



# NRA LAW ENFORCEMENT QUARTERLY

## Mini Red Dot Sights for Law Enforcement

BY GEORGE HARRIS

Mini red dot sights (MRDS) have been around for a while but have only been seriously considered for law enforcement application on service pistols in recent times, especially for the seasoned officer.

Durability and battery life have been seen as two of the major holdbacks to their use. Currently, both have been addressed sufficiently to allow acceptance in the law enforcement community.

One thing that has been hard to overcome with some members of law enforcement is reluctance to change. This often comes from the natural attitude of "if it ain't broke, don't fix it." There are, however, benefits to teaching an old dog a new trick or two.

One of the major issues is how the

gun is set up with the MRDS. It is absolutely essential that the pistol have backup iron sights that co-witness with the red dot in the MRDS. This provides a safety net for the operator just in case the MRDS is affected by Murphy's law and fails just when it is called to duty. This is unlikely to happen if the battery is changed as per the manufacturer's recommendation, but stuff does happen.

A real benefit to having co-witnessed backup iron sights is assisting the operator in the initial stages of familiarizing themselves with the use of the MRDS and quickly obtaining target acquisition out of the holster.

Many first-time users of the MRDS find themselves having to spend time locating the red dot on the screen and then getting it on target from the draw. More often than not, this makes their



first shot on target capability slower than with their more familiar iron sights.

The biggest complaint for many new to the MRDS is the red dot is always in the top of the screen or even higher when they draw to the target.

There are two simple ways to overcome this deficiency, which can be combined or used independently.

*Continued on page 3*

## Glock Continues Its Support of the NRA!



**Glock has well surpassed the \$1 million mark in cash donations to the NRA and tens of thousands of dollars in product donations to the NRA's Law Enforcement Division!**

Glock Vice President Josh Dorsey presents NRA Representative John Perren with a donation.



# THE NATIONAL POLICE SHOOTING CHAMPIONSHIPS ARE RETURNING TO MISSISSIPPI!

**September 23-25, 2019**

It's official: the National Police Shooting Championships (NPSC) has a new home, and we are returning to Mississippi. The Mississippi Law Enforcement Officers Training Academy in Pearl will be the new host location for the NPSC.

"We are very excited to be returning to Mississippi," said Glen Hoyer, director of the NRA's Law Enforcement Division. "I know that many of our law enforcement officers are looking forward to our return to Mississippi and I hope they will join us at Pearl."

For more information about the 2019 NRA National Police Shooting Championships, visit [npsc.nra.org](http://npsc.nra.org).

To book accommodations at the 2019 host hotel – The Hilton Jackson on East County Line Road – where the NPSC tuition-free training, banquet and other special events will take place, visit [bit.ly/2019-NPSC-Hotel](http://bit.ly/2019-NPSC-Hotel). NPSC competitors are eligible for a special rate and free breakfast at The Hilton Jackson.





*Continued from page 1*

The first is primarily visual in nature. By using the backup iron sights as a reference in getting the muzzle on the target as previously practiced, the co-witnessed red dot comes into view during the draw and presentation to the target. This makes it easier to see the dot and get it on the target as the trigger is pulled. In short order, the primary focus will transition from the iron sights to the red dot leaving the iron sights as a coarse, secondary point of reference in the visual field.

The second method is more of a tactile execution of spatial awareness. This is done by practicing the draw to the target slow enough to get the feel (position) of the arms and hands necessary to get the dot on the target in the most direct manner. Doing this dry at first is beneficial, because it isolates the action to only what is necessary to accomplish the task – conditioning the body to respond naturally and automatically to getting the gun on target expediently. Once the dry work is satisfactory in getting the dot on the target without having to search for it, live fire can follow to

validate the process. In many cases, this improves the shooter's skill level just by fine-tuning their draw and presentation with smoothness and efficiency.

The MRDS allows the operator to look at the target as they superimpose the dot over the area of intended impact to deliver accurate hits, assuming adequate trigger control is exercised. As long as the officer sees the dot on the target, whether focusing on the dot or the target, hits will occur.

To be fair, there are two schools of thought as to where the eye should be focused, and both have merit. My suggestion is to try both and favor the one that results in the desired performance. From a tactical perspective, focusing on the desired point of impact while superimposing the red dot on that area as the trigger is pulled makes a lot of sense. MRDS are here to stay and have a place in the law enforcement community. They are another valuable tool in the box to do the job while on the job.

#### ABOUT THE AUTHOR

George Harris has spent over 40 years as a successful innovator, educator and trainer in the field of firearms. His simplistic approach to firearms training has a non-arguable track record in extracting performance from his students of marksmanship, tactics and maintenance.

George co-founded the world-renowned SIG Sauer Academy and led it to become a profit center before retiring after 21 years of service.

George currently is the president and CEO of International Firearms Consultants, LLC, where he serves the firearms industry as a subject matter expert involving firearms and related matters for many companies and in legal proceedings.

Among his personal accomplishments, George earned the coveted U.S. Army Distinguished badges for both Service Pistol and Service Rifle. He also coached and was a firing team member of the world champion U.S. Army Reserve International Combat Team before retiring with 40 years of continuous military service.

## NRA PERSONAL PROTECTION EXPO

SEPT. 6 - 8, 2019 / FT WORTH CONVENTION CENTER / FT WORTH, TX



**120+**  
SEMINARS & WORKSHOPS

**160+**  
FIREARMS & ACCESSORY COMPANIES

CONCEALED CARRY / PERSONAL PROTECTION / HOME DEFENSE



[www.NRAPersonalProtectionExpo.com](http://www.NRAPersonalProtectionExpo.com)

# How to Create a Law Enforcement Shotgun Training Program

BY MARK A. FRICKE

## Introduction and History

For over 100 years, the shotgun has been law enforcement's big gun; feared by those who crossed its path, respected by those who carried and used it. It is a gun we take to a fight, giving its operators confidence in their ability to win and go home to their families. While the shotgun is one of the oldest weapon systems in law enforcement's arsenal, it remains a viable tool today. It is a gun we carry a lot and practice with very little.

Today, many academies don't train on the shotgun or only touch on its use in familiarization fire. When officers leave the academy and return to their agencies, many are given a shotgun or have one in the car with little or no knowledge on how to use it in a gunfight. Many administrators, supervisors, and even firearms trainers suffer from misconceptions, myths, and biases on what the shotgun can and can't do. Officers don't like to shoot the shotgun because they were not shown how to do it properly so it would not hurt them. This stems from the little or no training they received with the shotgun as young officers.

We as trainers would not think of just giving a handgun to a recruit officer and telling them to go out and qualify. If we want the shotgun be effective in the hands of our officers, we must teach them how to do it from the ground up, just as we did with their handguns. We must create a training program and corresponding qualifications that will be relative to the mission the officers are being asked to handle on the street that will be fun and instill confidence. We must bring the street to the range.

## Start With the Basics

In the classroom, start with the Four Rules of Firearms Safety:

1. All guns are always loaded.
2. Don't point the gun at anything you are not willing to destroy (muzzle in the safest direction).
3. Identify your target and background.
4. Keep your finger off the trigger until you have made the decision to fire and your sights are on the target.

After teaching safety, go on to cover the basics of marksmanship: grip, stance, sight alignment, sight picture, breath-

ing, trigger control, and follow-through. Law enforcement shotguns are fired like a rifle. Show the officers how to stand with their weight forward, knees slightly bent, shoulders square to the target, toe of the recoil pad in the shoulder pocket, arms tucked in, the gun pulled back into the shoulder firmly, the cheek bone resting on the stock's comb. The firing hand thumb should not be near their nose, or they risk getting hit. The support hand firmly grips the fore end to help control the gun and manipulate the action when required.

Most standard stocks on fighting shotguns are too long and don't fit the majority of the folks we have in law enforcement today. Their use is the one of the two main reasons our officers don't like to shoot shotguns. A stock that is too long does not allow the officer to obtain a proper fighting stance and hurts them when they fire. Taking most of shotgun stocks and reducing them by one inch in pull (length) will dramatically increase their effectiveness. This will allow shorter officers to keep the toe in the pocket. They will then be able hold onto the gun and keep it on target longer without having their body excessively bladed. Even your larger officers will find it easier.

A vertical pistol-gripped shoulder stock may also assist officers in holding the shotgun up longer – but make sure it is compatible with whatever safety system your shotgun uses. A shotgun with a receiver tang mounted safety and a vertical pistol-gripped shoulder stock is an invitation to a disaster. With this combination, the operator gripping the pistol grip cannot apply or remove the safety without releasing their grip on the gun. This invites the officer not to use the safety, as they cannot reach it if they need to fire. Receiver tang-mounted safeties are best used with a conventional stock, allowing ambidextrous use by both right- and left-handed shooters, who can maintain proper grip of gun operating the safety with the thumb. If this type of stock is to be used, the safety must be able to be disengaged without releasing the firing grip. Safeties mounted near the trigger guard can be operated by the trigger finger.

Demonstrate the sighting system found on the shotgun, whether it is a simple bead, open rifle type or an aperture ghost ring. If other sight systems – such as red dot or a holograph – are used, make sure the stock's drop and sight height allow the shooter to obtain a proper cheek weld and sight picture, or they will get smacked in

the face when they fire.

## Teach Effective Handling Techniques

Handling techniques for the shotgun should be taught with a fighting mindset. Demonstrate manipulation of the shotgun's controls: how the safety, action release lever, operating the bolt (whether from the fore end or a charging handle), and the internal shell stops work. Failing to know where these controls are and how they work under stress has gotten officers killed. Once they know how and what the gun's controls do, incorporate handling techniques needed to win gunfights. Loading, unloading, conditions of carry, reloading, select slug loading, malfunction clearance procedures, transitioning to the handgun if needed and how to sling and unsling the gun (whether a simple carry strap or a tactical sling) should be taught next.

When loading the shotgun, it is not inverted and loaded like you are going duck hunting. The butt of the gun remains in the shoulder pocket (or at least under the arm) with the strong hand maintaining a firing grip, safety on, finger off the trigger and straight along the receiver. Shells are loaded with the support hand by feel, not looking at the gun.

Unloading is done with safety in mind; shells should not merely be racked through the action and allowed to impact the ground. Doing so unnecessarily damages the shells and invites a detonation from a shell's primer striking a piece of gravel. I have seen this very thing happen. Depending on the make and action of your shotgun, you may want to open the action or leave it closed and depress the shell stops in the magazine to remove the ammunitions. When done, open the action, visually and physically inspect the gun is empty.

Cover your agency's policies on the conditions of readiness. How is the shotgun to be carried in the car? Most instructors recommend either one of two ways: Cruiser Safe or Cruiser Ready. On Cruiser Safe, the chamber is empty, the magazine tube is full, the action is locked and the safety is on. To deploy it, the officer removes the shotgun from the car, manipulates the action release, working the action, and chambers a round. The safety is removed just before firing.

In second technique, Cruiser Ready, the chamber is empty, the magazine tube is



full, the action is unlocked, and the safety is on. Setting up this technique requires the officer to point the gun in a safe direction after loading the magazine, making sure the chamber is in fact empty and pulling the trigger, dropping the hammer before engaging the safety and securing the gun in the car with the action now unlocked. With this technique, the officer obtains the gun and simply racks the action, chambering a round.

With both techniques, the officer chambers a shell as soon the shotgun is deployed. Waiting to chamber a round until you need it is the same as walking around with the chamber on your service pistol empty. If you need the shotgun you will need it now. Having to chamber a round and remove a safety, may take more time than you have before being shot. If you take the gun out of the car and have it in your hands, have it in a condition to save your life and the life of your fellow officers.



There are two methods of reloading: the empty gun reload (sometimes called ejection port, emergency, or combat loading) and the tactical reload. The empty gun loading is done when the gun is shot empty and a shell needs to be chambered now. Simply placing a shell into the open ejection port and closing the action will chamber a round and allow the gun to fire if needed.



The tactical reload is done through the loading port filling the magazine. Officers should be taught to load the magazine after they fire, when they have a lull, replac-

ing the rounds they expend, thus keeping the gun loaded and always ready to fight.

If both buckshot and slugs are to be carried, select slug loading also has to be taught. Most standard buckshot loads have an effective range of about 15 yards. Effective range means all of the pellets strike center mass of a human-sized chest. Pellets that do not strike the adversary are a danger to other officers and civilians. New technological advances in buckshot loadings can increase the range an additional 10 yards. However, if officers need to shoot someone outside buckshot's effective range, they must change what is in the gun. We need to get a slug into the chamber as quickly as possible. If a buckshot round is in the chamber and the magazine is full, the officer turns the gun 90 degrees with the ejection port down, and racks the action, ejecting the chamber round. The action is then closed, chambering the first round from the magazine. A slug is now loaded into the magazine, and the gun is again turned 90 degrees, ejection port down, the action is racked, and the slug is now chambered. If an additional slug is needed, it is then loaded into the magazine. This is called select slug loading, as there is not normally a reason to load a buckshot round in place of a slug. There are other ways to get slugs into the gun, but this is a proven way to make sure buckshot is not fired inadvertently.

If there is a need for specialty munitions – bean bags, chemical agents, breaching, or distraction devices – the gun is completely unloaded of lethal ammunition and checked by two officers, then loaded only with the specialty load, with each round being visually and verbally inspected by both officers to ensure only the correct ammunition is loaded. Failures to follow such procedures have resulted in unwanted death and injury. It is better in most cases to use a dedicated shotgun for these tasks to reduce the chance for error.

Since many law enforcement shootings occur in reduced lighting conditions, training in this area is also needed. If you have dedicated weapon lights, great – but don't neglect handheld light techniques in case the weapon lights fail. Make sure policies are in place and officers are trained that the weapon light is not a general-purpose flashlight or you risk losing the shotguns remembering anything illuminated will also be muzzled, rule #2.

Malfunction clearances are a necessary part of your training program. Four operator malfunctions common for a shotgun are failure to remove the safety, failure to work the action, short stroking the action,

and putting shells in backwards. These are all easily preventable with proper handling training.

Weapon malfunctions that can occur with the shotgun include failure to fire, failure to eject, and failure to feed (double feed). If the shooter is closer than 15 yards and out in the open, transitioning to the handgun maybe the best and fastest option. A failure to fire malfunction is cleared by working the action with authority. Failures to eject are cleared by reaching up and ripping the empty case from the ejection port, then closing the action. Double feed may require reaching into the open action, pulling the shells out of the feed area, and cycling the action one more time.

Include transitioning to the handgun as part of your dry drills, addressing muzzle up, muzzle down, and cross-dominant techniques for shotguns with a carry strap or no sling. Address the various techniques when a tactical sling is used.

Officers have died in gunfights because they did not know how to effectively handle the shotgun. We as instructors have a legal and moral obligation to train our officers for the job we expect them to do.

### **Time for the Range**

Dry fire should be done first, reinforcing the classroom lessons and getting the stance, manipulation, and handling done correctly before firing the first round. This is the time to make corrections, before the student hurts themselves and you lose them. When they show proficiency, go to live fire. Start out with low-recoil birdshot with a slide-action shotgun, using the lightest loading you can find. One manufacturer makes a target load advertised as "Low Recoil, Low Noise" and has less recoil than smaller 20-gauge loads. This is a good benefit to your students. They will understand this stuff won't hurt them. These light loads will not function in a semi-automatic shotgun. You will need to experiment to find the lowest-recoil birdshot loads that will reliability function in your guns.



*Continued on page 6*

Do drills that emphasize good handling skills, such as having the student start with an empty gun then having them do an empty gun reload and a one round tactical reload, fire both rounds, then repeat several times. Steel targets are great for this type of training, as they give instant feed-back when hit, and you can continue to fire without the hassle of changing paper targets and backers. When using steel targets, maintain a safe distance of 10 yards or so, make sure the targets are rated for birdshot, and have a smooth surface to prevent pellets from being directed back to the shooter. For safety, make sure no one has even one slug on their person, as a slug against a steel plate at 10 yards can send a ¾-ounce chunk of lead back at the shooter, causing serious injury or death.

Here is an example of a good shooting/handling drill that is fun, incorporating and reinforcing the handling skills taught during dry practice. The shooter starts with 25 rounds of birdshot on their person. They are allowed to load the shotgun fully. In front of them are three stationary steel plates, numbered 1, 2, and 3. Every time the instructor calls those numbers, the shooter must hit that number with a single hit. Start slow with one or two numbers, then begin increasing the number of targets called, emphasizing proper stance and handling, until they shoot all the ammunition on their person. If the

shooter runs dry with the shotgun during the drill, they will be expected to transition to their handgun. Give enough pauses in the action to allow them to get the shotgun reloaded and back into the fight. Students enjoy this fast drill, and they learn how to load, reload, clear malfunctions, transition, and shoot under stress while making decisions on which targets they need to shoot and in which order. As the students progress, include shoot & move, move & shoot, pivots and turns, shooting on the move, moving targets, and targets at different ranges and angles.

Next, shoot buckshot to show the effective range of your agency's load in the duty shotgun. If you elect to use low-recoil buckshot, which has only slightly more recoil than the birdshot they just finished firing, they will hardly notice the difference. Start at 3 yards, working your way back to 25 yards, to show pattern sizes, underscoring the need to hit the target with every pellet and the possible ramifications if they miss.

It is now time to zero the shotguns with slugs at 25 and 50 yards. Low-recoil slugs have nearly the same felt recoil as the birdshot and buckshot loads. After patterning and zeroing is complete, start tactical drills using both buckshot and slugs. Set up problems they may face on the street, keeping them realistic. Make the student decide

which load is best to use to solve the problem addressing them.

If special shotgun munitions are going to be an option for your agency, practice drills with the two-man safety check rule before use to emphasize its importance. Always have lethal force deploying beside the less-lethal shooter. Use drills that follow department policy on the use of force and deadly force. Set up drills that require no shooting to see how the officers address going hands on with the "bad guy" target with the long gun in their hands.

A qualification is a test of your training, not training itself. Keep it short and realistic as to what you have trained your officers to do when shooting the shotgun on the street. It then can be a gauge on the effectiveness of your program.

#### **Bio**

Mark Fricke is a retired patrol sergeant, rangemaster and tactical team member with 28 years of law enforcement experience. He currently runs his own small arms training company, American Firearms Training and Tactics, teaching officers and agencies nationwide. He is an adjunct staff instructor for the NRA's Law Enforcement Division teaching instructor development schools for the NRA on all law enforcement weapon systems.



**PUTTING THE FOCUS ON YOU,  
TO BRING YOU HOME TO THEM.**



**November 8-10, 2019  
Oak Brook, IL**

**Register TODAY at [concernsofpolicesurvivors.org](http://concernsofpolicesurvivors.org)**



# 2019 NRA Law Enforcement Firearm Instructor Development Schools

[le.nra.org/law-enforcement-training/law-enforcement-schools](http://le.nra.org/law-enforcement-training/law-enforcement-schools) • [LE@nrahq.org](mailto: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

Aug 12-16 Florence, AL  
 Aug 19-23 Ashburn, GA  
 Sep 9-13 Florence, AL  
 Sep 9-13 Valhalla, NY  
 Sep 9-13 Evansville, IN  
 Sep 16-20 Summerville, SC  
 Sep 16-20 Bethlehem, PA  
 Sep 16-20 Gulfport, MS  
 Oct 21-25 Florence, AL  
 Oct 28-Nov 1 Sugar Creek, MO  
 Nov 4-8 Allison Park, PA  
 Nov 11-15 Pearl, MS  
 Nov 11-15 Piedmont, AL  
 Nov 18-22 Leesport, PA  
 Dec 2-6 Stapleton, AL  
 Dec 16-20 San Antonio, TX  
 Mar 2-6 '20 Fultondale, AL  
 Mar 16-20 '20 Talking Rock, GA  
 Jun 8-12 '20 Hutto, TX

## HANDGUN

Sep 9-13 Phoenix, AZ (current public LE only)  
 Sep 16-20 Union, NJ  
 Sep 23-27 Henderson/Boulder, NV  
 Sep 23-27 Richmond, CA  
 Oct 7-11 Homestead, FL  
 Oct 21-25 New Smyrna Beach, FL  
 Oct 21-25 Highspire, PA  
 Nov 18-22 San Antonio, TX  
 Nov 18-22 Homestead, FL  
 Mar 16-20 '20 Coatesville, PA  
 Apr 20-24 '20 Macomb, IL  
 Aug 10-14 '20 Columbiana, AL

## PATROL RIFLE

Aug 5-9 Manchester, NJ  
 Aug 19-23 Chehalis, WA  
 Aug 26-30 Montrose, CO  
 Sep 9-13 Bethlehem, PA  
 Sep 9-13 McKinney, TX  
 Sep 16-20 Horton, KS  
 Sep 23-27 Defiance, MO (public LE only)  
 Sep 30-Oct 4 Summerville, SC  
 Sep 30-Oct 4 Monroeville, PA (public LE only)  
 Oct 7-11 Tupelo, MS  
 Oct 14-18 Florence, AL  
 Oct 21-25 Sugar Creek, MO  
 Oct 28-Nov 1 Florence, AL  
 Nov 4-8 New Smyrna Beach, FL  
 Nov 18-22 Horton, KS  
 Dec 2-6 Naples, FL  
 Mar 23-27 Merriam, KS  
 Mar 23-27 Talking Rock, GA  
 Apr 13-17 Coatesville, PA  
 May 11-15 Columbiana, AL  
 Aug 24-28 Hutto, TX

## PRECISION RIFLE

Sep 9-13 Florence, AL  
 Nov 4-8 Tuscaloosa, AL  
 Mar 9-13 '20 Columbiana, AL  
 Apr 6-10 '20 Newark, MD  
 Apr 20-24 '20 Bonfield, IL  
 Jul 13-17 '20 Hutto, TX

## SELECT-FIRE

Sep. 9-13 New Smyrna Beach, FL  
 Oct. 7-11 Littleton, CO

## TACTICAL SHOOTING

Aug 19-23 Leesport, PA  
 Aug 26-30 Chehalis, WA  
 Sep 9-13 Tuscaloosa, AL  
 Sep 23-27 Bethlehem, PA  
 Oct 7-11 Reading, PA  
 Oct 21-25 Pearl, MS  
 Nov 11-15 Florence, AL  
 Jan 6-10 '20 McKinney, TX (public LE and ,ilitary only)

## TACTICAL SHOTGUN

Aug 19-23 Garden Plain, KS  
 Oct 14-18 San Antonio, TX

## 2019 NRA-Hosted Tuition-Free Armorer/ Shooting Schools Fairfax, Virginia

Visit <https://le.nra.org/law-enforcement-training/tuition-free-training> to apply for your spot in these Tuition-Free Schools:

Aug 15 Glock Pistol Armorer  
 Aug 20 Countering Violent Extremism: America's LE Challenge  
 Sep 9 Tactical Street Medicine  
 Sep 17 Ruger LCR Pistol Armorer  
 Sep 18-19 Ruger GP100 Revolver Armorer  
 Oct 24 Glock Pistol Armorer  
 Nov 5 Tactical Street Medicine  
 Dec 10 Sig P320 Pistol Armorer



At the NRA's Annual Meeting in Indianapolis, Indiana, the NRA unveiled its new "NRA Women" car. The car highlights many NRA programs. For more information all of NRA's programs, please visit [www.nra.org](http://www.nra.org).

NRA Officers/Staff

Carolyn D. Meadows  
President

Charles Cotton  
1st Vice President

Willes Lee  
2nd Vice President

Wayne R. LaPierre  
Executive Vice President

John Frazer  
Secretary

Craig Spray  
Treasurer

Joseph DeBergalis  
Executive Director  
General Operations

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](http://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.

# NRA Law Enforcement Firearm Manuals and Training Aids



**To order training aids and materials on CD:**  
<http://LECDs.nra.org>

**To order printed manuals:**  
<http://materials.nrahq.org/go>



**NRA**



## **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.