



# WSTOA

## Newsletter

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### In This Issue

- WSTOA Team Assessment
- 2011 Conference Recap
- Book Review

### WSTOA

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## WSTOA Team Assessment: Move Your Team Forward!

By: Wayne DuBois, Director of Operations

As a part of the strategic plan for my team (Tri-City Regional SWAT), we agreed to have our team evaluated by an outside entity in 2011. There were different ideas about who should do the evaluation, but we eventually settled on having WSTOA perform the evaluation, for a variety of reasons. For starters, the cost to have WSTOA evaluate our team was less than half of what most other private contractors were charging. Additionally, WSTOA uses an objective assessment tool (WSTOA's Suggested SWAT Best Practices), rather than assessing based on how "their team does it..."

In June of 2011, Sgt. Jeff Selleg and Officer Tom Fitzgerald came out to do an administrative and operational assessment on our team. During the administrative portion they conducted interviews with team members and spot checks of equipment, as well as a review of our team operating policy. For the operational portion WSTOA evaluated our team's performance in a hostage rescue scenario. After the scenario was complete, the WSTOA evaluators completed a debrief with the team, with a complete write up forthcoming.

It takes a lot of courage to have people from the outside come in and check out your team's operation. The good news is that if your team leadership is open to constructive criticism, your team can and will move forward and be better tomorrow than they are today. It is also an honor for WSTOA to take part in that process for your team. Contact WSTOA today to schedule a team evaluation!

If you would like to get more information regarding a team assessment, or schedule one, please contact Wayne DuBois at [wdubois@ci.richland.wa.us](mailto:wdubois@ci.richland.wa.us)

## Conference Recap

By: Evan Ehring, District 6 Representative

This year WSTOA joined forces with OTOA (Oregon Tactical Officers Association) to host the Pacific Northwest Tactical Conference and Vendor show. I am pleased to say that the first attempt at a joint conference was a great success. 205 students registered for a wide variety of classes taught by WSTOA, OTOA as well as outside agencies and vendors.

Day one of the conference was free to all law enforcement and military. We had 33 vendors that were showing off the latest and greatest they had to offer officers in the

region. There were many deals and giveaways as well as an afterhours event privately sponsored by Wild Things Tactical that was very popular. There were also incident debriefs given by LAPD SWAT and Oakland SWAT regarding some very high profile confrontations. There were many lessons learned from both speakers and we appreciate the time they took to come up to Washington and share their experiences. Day one had over 450 attendees and we also thank all of the officers who came to Vancouver on their own time to make the day a great success.

Days two and three were dedicated to the courses. We thank all of the instructors and students who put in a great effort on both days. Including the students of the Waterborne Operations course who were soaked on day two but maintained a positive attitude and forged on to finish the day.

Finally, if you have pictures or video from any of the courses that you attended please let WSTOA know and we can post them on our website for the conference recap. I have had many requests so that various commanders can see what they spent all that money on. We are in the process of updating the website and as soon as it is done we will pass it on to you all.

We have received many comments about the courses, including instructor quality, venue selection and course content. If you have not had a chance to comment please do so, good or bad. We would also like to hear from you if you did not attend the conference. Was it course selection, location, cost, or some other issue that kept you from joining us this year? WSTOA is committed to providing the best training that we can and feed back is critical to how we plan events.

Next year NTOA is holding their annual tactical conference in the Seattle area. We are looking to WSTOA members to assist where possible to provide logistical support. NTOA will provide you a certificate to attend a course free of charge if you are able to help them out. Jeff Seleg from Port of Seattle Police will be providing more details as the year progresses.

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## Book Review: Stay in the Fight! Warriors Guide to the Combat Pistol

By: Sgt. Lawrence Lujan, El Paso PD SWAT

Retired Sergeant Major Kyle E. Lamb is founder and President of Viking Tactics, Inc., [www.VikingTactics.com](http://www.VikingTactics.com), as well as the author of “[Green Eyes and Black Rifles: The Warriors Guide to the Combat Carbine](#).” He is a plus 20-year veteran of the United States Army, with 15 plus years in U.S. Army Special Operations. His operational experience includes combat operations in Mogadishu, Somalia (Black Hawk Down Incident), Bosnia, and numerous tours in Iraq.

His most current book is “[Stay in the Fight!! Warriors Guide to the Combat Pistol](#)”. In this second book SGM Lamb succeeds in providing numerous invaluable tools to both the new and experienced operator/officer. He presents you “a way” and not “the way” unless through operational experience he has found a tactic to not be valid (yes there are some). Like all tactical training, you go from theory to application and keep what works best for you. His tactics and advice are based on operational experiences that tie in to both military and law enforcement areas of operation, and provide core fundamentals to both.

I enjoyed SGM Lamb’s humor and methodical approach to his tactics; I particularly enjoyed his directness when it came to some tactics that have become a *sacred cow* in some circles. Hey, just because it is black and has velcro/molle attachments (or someone claims sandbox status) does not make it a valid tool or technique! SGM Lamb not only provides suggestions, he also breaks them down and looks at them from all angles—legal, reality vs. the cool factor, and the obvious. For example on point shooting versus sighted fire, he comments that law enforcement professionals and military members must use sighted fire to quickly dominate situations, save the good guy and not injure innocent bystanders; with the distinction between and for contact shots. Another example is his promotion of shooting on the move as a basic skill. Far too many agencies feel that this is an advanced technique for advanced operators/officers when nothing could be further from the truth. Observations like these lend credence to his operational experience and skill as an instructor.

The book is broken down into three parts: Part I covers Core Skills and has 12 chapters that include—stance, grip, sighting, the draw, and reloads. Part II on Tools of the Trade, has eight chapters that include—pistol selection, lights, and mindset. Part III on Intermediate/Advanced Skills, has 10 chapters that include—turns/facing movements, shooting on the move, weapons retention, and flashlight techniques. Each Part systematically progresses, appropriately beginning with Chapter 1—Safety and ending with Chapter 30—Last Round. All chapters address topics not only for the tactical operator, but also for the patrol and the undercover officer.

Lastly, there are pictures, and hey, who doesn’t like pictures? This book offers a large volume of knowledge with images to support every suggested technique. This allows you to transfer the written word into a mental image and provides you with references for future application. For those hoping for a book on competitive shooting tips, you will not find them here, as the focus of the book is combat shooting skills; the skills to WIN a gunfight where the ultimate outcome is you or an innocent victim’s survival. This is a valuable addition to those who dare and are in the arena on a daily basis. STAY SAFE, BACK EACH OTHER UP, STAY ALIVE and WIN THE FIGHT.....

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