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WEAPONS AWARENESS & RECOGNITION TRAINING

An educated community is a safer community



Steve Collins C.E.O. PS5

here are many determined and desperate people in this world who are more than happy to maim and kill in the pursuit of their cause. Their motivation can be anything from robbery to rape to the most heinous acts of international terrorism.

With the exception of opportunists, these people will in most cases make a careful study of the security measures employed to thwart their attacks. The tiniest weakness will be exploited to their advantage and often with catastrophic results for the victims. The vast majority of these acts of violence will involve the use of a weapon. It is a fact that weapons related crime is and has for many years been on the increase. It would be easy to fill this Bulletin with government statistics that show how incidents of shootings, stabbings and beatings are escalating out of control in many areas of our society. The carrying of offensive and deadly weapons is now such a massive

problem throughout the world that like it or not each and every one of us has already been affected by it. Weapons related crime has permeated the very fabric of our communities, it degrades the quality of all our lives, and no one is immune. Even incidents of our children carrying weapons and committing horrific crimes of violence, murder and rape are on the increase. Bizarre as it may sound, some communities are literally living in fear of the local children.

For almost fifty years I have studied and taught ways in which people can protect themselves. If there is one thing that I have learned, it is, that there are huge amounts of claptrap spouted about the how to defend yourself against a weapon. The fact is, unless you are immensely skilful it is almost impossible to avoid being shot, cut or beaten.

However, if people were taught how to recognise weapons and given an understanding of how and why they are disguised, improvised, adapted, concealed and used, then those people would be far safer than just learning some totally useless defence technique showing them what to do if they are attacked, by which time its probably too late anyway.

Let me explain. If you had been trained to tell the difference between deadly venomous snakes and a harmless snakes, and if you understood how, why and when venomous snakes attack. The likelihood is that you would never be bitten by a deadly snake. The same principle applies to weapons, the best defence against them is an ability to recognise and understand them.

Weapons awareness and recognition training is a key to safer communities.

The US Government openly admits that one of the contributing factors to 9/11 was a lack of weapons awareness and recognition training.

You see it makes absolutely no difference whatsoever how much sophisticated state-of-the-art detection equipment you have at your disposal, if you don't know what the weapons you're searching for look like, you won't find them!

The U.S.A. 9/11 Report clearly states: "For an investment of less than \$100 for a few simple knives and a couple of mace sprays, 19 hijackers gained control of 4 domestic flights resulting in a death toll of almost 3000 innocent people and a bill for damages exceeding \$40 billion and still rising". How much weapons awareness and recognition training would \$40 billion buy I wonder?

Long before 9/11 I recognised that there was a desperate lack of information available on weapons awareness and as a result I created my Manual of Prohibited and Concealable Weapons this publication is now in service with Law Enforcement and Government agencies in over fifty countries and considered by many to be the definitive training aid on the subject. This unique manual is now available for purchase through Skills for Security. PS5 has developed and delivered Weapons Awareness Training to Government Agencies and the Corporate Sector for many years. Without doubt our new partnership with Skills for Security opens the door for further research and development and gives more of an opportunity for this vital resource of information to reach a wider security based audience. I believe that an educated community is a safer community, and we all have a right to be safe.

TRAINING TO THINK DIFFERENTLY

The world's first fully accredited weapons awareness & recognition programme



Stefan Hay

As the number of crimes involving knives, firearms and imitation firearms reportedly increases in the UK, Stefan Hay, Director of Strategic Development at Skills for Security, looks at the growing UK Weapon Culture and highlights the work his organisation is doing, in partnership with PS5 Limited, to ensure police, security and other front-line personnel have a basic awareness of weapons and the threat that they pose.

n the Security Business Sector alone nearly 500,000 individuals are exposed to potential conflict on a daily basis, purely because of the environment in which they operate. Door Supervisors at nightclubs, event security officers at large concerts, sporting or political events, security officers in shopping centres and airports. The list goes on and it is likely that all will experience a weapons related incident at some point. It is these factors that have lead Skills for Security to partner with PS5 Ltd to develop the Basic Weapons Awareness & Recognition Programme. The programme is aimed at Level 3 qualified trainers who are already delivering training to the cash & valuables in transit, security guarding, door supervision, community warden, event stewarding and associated sub sectors. It is a one day course that equips delegates with all of the training

material required to deliver training in this area and a full weapons training case with examples of concealed weapons and everyday items that can be utilised as a weapon.

Trainers'

weapons

The first of these unique training programmes was successfully delivered on 27th July 2006 at the Fownes Hotel in Worcester. It was attended by delegates that represented a broad spectrum of the Security Business Sector including representatives from manned guarding, community warden schemes, training providers and the prison service amongst others.



Peter delivers the 1st Weapons Awareness course

The course received a very positive reaction and all the delegates without exception felt that it was an extremely informative and well designed course. Delegates viewed the course as a balanced mix of theory and practice and were impressed with the purpose built weapons training case designed by PS5 that they took away with them at the end of the course. Here at Skills for Security, we are delighted with the positive feedback that we have received regarding this innovative new training course. With the number of crimes involving knives, firearms and imitation firearms reportedly increasing we at Skills for Security firmly believe that it is our duty to equip our sector's trainers and their students with sufficient knowledge to recognise weapons concealment and respond to any weapons related incidents in a calm professional and safe manner. We feel that the new Basic Weapons Awareness & Recognition Programme addresses this need and we feel sure that this will become an invaluable programme for anybody working in the sector.



Debs delivering the 2nd Weapons Awareness course

Regardless of how much sophisticated electronic detection equipment your personnel have at their disposal, if they don't know what they are looking for they won't find it. A lack of basic awareness and weapons recognition will result in security breaches.



The PS5 Training Team with the all the delegates of the very first Basic Weapons Awareness Training Course

HIDDEN IN PLAIN SIGHT

The definitive instant reference for weapons concealment



Vice President of Training



Peter Smith

Peter Smith is Vice President of Training at PS5 and has become a key figure among a small team of dedicated people who take great pride in the quality, delivery and total professionalism of their training and educational programmes. Peter is no stranger to this role having until recently led teams as a Detective Superintendent in charge at the leading specialist UK

Police Search Training Centre. His sound practical and theoretical background in security and training issues comes from a long and distinguished police career and is fully supported by his postgraduate qualifications in teaching and training course design. Peter is also trained in quality assurance and has recently been appointed as a training quality assurance reviewer in the Justice Sector.

Together with Steve Collins, Peter designed the successful Basic Weapons Awareness and Recognition Programme now offered and accredited by Skills for Security.

Weapons Awareness and Recognition is of course just one area where PS5 is a leader in providing specialist training to the law enforcement, justice, defence and security sectors. Peter's role within PS5 is to develop specialist training programmes that will fully meet the clients needs by conducting thorough training needs analysis leading to bespoke designed courses, dynamic delivery and full accreditation.

TELL-TALE SIGNS OF CARRY

art of the PS5 advanced Weapons Awareness and Recognition training programme is a section on weapons concealment and carry, and part of that section deals with the tell-tale signs displayed by many people who are carrying a firearm. The carrying of guns legal or otherwise is an enormous problem with law enforcement officers worldwide. Volumes have been written on the techniques used to carry a gun in a concealed manner. Whether you are a police officer, a soldier or a bank robber if you carry a firearm as a tool of your trade there are two simple rules to remember.

- 1. Take it with you when you go to work.
- 2. Keep it in a safe and convenient place until you need it.

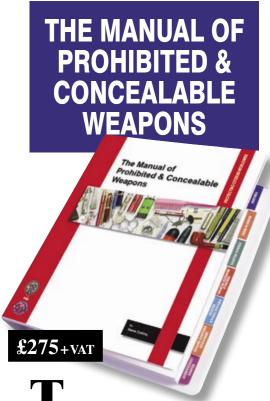
The police officer and the soldier will happily and overtly display their weapons most of the time. However, the criminal for obvious reasons needs to conceal his weapon at all costs.

Many firearms manufacturers have a range of ultra slim sub-compact pistols specially made covert carry. Fortunately, however, your average thug is not very sophisticated nor has access to specialised equipment. More than likely their weapon will be a full size, full framed model that they will simply tuck into their waistband or shove into a pocket and, unless they have been trained, they will give away visual tell-tale clues that they are carrying. Based on the hard-won information and experience of many law enforcement officers from around the world, you can learn some simple observation techniques that make it possible to recognise the visual clues of concealed carry.



Steve Collins stresses the importance of weapons recognition and concealment at the Home Office POLSA conference

TRAINING AND TRAINING AIDS



complement PS5's Weapons & Recognition training Awareness programmes the internationally acclaimed Manual of Prohibited and Concealable Weapons is now available from Skills for Security or direct from PS5. The manual is in service with law enforcement agencies and government bodies in over fifty countries, and considered by many to be the definitive training aid on weapons awareness. It contains over 200 pages and in excess of one thousand photographs that graphically illustrate commercially manufactured, home-made, improvised and adapted weapons.



ALREADY PROVIDING INVALUABLE INFORMATION
TO THE FOLLOWING ORGANISATIONS

Law
Enforcement
Prisons &
Secure Units
Armed Forces
Special Forces
EOD
Customs & Excise

Immigration

Courts

Embassies
Airports
Seaports
Forensic
Science
Security
Organisations
Sports Stadiums
Casinos
Shops & Stores

THE TRAINING PROGRAMMES

all relevant training aids, manuals and associated training material.

BASIC

Weapons Awareness and Recognition:

This course is a ground level introduction to weapons awareness and recognition for law enforcement, defence and security personnel and anyone else whose role could potentially bring them into contact, or expose them to the threat of weapons.

ADVANCED

Weapons Awareness and Recognition:

The advanced course focuses on the threat from disguised, concealable and stealth weapons. It also covers firearms and their component parts. An important module of this programme addresses the methods in which weapons can be concealed and carried on the person. It is of particular benefit to those who are required to conduct security searches of people and their belongings in order to detect weapons and other prohibited items.

CLIENT SPECIFIC

Weapons Awareness and Recognition:

This is a bespoke package crucial for the security practitioner whose role requires an in-depth understanding and training input.

All client specific programmes require a thorough training needs analysis. After which the courses are designed specifically to meet the specialist training and unique development needs of that particular sector of the industry, and will address the problems that may be unique to that sector. Secure hospital units and Children carrying weapons in school, for example.

SEARCHING PEOPLE:

This course concentrates on mastering the techniques of searching people and their baggage for weapons and prohibited articles. It is part of a wider 5 modular accredited course that covers all aspects of counter terrorist and security searching.



A DVD presentation by PS5 Productions

A 30 minute firearms recognition DVD providing vital information on firearms (commercially manufactured, homemade, improvised or adapted) component parts, ammunition and penetration. This presentation dispels some of the myths on what might provide safe cover. This DVD is a must for your weapon detection and awareness programmes.

IT'S EASY TO STAY INFORMED WHEN YOU KNOW HOW!

Through our specialist quarterly journal, PCW Review, we've been keeping professionals like you in the law enforcement, defence and security industry informed about topical security issues for 5 years. Protecting Citizens Worldwide has been the aim of the magazine since its inception and from the feedback we receive the informative and educational material we publish is proving invaluable to individuals and organisations, both in government and the corporate sector. We are dedicated to promoting officer and public safety.



We are offering you a very special incentive to subscribe to PCW Review! Subscribe for 2007 (4 quarterly issues) and receive all 4 issues from 2006 absolutely free.

ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION RATES: £36 UK/EU and £50 Rest of World

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