



Smith & Wesson® Academy

ROLL CALL

Volume 1, Issue 1

Spring 2005

New Advanced Night Sniper Program Available

According to the American Sniper Association in a recent survey that evaluated 219 sniper shootings, forty-five percent of the shootings took place between 6 p.m. and 6 a.m. These surveys when combined with other statistics support the need for law enforcement to be at the leading edge in training and technology.

To answer this challenge, the instructors at JRTS (James River Training Site) have created a course where effective sniper training and night training are integrated from day one. The sniper's skills of concealment, observation and marksmanship are trained in a night, low light or limited visibility environment. This course will

also serve as a means to "get smart" about night vision devices even if your agency has not yet bought any.

This educational course covers topics including: operation and maintenance of various night vision devices, grouping and zeroing with night vision sights, silent movement exercises, understanding comparisons between devices and many more.

This is an advanced training program and is not suitable for entry-level snipers. The JRTS will loan out night vision devices for students in the class so agencies do not have to supply this equipment.

Instructors John Simpson, Assistant Director for JRTS, who has served for over twenty years in both military and



Sniper rifle equipped with night vision law enforcement training, along with Guy Blocker, Vice President of Omar McCall and Associates Inc., and Director of Training for JRTS, will reside over the course.

The Night Sniper Program is a 5-day, 40-hour course offered during August 29 – September 2, 2005. The tuition is \$1000.

Police Precision Scope Rifle Course— For the Experienced and Beginner Marksman

A series of myths is continually being taught to law enforcement officers and marksmen. Many of these myths reveal that sniper training is solely about shooting and slow

fire marksmanship. Other myths concentrate on the cooperation of targets during shooting. In order to help dispel these myths the Smith & Wesson Academy is conducting a class for law enforcement personnel beyond advanced training with a precision scope



Students prepare rifles for course

rifle.

This class has been designed for both experienced and beginner marksmen. The course will instruct students on how to maintain and operate their departmental scope sighted rifle. Safety training along with observation techniques on information gathering will also be taught. Students will also be instructed on how to respond with precision



Class conducted in Springfield, MA on March 7-11, 2005. PPCT Instructor Jack Leonard (in white shirt in front row). Attendees from Toronto, Canada; Derry, NH; Boston, MA and a contingent of U.S. Marines from various posts in the United States.

Inside this Issue:

Less Lethal 2

Officer Profile 3

COPS4Kids Charity 4

continued on page 4

2005 LE Courses

Armorer's Courses

| | |
|---------------------------|-----------|
| Revolver Recertification | May 23-25 |
| Pistol Recertification | May 26-27 |
| Revolver Repair | Jun 8-10 |
| Pistol Repair | Jun 13-15 |
| Double Action Only Pistol | Jun 28-29 |
| SW1911 Repair | Aug 30-31 |
| Revolver Repair | Sep 28-30 |
| Pistol Repair | Oct 3-5 |
| SW99 Repair | Oct 6 |
| Revolver Recertification | Oct 24-26 |
| Pistol Recertification | Oct 27-28 |

Tactical and Special Courses

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|---|--------------|
| Tactical Scope Rifle | May 9-13 |
| Officer Down Rescue | May 23/Sep 9 |
| Night Sniper | Aug 29-Sep 2 |
| Range Master | Aug 29-Sep 2 |
| Reduced Light Practical | |
| Combat Tactics | Sep 7-9 |
| Tactical Pistol | Sep 12-16 |
| Controlled F.O.R.C.E. | Sep 19-23 |
| DDT Defensive Tactics/ Law Enforcement | Oct 3-7 |
| Advanced Tactical Scope Rifle | Oct 3-7 |
| Police Precision Rifle | Oct 17-21 |
| Tactical Emergency Medical Specialist | Oct 17-19 |

Instructor Courses

| | |
|--|------------|
| Firearms Instructor | Jun 13-24 |
| Instinctive Point Shooting Ins | Jun 1-2 |
| Law Enforcement Patrol | |
| Rifle Instructor | May 23-27 |
| Handcuffing Instructor | June 27-28 |
| Weapons Retention & Disarming Instructor | Jul 7-8 |
| Firearms Instructor Update/ Recertification | Jul 11-15 |
| Submachine Gun Instructor | Jul 18-22 |
| Reduced Light Instructor | Jul 25-27 |
| Defensive Tactics Instructor | Aug 8-12 |
| Shotgun Instructor | Aug 15-19 |
| Chemical Munitions Instructor | Aug 22-24 |
| Less Lethal Instructor | Aug 24-26 |

continued on page 4

Reminder

Recertification is required every 4 years for all active Smith & Wesson Armorer's who attend a basic Revolver and/or Pistol Repair program.

To register for courses above or for information call Barbara Grissom at 413-846-6461 or go online at www.smith-wesson.com (S&W Academy Training—Law Enforcement courses).

Less Lethal

by Bill Porter

Less Lethal is a rapidly growing area of law enforcement that has manifested itself in recent years. It simply means, that use of force being applied usually results in a less than lethal consequence. It does not mean it is always less than lethal; simply that it is most of the time. In talking to some people about why they are using some device, they seem shocked that said device could have lethal consequence. You could say they have been living under a rock, but it could be miss-information has been given to the persons involved. Newspapers, and even television use the terminology "less than lethal" while talking about devices that are sometimes lethal. We have to be careful about what we are buying into, after all the end user is the person responsible for the results.

Here at the Academy, we use a large variety of products, shoot them against a test medium and talk about the results. Its not rocket science, you can see the accuracy and the products ability to function. From this you can easily pick a



Instructor Bill Porter demonstrates to the class

product you want for your agency. There are many products out there, and you can't rely on what people tell you. See for yourself, and then you learn the truth.

There is a place for less lethal in your agency. That place and the policy involved have to be decided from within. The issue at present is intermediate use of force is expected, by society and many say even the courts. There is constant review of incidents with the inspection focus on what was done prior to use of deadly force. What did the officer have available and how did he/she use it. Questions are asked, if less lethal were available would deadly force have to be used? The point being,

it is here, it is available, we have to look into it. If we are going to ignore it, we must know why and have rational. If we use it, we have to be responsible for its use; to the people we use it on and to the officers using it. These are serious matters, certainly challenging and worth our time and effort. Armed with proper equipment and training it simply gives our officers a better chance at winning.



Another Look at the Submachine Gun

by Bill Porter

There has been a recent renewed interest in the submachine gun as an alternative to the shotgun or patrol rifle. It has been said our cars lack room for a shotgun or full size rifle. Seems like everything is in the way, radio racks, computers and with the size of the cars, space is of a premium. Many of our officers do not handle a shotgun well, overwhelmed by the recoil, and lack the desire to train with either heavy weapon.

Many of these same people find the SMG fun. The smaller gun is of a size that makes it easy to handle, it fits in the cars more easily and its recoil does not leave people in pain. The pistol caliber weapon can be fired from the shoulder, sternum, underarm assault position or simply pointed and fired. Its report is not as severe as the rifle or shotgun, so if a shooting has to take place inside a building our officer is not so overwhelmed by the noise. All in all it's a more user-friendly firearm to the people who might find grief with the shotgun or patrol rifle, and a reasonable alternative for those agencies who need to



Submachine gun profile

accommodate those people.

The SMG, for the most part, simply replaces a pistol in combat. Sometimes people forget that the SMG is a long barreled pistol with a shoulder stock. For the trainer, teaching SMG technique has many similar characteristics of the pistol. Administrative, load and unload, sustained loading, combat loading, tactical loading, malfunctions, and clearing malfunctions. Depending upon the weapon of choice, if the person has adequate understanding of the pistol, these techniques can be more readily understood. The mechanics of the gun itself become more the issue of learning than the total mechanics of what is taking place in such drills.

With regard to full auto capability versus semi auto, this is a debate that needs to take place within the agency. I feel that there is a need for full automatic fire in some situations. Remember, again, this is a pistol caliber weapon and multiple shots at a fairly quick pace are necessary when dealing with determined people. On the other end of the spectrum if a person knows they are fighting a full auto weapon it may change their mind about this fight. But full automatic fire has to be controlled. Many people get hold of a SMG and simply want to run it dry, and the spray goes everywhere. This is not acceptable, so if you don't have a whole flock of people bringing extra magazines, you should be thinking conserve. If you run out of ammo, then you're back to your pistol.

Before making a switch to the SMG check some things out. First, the caliber you want to be associated with. Secondly, the SMG itself, how user friendly is it? What am I going to have to do to train my people to use it? Ammunition, type, effectiveness and penetration should all be considered. Remember, some of these guns work best with ball ammunition, which has a tendency to over penetrate building materials and sometimes lacks effectiveness on humans. Like any

continued on page 4

Special Programs Available at the Smith & Wesson Academy

International Security & Defense Systems, Ltd. (ISDS) Courses

The Israeli Experience–VIP/Executive Protection

–This 5-day, 50-hour course is for Executive Protection/VIP Protection professionals or those seeking to enter field. Using the unique perspective of Israeli instructors from their real world experience, student learn subjects such as protection issues, driving techniques, rescue and escape procedures, as well as unarmed Krav Maga protection exercises. **Jun 6-10/Oct 31-Nov 4**

The Israeli Experience–Suicide Bombers, Knowing the Enemy, Detection, Deterrence & Defeating

–This course is available to Law Enforcement, Government, and Verified Security Personnel and will provide attendees with the history, motivation, preparation, equipment, and techniques used by suicide bombers. Students will learn how to identify and manage the threat. **Jun 1-3/Oct 26-28**

Weapons Retention & Disarming Instructor

–This course prepares the law enforcement defensive tactics instructor to bring Northeastern Tactical Schools' unique firearms retention and disarming techniques back to their department. This system of firearms retention uses a single method to accomplish every aspect of weapons retention and disarming. Instructors are Mike de Bethencourt and Eric Edgecomb. **Jul 7-8**

Handcuffing Instructor

–Although largely taken for granted, handcuffing techniques are the centerpoint for many assaults on officers and much litigation concerning the use of force. This course is designed to give the instructor the necessary background to conduct a comprehensive handcuffing programs for his or her agency. **Jun 27-28**

Tactical Emergency Medical Specialist

–This program is designed for the Tactical Officer or Emergency Medical Technician assigned to support a Special Response Team. Class includes lecture, hands-on skills and an intensive final day for participant to use and hone their new skills. **Oct 17-19**

Do You Have a Story?

Smith & Wesson Academy is looking for your story. Did a particular course provide you with new, important information? Did the training program provide you with the tools to make the right decisions on the job?

If you have a story about the S&W Academy to share please call or email.

S&W Academy Newsletter
Matt Rice
matt@blueheroncomm.com

Armorers Field Schools and Firearms Training

—Call contact for an application

Alva, OK

Bill Johnson Correctional Center
Sgt. Jeff Franks, 580-327-8000 x112
 —Revolver Repair Jun 7-9

Cedar Grove, NJ

Essex Co. College Police Academy
Det. Peter Corbo, 973-857-1339, x227
 —Pistol Repair Jul 12-14

Pittsburg, CA

Contra Costa Co. Sheriff's Dept.
Jeff Straus, 925-933-9484
 —Pistol Repair Aug 2-4

Montezuma, IA

Brownwell's
Jeannine Kosman, 641-623-5401
 —Pistol Repair Aug 23-25

Crozier, VA

VA Dept. of Corrections
Capt. Greer Fullerton, 804-784-6843
 —Revolver Repair Sep 13-15

Thornton, CO

Thornton Police Dept.
Jeff Patterson, 720-977-5316
 —Pistol Repair Sep 27-29

Fort Worth, TX

Fort Worth Police Dept.
Vange Pueblo, 817-871-6563
 —Revolver Repair Oct 19-21
 —Pistol Repair Oct 24-26

Orange, CA

Orange Co. Sheriff's Office
Lance Ishmael, 714-538-2612
 —Revolver Repair Nov 1-3

London, OH

Ohio Peace Office Training Academy
Registrar's Office, 740-852-4848
 —Pistol Repair Nov 29-Dec 1

S&W Helps Raise \$18K in COPS4KIDS Charity Match

Smith & Wesson in conjunction with The Police Officers Safety Association hosted the first Isabella de Bethencourt Memorial Cops For Kids Match to benefit cancer patients. This event was held at the Smith & Wesson Academy on March 19, 2005.

The COPS4KIDS charity match was formed in honor of eleven-month old Isabella de Bethencourt who succumbed to cancer at Children's Hospital in Boston, MA in May 2003. In appreciation of the selfless, prodigious efforts that the hospital staff made to save her life, Isabella's parents, Heather and Michael, created the event to raise money for the hospital to help other children like Isabella. Since Michael de Bethencourt is a well-known police trainer, a pistol match seemed like a natural way to raise money for a worthy cause.

Eighty-four participants, two-

dozen volunteers and 28 sponsors helped raise over \$18,000 that will benefit the Jimmy Fund at the Dana-Farber Cancer Institute. The event, open to both active and retired law enforcement personnel, featured five stages for team competitions and single participants -- similar to an ISPC or IDPA match. Smith & Wesson donated four pistols as prizes to the top four winners along with match commemoratives to all the competitors.

"The Cops For Kids Match presented us with a tremendous opportunity to combine our passion for shooting sports with a charity that has been a leader in the fight against cancer," said Tom Taylor, Smith & Wesson Vice President of Marketing. "We received such remarkable support throughout the community and industry that we will soon be making a decision on turning this match into an annual event."

LE Courses

continued from page 2

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| Instinctive Point Shooting Ins | Sep 13-14 |
| Advanced Law Enforcement | |
| Patrol Rifle Instructor | Sep 19-23 |
| Tactical Folding Knife Instr | Sep 27-28 |
| Dynamics of Live Fire | |
| Judgement Instructor | Oct 3-5 |
| Ballistic Shield Instructor | Oct 4-6 |
| Firearms Instructor Update/ Recertification | Oct 10-14 |

Submachine Gun

continued from page 2

other product, get out and shoot it, shoot as many different ones as you can, see for yourself, as always, hands on is the best method.

Next course is available July 18-22.

Precision Scope

continued from page 1

rifle fire against stationary targets in order to successfully defend themselves and others in life-threatening situations. The course will also cover calculating hit probability taking into account the dispersion caused by the shooter, the weapon and the ammunition.

This course can best be characterized as emphasizing the "science" rather than the "art" of sniping. Rather than trying to achieve an arbitrary marksmanship standard, attendees will fire an end of course test that will determine their optimum engagement range.

John Simpson, retired US Army Special Forces training instructor, will demonstrate the functions of the sniper weapon system and of ballistic data. The Police Precision Scope Rifle course is a 5-day, 40-hour course offered during October 17 – 21, 2005. The tuition cost for the course is \$900.