President’s Message

Another year has gone by and for many of us would say it went by like a flash. I hope all of you had a wonderful Christmas and New Year’s Holiday with family and friends. It’s a new year and much is to be done like all the previous years being involved with public safety, protecting our cultural/natural resources and environmental education.

Since the last time I wrote to PLEA members in early Fall we had our Mid-Year Board Meeting at the NRPA Congress and Exposition in St. Louis, Missouri which was held October 21-25, 2003. I was glad to see many of our Board members attending the Conference as well as other members of PLEA. The Board minutes are contained in the following pages. PLEA also sponsored five program sessions which you will read about also in this newsletter. Special thanks goes to Assistant Chief Park Ranger John Nesbit with the St. Louis County Park Rangers and staff for presenting several program sessions and staffing the PLEA Booth with uniformed Park Rangers at the Exposition. Many thanks goes to the other presenters as well and hope you received my letter.

Nesbit also was instrumental in coordinating and producing several Park Ranger, Park Police, Conservation Agency, etc., patch boards at the booth as well.

On another note, prior to the Board Meeting that was held Friday, October 24 I regretfully received two separate Board of Director’s resignations from two Past Presidents of PLEA. They were Chief Park Ranger Steve Pokrywka of the Unified Government of Wyandotte County Park Rangers in Kansas City Kansas and Chief Tim Curtin of Forest Preserve District of DuPage County in Wheaton, Illinois. Steve retired after 20 years of service with his Agency in June of 2003 and left the profession to pursue a family operated business in Augusta, Georgia. Steve expressed how hard of a decision it was contemplating retiring from law enforcement and resigning from the PLEA Board after 12 years. Steve mentioned all the close relationships he developed over the years involved with PLEA. For many of you know Steve’s wife Traci, who was a delight to be around attended just about every annual PLEA Conference with him. We will miss them both and sure our paths will cross again soon.

Chief Tim Curtin accepted an Early Retirement Incentive offered by his Agency, retiring November 29, 2003. Tim as I last heard has not made any specific decisions regarding his future endeavors, but in the meantime, for the next several months has accepted an administrative position within the Park District. Tim expressed how greatly PLEA influenced his professional development and was very proud to have been part of such an outstanding Association. Tim, you will be solely missed and thanks for the 16 years you have given to PLEA. To Tim and Steve, all of us at PLEA wish you both the very best in the future.

We are very close to PLEA’s 25th Annual Conference which will be held from February 26 - 28 at Lake Murray State Park in Ardmore, Oklahoma. The Board Meeting will be held the morning prior, February 25th. Chief Ranger Larry Habelger of Oklahoma State Parks and his staff have been working very hard coordinating the 2004 Conference.

I would like to pledge to all PLEA members to join us, especially all the other interested constituents in Colorado, and Arizona. Conference brochures were sent to all members and more information can be found on our website at www.parkranger.com. Please send in your registrations as soon as possible. I assure you this will be another great Conference.

One final note, I have already assumed the honorable duty of being the next Editor of the PLEA Newsletter, effective January 1, 2004. I pledge to all State Affiliates and Board of Directors to send me one article quarterly from yourself or from an Agency staff member that would be of interest to our readers. Information from our State Affiliates is a must identifying upcoming training and workshops. Articles written from a field law enforcement experience are easy to write, interesting and educational. Send them to me at stuart.foland@jocogov.org.

Thanks and I will see you in Oklahoma in February.
On October 21-25 2003 the NRPA Congress and Expo was held in St. Louis Missouri. In conjunction with that event the Park Law Enforcement Association presented several workshops including:

- Corps of Discovery- Lewis and Clark and St. Louis
- Safe Trails-Patrolling with Volunteers
- Cruising for Sex-Not in My Park
- Nude Recreation-Parks and Recreation benefits
- Slavery and the Underground Railroad

Most of the sessions were well attended and many positive comments were received. Attendees were awarded CEU’s for achieving the course objectives.

Park Rangers from the St. Louis County Parks Department were responsible for 2 of the sessions;

Ranger Jerry Wilson and Ranger Cheryl Fechter presented a living history demonstration of a Mountain Man and Sacagawea. The audience was treated to a brief history of the Lewis and Clark expedition (Anniversary event 2003-2004) and how St. Louis became the “Gateway to the West”. Demonstrations of tools and clothing showed the hardships that those early explorers endured during the trek to the Pacific and back. On top of this, attendees learned the links between learning styles and how that can benefit resource protecting by developing a real appreciation for our country’s history.

Later on in the morning Ranger Supervisor Steve Tiemann and Ranger Mary Cranor presented Safe Trails- Patrolling with Volunteers. Their PowerPoint presentation went through the process that our department used in developing the Trail Watch volunteer program and the selection, training and deployment of those volunteers. They also explained typical situations that these valuable volunteers handle, their equipment, how we reward their service and finally one of the volunteers closed out the session by talking about some of his personal experiences while working.

Another highlight of the Congress was the unveiling of the new PLEA patch boards at the PLEA display booth. Assisted by St. Charles County Park Rangers my department staffed the booth in the Expo hall. Many people stopped by to visit, ask questions and look over the patch collection. [If you would like to have your patch displayed you can mail one to Stuart Foland or me and I will make sure it’s on the board in time for the 2004 workshop].

Behind the scenes I was assisted by Bill Jacobs and Stuart Foland plus other members of my department with administrative and logistical support. Thanks to them for making PLEA and my department a successful part of the NRPA Congress.
During the training session I took 7 courses and 6 of the courses were credited through the University of Virginia for a total of 17 credit hours earned. The other course was a mandatory course in Fitness in Law Enforcement and no credit hours were earned for this course. The following is a review of the courses I attended during the ten weeks.

Overview of Forensic Science for Police Administrators & Managers – 3 Credit Hours

The class was a basic overview of forensic science; this course dealt with a variety of forensic science issues. Instruction included class lecture, class discussion, demonstrations, and actual cases reviews. The course addressed a general overview manner, numerous forensic science issues such as managing the crime scene, role and value of different types of physical evidence, and current trends and issues.

Topical Outline:

- Evaluation of overall procedures to manage a crime scene
- Assessment of the importance of securing and protecting a crime scene
- Discussion of the importance of a complete, thorough, & detailed search of the crime scene
- Emphasis of the role of the first responder in the crime scene search process
- Evaluation of mineralogical evidence & the role it can play in a criminal investigation
- Evaluation and role of firearm evidence & the use of computerized comparisons
- Outlining recent developments in fingerprint evidence
- Exploration of the latest advancements in DNA technology & its significance in the advancement of forensic science
- Assessment of the role of forensic chemistry, forensic entomology and medical-legal evidence in forensic science
- Determination of the nature of hair & fiber evidence and the role it plays in criminal investigations
- Discussion of the origin, character & nature of biological pathogens & their effect on physical evidence
- Assessment of the nature of explosives related evidence & bombing crime scene investigations
- Discussion of restoration, preservation and examination of documentary evidence

Effective Communication – 3 Credit Hours

The course was an introduction to the study of speech communications. It focused on the proper preparation and presentation of speeches to inform, to persuade, and for ceremonial occasions. The course emphasized public speaking techniques and coping with communication apprehension. Five Oral and several written exercises were designed to help the student become a more articulate, confident and fluent communicator.

Topical Outline:

- Introductory Talk
- Impromptu Speaking
- Introduction to Communication
- Nonverbal Communication
- Speech Apprehension
- Speech Preparation and Presentation
- Informative Speaking
- Persuasive Speaking
- Research Methodology
- Speech for Ceremonial Occasions
- Visual Aids
- Organizational Patterns of Speeches
- Speaking Extemporaneously
- Figures of Speech and Rhetorical Devices

Management for Law enforcement – 3 Credit Hours

This course was a basic survey of management theory and management functions, which relate to law enforcement. Issues germane to law enforcement managers were addressed from both a theoretical perspective and pragmatic utility, enabling the student to possess an overall insight into law enforcement management as we approach the 21st Century.

Topical Outline:

- Management Theory
- Management Functions
- Paradigms of Management
- Communication for Productivity
- Motivation
- Power
- Time Management
- Situational Leadership
- Personality Assessment
- Leadership in the Law Enforcement Culture
Personal World Views
Change and Transition Management

Extremists Groups in a Democratic Society – 3 Credit Hours

This course focused on the rise of politically, socially and/or religiously motivated criminal activity in the U.S. that has had a profound effect on our citizenry, and correspondingly, law enforcement agencies. The events of Sept. 11, 2001, have forever altered the manner in which law enforcement agencies do their jobs. The potential for future acts of violence in America is great and the role of homeland security has never been more vital. The course examined the sociological and psychological group processes found within right-wing, left-wing, international and religious groups. As well, various strategies will be developed which law enforcement agencies can utilize in the furtherance of homeland security. Other matters of interest to law enforcement agencies, to include legal issues, the weapons employed by terrorist groups and resources available to police agencies, will be examined.

Topical Outline:
- Terrorist Theory/Group Analysis Protocol
- Social Psychology/Group Dynamics
- Organizational Behavior
- Legal Issues
- Law Enforcement Resources
- International Groups
- New Religious Movements
- Crime Analysis & Homeland Security
- Futuristics & Homeland Security
- Community Policing & Extremism
- Hate Crimes
- Weapons of Terrorist
- Domestic Groups (i.e. Skinheads, KKK, ELF, ALF, and Neo-Nazi’s etc.)

Legal Issues for Command Level Officers – 3 Credit Hours – Mandatory Course

This course provided Federal, State, and Local Command-Level Officers with an update in recent developments in Federal Criminal Procedural Law as it relates to management policy-making decisions on the State, and local level, and the application of various Federal Constitutional and Statutory Rights to the public workplace.

Topical Outline:
- The Federal Constitution and the Bill of Rights
- Recent Developments in Search and Seizure Law
- Recent Developments in Confessions Law
- The Law of Deadly Force
- Civil Liability of Police Officers and departments
- Internal Investigations
- US Department of Justice Civil Rights Investigations
- Federal Constitutional Rights in the Public Workplace, i.e. Freedom of Speech, Religion,
- Association, Due Process, and Liberty Interests
- Federal Statutory Rights in the Public Workplace, i.e. Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and ADA.

Introduction of Microcomputers in Law Enforcement – 2 Credit Hours – Extra Course

This course instructed the law enforcement officer who has little or no experience with microcomputers. The primary goals were to provide an orientation to the fundamentals of microcomputers operation and to help the student cultivate computer-learning skills. Major software applications in the Windows operating environment were covered.

Topical Outline:
- The basics of how microcomputers work and relevant terminology
- Working in a Windows Environment
- Word Processing Concepts
- Introduction to Presentation Graphics Application
- Introduction to Spreadsheets
- Introduction to the Internet
- Reading E-mail headers

Fitness in Law enforcement – No Credit with Mandatory Participation

The fitness class was held 3 to 4 times a week for 2 hours. The classroom portion of the session was 20 hours and exercise/gym portion of the session was 24 hours. The classroom course was about the need for exercise, nutrition, proper equipment, how to loose weight, how to eat, and how it relates to law enforcement and shift work. The second part of the course was the exercise work. We started off every session with an extensive stretching routine, followed by sit-ups, push-ups or medicine ball work, and then a run or some type of aerobic exercise. Every Thursday we had a challenge run, the first week was 1.8 miles and on week nine we finished with the Yellow Brick Road run and obstacle course which was 6.2 miles in length. We did these runs as a group. The first week they measured your flexibility, maximum sit-ups in a minute, maximum push-ups without stopping, weight, body fat, and blood pressure. They took these measurements again in week ten to see if you improved.

Topical Outline:
- Weight Training and Weight Room Apparatus
- Diet and Nutrition
December 2003 IPLEA Newsletter

Fall Conference

In September we held our annual Fall IPLEA conference in Crystal Lake Illinois. It was hosted by the Crystal Lake park District and the McHenry County Conservation District. The Conference was a huge success, with topics on designer drugs, field interviews and interrogation, and legal aspects of law enforcement.

Distinguished Officer Award

At the fall conference IPLEA recognized the following officers for their dedication and service to Park Law Enforcement:

Park and Recreation Law Enforcement Officer of the Year.

There are two categories:

Exceptional service - An officer who has demonstrated exceptional service to your agency on a consistent or regular basis

Meritorious Action - An officer who you believe has performed an act of valor, bravery or heroism or has handled a significant incident with exceptional professionalism.

Officer Ryan Stewart (McHenry County Conservation District Police) received the award for Meritorious Action. Chief Jeff Deidrick advised that on Saturday, July 26, 2003 while on regular patrol, Officer Stewart observed a 1998 Ford Escort with four occupants go off the roadway into the pond at the Rush Creek Conservation area. Without hesitation or thinking of his own safety, Officer Stewart went into the water and rescued the still trapped occupants out of the nearly submerged car and assisted them to the shoreline and safety. Fire, Rescue and Divers were called to the scene to check out the victims and to assist with the tow as after the rescue the car was totally submerged.

His quick thinking and unselfish actions proved prosperous, as everyone in the vehicle was unharmed.

Winter Retreat

We are planning the 2004 winter retreat with the topic being "Hot Topics in Law Enforcement". Everyone attending should bring their policies/procedures or ordinances from their department. Any questions in reference to creating or rewording policies/procedures or ordinances can be brought up and discussed with other attendees. For instance, the Fox Valley Park District is in the process of creating skate board parks. I plan on discussing with other agencies any problems they have run into with these types of parks. Other topics might include Dog parks and Frisbee golf parks.

Carolyn M. Stark
President IPLEA
I. Call to Order/ Roll Call and Introduction of Guests – Stuart Foland

Attendees: Stuart Foland, Larry Brownlee Sr., Fred McCormick, Bill Jacobs, Tim Curtin, Norm Lapera, Bruce Wicks

Past Presidents: Ralph Hays

Guests: Asst. Chief John Nesbit from Saint Louis County Parks, St. Louis, Missouri and Lt. Rick Haake of Forest Preserve District of Dupage County, Wheaton, Illinois

President Stuart Foland called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m.

Stuart thanked Assistant Chief Nesbit and his Agency staff for their assistance at the NRPA Conference, providing presenters at PLEA sponsored sessions and staffing the PLEA booth with uniformed Park Rangers at the NRPA Exposition.

II. Approval of Minutes from March 5, 2003 Board Meeting in Covington, Kentucky at the 24th Annual PLEA Conference.

Minutes were read and motion to approve by Tim Curtin, second by Larry Brownlee Sr. and motion passed unanimously.

III. Treasurer’s Report – Fred McCormick

Fred McCormick passed out his report indicating a transfer of account monies from the Maryland PLEA account to the PLEA account opened at Twin Cities Federal in Minneapolis, MN on 03/28/03 of $12,000.00. It also showed on $3,548.27 was forwarded on 5/30/03 closing the Maryland account. The ending balance on 9/30/03 was reported as $21,602.52.

Included in this report were additional income items that included membership renewals, 2003 PLEA Conference net income and other disbursements for PLEA’s Administrative Services (Digital Graphiti) and newsletters. Outstanding checks were written 4/10/03 through 9/25/03.

Motion to approve by Larry Brownlee Sr., seconded by Norm Lapera and motion passed unanimously.

Note: March 2003 PLEA Conference income was $9,229.28

IV. Newsletter Editor – Norm Lapera

Norm advised he sent e-mails previously requesting newsletter articles from members for content in upcoming newsletters Norm said content continues to be the most challenging part as Editor.

Norm complimented Digital Graphiti in assisting him over the years with sifting through the PLEA membership list in updating member information to avoid duplication of information for mail distributions.

Norm advised Stuart Foland would assume Editor duties of the PLEA newsletter beginning January 2004. The next distribution of the newsletter will be around the first week of December 2003.

Norm suggested Stuart apply for non-profit/exempt status with the U. S. Postal Service in mailing the newsletters. Norm stated the average cost in providing each member three newsletters per year is about $12.

Board members advised Stuart to send the newsletter electronically to all members that have provided e-mail addresses to Digital Graphiti.
V. PLEA Program Planning Committee Report – Bill Jacobs

Bill provided a comprehensive handout of PLEA program summary for NRPA 2003 and program ideas for 2004 for the next NRPA Conference in Reno/Tahoe, NV. Bill thanked Bruce Wicks, Ralph Hays, John Nesbit and others for their assistance to the Program Planning Committee and PLEA sponsored programs. Bill advised three of the programs already presented were well attended and presenters were rated in the excellent rating area. Bill read the six PLEA programs that were being presented at this year’s NRPA Conference and they are as follows:

- Corps of Discovery
- Safe Trails – Patrol with Volunteers
- Cruising For Sex? In MY Park?
- Nude Recreation
- Slavery and the Underground Railroad
- Security For Large Events

Discussion among Board members began with the prime focus being on providing quality programs as with every year. Program ideas generated for NRPA2004 session proposals included the following topics.

 NOTE: Board Members listed below in parenthesis may have a presenter for the program or willing to chair program.

- “Workplace Violence” – Prevention whether Internal or External? (Bill Jacobs)
- “Homeland Security in Park and Recreation Facilities” (Ralph Hays or Larry Brownlee)
- “Successful Partnerships With Law Enforcement” – Various Park Law Enforcement Agencies (5 or 6) presenting 10 – 15 minute intervals on programs that have been successful to their respective law enforcement function.
- “Safety and Security Issues with Skate Parks” or Dog Parks or Water Parks
- “Using Park Police Officers within the Schools” (Fred McCormick)
- “Cops Camp For Kids”- How L.E. works with children, a mentor. (Larry Brownlee)

Bill mentioned session proposals are due to NRPA no later than December 5, 2003. Please e-mail or send session proposals to Bill as soon as possible (captainwaj@juno.com).

VI. 2004 PLEA Conference Update – Stuart Foland

Stuart advised he has been in contact with Chief Larry Habegger with Oklahoma State Parks, host agency for PLEA's 25th Annual Conference. The conference will be held south of Oklahoma City at Lake Marie State Park in Hardmore, Oklahoma. The conference dates have been confirmed starting with the PLEA Board of Director's Meeting on Wednesday, February 25, 2004. Chief Habegger also advised conference logistics are moving along as scheduled and expect to have the conference registration brochure to members sometime in November.

Stuart submitted four Conference logos to the Board in determining the 25th Anniversary Conference logo. One logo was picked by Board majority vote from the four examples shown and Stuart will inform Chief Habegger of this logo.

Updated conference information will be appearing on the PLEA website as it becomes available.

VII. State Affiliate Updates

KPLEA (Kansas) – Stuart read a letter submitted by KPLEA President, Sgt. Blake Frigon. Sgt. Frigon advised KPLEA last workshop was held on April 15, 2003 in Wichita, Kansas. The training was titled “Setting Up KCJIS/NCIC Systems which explains how to set up office computers in accessing background information, driver’s license checks, warrants or warrants, etc. The next KPLEA Workshop is titled “Becoming familiar With Different K-9 Units” and will be held on November 5, 2003 at Cheney State Park near Wichita, Kansas. This workshop will outline the different types of K-9 units than can assist law enforcement in a variety of situations. There will be on-site demonstrations showing K-9’s at work. KPLEA is also working on presentations at universities and to involve college students in a rotation program with park law enforcement agencies.

There will also be two days of law enforcement training in January 2004 at the Kansas Park and Recreation Association Conference.

Ohio PLEA – Stuart reported he received information from President Gary Hoffman earlier this fall that Ohio PLEA will be conducting training on Fraudulent Identification and Language Barriers. In February of 2004 there will be a day of law enforcement sessions offered at the Ohio Parks and Recreation Association Conference. Ohio PLEA has around 40 members.

IPLEA (Illinois) – Lt. Rick Haake, Past President of IPLEA reported that IPLEA remains strong with about 80 members at present. There is also a two-day winter conference where IPLEA will have law enforcement training sessions. Carolyn Stark with Fox Valley Park District is currently President.

Utah State Park Officers Association – No Report

Stuart reported there are continuing efforts for New Mexico, Florida, Arizona, and Missouri to form State Affiliates to PLEA.

Bill Jacobs mentioned that Jeff Spellman, Park Ranger III with the City of Phoenix Park and Recreation and one of
their Commissioners, Rene E. Vera was interested in PLEA and hosting a conference in the future.

VIII. Old Business – 2005 PLEA Conference Update and Future Conference Sites

Tim Curtin, addressed the Board concerning his Agency having to unfortunately withdraw from hosting the 2005 PLEA Conference due to in part his accepting early retirement incentive, plus administration realignment and other staff leaving the Agency. Curtin did however state, the possibility of his Agency hosting in 2006 if members of his Department continue to be involved with PLEA. Curtin stated that he would like to make a motion during New Business to submit Lt. Rick Haake for consideration to the PLEA Board of Directors.

Stuart stated in receipt of this new information he telephoned Fred McCormick to see if the Minneapolis Park Police could host in 2005, a year earlier than planned. Fred advised their Agency is in the process of new administrators being hired in January/February 2004. Fred advised he contacted nearby Three Rivers Park District to join in the effort of possibly co-hosting the PLEA Conference and is hopeful to submit a proposal to the new administrators for approval in hosting the PLEA Conference in 2005. Fred will advise Stuart when more information becomes available.

Future Conference sites for 2006 and beyond were put on hold for next PLEA Board Meeting in Oklahoma.

IX. New Business

Board members advised Stuart to continue reimbursement to Bill Jacobs on reasonable expenses incurred while attending PLEA or NRPA related Conferences. Bill continues to coordinates PLEA’s Program Planning Committee Report and attends NRPA Program Planning Committee Meetings when Bruce Wicks is not able to do so.

Tim Curtin submitted his letter of resignation as Director on the Board of the Park Law Enforcement Association to President Stuart Foland dated September 29, 2003. Tim was a Past President of PLEA and a long time Board Member covering 15 years.

Tim is retiring from his position as Chief of the Law Enforcement Department with Forest Preserve District of DuPage County in Wheaton, Illinois effective November 29, 2003. Tim has 29 years of service with his Agency. Tim will be taking some time off before making any specific decisions regarding the re-engineering of his career.

Motion was made by Norm Lapera to accept Tim’s resignation, seconded by Larry Brownlee Sr. and motion passed unanimously.

Steve Pokrywka submitted his letter of resignation to President Stuart Foland as Director on the Board of the Park Law Enforcement Association dated October 23, 2003. Steve was another Past President of PLEA and long time Board Member with 12 years of service.

Steve Pokrywka retired as Chief Park Ranger with Unified Government of Wyandotte County, Kansas City, Kansas in June earlier this year. Steve had 20 years of service with his Agency. Steve left the profession to pursue a family operated business in Augusta, Georgia.

PLEA will solely miss Tim and Steve, their valued friendship, leadership and time they have given to this Association. We wish them the best of success and happiness in their new endeavors. Good luck Steve and Tim!

Tim Curtin submitted Lt. Rick Haake of Forest Preserve District of Dupage County for consideration to the PLEA Board of Directors. Tim stated Rick is Past President of IPLEA, has attended many PLEA Conferences over the years and played an integral part in his Agency receiving CALEA Accreditation. Tim said Rick is his right hand man and holds a Master’s Degree in Public Administration. Tim feels Rick would serve the Association well if elected.

Tim made a motion to approve, seconded by Bill Jacobs and motion passed unanimously electing Rick to the PLEA Board of Directors.

X. Committee Reports

Membership and Education Committee (M&E) chaired by Mike Burko was unable to make the trip to St. Louis. Mike submitted some items for discussion that will be addressed amongst Committee members prior to next meeting in Oklahoma and will report additional information at that time. Committee members are Mike Burko and Norm Lapera.

Steve Pokrywka was selected as Chair of the newly formed Scholarship Committee at last meeting in Covington, Kentucky. Committee members include Larry Brownlee Sr., Nate Pinkard, and Rick Haake. It was decided Committee would report at next meeting the criteria for selecting applicants/recipients for the Newell S. Rand Jr. Memorial Scholarship Fund. Selected recipients receive a one-time $500 scholarship.

XI. Board Member Reports

Stuart asked Norm Lapera to chair Nominating Committee for election of PLEA Executive Board Officers at next Board Meeting. Norm accepted. No other reports presented.

XII. Adjournment – 3:20 p.m.

Minutes submitted by President of PLEA - Stuart Foland
Handgun Design Defect And Remedy

The Defect:

Most handguns do not have a simple, practical, and reliable means for accurately aiming and shooting them in close quarters self defense situations. That defect could be the basis for legal action against gun makers, sellers, and trainers under State statutes or via common law product liability claims of defective design, and failure-to-warn.

Handguns do have sights for use in accurately aiming and shooting them, and the use of the sights to aim and shoot with, is taught in training courses. However, based on shooting data, videos, scientific publications, and papers provided by or via police and others such as: Bruce K. Siddle, Lt. Col. Dave Grossman (NYPD - SOP 9), Lt. Darin Clay, Lt. Dean T. Olson, and Darren Laur a Canadian LEO, it has become clear that in real life and death close quarters situations, the sights are not used, or cannot be used to accurately aim and shoot. That is reality. And the police miss rate of about 80% in armed encounters, is an example of it.

In the past, failure to use the sights and bad accuracy, were blamed on operator error and/or inadequate training. Now, a growing body of evidence shows that they are a natural result of using a handgun which requires the use of the gun sights to accurately aim and shoot in close quarters life threat situations. In those situations, what is called the Body Alarm Reaction, is automatically and instinctively activated. It is a hereditary self preservation mechanism that when activated, triggers a number of immediate physiological changes.

Two of those physiological changes are the loss of use of fine motor skills and near vision. Both of them are needed to use the gun sights to accurately aim and shoot. And without them, accuracy and survival become a matter of chance.

The Remedy:

There is a simple, practical, reliable, and inexpensive remedy available now. It is an aiming aid that can be added to or incorporated into handguns. It does not require the use of the gun sights, fine motor skills, or near vision for accurate aiming and shooting at close quarters. And it is very easy to use, and can be used effectively with little or no training.

Anyone who wishes to make and add the aid to their personal firearms, is welcome to do so, if done at their own risk and expense and if they accept full responsibility for any and all results. I own the patent (US # 6023874 - 2/15/00), so I can make that offer.

The offer also applies to police agencies and airlines that wish to make and add the aid, to agency or company weapons, and to gunsmiths needed to do that work.

More information and details on the handgun defect, remedy, shooting data and documents mentioned, plus additional info and links, can be found at this URL: http://www.pointshooting.com/tort.htm

Test shoot info with photos of "test" versions of the aiming aid, and instructions on how to "roll your own" are at: http://www.pointshooting.com/guntests.htm

JOHN VEIT
1222 144TH ST SE
MILL CREEK, WA 98012
425/338-5935 - 9-5 Pacific Coast Time Please
E-mail ps@pointshooting.com

2004 PLEA Workshop

The Annual Park Law Enforcement Conference is designed to educate members of the professional association for recreational law enforcement. PLEA is affiliated with the National Recreation and Park Association and is dedicated to the advancement of law enforcement in parks and the safety of park personnel and visitors. The workshop is open to anyone with professional interest in recreational law enforcement.

The role of PLEA is to improve law enforcement and visitor protection services in park and recreation areas through professional development, thus better assuring the "quality of life" leisure opportunity to local, state and national park recreations areas.

PLEA Conference Host

Your host for the 2004 conference is Oklahoma Tourism & Recreation Department State Park Rangers; Larry Habegger, Chief Ranger. Conference information, registration and transportation is being handled by Tyra Owen. Please call her at 405-522-0953 or fax 405-521-4686 for registration. Transportation arrangements must be made at least 10 days in advance.
Park Law Enforcement Association

ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Law Enforcement and Visitor Protection Workshop

February 25-28, 2004
Lake Murray Resort Park
Ardmore, Oklahoma