



NRA LAW ENFORCEMENT QUARTERLY

NRA Law Enforcement Firearm Instructor of the Year

Deputy Milton R. Williams has been selected as our 2015 NRA Law Enforcement Firearm Instructor of the Year.

Deputy Williams has served with the Oakland County Sheriff's Office in Oakland County, Michigan for over 27 years. He is currently assigned to the Emergency Response and Preparedness Division, which encompasses the training unit, where he was the Range Master for approximately 10 years. In addition to his NRA Law Enforcement Certifications he is also an NRA Civilian Pistol Instructor.

Deputy Williams has competed in the NRA Police Pistol Combat (PPC) for many years. In addition to winning numerous local, state and national shooting events, he also holds the NRA Distinguished Revolver and Distinguished Semi-Automatic Pistol. He is the past president of the Michigan Police Pistol Combat Association, a position he held for 12 years while helping govern and promote PPC shooting in the state of Michigan.

Additionally, Deputy Williams is in charge of overseeing and conducting the Concealed Pistol License (CPL) classes for civilians that are employed by the county and/or their immediate family members. To date, he has trained over 3,000 civilians in this program.

Deputy Williams' long record of service, his dedication to public safety and his personal commitment to preserve the Second Amendment represent the finest qualities, and the NRA is honored to recognize him as the Law Enforcement Firearms Instructor of the Year.

Deputy Williams will receive a Smith & Wesson M&P rifle, donated by Smith & Wesson, as well as a plaque indicating his achievement.

To nominate someone for the 2016 NRA Law Enforcement Instructor of the Year please visit our web site at <http://le.nra.org/training/nra-law-enforcement-instructor-of-the-year.aspx>



Deputy Milton R. Williams
2015 NRA Law Enforcement Firearm
Instructor of the Year
Oakland County Sheriff's Office
Oakland County, Michigan



Preventing Negligent Shootings During Firearms Training

BY MARK SCHRAER
STAFF INSTRUCTOR, NRA LAW ENFORCEMENT DIVISION

In only the past four years, at least eight more law enforcement officers have been killed in non-duty related shootings. The three most recent deaths occurred in the first nine months of 2015.

- **September 2015:** A Pennsylvania police chief accidentally shoots and kills himself while cleaning his pistol at home.
- **April 2015:** A Florida officer is killed during firearms training by another officer who was reloading his pistol.
- **January 2015:** A Mississippi law enforcement administrator is killed during training by an officer who mistakenly believed that his pistol was unloaded.

- **October 2014:** A Texas officer dies after shooting himself in the groin during firearms training.
- **September 2014:** A Pennsylvania trooper is killed by an instructor who believed that his pistol was unloaded.
- **August 2014:** A Hawaii officer accidentally kills himself while showing a pistol to friends.
- **November 2013:** An Alabama sergeant bleeds to death after shooting himself in the leg.
- **August 2011:** A 23-year-old Georgia probation officer is killed by her firearms instructor; the instructor believed that his duty pistol was a training firearm when he pointed it at her and pulled the trigger.

I want to stress that this is only a list of the non-duty related shootings that resulted in an officer's death. This list barely scratches the surface of the total number of accidental shootings that have occurred in just the past four years. The list does not include the officer who unintentionally shot and killed his wife and unborn child, the trainee who was shot in his eye in the police academy, the numerous shootings in which officers were seriously wounded, or the scores of incidents in which only property was destroyed.



The **Four Core Rules of Firearms Safety** have been part of law enforcement training for decades. These easy to follow principles were created to help prevent these tragedies – particularly among those of us who handle firearms every day. These rules could not be any clearer:

1. **ALWAYS** treat any firearm that you handle as if it is loaded
2. **NEVER** point your firearm at anyone who you cannot legally shoot
3. **ALWAYS** maintain your trigger finger pressed along the frame of the gun until you have made the decision to shoot
4. **NEVER** shoot at anything you have not positively identified as a target/threat

These tenets are preached in almost every firearms training program in the nation, yet unintended shootings still occur with inexcusable frequency. Recently, a major law enforcement agency experienced a dramatic increase in their annual number of unintended discharges – an increase from 12 incidents in 2012, to 18 in 2013, and 30 in 2014. This increase coincided with the agency’s transition from one brand of pistol to another. In an article about this issue an agency official was quick to attribute the increase to some officers “still adjusting” to their new pistol, while another official expected their number of unintentional shootings to “fall in the years ahead.”

I have had the privilege of teaching a number of already well-trained officers from this agency and I am confident that the statements made by these two officials do not represent the opinions of most. However, these, and similar comments made by other law enforcement officials throughout the country, are further evidence that many still fail to appreciate just how serious this issue is.

Unintended shootings or firearm discharges are serious threats to officer safety, and everyone in law enforcement needs to understand and address this issue. This threat is directly tied to the effectiveness of an agency’s firearms training program, and their officer’s commitment to the principles of firearms safety. These shootings have nothing to do with officers “adjusting” to a new trigger pull or the lack of an external safety.

Even clearly written tenets and range safety rules will be violated unless they are accompanied by an agency-wide commitment to a culture of safety. I would like to offer three simple suggestions on how we, as a profession, can immediately improve this firearms safety culture.

STOP TREATING NEGLIGENT SHOOTINGS AS ACCIDENTAL

Referring to unintentional shootings as “accidental” is both misleading and dangerous. While unintentional, these tragedies are the result of negligence rather than an accident. Every law enforcement agency needs to recognize this fact as they establish strict guidelines for addressing firearms safety.

Prevention of these shootings should start with effective training, but prevention should also include disciplinary action for any officer, regardless of rank, who violates that agency’s firearms safety or range training rules. It’s better that an officer receive a written reprimand for one safety violation than face criminal indictment after they violate two, which has been the reality for a number of officers responsible for these tragedies.

DISCUSS FIREARM SAFETY

Reciting firearms safety rules off of a clipboard is not an acceptable safety briefing. Safety briefings should be well-prepared discussions that leave every student with an unmistakable understanding that their instructors, and their agency, have a zero-tolerance approach to any violation. Each safety discussion should include a review of at least one negligent shooting so that officers are reminded that even a momentary lapse of vigilance can lead to tragedy.

On the first morning of every NRA

Law Enforcement Instructor Course, we spend up to an hour teaching a specific lesson plan that addresses both firearms and range safety. At the end of the class we make it clear that while we hope every student instructor is successful, we feel an obligation to remove any student who cannot demonstrate both safe gun-handling skills and strict compliance with our range safety rules. While we take no pleasure in sending students home, all of us understand that it is much better to remove one officer from a course than to risk the safety of an entire class.

INSTRUCTORS SET THE STANDARD

Instructors have the most influence over an agency’s safety culture. Firearms instructors must demonstrate flawless gun handling skills and insist on the same from every officer they train. Instructors should build redundancies into every firearm inspection procedure so that no officer is working with a loaded gun during “empty-gun” drills, or returning to training from a break with a loaded firearm. But most importantly, trainers must show the courage and leadership to immediately address safety violations when they occur. This includes removing students who fail to comply with either the core rules of firearms safety or clear instruction on where and when they can un-holster their pistols.

CONCLUSION

Today’s law enforcement officers face a mounting list of threats to their safety. Being shot by partners or trainers who cannot follow four clear rules should no longer be one of them. Just one careless mistake, by otherwise good officers, leads to preventable tragedies that destroy lives, families, and careers. More must be done to eliminate rather than reduce this threat.



Mark Schraer is a staff instructor for the NRA's Law Enforcement Division. In this role, Mark has the privileged of teaching law enforcement, military, and nuclear security firearms instructors throughout the country. Mark was a California police officer and sergeant for 26 years and has been a law enforcement firearms instructor for over twenty years.

Citizen Open Carry

BY SARAH GERVASE
ASSISTANT GENERAL COUNSEL, NRA

Texas became the 45th state to allow the open carry of handguns as of New Year's Day 2016. A couple other states may legalize it in the near future, joining the recent wave of states that now permit it. Officers who haven't encountered open carry should therefore be aware of some of the issues that have arisen in recent years as more people choose open carry.

Some people prefer to carry openly rather than concealed despite some of open carry's tactical drawbacks. Open carriers see it as a possible deterrent to criminals. Some want to educate others on their rights and teach them that gun ownership and carrying are normal, everyday activities they should not fear. Some prefer open carry in the summer when wearing extra clothing would be uncomfortable. Some don't want to go through the process of getting a concealed carry license in those states where a permit is required for concealed but not open carry. Many people who open carry cite all those reasons and more, and yes, some open carriers enjoy the interactions with officers who are just trying to do their jobs.

So what should law enforcement know about open carry? Two things, first and foremost. Number one is that open carry changes nothing about your personal safety and probable cause. If someone is putting you or someone else in serious danger, you can take the same steps as you always would. And if there is probable cause to arrest someone for a crime other than openly carrying a firearm, you have probable cause. That's it.

Sarah Gervase is Assistant General Counsel at the NRA. She graduated from Harvard College and Notre Dame Law School, and is the proud sister of a law enforcement officer.

Second, make sure you know your state's laws. Some states require a permit to carry openly. Other states don't. Some but not all states allow officers to demand to see a license when they encounter someone open carrying. Minimum ages vary as well. All states allow private businesses to prohibit firearms, whether openly or concealed carry, so individuals in those states who have been asked to leave a business could be committing a trespass if they refuse to leave.

Open carry is still relatively uncommon in most areas of the country. Because people are not used to seeing it, though, dispatchers do get calls on it from time to time. In fact, one argument against open carry is that officers have to use valuable time investigating calls where no crime is being committed, and that, if people grow accustomed to seeing it, the public and law enforcement may be slower to recognize an immediately dangerous situation. There are no easy answers. The public has to recognize true danger signs. Dispatchers must collect as much solid information as they can and pass that on to responding officers. And officers must exercise the same good judgment as they would during any other type of call.

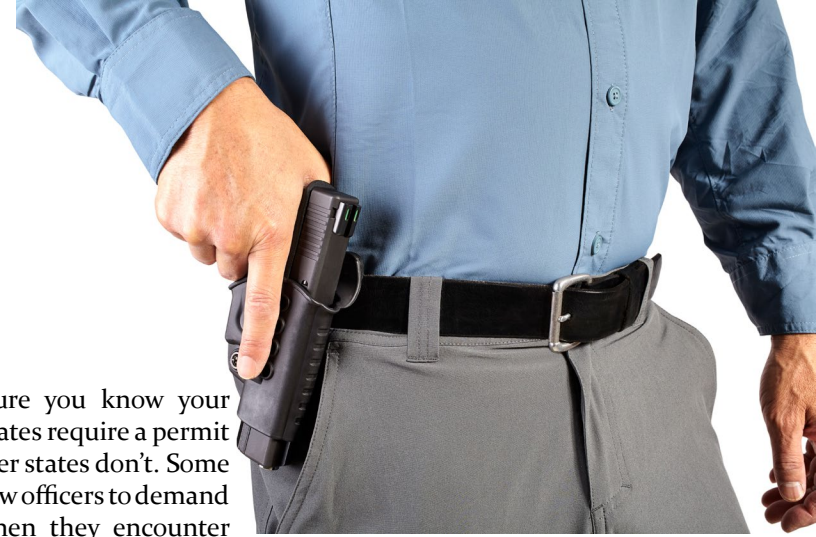
There have been several cases in which open carriers have sued for alleged violations of their rights during brief detentions and investigatory stops. Most of these lawsuits have failed, as officers must be allowed to do their jobs. The claims are usually based upon the Fourth Amendment, Second Amendment, and occasionally the First Amendment (open carry as a form of symbolic speech expressing the value of the right to keep and bear arms). Courts have looked closely at the facts of each encounter and have typically found insufficient evidence that the officers acted unreasonably during these stops.

These lawsuits are successful on occasion, however. One came out of New Mexico in 2009. In that case, officers responded to a call that a man

openly carrying a handgun in a movie theater was making other customers nervous. They approached the man, put him in an escort hold, and walked him outside. They patted him down, found no contraband, and did a database check that showed that the man lawfully possessed the gun. The entire incident took about half an hour, and the officers admitted that the man was fully cooperative the entire time. The man later sued for unreasonable search and seizure. Here, the court noted that New Mexico law allowed open carry and that the law was clearly established at the time. The man's possession of a loaded firearm in a crowded place did not, by itself, create a reasonable suspicion sufficient to justify such an investigatory detention, and the police had no basis for believing that the man was a danger. The city eventually settled for \$21,000.

Another case arose in Colorado Springs, Colorado. In this case, a man sued for wrongful arrest after he was arrested and jailed for open carrying at a gay pride event one day after the Aurora theater shooting. The police agency had been using an outdated handbook that had not been updated to show that open carry was now legal in the city. The prosecutor quickly dropped the charges once he had researched the law, but the city had to write a check for \$23,500.

There have not been many problems in states where open carry is legal. Gangbangers and other criminals do not want to advertise to the general public that they are packing, and most law-abiding citizens who carry still prefer concealed. Still, officers should still make sure they know the current laws in their states and the best ways to interact with open carriers.





FREE REFUSE TO BE A VICTIM (RTBAV) TRAINING FOR LAW ENFORCEMENT Award-Winning Crime Prevention Program

The single most important step toward ensuring your own safety is having a personal safety strategy in place before you need it. NRA's Refuse To Be A Victim® program teaches the tips and techniques you need to be alert to dangerous situations and avoid becoming a victim. Seminars are held across the nation and are open to men and women of all ages. Hundreds of federal, state, and local law enforcement officials across the country have implemented Refuse To Be A Victim into their crime prevention initiatives and now you can too!

For a limited time, grant funding is available to cover the cost of online instructor training. A \$250 value, the online instructor program is a great way to complete training even with a busy schedule. The entire training takes anywhere from 10 - 15 hours over a two week period. After training is complete, you are certified to bring this vital information back to your community! Instructors get a PowerPoint, talking points, and promotional materials that make it easy to plan and present the seminar. Additionally the RTBAV program provides free student materials so that your agency can offer training to the public at zero cost.

Benefits of bringing RTBAV to your community:

- Empower individual safety plans
- Encourage situational awareness
- Provide valuable safety information

To sign up for one of our **FREE** Law Enforcement only online training courses, email refuse@nrahq.com.

Police Pistol Combat Program Rule Change

At the November 2015 NRA Board of Directors Law Enforcement Assistance Committee meeting, Law Enforcement Competitions Staff requested that the Committee consider changing the sight specifications for Production Semi-Automatic Pistols in Rule 3.10 to allow additional replacement sight options for competitors.

The Committee approved the recommendation and it was later approved to go before the NRA Board of Directors for consideration by the Competition Rules & Programs Committee. On January 9, 2016, the NRA Board of Directors approved the amendment as proposed.

PPC Rule 3.10 for Production Semi-Automatic Pistols now allows "Replacement of the factory fixed or adjustable service sights with another service type sight, luminescent service sight, or fiber optic service sight sold by the pistol's manufacturer as a factory catalog replacement part for the pistol, or with a sight on the **Production Semi-Automatic Pistol Approved Sight List on the NRA Law Enforcement Competitions website. In no case may the firearm be altered for any sight installation.**"

A draft PPC Program Bulletin listing approved sights has been written covering common replacement sights but we need competitor suggestions concerning what aftermarket Duty Sights should be considered. Please e-mail your suggestions to LECompetitions@nrahq.org. Please type *Production Sight* in the subject line and include as much information about the specific sight/pistol combination you want to be considered with their web page address.

Don't forget to get your new printed pocket-size copy of the 2016 Police Pistol Combat Rule Book by calling Law Enforcement Competitions at 703.267.1632. In the mean time you can see the full Police Pistol Combat Rule Book online at <http://ppc.nra.org> and clicking on "PPC Rule Information" on the left menu bar. This is also where the PPC Program Bulletin for approved Production sights will be posed shortly.

Continuing Education Requirements for NRA Law Enforcement Firearms Instructors

To maintain the value, integrity and significance of the NRA Law Enforcement Firearm Instructor Certification, the NRA Law Enforcement Division adopted and implemented a mandatory 24-hour Continuing Education requirement in 2004.

Certified NRA Law Enforcement Instructors need to recertify by submitting proof of having obtained a minimum of 24 hours of continuing education, related to either firearms training or instructor development training at any time during the three-year certification period that is expiring. This continuing education must be training you have attended in person and as a student. Training from your own agency is generally not acceptable.

Firearms training is defined as hands-on, practical or skills based training actually involving the use and/or shooting of firearms. This would typically be indicative of training designed to improve one's handling proficiency, marksmanship ability, tactics or other skills as they directly relate to the safe use of firearms.

Instructor development training is defined as instruction, schooling or education designed to enhance, augment

and/or improve one's presentation, teaching or public speaking capabilities.

Examples of acceptable training may include, but are not specifically limited to:

- Successful completion of another NRA Law Enforcement Division firearm instructor school.
- Attendance and successful completion of NRA Education and Training civilian firearm classes.
- Firearm or instructor development training conducted by a federal, state, or local training academy.
- Attendance at the annual training conferences of recognized professional training associations.
- Training provided by a firearms manufacturer relative to the use of law enforcement firearms they produce.
- Up to 8 hours of certified manufacturers armorer training will be accepted and credited towards the 24 hour training requirement.

- Up to 8 hours of continuing education can be credited towards the 24 hours training requirement for participation at the NRA's National Police Shooting Championships (NPSC) and/or Tactical Police Competitions (TPC).

For additional specific information related to our Continuing Educational Requirements, please refer to our "FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS" document found in the NRA Programs section of any NRA Law Enforcement Firearm Instructor manual, or online at <http://le.nra.org/training/recertification.aspx>



NRA

ENDORSED
MEMBER
BENEFITS

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.

Program administered by Lockton Affinity, LLC | (877) 672-3006 | NRA Member dues or contributions are not used for this promotion, program or any other related expenses.

2016 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 = \$595 per person

HANDGUN & SHOTGUN

Mar 28-Apr 1 Columbus, MS
 Mar 28-Apr 1 Sewickley, PA
 Mar 28-Apr 1 San Diego, CA
 Apr 04-08 Bethlehem, PA
 Apr 04-08 Ballwin, MO
 Apr 11-15 Stapleton, AL
 Apr 11-15 Pass Christian, MS
 May 2-6 Monroeville, PA (*pub LE only*)
 May 2-6 Henryetta, OK
 May 09-13 Davidsonville, MD
 (*Pub LE & Military only*)
 May 16-20 Florence, AL
 May 23-27 San Antonio, TX
 June 6-10 Garden Plain, KS
 June 6-10 Cuyler, NY
 June 13-17 Pearl, MS
 June 13-17 Eaton, CO
 June 20-24 New Smyrna Bch, FL
 June 20-24 Shreveport, LA
 Aug 29-Sep 02 Tupelo, MS
 Sep 12-16 Tuscaloosa, AL
 Sep 12-16 Valhalla, NY (*pub LE*)
 Sep 19-23 Las Vegas, NV
 Sep 19-23 Savannah, GA
 Oct 03-07 Pearl, MS
 Oct 10-14 Horton, KS
 Oct 10-14 Bethlehem, PA
 Oct 17-21 Defiance, MO (*pub LE*)
 Oct 17-21 Florence, AL
 Oct 17-21 San Antonio, TX
 Oct 24-28 Hutto, TX
 Oct 31-Nov 4 Sugar Creek, MO

HANDGUN

Mar 21-25 Sopchoppy, FL
 Apr 11-15 Littleton, CO
 Apr 25-29 Sopchoppy, FL
 May 02-06 Richland, WA
 May 16-20 Jensen Beach, FL
 (*Pub LE & Nuclear Security only*)
 May 23-27 New Smyrna Beach, FL
 June 6-10 Saratoga Springs, UT
 Aug 1-5 Monroe, LA
 Aug 15-19 Palm Bay, FL
 Aug 15-19 Martinsburg, WV
 Sep 26-30 New Smyrna Beach, FL
 Oct 31-Nov 4 Staunton, VA

PATROL RIFLE

Mar 21-25 Florence, AL
 Mar 21-25 Sopchoppy, FL
 Apr 04-08 Pearl, MS
 Apr 11-15 Dahlonoga, GA
 Apr 18-22 Bethlehem, PA
 Apr 25-29 Horton, KS
 Apr 25-29 Alpine, CA
 May 02-06 Tuscaloosa, AL

May 16-20 Richland, WA
 May 23-27 Rock Hill, SC
 May 23-27 Elizabethtown, PA
 June 13-17 Defiance, MO (*pub LE only*)
 June 13-17 Saratoga Springs, UT
 June 13-17 San Antonio, TX
 June 13-17 Henryetta, OK
 June 20-24 Garden Plain, KS
 July 11-15 Kansas City, KS
 July 11-15 Lamar, CO
 July 25-29 London, OH
 Aug 22-26 Littleton, CO
 Aug 22-25 Chehalis, WA
 Aug 29-Sep 2 Hutto, TX
 Aug 29-Sep 2 Bridgeville, DE
 Sep 19-23 Florence, AL
 Sep 26-30 Bethlehem, PA
 Sep 26-30 Palm Bay, FL
 Oct 03-07 Shreveport, LA
 Oct 03-07 Ottawa, KS
 Oct 10-14 Savannah, GA
 Oct 17-21 Summerville, SC
 Oct 24-28 Sugar Creek, MO
 Nov 14-18 Las Vegas, NV
 Dec 5-9 Pearl, MS

PRECISION RIFLE

Apr 4-8 Prescott, AZ
 Apr 18-22 Florence, AL
 Sep 26-30 Winslow Twp, NJ
 Oct 10-14 Hutto, TX
 Oct 31-Nov 4 Rio Rancho, NM
 Nov 14-17 Pearl, MS
 Dec 5-9 Las Vegas, NV
 Dec 12-16 Palm Bay, FL

SELECT-FIRE

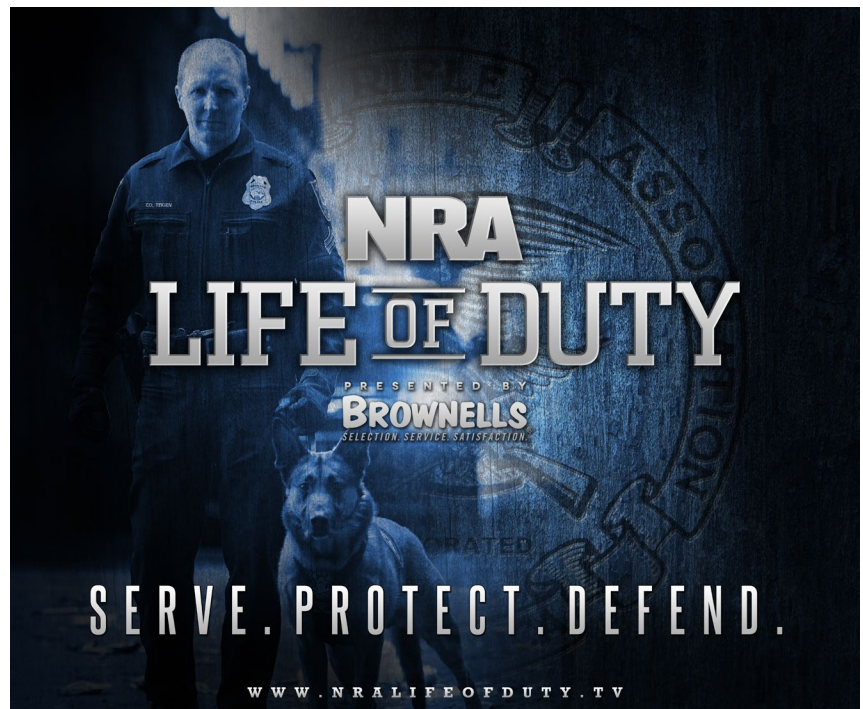
Apr 18-22 San Antonio, TX
 Sep 26-30 Hutto, TX
 Oct 3-7 Bethlehem, PA
 Nov 14-18 Florence, AL

TACTICAL SHOOTING

Apr 11-15 Bethlehem, PA
 May 23-27 Sopchoppy, FL
 Aug 8-12 Tuscaloosa, AL
 Aug 29-Sep 2 Rio Rancho, NM
 Sep 19-23 Bethlehem, PA
 Oct 3-7 Las Vegas, NV
 Oct 17-21 Monroeville, PA (*pub LE only*)
 Oct 17-21 Palm Bay, FL
 Oct 31-Nov 4 Columbus, GA
 Oct 31-Nov 4 Summerville, SC
 Nov 14-18 San Antonio, TX
 Dec 5-9 Florence, AL
 Dec 12-16 Savannah, GA

TACTICAL SHOTGUN

Mar 21-25 San Antonio, TX
 Apr 11-15 Tuscaloosa, AL
 Apr 25-29 Bethlehem, PA
 May 23-27 Garden Plain, KS
 June 6-10 Littleton, CO
 Sep 12-16 Bethlehem, PA
 Oct 10-14 Pittsburgh, PA (*pub LE only*)
 Oct 24-28 Las Vegas, NV



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

R. Kyle Weaver
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.

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.