Law Enforcement Training

Limitations

Part 1
Location

SUMMARY

This report covers a common problem that law enforcement training has and a solution for overcoming those issues. This problem is the limited availability of training grounds suitable for tactical training. Law enforcement agencies that must regularly train for any kind of hostile situation need to be fully prepared. Part of being fully prepared means knowing key strategies and tactics with an awareness of surroundings in any environment. These may include a school, bank, street corner, amusement park, neighborhood, etc. Typical law enforcement training methods limit the amount of places where a group can train. The use of projectiles and other hazardous equipment poses a danger to some surroundings or creates a mess that is time-consuming to clean up.

There is a training option available from iCOMBAT that removes the above mentioned issues and allows law enforcement to train anywhere, including the actual areas they serve.

Problem

All too often law enforcement agencies find themselves at a disadvantage when training for hostile events that may occur at any moment. Dangerous situations often appear at random times in random locations. The ability of law enforcement to successfully counter the situation depends on the amount of and thoroughness of the training they receive. If an armed bank robbery occurs, a prepared and knowledgeable response team will produce safer, better results than, say a team who has never received any tactical training or education regarding a bank environment. The same can be said for incidences at schools and other highly populated areas.

Current law enforcement tactical training methods and tools carry several disadvantages and limit the amount of places where a response team can train. The majority of current training tools such as Simunition, paintball, and live-fire all use projectiles and are either too dangerous or too messy to be used in normal environments. Virtual reality is another option, but is too unrealistic and pricey to be used as a viable means of training. While each might hold a certain advantage, the ability to train in any location is severely limited. Those projectiles can damage surroundings and limit the ability of observers or trainers to watch over the exercise and provide instruction. A SWAT team using Simunition will never have the chance to train inside of a school or on an urban street corner. The general public is often prevalent in these types of areas as well. Securing a location to train with these projectile-based or virtual training methods takes a lot of time, money, and effort in order to maximize training efficiency.

Not being able to train and discuss tactics and issues for any environment puts law enforcement a step behind criminal activity. Criminals always do the picking of their targets, locations, and times, and can succeed if a 'good-guy' response is slow, unprofessional, or worse, unprepared.

Lt. Paul Repischak of the New Berlin, WI SWAT team stated that, "The single most important factor in our tactical training methods is to prepare our guys for any situation. This means being able to successfully eliminate a threat that could happen anywhere, at any time. We lose a little preparedness with our current training methods because we are not able to do live training inside certain environments. We can only discuss them."

Solution

There is a great need for law enforcement to be able to train anywhere, in order to be as prepared as possible during dangerous occurrences. A recent survey of police departments around the nation, conducted by iCOMBAT, revealed that being able to train in any environment is very important (ranked 4.3 out of 5).

Providing law enforcement with a training method safe for use in any environment is a solvable challenge. The training equipment must meet the criteria of not using a projectile *and* not leaving a mess. It has to allow bystanders, and use in any area where a crime may occur. It is up to the law enforcement agency to determine which environments to train in, since training is also location specific. A rural Wisconsin police department probably does not need to obtain tactical training in a busy urban street corner, but should be knowledgeable with rural areas.

The iCOMBAT system meets the above criteria and provides law enforcement training with the best method possible for tactical training in any location. The irM4, the first and primary training rifle available, modeled after the AR15 platform, allows law enforcement to realistically train in any environment. The rifle discharges no projectile but instead emits an infrared signal, similar to laser tag. This beam is entirely eye safe and will not harm nearby objects. Trainees wear the irHarness or irVest, which can pick up shots fired from the irM4. The rifle uses advanced laser technology and operates just as an AR15 would. The shooter will experience live sounds, not electronically produced sounds, and feel actual recoil.

The ability granted by iCOMBAT to train anywhere provides law enforcement agencies from around the nation to train in every environment. They will be more prepared to save lives wherever a crisis may occur. The system can be used in many ways. Tactical teams can practice entry, movement, hostage situations, and more, all while allowing instructors to participate. The need for protective gear is eliminated and no mess is created. Teams can easily run their drill and leave when the time comes. The iCOMBAT system is quick, efficient, and allows for training anywhere.

For more information on how iCOMBAT systems can benefit your law enforcement agency, please visit www.iCOMBAT.com or call 888-950-1221.

References

Police Survey, August-October 2010. 500 recipients. Conducted by iCOMBAT using Constant Contact.

Lt. Paul Repischak. December 2010. New Berlin PD, SWAT Team.