



LAW ENFORCEMENT FIREARMS TRAINING (Utilizing Laser Technology)

SUBJECT: Enhanced Dry-fire Training Tools Provide Options for Missing Training Segments

>> LE TRAINING OVERVIEW

LE Firearms Training – Departmental firearms training normally is conducted on ranges, in classrooms or designated simulation areas. Many departments “qualify” 2 to 4 times a year, while others only qualify one time. Standard law enforcement firearms training programs require a “qualification testing mechanism,” usually in association with a “training package” provided during the qualification process. Often, the majority of time is expended in live fire qualification, while training is mainly classroom based with some range applications. While this methodology may meet qualification requirements, it falls far short of the training required to maintain and improve officers’ skills throughout the year.

Note: Training and Qualification – Training and qualification are two different things. Live fire “qualification” is required as a testing mechanism of officers’ ability to use their service firearm. “Training” is used to increase/enhance the officer’s skill level and proficiency. Over the years “qualification” and “training” have come to mean the same thing to many people...they are not.

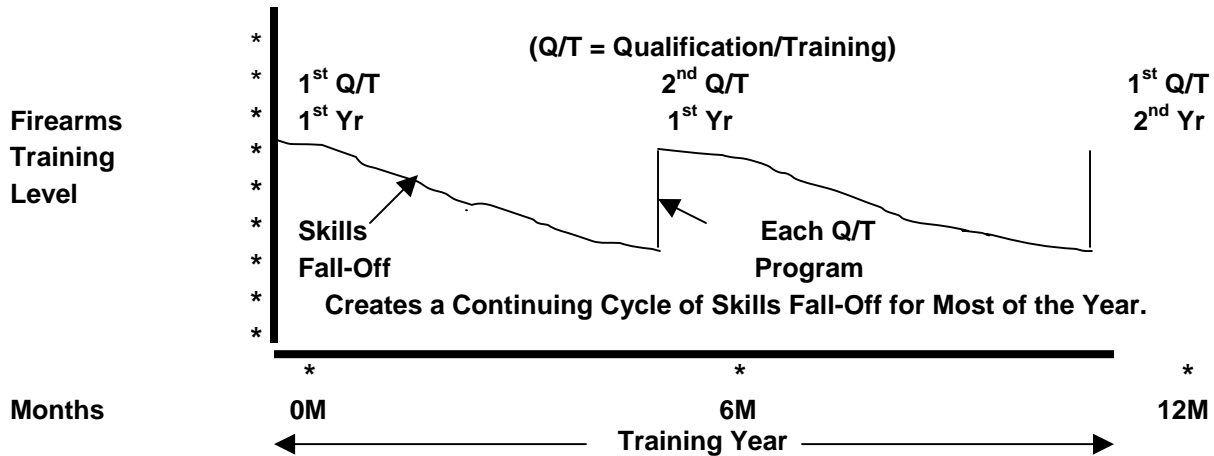
Simulation Training – Into this mix different simulation systems have appeared to help officers’ train for the reality they will face on the street. Screen based systems provide branching scenarios that allow officers to engage in realistic action projected on a screen. Simulation and paintball type force-on-force training pits officers against other officers in realistic and more dynamic encounters.

Continuing Training Segments – Continuing training segments must be conducted to help maintain and build firearms and tactical skills. These must effectively bridge the gap between the 2 to 4 qualification/training programs held during the year, while improving all other firearms and user training. This ongoing training component is lacking in virtually every firearms training program.

>> SKILLS DEGRADATION, CONTINUING TRAINING SEGMENTS, AND NEW TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES

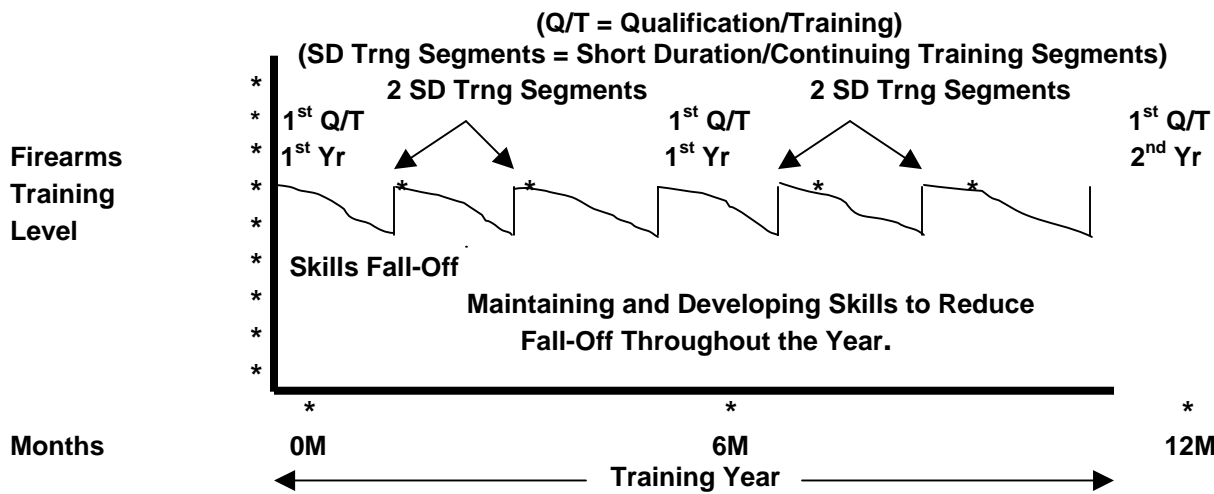
Skills Fall-Off – Firearms skills are perishable. If officers qualify twice a year, usually every 6 months, their skills start to degrade within the first month after qualification and continue to degrade until the next qualification. At the next qualification/training program, firearms instructors work to maintain their officers’ skills and get them qualified, while little “new/additional” training is provided. This creates a repetitive cycle of working to maintain skills and qualify, that leaves most officers without the appropriate skill level. In most departments, this maintenance cycle is repeated year after year and can keep officers at much lower firearms and tactical skill levels for their whole careers. As officers advance in their careers, their firearms skills must also advance. This can only occur with a new direction in training.

*** Standard Bi-Yearly Qualification/Training and Skills Fall-Off:**



During the standard qualification/training cycle perishable skills fall-off. The graph shows general skills fall-off and reworking those skills during the next qualification/training program. The skills fall-off can become even deeper as training programs work to qualify and maintain skills.

*** Standard Bi-Yearly Qualification/Training with the Addition of Continuing Training Segments and Skills Fall-Off:**



The addition of 1 – 3 continuing training segments between the qualification/training programs can dramatically help reduce skills fall-off throughout the year. One of the main goals is to increase the “frequency” of training that will help maintain and develop skills, and sustain them during the year. This can be done in a very cost-effective way, in real locations away from the range and without impacting range personnel.

Continuing Training Segments – Qualification/training provides a base that continuing training segments maintain and improve. If training is only provided twice a year, the results are far below what can be achieved. As we know, officers’ performance under the pressure of lift threatening situations depends on their complete set of skills, which can only be developed by engaging in a continuing training program that fill in the training gaps and strengthens firearms and tactical skills.

Time and Money – Everyone agrees that more training is better, but there are also money and time problems to be considered. But, by not establishing a continuing firearms training program, departments waste resources, create a cycle of reduced performance, increase safety problems, and put officers’ and citizens’ lives at risk.

A Cost-Effective Alternative – A very cost-effective alternative is available that give firearms trainers the options to take their training anywhere, anytime, to the officers that need it...AND create a continuous training program to maintain and develops skills throughout the year.

Create New Training Opportunities and Achieve Higher Training Levels – Trainers must open up their minds to new opportunities to reach their students. No longer should we be satisfied with standard qualification/training, but establish a mechanism to provide the **increased frequency of training** critical to building each officers' defensive firearms and tactical skills. Imagine providing two or three times the training at virtually no cost, while taking the training right to the officers, in real locations, anytime and anywhere.

The Questions We Always Should Be Asking – As firearms instructors, we must ask ourselves the question, "How are we going to achieve higher levels of firearms and tactical training for our officers within the time and monetary restraints of the current program and go beyond it?"

Build Into Current Programs and Insert Additional Segments – MPRI-MPRI-BEAMHIT systems create safe, highly effective, portable, and very cost-effective training ranges and realistic environments that can be used in your current programs or easily inserted as new training segments. These can be provided in regularly scheduled or impromptu training sessions with well-defined goals. AND...they can be conducted virtually anytime and anywhere. Using these systems can dramatically impact your officers' safety, firearms handling and use, tactics, strong decision-making abilities, and survival. This highly portable equipment gives you the opportunity to use it throughout all firearms training – new shooters, in-service and site-specific programs, remedial training, tactical scenarios, etc.

>> MPRI-MPRI-BEAMHIT LASER FIREARMS TRAINING SYSTEMS

MPRI-MPRI-BEAMHIT systems combine precision, **external and in-barrel lasers** with **stand-alone, computer-connected, and reflective targets** to **create safe, effective, and interactive dry-fire training environments** that produce spectacular results. These systems allow firearms instructors to take the training to the officers that need it and increase their "frequency of training," as many agencies train only once or twice a year, while firearms skills degrade quickly. These systems can fulfill five important elements of realistic training, "Officers must be able to train **anywhere and anytime, using their own weapons**, with **freedom of movement and the tactics involved**, while obtaining **immediate and accurate feedback**, with systems that are **adaptable and expandable** to meet individual to organization requirements."

Anywhere, Anytime – MPRI-MPRI-BEAMHIT systems are designed to be highly portable and set up in minutes virtually to establish a dry-fire training environment...**anywhere, anytime**. Officers are put right in the locations, conditions, and situations they will face, bringing the training to the officers. No longer are officers just on the firing line or in an isolated, dark training room...they're immersed in real environments. Whether moving from light into darkness, climbing a set of stairs, approaching a possible threat zone, or slicing the pie, the training is as real as it gets with all the input involved. Now, training can become **site-specific**, conducted on an **opportunity basis, in real locations**. Training can go anywhere and does not have to be tied down to range scheduling, budget, weather, transit costs, lost man-hours, etc. Also, safe and effective tactical training, that is NOT possible on a live fire range, can be conducted virtually anytime and anywhere. The opportunities are only limited by the imagination.

Using Their Own Weapons – Officers must use their own weapons during training to build confidence while developing skills. MPRI-MPRI-BEAMHIT systems provide far greater opportunities for officers to engage in "continuous" training with their individual service weapon, which is so crucial to maintaining and developing their skills and abilities. The lasers slide right into an officer's unloaded service weapon's barrel, whether Beretta,

Glock, Sig, or other. Simply pulling the trigger sends out a laser beam and hits are recorded on electronic targets – simple, direct, and effective training.

Freedom of Movement and the Tactics Involved – Most shootings are close and quick and training must include **freedom of movement** and the critical **tactics** involved. Officers must engage in **dynamic shooting and moving** and the **tactical use** instead of just stationary training.

Immediate and Accurate Feedback – Throughout all training **immediate and accurate feedback** is required of every laser bullet strike to assess each officer's marksmanship skills. The electronic targets record every hit in real time allowing shooters to receive the feedback and help identify mistakes and bad habits as they occur and correct them quickly to strengthen firearms skills. Officers can see exactly how they are progressing, while targets and scores can be downloaded or printed. The improvement and retention will be dramatic.

Adaptable and Expandable – MPRI-MPRI-BEAMHIT systems are readily **adaptable** to existing firearms training programs and **expandable** to meet specific organizational requirements. They're a natural fit that supports current programs while producing the flexible training platform needed for continuing training segments. Training with these systems flows from basic marksmanship and handling, through the development of muscle memory and skill sets, to dynamic movement, to tactical applications and scenario building. They also provide a platform for advanced tactical, judgment, and site-specific training that is often impossible to conduct during live fire...ALL with important feedback, correction, and strengthening mechanisms.

NOTE: Provides Dramatic Savings – Shooting laser bullets can **provide dramatic savings** in ammunition, range time, and other areas. MPRI-MPRI-BEAMHIT systems can also pay for themselves in no time while providing continuing training at virtually no operating costs.

>> WHY IT WORKS

This training mechanism is very simple but can dramatically help position officers to win by the concentration factors presented in a non-threatening, concentrated learning environment where the process is broken down into all the steps to build success through repetition conditions training in the CORRECT techniques, developing the muscle memory, handling skills, firing mechanisms (without live fire) to build and reinforce the training where successful LEARNING, RETENTION, and REPETITION are stressed. This can help preload your students for success.

Non-Threatening Training Environment – Reducing the “training threat,” both physically and psychologically, is one of the most powerful training methodologies to enhance learning. With dry-fire, students are NOT worrying about the recoil, noise, and certain safety considerations. By removing these “negative factors”, shooters can more effectively concentrate on the fundamentals of firearms training (grip, stance, sight picture, sight alignment, trigger manipulation, and follow-through). Students get on target and begin hitting and reinforcing good habits without the negatives that can work to create bad habits. Instantly, understanding and learning work to develop their skill sets in a “total learning environment.” This works equally well for new or experienced shooters and is directly transferable to live fire. Instructors can concentrate as never before on ALL the fundamentals, movement, tactics, and decision-making leading up to shooting solution...with “immediate and accurate feedback.”

Enhanced Dry-Fire Training – Every firearm's instructor knows dry-fire is key to helping every officer build and refine their skill sets. Having officers repetitively “running their equipment” trains-in the handling, manipulating, and firing skill sets and helps build muscle memory. 98% of everything officers do on the range can be trained-in during dry-fire practice. Though true, what dry-fire had always lacked was a powerful feedback mechanism that puts precise marksmanship back into the equation.

Immediate and Accurate Feedback – The main problem with standard dry-fire is the **lack of feedback on accurate shot placement**. An officer can snap into a firing position and pull the trigger, but was the target hit? Even though the sights may seem to be aligned on target when the trigger was pressed, they may not have been, and what seems to work really does not. Without immediate and accurate feedback, most shooters tend to get sloppy or worse still they separate firing positions from all the other skills that are involved in presenting the handgun to fire in a timely manner. MPRI-MPRI-BEAMHIT systems use **laser bullets that register on electronic targets** to provide what had always been missing from dry-fire, the **immediate and accurate feedback** necessary to show if officers are hitting or not. Instructors and officers must know if their marksmanship package is working – firing position, grip, sight alignment, sight picture, trigger manipulation and follow-through.

Strengthening Dry-Fire Training – With immediate and accurate feedback, the instructor knows, and more importantly every officer knows, if they are training-in the correct or wrong habits. If they are not using their sights and not hitting, it is obvious and corrections are made. Now, students become part of their own training solutions. They also see themselves “winning” as they are hitting, which is very powerful for building confidence in their abilities. Add in scenario building for movement, tactics, and decision-making for a total dry-fire training package.

Dynamic Feedback and Positive Reinforcement – Students receive immediate feedback on how they are progressing and provided with positive reinforcement as they see themselves quickly progressing.

Increased Learning and Retention – Firearms training conducted in a dry-fire environment, coupled with dynamic feedback, produces much greater learning and retention levels, and preloads students for higher success rates during live fire.

Increased Instructor-Student Interaction and Greater Student Involvement – MPRI-BEAMHIT can also increase the success rate of instructor-student interaction and produce greater student involvement and understanding. As such, students become part of the solution and are guided into a stronger self-correcting, self-learning mode...while concentrating on the critical training and building their physical and mental skill sets.

>> WHAT IT ACCOMPLISHES

Training Objectives – Builds basic to advanced skills while providing: detailed learning and repetition, faster understanding to skills transference, collective participation, reality-based (training can now take place in real environments where situations and gunfights do occur), real world dynamics (many times there is a vast disparity between what officers do on the range and what they can expect on the street), training before going live (safely build skills first, then go live), skill maintenance and building, and training anywhere and anytime.

Takes the Training to the Officers – Take the training to the officers that need it. The main problem is that officers are trained on flat; postage stamp ranges that are nothing like the environments they will face. Now, training officers can take the next step in providing realistic training in real environments. Whether in a warehouse, station house, school, woods, or alley at 3:00 am, the training places officers in real environments. It can also be used in the range environment for pre-qualification, new technique training, or specialty training. The main factor is “training flexibility” that can:

- * Take the training to the officers that need it, wherever they are.
- * Establish a safe, realistic training environment.
- * Uses equipment that sets up in minutes...anywhere, anytime.
- * Provide the immediate feedback to judge their safe, effective, and timely use.
- * Help officers become part of their own training solutions.
- * Pre-load your students for greater learning transfer and success transmission

(the perception of their success in accomplishing tasks).

- * Engage in training that could not be accomplished otherwise.
- * Put the fun and friendly competition back into your training.

Provides a Safe and Effective Training Platform – MPRI-BEAMHIT™ Systems are the safest, most effective firearms training platforms available that produce strong increases in student ability, performance and confidence...AND the data proves it.

Presents an Enhanced Learning Mechanism – By taking the live fire out of the equation, officer can concentrate much more strongly as they apply the basic fundamentals of marksmanship (the mechanics of shooting), along with the handling, manipulating, safety, and tactics involved.

1. Basic Marksmanship – Grip, stance, sight picture, sight alignment, trigger manipulation, and follow-through.

- * Provides retraining without using live ammo and improves qualification scores.
- * Provides immediate and accurate feedback while training-in all these factors
- * Train-in various firing positions (standing, kneeling, prone, crouching)
- * Do not start bad habits and reduce existing ones.
- * Allows the shooters to watch their shooting performance
- * Allows the instructor to identify and correct poor or weak shooters very quickly
- * Brings the range indoors.

2. Handling and Manipulating – Drawing, holstering, ready positions, moving, search positions, safety considerations/positions, reloading, wounded officer techniques, etc.

- * Involves officers in the total process of using the firearm in a safe, effective, and timely manner.
- * Allows officers' to take the next step in realistic training as they move, search, respond to, and handle the training situations presented in real environments.

3. Safety – Safety procedures, safe handling, and the two safety checks (muzzle in a safe direction and trigger finger out of the trigger guard).

- * Helps train-in these real life safety functions.
- * Applies them in realistic training situations.

4. Tactics – Use of cover, movement, gun position during movement, moving and shooting, approaching cover, use of flashlight, decision-making, various scenarios, verbalization, individual or team search procedures, shoot/no-shoot, stressors, etc.

- * Allows the trainer to work in a 360-degree environment and strengthen officers' skills as they work through realistic situations/scenarios as never before.
- * Provides real environment practice of tactical skills.
- * Supports reduced light marksmanship skills.
- * Officers make their mistakes while solving real scenarios.

NOTE: The Bottom Line Statement – Your officers must be able to handle their weapons in a safe, effective, and timely manner, while applying the tactics involved, during unfolding critical situations.

Program Areas Impacted – Training with MPRI-BEAMHIT equipment can be used to impact: current training programs, initial training for new officers, continuing training for current officers, maintaining and developing firearms and tactical skills, new skills learning and development, remedial programs, in-service, tactical programs, advanced scenarios, SWAT rehearsals, pre-qualification, training beyond live fire (do things you cannot do on a live fire range...anytime, anywhere), and man-on-man/dynamic training.

Dramatic Results and Savings – Using MPRI-BEAMHIT™ Systems also produce dramatic savings in ammunition, range time/equipment/supplies, travel time, manpower, remedial training and repeat qualifications.

- * These systems can pay for themselves in no time while providing continuing training at virtually no operating costs.
- * They allow departments to get the most from the time and money dedicated to firearms training...and then go beyond.
- * Save ammo and get the most from the ammo used.
- * Officers are ready when they come on the line so you get much more from the ammo and training time used.

Increased Control/Documentation & Reduced Liability – Vicarious liability requires the “correct level of training” to prepare your officers for what they may face on the street and the documentation of that training. MPRI-BEAMHIT’s computer-connected targets help provide the control and documentation to produce time-dated hard copies of training sessions that can be downloaded into a database and/or printed out. It can provide a complete overview of everyone’s training and results, help document that the training meets legal requirements, produce hard copies if needed for court actions, and significantly lessen the chance of a successful lawsuit...thus reducing liability.

>> CONCLUSION

Departmental firearms training must go beyond the conventional qualification/training model and provide increased training opportunities. These can be accomplished by developing continuing training segments that help maintain and build firearms and tactical skills and bridge the gaps between the 2 or 3 qualification/training programs held during the year.

- * Training officers must create new opportunities to reach their students by increasing each officer’s frequency of training.
- * MPRI-BEAMHIT systems create safe, highly effective, portable, and very cost-effective training ranges and realistic environments that can be used in your current programs or to develop new training segments.
- * Officers’ performance under the pressure of life threatening situations depends on their complete set of skills. Training programs must provide them with the tools to reach higher skill levels throughout their careers.
- * Using these tools can dramatically impact your officers’ safety, firearms handling and use, tactics, strong decision-making abilities, and survival.