



NRA LAW ENFORCEMENT QUARTERLY

2017 NRA Law Enforcement Officer of the Year

During the early morning hours of July 7, 2016, officers of the Bristol, Tennessee Police Department were dispatched to a local Days Inn motel to a report of shots fired.

Upon arrival of the officers, shortly after 2:00 AM, Sergeant Mathew Cousins, the second of three officers to arrive, discovered spent .223 shell casings on the ground. Realizing that the situation was very serious and the suspect was apparently armed with a rifle, Sergeant Cousins returned to his vehicle to obtain his patrol rifle while at the same time alerting other officers of the situation.

At this point, Sergeant Cousins observed the shooter emerging from behind a nearby auto parts store apparently to ambush the officers from behind. The suspect was armed with a rifle and a handgun.

Sergeant Cousins immediately challenged the suspect and ordered him to drop the weapon. The suspect ignored the commands and opened fire on the officers.

All three officers returned fire striking the suspect causing him to fall to the ground. Even though he had been wounded by the police gunfire and is on the ground, the suspect continued to try and fire his rifle at the officers.

Sergeant Cousins advanced on the downed suspect during an intense gun

fight and the suspect was taken into custody.

Only when the gunfight had ended was it determined that Sergeant Cousins had suffered a minor gunshot wound to his leg.

The clerk at the Days Inn had suffered multiple gunshot wounds and was immediately transported to the hospital.

The suspect survived and it was later learned that he had fired several rounds into passing cars on an adjacent four-lane roadway, killing a local paper carrier, Jennifer Rooney.

The suspect also admitted to "being in a rage" and that his attack was racially motivated.

Thanks to Sergeant Cousins' quick observation of the spent rifle casings and realization that the suspect was armed with a rifle, as well as, his quick response to obtain his patrol rifle and the fact that he spotted the suspect moving in from behind the officers to ambush them, he prevented further injuries or deaths.

Additionally, Sergeant Cousins' decision to advance on the downed shooter, who was still firing at the officers, turned the tides on the gun fight, which resulted in the quick resolution to the matter.

As such, it is with great honor and pride the National Rifle Association names Sergeant Mathew Cousins as the 2017 NRA Law Enforcement Officer of the Year.



Sgt. Mathew Cousins
Bristol Tennessee
Police Department

"The five million members of the National Rifle Association are proud to honor Sergeant Cousins as the 2017 NRA Law Enforcement Officer of the Year," said NRA President Pete Brownell.

"Sergeant Cousins' courageous response to an armed threat to fellow officers and innocent lives reflects the highest standards of professionalism and training in law enforcement, and epitomizes the selfless service and bravery of police when facing immense danger in the line of duty."

Forms for nominating candidates for the NRA Law Enforcement Officer of the Year Award may be downloaded at <http://le.nra.org/documents/pdf/law/leoy.pdf>.

For more information about NRA's Law Enforcement Officer of the Year Award and its Law Enforcement Division, call (703) 267-1632 or send an e-mail to LE@nrahq.org.



UNSEEN HAZARD: Lessons Learned

BY TIM LOSE
MANAGER, NRA LAW ENFORCEMENT
TRAINING

At a recent training conference, I heard of a range incident in which a police firearms instructor was shot by another police firearms instructor. The person telling me about it was present when the incident occurred, and nobody is suggesting that it was anything other than a tragic (and fortunately not fatal) accident. It happened during a range break, not during a training exercise. One instructor drew his pistol and fired a round, striking another instructor in the abdomen. Thanks to properly applied first aid and a good incident response plan, the victim survived.

When I heard about it, the exact cause of the accident had not been determined. Shortly before the accident, the instructors had been doing some exercises with blue guns, and it was speculated that the instructor who fired the shot may have forgotten that he now had a live firearm in his holster.

In further discussion with the person telling me about the incident, it was clear that his agency took a somewhat more casual view of blue gun use than we do. For example, he described a use of cover exercise very similar to one done in NRA Law Enforcement schools, where one person is behind a barricade and their training partner is downrange near the target line. A major difference is that NRA Law Enforcement only uses finger pointing to simulate a firearm, whereas the agency in question has the trainee aim a blue gun at their partner.

Most instructors recognize that blue guns are very effective training tools for some things, such as demonstrating drawing from a holster, grip and shooting stance, and can be used in a classroom where live firearms may not be allowed. A blue gun is an effective training tool because it feels like a real gun. However, it seems that many instructors do not recognize that the corollary of this is that **a real gun feels like a blue gun, too.** When using a blue gun, I make the same effort to avoid pointing it at someone as I would with a live firearm – I wouldn't want to get into a habit of pointing something that feels like a

real firearm at someone, which could lead to an incident like the one under discussion.

One person involved in the discussion opined that pointing blue guns at people could be done safely if, when switching from a live gun to a blue gun or back to a live gun, a “ceremony” were to be followed, in which very deliberate steps are taken and the person switching instruments thinks carefully about exactly what they're doing.

Possibly, but human beings are involved here, and people make mistakes. People get into a hurry. People listen to that devil on their shoulder that says, “You're an instructor, you're safe, those rules were made for other people.”

When I went through the Simunitions instructor course, I realized that they had a very good set of safety protocols, and if all of them were followed to the letter, there would never be a case where someone had a live, loaded firearm when they thought they had a Simunitions gun. And yet, it seems that training accidents happen on a fairly regular basis. In every one that I'm familiar with, some part of the safety procedures wasn't followed.

Certainly there are times – such as force-on-force training – when, with proper safety protocols in place, we may point objects that resemble firearms at people. The key here is the proper safety protocols. We maintain that during general handling and use of blue guns, they should be subject to all of the normal safety rules. The consequences of doing otherwise could be an accidental shooting.

Tim Lose is manager of the NRA Law Enforcement Training Department and is a retired officer of the Anne Arundel County (MD) Police Department.



Police Pistol Combat PRODUCTION PISTOL SHOOTERS

Please remember that only law enforcement model semi-automatic pistols listed in PPC Bulletin 14-1 are eligible for use in NRA Production Pistol and Distinguished Production Pistol matches.

While replacement duty sights are authorized, they must be specifically listed in PPC Bulletin 16-1. And remember that NO matter what Approved Replacement Sight is used, the sights MUST keep a Duty Gun Point of Aim/Point of Impact.

A Duty Gun Point of Aim/Point of Impact sight set up requires the sights to be aligned on the X Ring/Center Mass to obtain a Hit in the X Ring/Center Mass area. Competition set ups, such as a Neck Hold, Shoulder Hold, or Head Hold are prohibited and will result in Disqualification.

Tournament Directors may require you to allow your pistol to be test fired, or checked with a laser bore-sighter to check the sight set up.

You can view and print Police Combat Program Bulletins as well as the complete Police Pistol Combat Rule Book on line at the NRA Law Enforcement Competitions pages at lecompetitions.nra.org



POLICE! DON'T MOVE!

The How, When, and Why of Challenge Commands

BY DAN GRAY
INSTRUCTOR, NRA LAW ENFORCEMENT
DIVISION

Have you ever seen the Felony Macarena? You know, one suspect and multiple cops – one yelling “DON’T MOVE,” another yelling “GET ON THE GROUND,” and a third yelling “SHOW ME YOUR HANDS!” While somewhat entertaining and comical – because the bad guy doesn’t know who to comply with – it can be deadly to any involved, and a problem in criminal or civil proceedings.

Then there are those times when we add a bit of profanity to the mix, you know, so the bad guy will know we’re really serious! Right! Try repeating those words in court to a bunch of little ol’ blue-haired ladies who wouldn’t say poop if they had a handful. Add in some other folks who weren’t sharp enough to get out of jury duty, and now you’ve really got something.

Don’t get me wrong. I’m not writing this and claiming to be some kind of angel who never uttered a bad word in his life. However, we do have to take into consideration the power of our words, both on the street and in the courtroom.

Even after training this technique for several years, I found myself the victim of a street robbery in Southern California just days after I retired. Now, I’ve been teaching this technique and verbiage for quite a while and heard myself screaming “You’re going to die Mother Hummer” at the top of my lungs as I was drawing my concealed carry firearm – except I didn’t say “Hummer.” Fortunately for me, the case didn’t go to court – and more importantly, I didn’t have to shoot either of them, because eight people heard me yell it. Not going to live that one down anytime soon.

So, why is uttering a challenge command so important? Well, it’s not just the what to say, it’s the when and why that are equally important. Let’s break this down into its parts and understand why this is so important.

First off, I want to give credit where credit is due. My friend Arnie Stallman, retired police officer out of Phoenix, Arizona, is the one who gave me the challenge commands paper that is part of this article, so you can take the highlights and begin teaching this to your officers, if you so desire. We had been teaching a challenge command at the academy, but I never really thought about the dynamics of it until Arnie shared this paper with me. Thanks, my friend.

So what is the true purpose behind a challenge command? If we’re the police, it’s to establish our authority to someone we are coming in contact with in a reasonable suspicion or probable cause situation. From behind a piece of cover, or in a low-light scenario, the person we are challenging may not be able to see the badge of our office or the uniform. In a plainclothes type of event, we have to announce our authority to gain legal status and make them comply. We also gain witnesses around us which may be beneficial in court at a later time.

A challenge command is not a list of instructions. All we are attempting to do is gain initial compliance.

In the *Tennessee vs. Garner* decision on use of deadly force, the U.S. Supreme Court stated that a challenge command should be given “when feasible.” In exploring that, the court defined “feasible” to mean when it was safe for us to do so or safe for other bystanders. If someone is already pointing a gun at us, we don’t have to be challenging them before we take action.

In reading the works of Col. Boyd about the OODA Loop (Observe, Orient, Decision, Action), we know that trying to do multiple things and causing the brain to try and shift gears from talking to action is slower.

I had the privilege and honor of working with retired Missouri State Police Captain Roy Bergman of the NRA Law Enforcement Division on several occasions. I believe that Roy stated it best: “There’s a time for talking, and a time for shooting,” and “always know what time it is.” Truer words were never spoken when it came to when to challenge.

At the police academy, I had a young recruit who would always challenge the target after the turning system presented a photo of a man with a gun pointed at him. I explained why it was not a good idea to challenge under those circumstances. The recruit then told me that he never wanted to shoot anyone, so he was going to challenge every time to give the person the opportunity to drop the gun. After explaining in several different ways why that was not a good idea, and that action generally beats reaction, he insisted that he would still do this. When asked about the peril it could place him or another officer in, he said that we knew the risks when we went into law enforcement. I hope he is doing better in the fast food industry he was better suited for.

After issuing the challenge command the officer should then BLT – not run out for bacon, lettuce and tomato sandwich, but BREATHE, LISTEN, THINK! Oxygen in the brain gives us the ability to hear things and to take the whole situation in. Depending on the circumstances of the encounter, we may already be affected by the physical aspects of fight or flight syndrome and all the stressors that are occurring in the body. So after challenging, BREATHE.

Secondly, we should LISTEN. So many times, officers continue to scream the challenge command at the top of their lungs, using up oxygen and making it difficult to hear what the person being challenged might be saying. While an officer is in broken-record mode and yelling “do this,” “don’t do that,” he may be missing the reply from the person whom he is challenging – statements such as, “I’m an off-duty police officer” or similar things that could lead to a blue-on-blue shooting.

Remember, with the signing of the Law Enforcement Officers Safety Act (LEOSA HR218), there are a lot more active duty and retired cops carrying guns out there. Last but not least, THINK! Is there cover close by – something I can take one or two steps behind that stops bullets? Are there additional suspects I need to deal with? Does dispatch know what is going on or where I am? These are all important questions that need to be answered at the appropriate time.

When it comes to teaching challenge commands, don’t neglect to teach this information to the civilian population if you instruct concealed weapon classes or any other training for the general populace. With the citizen classes I teach, I instruct them to yell “STOP, DON’T MOVE!” Keeping it on the KISS principle (Keep it Short and Simple) could go a long way to keep our officers alive and ready to deal with the problems they encounter on the street.

Train hard! Stay safe!

Dan Gray served thirty years and is a retired sergeant from a Northern California police agency. Dan owns Trident Firearms Academy, works for South Bay Regional Police Academy, and is an instructor with the NRA Law Enforcement Division. Dan can be reached at dan@tridentfirearms.com.

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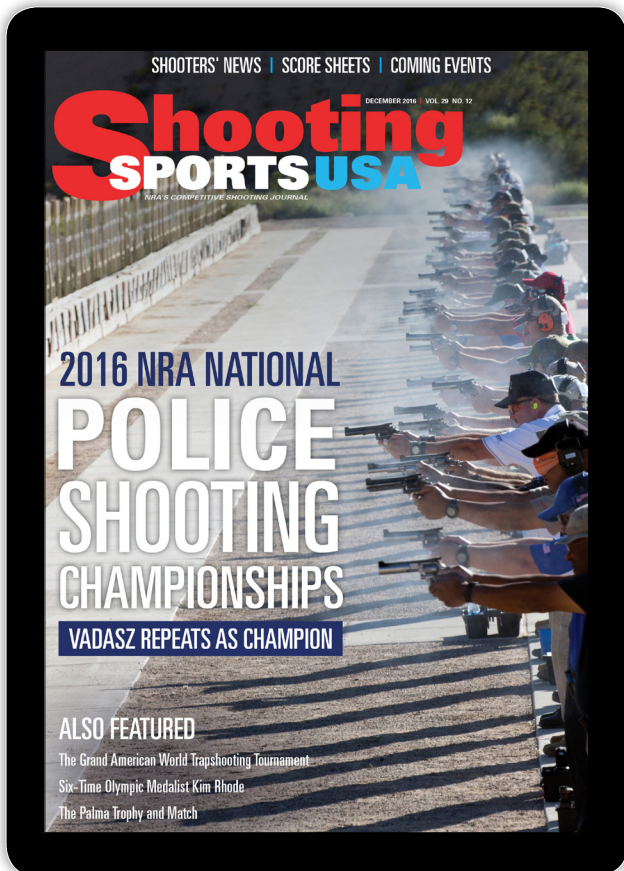


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Celebrate Refuse To Be A Victim's 25th Anniversary by becoming an instructor!

NRA's award-winning crime prevention program, Refuse To Be A Victim, is celebrating 25 years of improving personal safety strategies and increasing crime prevention awareness in communities across the country. RTBAV has gained over 8,000 instructors, many law enforcement partnerships, and the praise of thousands who have attended seminars over the years. Increase your agencies community outreach efforts, and the safety of your community by teaching RTBAV seminars.

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NRA Endorsed Insurance Program offers discounted self-defense coverage for retired law enforcement and off-duty police officers. It starts at only \$50 annually and is limited up to \$250,000. Coverage includes criminal and civil defense costs, the cost of civil suit defense and criminal defense reimbursement.

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The National Police Shooting Championships

September 24-26, 2018

Join us this year for the 2018 National Police Shooting Championships in Albuquerque, New Mexico.

- Tens of thousands of dollars in prizes and trophies!
- New Shooters are welcome! Shooters compete with others in their skill level and we have categories that will allow you to shoot your duty pistol (Production and/or Stock Automatic), so you do not have to invest in expensive equipment to come and have fun.
- Tuition-Free Armorer Schools are available for the competitors on a first come-first served basis.
- The Tactical Police Competitions (TPC) return to the NPSC and will be conducted on September 22 or 23.

For more information, visit npsc.nra.org.



NRA Membership Benefits and Discounts for Public Law Enforcement

The NRA offers a special membership discount to members of law enforcement and the military: \$20 a year for a full benefits membership.

Also, if you are public law enforcement (city, county, state or federal) there is also a no-cost Line of Duty Death Benefit that is included with your membership. This benefit pays \$35,000 to the spouse or family of the member officer who is killed in the line of duty. There is nothing to check at membership signup, as it verifies that you are public law enforcement at the time of the line of duty death.

There are other membership benefits as well, and you can learn about them at benefits.nra.org.

For the special law enforcement and military discount form, email us at LE@nrahq.org and request the membership discount form.

2018 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 = \$645 per person

HANDGUN & SHOTGUN

Jun 4-8 Garden Plain, KS
 Jun 4-8 Pearl, MS
 Jun 11-15 Florence, AL
 Jun 18-22 Upper Marlboro, MD
 Jun 8-22 Pass Christian, MS (public LE only)
 Jun 25-29 Jasper, AL
 Jun 25-29 Shreveport, LA
 Jul 23-27 Columbus, MS
 Jul 23-27 St. Louis, MO
 Aug 6-10 Highspire, PA
 Aug 13-17 Florence, AL
 Aug 13-17 Okeechobee, FL
 Aug 20-24 Rio Rancho, NM
 Sep 10-14 Valhalla, NY (public LE & military only)
 Sep 17-21 Lucedale, MS
 Oct 1-5 Stapleton, AL
 Oct 1-5 Smithton, PA
 Oct 15-19 Columbus, MS
 Oct 15-19 Bethlehem, PA
 Oct 29-Nov 2 Sugar Creek, MO
 Nov 5-9 Florence, AL
 Nov 5-9 San Antonio, TX
 Nov 5-9 Pearl, MS

HANDGUN

May 21-25 Issaquah, WA
 Jun 25-29 Lithia, FL (public LE & military only)
 Jul 23-27 Egg Harbor, NJ
 Aug 13-17 Chehalis, WA
 Sep 10-14 Florence, AL
 Sep 24-28 Macomb, IL
 Sep 24-28 Hoquiam, WA
 Oct 15-19 Homestead, FL
 Oct 29-Nov 2 Owasso, OK (public LE & military only)
 Nov 26-30 Ashland, OR
 Dec 3-7 San Antonio, TX

PATROL RIFLE

May 21-25 Lewisburg, PA
 May 21-25 Pearl, MS
 Jun 4-8 Ozark, AL
 Jun 4-8 Clarion, PA
 Jun 11-15 Coatesville, PA
 Jun 11-15 Holly Springs, MS
 Jun 18-22 Tuscaloosa, AL
 Jul 9-13 Garden Plain, KS
 Jul 9-13 Parchman, MS
 Jul 9-13 Alden, NY
 Jul 9-13 Littleton, CO
 Jul 16-20 Florence, AL
 Jul 30-Aug 3 Egg Harbor, NJ
 Aug 6-10 Tuscaloosa, AL
 Aug 6-10 Carlisle, PA
 Aug 20-24 Leesport, PA
 Aug 27-31 Boulder City, NV
 Sep 10-14 Avondale, LA
 Oct 1-5 Summerville, SC
 Oct 1-5 Macomb, IL
 Oct 8-12 Florence, AL
 Oct 8-12 Pearl, MS
 Oct 22-26 Sugar Creek, MO
 Oct 22-26 Grants Pass, OR

Nov 26-30 Pass Christian, MS (public LE only)
 Mar 11-15 2019 Ashland, OR

PRECISION RIFLE

Jul 23-27 Garden Plain, KS
 Sep 17-21 Tuscaloosa, AL
 Oct 15-19 Shreveport, LA

SELECT-FIRE

Jun 25-29 Valhalla, NY (public LE & military only)
 Aug 6-10 Prescott, AZ
 Aug 20-24 Lithia, FL (public LE & military only)
 Sep 24-28 Bethlehem, PA
 Oct 01-05 New Smyrna Beach, FL

TACTICAL SHOOTING

Jun 11-15 Tuscaloosa, AL
 Jun 18-22 Allentown, PA
 Jun 25-29 Oakdale, PA
 Jun 25-29 Columbus, MS
 Jun 25-29 Hamilton, MT

Aug 20-24 Chehalis, WA
 Sep 10-14 Parchman, MS
 Sep 10-14 New Smyrna Bch, FL
 Sep 10-14 Bethlehem, PA
 Sep 17-21 Littleton, CO
 Sep 17-21 Holly Springs, MS
 Oct 1-5 Monroeville, PA (public LE & military only)
 Oct 8-12 Ozark, AL
 Oct 15-19 San Antonio, TX
 Oct 22-26 Staunton, VA
 Oct 29-Nov 2 Summerville, SC
 Nov 5-9 Bristol, TN
 Dec 3-7 Avondale, LA

TACTICAL SHOTGUN

Jun 11-15 Leesport, PA
 Sep 10-14 San Antonio, TX
 Oct 1-5 Holly Springs, MS
 Oct 8-12 Okoboji, IA
 Oct 15-19 New Smyrna Beach, FL
 Oct 29-Nov 2 Highspire, PA

2018 NRA-Hosted Tuition-Free Law Enforcement Armorer/Shooting Schools NRA Headquarters • Fairfax, Virginia

The NRA's Law Enforcement Division, in conjunction with many leading law enforcement firearm manufacturers, will host the following TUITION-FREE Armorer/Shooting schools at NRA Headquarters in Fairfax, Virginia. The schools are being donated by these companies as a way of giving back to our law enforcement officers.

DATES	TRAINER	SCHOOL	ENTRY DEADLINE
July 17	Ruger	Ruger LC9 Pistol Armorer	June 15
July 18	Ruger	Ruger GP100 Revolver Armorer	June 15
July 19	Ruger	Ruger M77 Bolt Action Rifle Armorer	June 15
August 15-16	IWI	Tavor X95 Armorer	July 6
August 23	Glock	Glock Pistol Armorer	July 13
October 4	Glock	Glock Pistol Armorer	August 24
October 5	Soden	Officer Involved Shooting: An Inside Perspective	August 24

Participants in Tuition-Free Schools are selected by random drawing. To enter, submit your application online at

<http://le.nra.org/training/tuition-free-schools.aspx>

Only one entry per person, per school. Application does not guarantee a slot, and you may need to meet certain requirements to attend the schools. Your employment and eligibility may need to be verified. If you have been selected for a school, you will be notified one month before the school. Tuition is complimentary, but participants are responsible for all other expenses. NRA membership is not required. If you have questions, please contact Tim Cole at TCole@nrahq.org or 703-267-1626.

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NRA



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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.