# NRA LAW ENFORCEMENT QUARTERLY

## 2016 NRA Law Enforcement Firearm Instructor of the Year

The NRA Law Enforcement Division is proud to announce the 2016 NRA Law Enforcement Firearm Instructor of the Year is Sergeant Ward Smith of the Kansas City Missouri Police Department. Sgt. Smith is a 29-year veteran with the KCPD, which consists of approximately 1350 sworn members and 550 civilian employees.

Sgt. Smith was first certified as an NRA Firearms Instructor in 1984 while serving with the Excelsior Springs Police Department, prior to joining the KCPD. At the KCPD, Sgt. Smith has been assigned to the Professional Development and Research Bureau/Firearms Training and Tactics Section since 2006. Prior assignments include basic training supervisor, SWAT supervisor, Special Operations Division-Operations sergeant, and patrol supervisor.

Sgt. Smith currently serves as the Missouri Peace Officers Standards and Training (POST) firearms subject matter expert, subject matter expert to the Missouri Attorney General's office, board member of the National Law Enforcement Training Center, co-chairman of the officer-involved shooting review panel for KCPD, notable events review panel member for KCPD, and an officer-involved shooting investigative team member for the KC Metro area.

Sgt. Smith has received his agency's Medal of Valor, the Metropolitan Police Chief's Association Award for Valor, two certificates of commendation for heroism, two meritorious service awards, and 10 special unit Citations. He holds several NRA Law Enforcement Firearm Instructor Certifications, is a certified Force Science Institute Force Analyst, and has authored articles on firearms training and use of force.



Additionally, Sgt. Smith is the author of the KCPD Badge Placement Study, which analyzed how officers scan and identify subjects during a critical situation, specifically other officers in plain clothes. This study was published in several industry periodicals, including *Police Chief Magazine*, the Federal Law Enforcement Training Center, and other law enforcement organizations.

Upon assignment to the Firearms Training and Tactics Section, Sgt. Smith did a comprehensive review of training and teaching methodology, specifically looking for any practices that kept officers from reaching their potential. By refocusing efforts that placed the development of personnel at the center of the training effort, the KCPD Firearms Training and Tactics Staff steadily increased the number of officers who could qualify on their first attempt.

The KCPD Firearms Training and Tactics Staff are responsible for triannual training for the members of the agency, which totals over 16,000 man-hours of training each year. Additionally, they provide mandatory training for Kansas City's 2,200+ privately licensed security officers, 120+ hours of training for each Kansas City Missouri Regional Training Academy Recruit class, and specialty classes in light-mounted firearms, patrol rifle, precision rifle, advanced handgun, and several other disciplines.

The KCPD has been at the forefront of training in regard to De-escalation techniques and controlling proximity during critical incidents. Sgt. Smith and his training staff have been recognized nationally for training developed to address these issues. Sgt. Smith has developed presentations for the KCPD Citizens Police Academy, the KCPD Family

continued on page 4



## Should we be done with shotguns?

#### BY DAVE O'CONNOR

The shotgun has been an essential part of the law enforcement inventory for almost a century. The obvious need for something more powerful than a handgun was evident early on and the shotgun was a natural choice. The pump action shotgun, in particular, fit that need nicely. For decades, there was hardly a patrol car in the U.S. that did not have a pump shotgun mounted somewhere in the vehicle. In those early years and into the mid-1990s, officers normally had only that one option if a situation dictated the use of a long gun. Because there was only one choice, most officers either loved or hated the shotgun.

The typical police shotgun sported a bead sight, fixed wooden stock and fourround magazine tube. If you were really lucky, your agency would spring for an extended magazine tube increasing the capacity to seven or eight rounds. Those tubes were normally stoked with buckshot or slugs, or a combination of both. Most agencies did not issue shotguns to individuals, but had them checked out at the beginning of a shift. As a result of this constant transfer, most shotguns looked like they had survived the Normandy landings. This lack of accountability often resulted in little or no preventative maintenance practices. Many senior officers can tell horror stories of finding cigarette butts, gum wrappers and other debris in the muzzle of a shotgun assigned to a pool vehicle shared amongst shifts.

Sadly, not much has changed with most agencies regarding their deployment of shotguns for duty use. As I travel across the country teaching firearms instructor courses, I notice that most students bring the 18-inch, bead sight, wooden stock, fourround tube pump shotgun to the course (and yes, most still look like they washed up on Omaha Beach). A large percentage of these students do not have a comfortable working knowledge of the platform upon arrival to the course. Many tell me they have not touched a shotgun in years, as their agency has moved exclusively to a rifle platform. Those agencies that still issue or authorize shotguns may not have updated their inventory in decades. Shotgun accessories such as extra ammunition carriers, better sights and weapon-mounted lights and slings seem to be nonexistent in most agencies.

One of the chief complaints regarding shotgun use was the patterning ability of the average 18-inch barreled, improved cylinder police shotgun. Fifteen- to 18-inch patterns at 15 yards were not uncommon and two or three pellets out of a nine-pellet load of buckshot missed the intended target. Those "flyers" would strike the range berm harm-

lessly, while the remainder of the pattern hopefully struck the target center mass. The obvious problem with that: Beyond the confines of the range, the huge safety berm was no longer there. The dangerous projectiles would whistle down a school hallway or busy sidewalk until they struck an unintended target.

In recent years, ammunition manufacturers have developed new and better tactical buckshot rounds specifically designed to pattern better out of short-barreled police shotguns. Most of these new rounds provide 100 percent pellet accountability on target out to as far as 30 to 35 yards, depending on the firearm and choke restriction used. This is a huge advantage for officers who are constantly being reminded that we are responsible for anything we launch from our firearms. Even with the advent of this new and improved buckshot, officers need to recognize and understand the limitations and capabilities of their ammunition.

Shotgun purists will counter this argument by suggesting the use of the holy grail of shotgun ammunition: the rifled slug. That is, of course, the one-ounce chunk of lead screaming down range at 1,500 fps ready to perforate car doors, block walls, bad guys and anything else it makes contact with. Despite the added risk, shotgun slugs add to the versatility and appeal of the platform. Slugs transition the police shotgun from a closerange platform to a mid-range platform.

Most contemporary shotgun instructors today will advocate that if you carry a shotgun, you should have both types of ammunition available to you. Slugs can penetrate barriers and still provide reliable stopping power to threats that may be behind such barriers. The challenge is that many agencies will not issue slugs due to the over-penetration aspects mentioned above. Some agencies won't issue buckshot because of the patterning issues raised in the previous paragraph. Agencies of this mindset are limiting the versatility of the platform as well as the officers who have to, or choose to, deploy with them.

Less-lethal munitions are yet another capability of the shotgun. Impact, breaching and chemical agent munitions can all be delivered effectively through the 12-gauge shotgun. Best practice, however, dictates that your less-lethal shotgun is marked as such. This is normally done through orange or high-visibility colored stock and forearm combinations. Firing less-lethal rounds from a "lethal" shotgun is a dangerous practice. Lethal and less-lethal ammunition *must* be stored separately. If you follow these best practices, this will require those certified in less-lethal munitions to carry two shotguns in their vehicle

The development of and availability of these varied ammunition types presents significant challenges for shotgun training and use. Training regimens designed decades ago for officers using a single type of ammunition are no longer valid in today's environment. Most notably, the concept of selective loading must be introduced into today's shotgun training programs. Select loading a particular type of ammunition under stress can be problematic. Selective loading takes practice, and practice is not something the average street cop gets a lot of.

Many agencies that continue to deploy shotguns use the pump action variety. In decades past, it was more uncommon to find a trainee who did not have experience handling a shotgun than those that did. Today, we see trainees who have never held a firearm, much less fired one. The familiarity and knowledge base with shotguns is diminishing. In the era of instant gratification, many young officers want the semi-automatic, magazine-fed system rather than the manually operated pump action way of doing business. Like it or not, the reality is that the preference has changed and it is not going back.

Where do we go from here?

The obvious choice is the patrol rifle. Can it – and should it – replace the shotgun? Opinions vary and strong feelings from both sides exist. The rifle offers the officer some distinct advantages over the shotgun. Though it lacks the suspect intimidation factor that racking a pump shotgun brings to the table, it also lacks the officer intimidation factor of how to properly operate it. The learning curve for a rifle is far easier than for a shotgun.

From a training perspective, it closely resembles the functions of the officer's issued duty pistol. Commonality of training goes a long way in firearm platforms. Being semi-automatic and magazine-fed with a low recoil impulse, much like the handgun, they are appealing to most officers. The ergonomics of an AR-style rifle more closely replicate that of a handgun. All of those handling characteristics, such as loading, re-loading and stoppage clearance, are almost identical to that of a handgun.

Generally, most agencies issue or approve the rifle and an appropriate number of high-capacity magazines. It can be argued (and it will) that one round of "oo" buck equals eight or nine rounds of 5.56, in terms of the number of projectiles. So, using that theory, four rounds of eight-pellet tactical buck is equivalent to 32 rounds of 5.56. While that logic does have some merit, the shooter has to be capable of delivering that buckshot on target and in a timely manner.

Furthermore, the delivery and hit ratio will also depend on the distance to the target and the patterning of that particular shotgun. The advantage of the rifle in this scenario is that distance is no longer part of the equation. An officer with a rifle has no need to even consider changing ammunition, calculate the pattern spread or work an action between shots.

Having the ability to move from close quarter battle distance to maximum effective range without changing the ammunition payload is a bonus. By minimizing the decision-making process in a stressful situation, officers are able to focus more on the threat and less on the weapon operation. Similar logic would apply to the reloading process. An experienced firearms instructor can tell you that the average officer can reload a rifle much faster than he/she could stuff shells into a magazine tube. Additionally, the average officer will be able to deliver more accurate follow-up shots on target with a rifle than with a shotgun. The low-recoil impulse of the 5.56 round provides the user with the ability to fire successive, controlled, accurate rounds on target without the worry of patterning or flyers. Individually aimed shots will always be more accurate than a single multi-projectile round.

The rifle lends itself to accessories much more readily than does a shotgun. Sling points, weapon-mounted lights and quality optics are all easier to mount, maintain and use on an AR platform than on the shotgun. Though adjustable length of pull stocks are available for both platforms, they are standard features on most rifles these days. These stocks allow for a myriad of shooter body sizes to allow for the proper fit. Modern, quality optics are now affordable and provide rapid sight acquisition in both daylight and low-light environments. The addition of optics greatly adds to the accuracy level of the shooter without necessarily turning the rifle into a sniper platform. Overall weight and ergonomics normally favor the rifle once these accessories are added. The average cost of a rifle equipped with these accessories will normally be in the \$1,000 to \$1,300 range. Combat shotguns are not cheap either, and can run in the \$900 to \$1,000 range once outfitted.

I must admit, I am a fan of shotguns. Having grown up both personally and professionally with the platform, I am extremely comfortable with them. I continue to teach classes regarding shotgun use in law enforcement. Having said that, I do question the wisdom of keeping a platform in the inventory that is rarely, if ever, deployed by the average officer or maintained in a configuration that is no longer contemporary.

Some agency administrators will get downright nostalgic about shotguns and refuse to consider removing them from the inventory. At the end of the day, though, an

agency must determine if keeping the shotgun in the weapon inventory should continue. If the answer is yes, then those guns should be traded, upgraded or retrofitted to combat shotguns. That means adding extended magazine tubes, tactical slings, weapon-mounted lights, adjustable stocks and more precise sighting systems if these things do not exist. Serious consideration should be given to the type of ammunition that will be utilized as well. Training with the platform will need to increase, to include dry handling, selective loading and live fire. Should the answer be no, then trading or selling them toward the purchase of rifles or accessories would appear prudent. If your agency uses 12-gauge less-lethal products, it may be wise to hold on to some of the better stock for that purpose.

Regardless of the decision reached, agency tactical firearms instructors should contribute to that decision-making process by offering both technical and opinionbased information as to what is best for their particular agency. Train hard, stay safe!

#### About the author

Sgt. Dave O'Connor has more than 27 years of law enforcement experience and is retired from the Seminole County (FL) Sheriff's Office. He led the firearms training program for the agency.



7 Yard 8 Pellet Tactical



7 Yards, 9 Pellet



8 Round Tactical Buck 35 Yards



25 Yard 8 Round Tactical Buck



25 Yard Standard Buck



35 Yard 8 Pellet Tactical



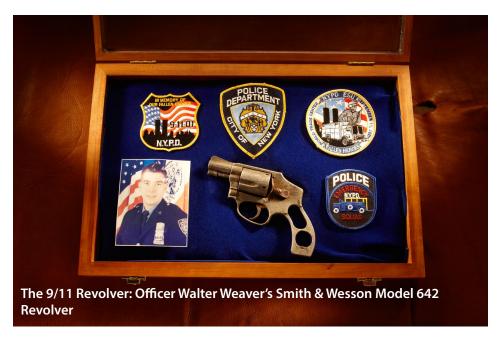
35 Yard Standard Pellet

# VISIT THE FIREARMS MUSEUM DURING POLICE WEEK

The NRA National Firearms Museum offers a glimpse into the firearms that built our nation, helped forge our freedom and captured our imagination. Consisting of 15 galleries housing 3,000 firearms, the Museum details and examines the history of firearms with a special emphasis on firearms, freedom and the American experience. Each gallery is evocative of a period of time in American history, from the stockade fort at Jamestown to the gun factories of New England.

Added in 2010, the Robert E. Petersen Gallery displays 400 firearms highlighting the finest collection of high end sporting arms and Gatling guns on public display anywhere in the world. Hollywood Guns, a featured exhibit, showcases 120 actual guns used in movies and television over the past 80 years.

Located at the NRA Headquarters (11250 Waples Mill Road, Fairfax, VA 22030), the Museum is open every day 9:30 AM to 5 PM, except for Christmas Day, and admission is free. For more information, visit the Museum online at <a href="https://www.nramuseums.com">www.nramuseums.com</a>.



#### continued from page 1

Association, and the annual Take Your Kid to Work program, where department members' children receive firearms safety training and participate in zombiethemed and alien-themed tactical simulated missions.

Sgt. Smith stays active in regional firearms competitions, including the Johnson County Kansas Sheriff Department Shootout, benefiting Special Olympics, and the Kansas City Metro Crime Commission Border Showdown, which pits the best shooters from Kansas and Missouri against each other to benefit the Surviving Spouse and Family Endowment Fund, benefiting the families of fallen officers. Sgt. Smith won the individual competition in 2015 and 2016,

and his team took top honors in 2016 as

Sgt. Smith would like to thank his staff – Officer Spike Angle, Officer Mark Fogel, Officer AnnMarie Herrera, Instructor David Andress, and Instructor William Conroy – for their continued commitment, and his entire chain of command – Captain Stephenie Price, Major Wayne Stewart, Deputy Chief Robert Kuehl and Chief Darryl Forté, for their constant support.

Congratulations again to Sgt. Smith on being awarded the NRA's Law Enforcement Firearm Instructor of the Year Award. Sgt. Smith will receive a Smith & Wesson firearm, donated by Smith & Wesson, as well as a plaque.



CrooksTube.com, a leading social media website, is helping police departments all over the country catch criminals through crimes caught on surveillance video. Founded by the son of a Florida judge, CrooksTube has been featured on MSNBC, Univision, Fox News, and the Japanese media.

CrooksTube allows the public to be aware and alerted of local unsolved crimes caught on video in their community. Each time a crime video is uploaded to CrooksTube by a police department, store owner or individual, the video of the crime is then sent directly to thousands of CrooksTube subscribers, when the public may submit an anonymous tip that will be directly emailed to the user who posted the crime video as well as crime stoppers. Never before has it been so easy for police departments to get their information out directly to the mailboxes of thousands of their residents.

For more information, visit www.CrooksTube.com.

## New Law Enforcement Products at the Program Materials Center

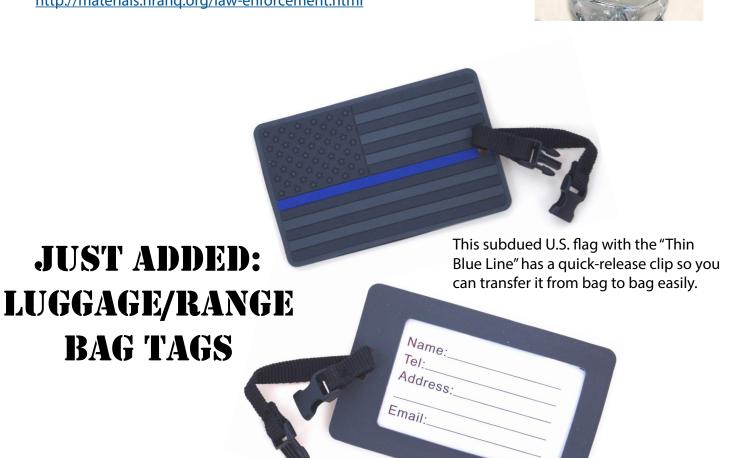
NRA LAW ENFORCEMENT TACTICAL KOOZIE

Law enforcement officers know how important it is to wear their body armor.

Now you can protect your bottled drink and keep it cool at the same time with our Tactical Koozie! Made to look like an external tactical ballistic vest, including Velcro strap adjustments.

It also bears the NRA Law Enforcement Division logo on the front. Don't go on patrol without your body armor, or your tactical koozie.

To order, visit our Program Material website: <a href="http://materials.nrahq.org/law-enforcement.html">http://materials.nrahq.org/law-enforcement.html</a>



# C.O.P.S. Capital Campaign Building the Road to Hope

In 2001, C.O.P.S. built its first national headquarters building in Camdenton, MO, for \$436,000; 75% of the funds raised for this building came from the C.O.P.S. membership... the very people who lost loved ones in the line of duty and who attend and value the programs that C.O.P.S. presents. Many of those survivors consider C.O.P.S. "their lifeline".

The current climate in the United States is creating a demand for services beyond expectations. The growth of C.O.P.S.' programs for America's survivors has expanded to the point that there is an immediate need for a larger facility. Our current facility was designed to house 10-12 staff members. Today, C.O.P.S. has 17 staff members and has the immediate need to hire 3 more just to meet the needs of our survivors.

Recently, the National Board of C.O.P.S. approved the formation of a Capital Campaign Committee with a plan for a 9,000+ sq. ft. addition to the current headquarters. We recently kicked off the Capital Campaign to raise \$1.5 million by asking our membership for their support; however, we cannot expect the survivors alone to carry the financial burden of this Capital Campaign. The end result will triple the size of the national office and meet current and future needs of C.O.P.S.

It is our hope that the members of the National Rifle Association will be supportive of our efforts and also encourage your affiliate organizations to do the same.

To contribute or get more details about the C.O.P.S. Capital Campaign, please visit concernsofpolicesurvivors.org.



The Master Site Plan includes:

- 24 Business Offices
- 1 Training/Conference Room
- 3 Smaller Conference Rooms
- A Merchandise Warehouse
- A Tornado Safe Room for Staff
- A Large Records Storage Room
- Additional Print/Mail Rooms
- The "Garden of Hope"

## **Law Enforcement Appreciation Day 2017**

All across the Nation, communities showed their support for law enforcement on January 9th in honor of Law Enforcement Appreciation Day (L.E.A.D.). School children made and sent cards, citizens dropped off cookies and other treats, restaurants gave free meals to law enforcement, and banners and blue lights adorned streets and historic buildings to let officers know how much they are appreciated. Several new states have also officially proclaimed January 9th to be Law Enforcement Appreciation Day every year!

From this day forward, please remember to thank an officer EVERY day!



## 2017 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

<b>HANDGUN &amp; SHOTGUN</b>		Jul 17-21	Brainerd, MN		SELECT-FIRE
Mar 6-10	Summerville, SC	Aug 21-25	Garden Plain, KS	Mar 6-10	Haughton, LA
Mar 6-10	San Diego, CA	Sep 18-22	Macomb, IL	May 1-5	Staunton, VA
Mar 13-17	Talking Rock, GA			Jul 10-14	Garden Plain, KS
Mar 13-17	Oak Forest, IL		PATROL RIFLE	Sep 25-29	Grand Island, NE (public LE & military only)
Mar 20-24	Pearl, MS	Mar 13-17	Chino, CA	Dec 4-8	Florence, AL
Mar 27-31	Ballwin, MO	Mar 20-24	Florence, AL	200.0	
Apr 3-7	Florence, AL	Mar 20-24	Sopchoppy, FL	TAC	TICAL SHOOTING
Apr 24-28	Bakersfield, CA	Apr 3-7	Oakdale, PA		
Apr 24-28	Smithton, PA	Apr 3-7	Bethlehem, PA	Mar 6-10	Florence, AL
May 1-5	Mexico, MO	Apr 10-14	Egg Harbor Twp, NJ	Mar 20-24	Garden Plain
May 15-19	Garden Plain, KS	Apr 17-21	Seabrook, NH	Apr 10-14	Tuscaloosa, AL
May 15-19	Clarion, PA	Apr 17-21 Apr 24-28	Rio Rancho, NM	Apr 10-14	Bethlehem, PA
May 22-26	Chino, CA	May 8-12	Danville, PA	Apr 17-21	Sopchoppy, FL
May 22-26	Tuscaloosa, AL	May 8-12	Gunnison, CO	Apr 17-21	Ozark, AL
May 22-26	Shreveport, LA	May 15-19	Florence, CO	May 1-5	Alden, NY
Jun 5-9	Victorville, CA	May 22-26	Ozark, AL	May 15-19	Richmond, CA
Jun 19-23	Oakdale, PA	June 5-9	Mexico, MO	Jun 5-9	Rio Rancho, NM
Jun 26-30	Upper Marlboro, MD	June 12-16	La Junta, CO	Jun 12-16	Pearl, MS
Jul 17-21	Pittsford, VT	June 19-23	Garden Plain, KS	Jun 19-23	Shreveport, LA
Aug 7-11	Monroeville, PA (public LE only)	June 19-23	Bahama, NC	Jul 10-14	Cuyler, NY
Aug 7-11	Tupelo, MS	July 10-14	Littleton, CO	Jul 24-28	London, OH
Sep 11-15	Las Vegas, NV	Aug 14-18	Conshohocken, PA	Aug 7-11	Redding, CA
Sep 11-15	Florence, AL	Aug 14-16 Aug 21-25	Tuscaloosa, AL	Aug 7-11	Plano, TX
Sep 11-15	San Diego, CA	Sep 11-15	Bethlehem, PA	Sep 18-22	Bethlehem, PA
Sep 25-29	Valhalla, NY (public LE & military only)	Sep 11-13	Defiance, MO (public LE only)	Oct 2-6	Littleton, CO
Sep 25-29	Columbus, MS	Oct 2-6		Oct 2-6	Ottawa, KS
Oct 16-20	Defiance, MO (public LE only)	Oct 2-6	Florence, AL Pearl, MS	Oct 16-20	Florence, AL
Oct 23-27	Lucerne Valley, CA	Oct 2-6	Monroeville, PA (public LE only)	Oct 23-27	Florence, CO
Oct 30-Nov 3	=			Oct 23-27	Egg Harbor Twp, NJ
Oct 30-Nov 3	Sugar Creek, MO	Oct 16-20 Oct 23-27	Summerville, SC		Las Vegas, NV
Nov 13-17	Florence, AL	Oct 23-27 Oct 30-Nov 3	Sugar Creek, MO Staunton, VA	Oct 30-Nov 3	Summerville, SC
Dec 4-8	San Diego, CA	Nov 13-17	Las Vegas, NV		
Dec 10	Suit Diego, ert	NOV 13-17	Las vegas, ivv	TAC	TICAL SHOTGUN
	HANDCHN	_		Mar 20-24	Ozark, AL
	<u>HANDGUN</u>		RECISION RIFLE	Jun 19-23	Valhalla, NY (public LE & military only)
Mar 27-31	Pittsburgh, PA	Apr 24-28	Garden Plain, KS	Jul 24-28	Tuscaloosa, AL
Apr 3-7	Chino, CA	May 22-26	Florence, AL	Aug 14-18	Littleton, CO
Apr 3-7	Homestead, FL	Jul 17-21	Alden, NY	Oct 23-27	Chino, CA
Apr 10-14	Seabrook, NH	Sep 18-22	Rock Hill, SC	Nov 27-Dec 1	Las Vegas, NV
Apr 24-28	Littleton, CO	Sep 25-29	Las Vegas, NV		-
May 15-19	Sopchoppy, FL	Oct 23-27	Shreveport, LA		
June 5-9	San Diego, CA				



## Discounted Self-Defense Insurance for Retired and Off-Duty Officers

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.

Order online in minutes at: **LawEnforcementSelfdefense.com** Or call one of our representatives at **877.672.3006**.

NRA Officers/Staff

Allan D. Cors President

Pete Brownell 1st Vice President

Richard Childress 2nd Vice President

Wayne R. LaPierre Executive Vice President

> John Frazer Secretary

Wilson H. Phillips, Jr. Treasurer

Josh Powell Executive Director General Operations

Chris Cox Executive Director Institute for Legislative Action

Glen A. Hoyer Director Law Enforcement Division

For information on NRA programs or membership, please call (800) NRA-3888

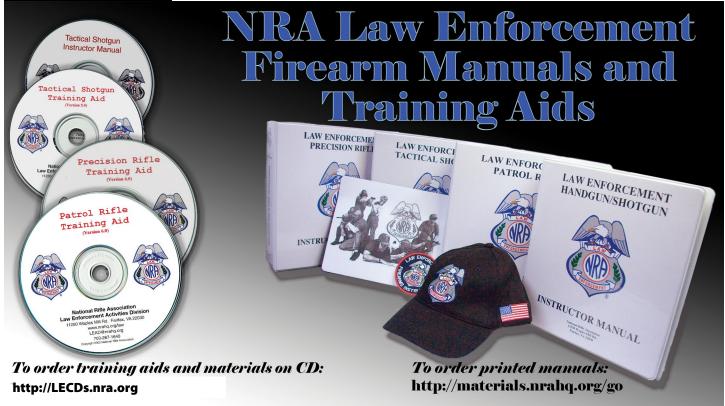
Law Enforcement website: www.NRALE.org



Law Enforcement Division National Rifle Association 11250 Waples Mill Road Fairfax, VA 22030 NONPROFIT ORG U.S. POSTAGE **PAID** DULLES, VA PERMIT 156



Scan this code with your smartphone or tablet to get more information about the NRA Law Enforcement Division.







**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.