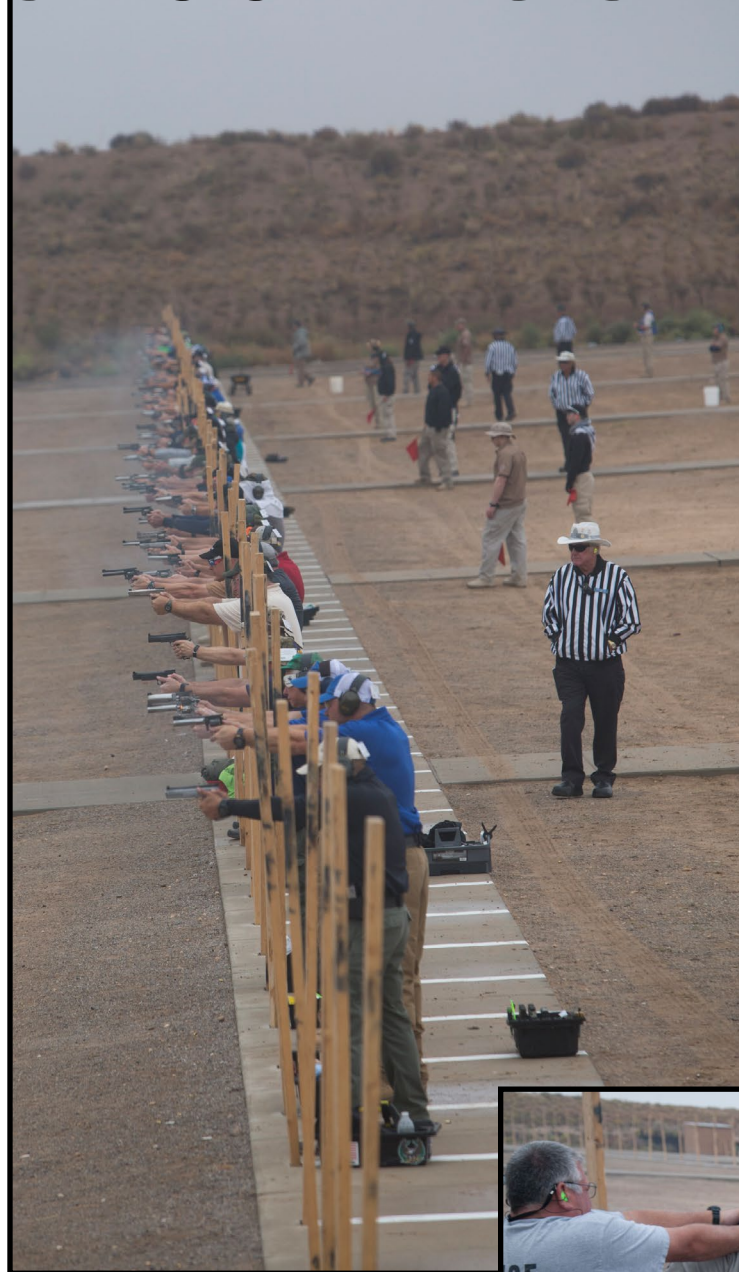
Having successfully launched the training in Tennessee in August 2015 (this training is POST approved in Tennessee for 32.5 hours of Specialized Training), the program is scheduled to host a third training in Chattanooga in June 2016 and we are in the process of reviewing requests from other locations outside of Tennessee to help grow the program across the nation.

If you are part of a law enforcement agency that is interested in hosting a National School Shield Security Assessor Training for your region, please contact us for more information via phone at 844-467-7723 or via email at info@nationalschoolshield.org. For more information about the National School Shield program, please visit www.nationalschoolshield.org.

We would like to thank the NRA Law Enforcement Division for their leadership and expertise in creating this training curriculum and to all law enforcement participants to date. School safety is a complex issue with no simple, single solution. The NRA is proud to commit its resources to this important and impactful initiative and is grateful for this shared commitment to school security.



THE 2016 NATIONAL POLICE SHOOTING CHAMPIONSHIPS



Mark your calendars and get ready for the National Police Shooting Championships, September 17-21, in Albuquerque, New Mexico.

We'll have free training and seminars in addition to the shooting competition.

For more information, visit our website:

<http://npssc.nra.org>



Emotion or science: What will guide the new era of policing?



With the turbulence in law enforcement intensifying with each new controversial shooting, profound changes in police practices seem inevitable. Some major departments already are significantly tightening their policy restrictions on the use of deadly force and on less-lethal tools like the Taser. Under mounting pressure to conform, others will likely follow.

The critical question is: Will the best practices of the new era of policing be based on scientific research into human capabilities and performance under stress or on agenda-driven emotionalism?

Before a mixed audience of politicians, judges, prosecutors, and law enforcement professionals, Dr. Bill Lewinski, executive director of the Force Science Institute, warned recently against the risk of change dominated by emotion-based opinion rather than factual reality. A pre-eminent researcher of the human dynamics of officer-involved shootings and other force encounters, Lewinski appeared as the keynote speaker at an annual awards banquet for the North Carolina Police Benevolent Association.

The “current public narrative,” he told the audience, is that police are “rampanantly excessive” in their use of force. Yet the facts belie that allegation. “The latest study available shows that in more than 40,000,000 police-citizen contacts, fewer than two per cent involved officers threatening or actually using force. Even in arrest situations, where resistance is most likely to occur, the actual use of force runs from only 0.5% to about 2%.

“Yet as soon as a force incident occurs, activists and attorneys for the suspect or for surviving families capture the narrative, and the popular press cooperates with their anti-police story line. He

cited the “hands up, don’t shoot!” narrative from Ferguson, Missouri – “never happened but not questioned by the media.”

Amid the resulting demands for justice and an end to police brutality, some proposals that have been floated for reducing force encounters and improving police performance are “radical and irrational,” Lewinski said. He mentioned suggestions by law school professors that police carry a blank first round in their sidearms or eliminate traffic stops to sweeten community relations and the demand by activists in one city that officers be prohibited from ever shooting anyone in the back, despite the physical dynamics of the encounter.

“Unfortunately, even within the law enforcement profession, we have movements toward policies or recommendations that are not based on science or fact but are clearly attempts to appease critics who are driven by agendas or emotions,” he charged.

One prominent police think tank, for example, is recommending that agencies draft deadly force policies that are more restrictive than what the law says is reasonable, that ban shooting at suspects trying to run officers over with vehicles, and that require officers to consider public reaction when they are making life-or-death shooting decisions.

“Where is the scientific research behind these proposals?” Lewinski asked.

He explained, “You can’t just *order* change. If you want change, you have to work within the parameters of human performance capabilities.

“Police techniques and tactics need to be based on real-life encounters, not on emotion, opinion, or backroom theorizing. Training methodologies have to be

judged on outcomes of proficiency, not on whether they match some arbitrary, state-decreed minimums. Each skill taught must be integrated with others to facilitate solid perception, decision-making, and action on the street.

“And we need to reinforce to our communities that it is usually the decisions that a *suspect* makes that dictate whether force is used, not an officer’s independent choice.”

The facts are, Lewinski said, that “overwhelmingly law enforcement hires great people. Overwhelmingly, they are doing a good job.” Even so, he said, “it is the nature of a profession and the nature of a professional to always strive to do better.

“These are challenging times for the law enforcement profession. I encourage you to meet the challenges you face with courage, hope, and optimism, with a base of *knowledge* as your foundation.”

To keep abreast of research developments regarding the use of force and other law enforcement issues, you can subscribe to the free semi-monthly newsletter, Force Science News. Just email your name and professional affiliation to: editor@forcescience.org

Charles Remsberg co-founded the original Street Survival Seminar and the Street Survival Newslines, authored three of the best-selling law enforcement training textbooks, and helped produce numerous award-winning training videos. His nearly three decades of work earned him the prestigious O.W. Wilson Award for outstanding contributions to law enforcement and the American Police Hall of Fame Honor Award for distinguished achievement in public service. He currently serves as the editor-in-chief of *Force Science News* published by the Force Science Institute.

REPETITIVE TRAINING WITH LESS LETHAL DEVICES

BY SARAH GERVASE
ASSISTANT GENERAL COUNSEL, NRA



Dr. William J. Lewinski, Ph.D. is one of the world's leading behavioral scientists whose work has focused primarily on the intensive study of the human dynamics involved in high-stress, life-threatening encounters. He has a Ph.D. in Police Psychology and is a professor emeritus of Law Enforcement at Minnesota State University, Mankato, where he taught for more than 28 years. In 2003 he was named Distinguished Professor of the Year for the College of Social and Behavioral Sciences. He is a professor of negotiations at the University of Padua in Italy. He is the founder and director the Force Science® Institute, Ltd. (FSI), which is a research, consulting and training organization focused primarily on human behavior in use-of-force situations. The mission of FSI is to gather experts from a variety of academic and research disciplines from a wide range of educational institutions, including Minnesota State University, Mankato, the Mayo Clinic, UCLA, University of Calgary, Indiana University, and many universities in the United Kingdom, to assist in the study of officer and subject behavior, primarily in lethal force encounters. Force Science® publishes a popular, twice-monthly e-newsletter, Force Science® News, that presents research and commentary on force issues in law enforcement. FSN has an estimated total readership of approximately 200,000 readers with some editions reaching over three quarters of a million readers. The International Association of Chiefs of Police distributes select articles to top administrators worldwide.

Dr. Lewinski can be reached through the Chicago office of the Force Science® Institute by e-mail: training@force-science.org or by phone at (773) 481-4964. More information on the Institute is found at www.forcescience.org.

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The shooting death of Eric Harris in Tulsa, Oklahoma was one of the most highly publicized cases of 2015. The facts may sound familiar. On the night of April 2, 2015, a volunteer reserve sheriff deputy, Robert Bates, was providing back-up several blocks away from a sting operation attempting to catch Harris in the illegal sale of a firearm. Harris ran when officers moved in to make the arrest. After a short chase, officers were able to get him on the ground. It was at that point, before officers had Harris fully under control, that Bates exited his vehicle, ran to the scene, and warned that he was going to engage his Taser. Instead, Bates mistakenly drew his .357 revolver and fatally shot Harris in the back.

News reports quickly emphasized that Bates was a 73 year-old volunteer reserve deputy, not a full-time paid officer. And what level of training Bates had received was an issue throughout his trial for 2nd degree manslaughter. (Bates was convicted in April 2016 and sentenced to the maximum of four years.) His training records will also play a key role in the civil suit filed against him and the Sheriff who had placed Bates in his position as a reserve deputy.

The fact is, however, that full-time officers have also mistaken their handguns for tasers. In 2002, an officer with the City of Madera Police Department in California shot and killed an arrestee with her duty firearm when she accidentally reached for that rather than her taser. There have been other non-fatal cases over the years as well, all involving full-time officers who had intended to draw and fire their tasers but who accidentally drew and fired their duty handguns.

There are ways to reduce the risk of officers inadvertently grabbing their firearms rather than their Tasers when less lethal force is called for. Tasers should be placed on the non-dominant side of the officer's body, leaving the officer's firearm on the dominant side. Tasers are also built to look and feel differently than handguns, and their holsters are different than are firearms'. Taser International's training recommends that officers shout "Taser! Taser! Taser!" as officers prepare to engage one so that the officer's muscle memory leads the officer to reach for the correct device under stress.

Still, there is no substitute for repetitive training. Just as with any other skill, officers must repeatedly practice so that drawing their Tasers rather than their handguns under certain circumstances becomes second nature under stress. It is this repetitive training that will allow an officer to react quickly – and accurately – once that officer has decided that less lethal rather than lethal force is justified.

Some accidents can be avoided with repetitive training, particularly those in circumstances when officers have maybe an extra second or two to react. There will be accidents even with repetitive practice, though. Officers will not always have that extra time in stressful and chaotic situations. The law recognizes that and in most cases will shield an officer from liability for a reasonable mistake. The key thing is to practice and to keep good records of officers' training classes.



Sarah Gervase is Assistant General Counsel at the NRA. She graduated from Harvard College and Notre Dame Law School, and is the proud sister of a law enforcement officer.

BLACKHAWK!

BLACKHAWK!®'s commitment to quality, reliability and durability is reflected in every item it produces. That includes BLACKHAWK!'s new apparel line for 2016, which launched at the NRA Show on May 20-22. The line features 14 new clothing styles and 10 new headwear options – everything needed to feel comfortable and confident while performing at the highest level.

“BLACKHAWK! is the only brand with authentic military heritage, and we wanted to create a line that stayed true to the brand's roots, with durability and function at its core,” Jamie Lindberg, Senior Manager of Apparel Merchandising, said.

The line has two distinct categories. The BLACKHAWK! Pursuit collection includes the new Pursuit Tactical Pant, Long Sleeve and Short Sleeve shirts, and the feature-packed Tactical

Softshell Jacket. Pursuit styles feature durable ripstop fabric, new pocket system technologies and waterproof functionality. The garments are designed for operators and personnel who demand a reliable blend of function and security. The balance of the 2016 apparel line is designed to make every day concealed carry more comfortable with well-designed features and innovative fabrics. Non-printing casual shirts and polos are designed for daily wear and to retain BLACKHAWK! functionality.

BLACKHAWK!'s steadfast dedication to quality traces back to the roots of the company, and the attention to detail shows in every stitch. That tradition continues with the 2016 apparel line. BLACKHAWK! apparel fights hard, and wears easy. You'll know exactly what that means when you try it on.



“By creating this new apparel line, we wanted to allow our loyal consumers to have BLACKHAWK! products to cover them from head to toe,” Lindberg said.

The new 2016 apparel line starts shipping in July. It is available at your local Army & Air Force Exchange (AAFES), Navy Exchange, Amazon.com or leading tactical retailers. Please visit BLACKHAWK.com for more information.



NRA

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2016 NRA Law Enforcement Firearm Instructor Development Schools

<http://LE.NRA.org/Training> • LE@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 = \$595 per person

HANDGUN & SHOTGUN

June 20-24 New Smyrna Bch, FL
 June 20-24 Shreveport, LA
 July 18-22 Columbus, MS
 Aug 8-12 Manchester, NJ
 Aug 8-12 New Kensington, PA
 Aug 22-26 Elizabethtown, PA
 Aug 29-Sep 2 Tupelo, MS
 Sep 12-16 Tuscaloosa, AL
 Sep 12-16 Valhalla, NY (*pub LE*)
 Sep 12-16 Memphis, TN
 Sep 12-16 Lords Valley, PA
 Sep 19-23 Las Vegas, NV
 Sep 19-23 Savannah, GA
 Sep 26-30 Pala, CA
 Oct 3-7 Pearl, MS
 Oct 10-14 Horton, KS
 Oct 10-14 Bethlehem, PA
 Oct 10-14 Appling, GA
 Oct 17-21 Defiance, MO (*pub LE*)
 Oct 17-21 Florence, AL
 Oct 17-21 San Antonio, TX
 Oct 24-28 Hutto, TX
 Oct 24-28 West Plains, MO
 Oct 24-28 Homestead, FL
 Oct 24-28 Bowman, SC
 Oct 31-Nov 4 Sugar Creek, MO
 Feb 27-Mar 3 2017 Florence, AL
 Apr 3-7 2017 Florence, AL
 May 1-5 2017 Mexico, MO
 Sep 11-15 2017 Las Vegas, NV
 Sep 11-15 2017 Florence, AL
 Nov 13-17 2017 Florence, AL

Sep 26-30 Palm Bay, FL
 Oct 3-7 Shreveport, LA
 Oct 3-7 Ottawa, KS
 Oct 3-7 Memphis, TN
 Oct 10-14 Savannah, GA
 Oct 17-21 Summerville, SC
 Oct 24-28 Sugar Creek, MO
 Nov 14-18 Las Vegas, NV
 Nov 14-18 Pala, CA
 Dec 5-9 Pearl, MS
 Mar 20-24 2017 Florence, AL
 June 5-9 2017 Mexico, MO
 Oct 2-6 2017 Florence, AL
 Nov 13-17 2017 Las Vegas, NV

PRECISION RIFLE

Sep 26-30 Winslow Twp, NJ
 Oct 10-14 Hutto, TX
 Oct 31-Nov 4 Rio Rancho, NM
 Nov 14-17 Pearl, MS
 Dec 5-9 Las Vegas, NV
 Dec 12-16 Palm Bay, FL
 May 22-26 2017 Florence, AL
 Sep 25-29 2017 Las Vegas, NV

SELECT-FIRE

Sep 26-30 Hutto, TX
 Oct 03-07 Bethlehem, PA
 Nov 14-18 Florence, AL
 Dec 4-8 2017 Florence, AL

TACTICAL SHOOTING

July 25-29 Columbus, MS
 Aug 8-12 Tuscaloosa, AL
 Aug 29-Sep 2 Rio Rancho, NM
 Sep 19-23 Bethlehem, PA
 Sep 26-30 Lakeland, FL
 Oct 3-7 Las Vegas, NV
 Oct 17-21 Monroeville, PA (*public LE only*)
 Oct 17-21 Palm Bay, FL
 Oct 31-Nov 4 Columbus, GA
 Oct 31-Nov 4 Summerville, SC
 Nov 14-18 San Antonio, TX
 Dec 5-9 Florence, AL
 Dec 12-16 Savannah, GA
 Mar 6-10 2017 Florence, AL
 Jul 24-28 2017 London, OH
 Oct 16-20 2017 Florence, AL
 Oct 30-Nov 3 2017 Las Vegas, NV

TACTICAL SHOTGUN

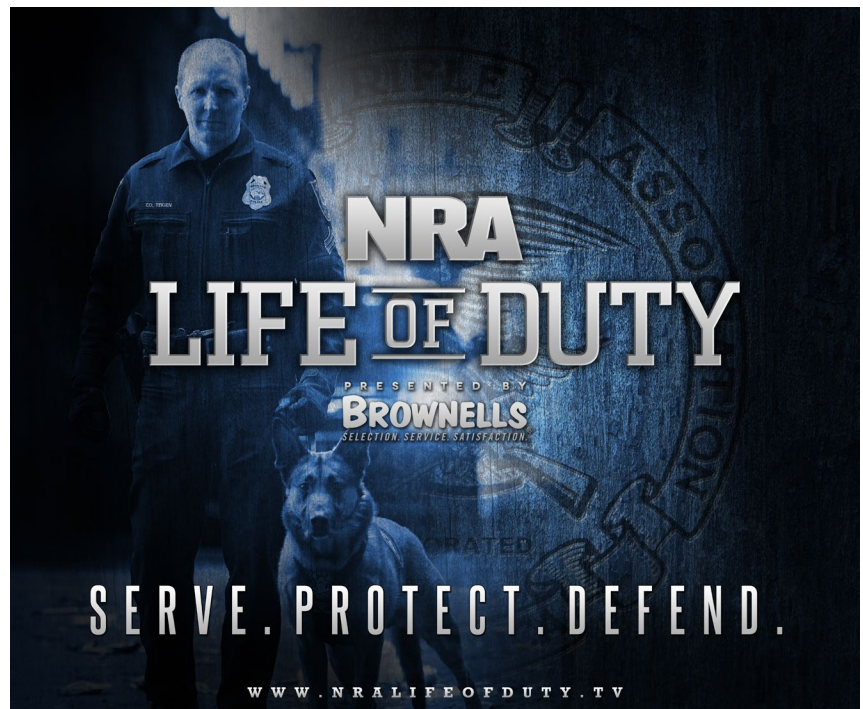
Sep 12-16 Bethlehem, PA
 Oct 10-14 Pittsburgh, PA (*public LE only*)
 Oct 24-28 Las Vegas, NV
 Nov 27-Dec 1 2017 Las Vegas, NV

HANDGUN

Aug 1-5 Monroe, LA
 Aug 15-19 Palm Bay, FL
 Aug 15-19 Martinsburg, WV
 Aug 29-Sep 2 Bonfield, IL
 Aug 29-Sep 2 Norman, OK
 Sep 12-16 Newport, OR
 Sep 26-30 New Smyrna Beach, FL
 Oct 31-Nov 4 Staunton, VA

PATROL RIFLE

June 20-24 Garden Plain, KS
 July 11-15 Kansas City, KS
 July 11-15 Lamar, CO
 July 25-29 London, OH
 Aug 15-19 Manchester, NJ
 Aug 22-26 Littleton, CO
 Aug 22-26 Chehalis, WA
 Aug 22-26 Lakeland, FL
 Aug 22-26 Norman, OK
 Aug 29-Sep 2 Hutto, TX
 Aug 29-Sep 2 Bridgeville, DE
 Sep 19-23 Florence, AL
 Sep 26-30 Bethlehem, PA



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<http://materials.nrahq.org/go>



NRA



DISCIPLINES AVAILABLE:
Handgun Handgun/Shotgun
Patrol Rifle Tactical Shotgun
Precision Rifle

Sales of these items are restricted to NRA Certified Instructors, sworn Law Enforcement Officers, bona fide Law enforcement agencies, armed security companies, and the U.S. military. Once your order is received, you may be contacted by a member of the Law Enforcement Activities Division to verify eligibility.