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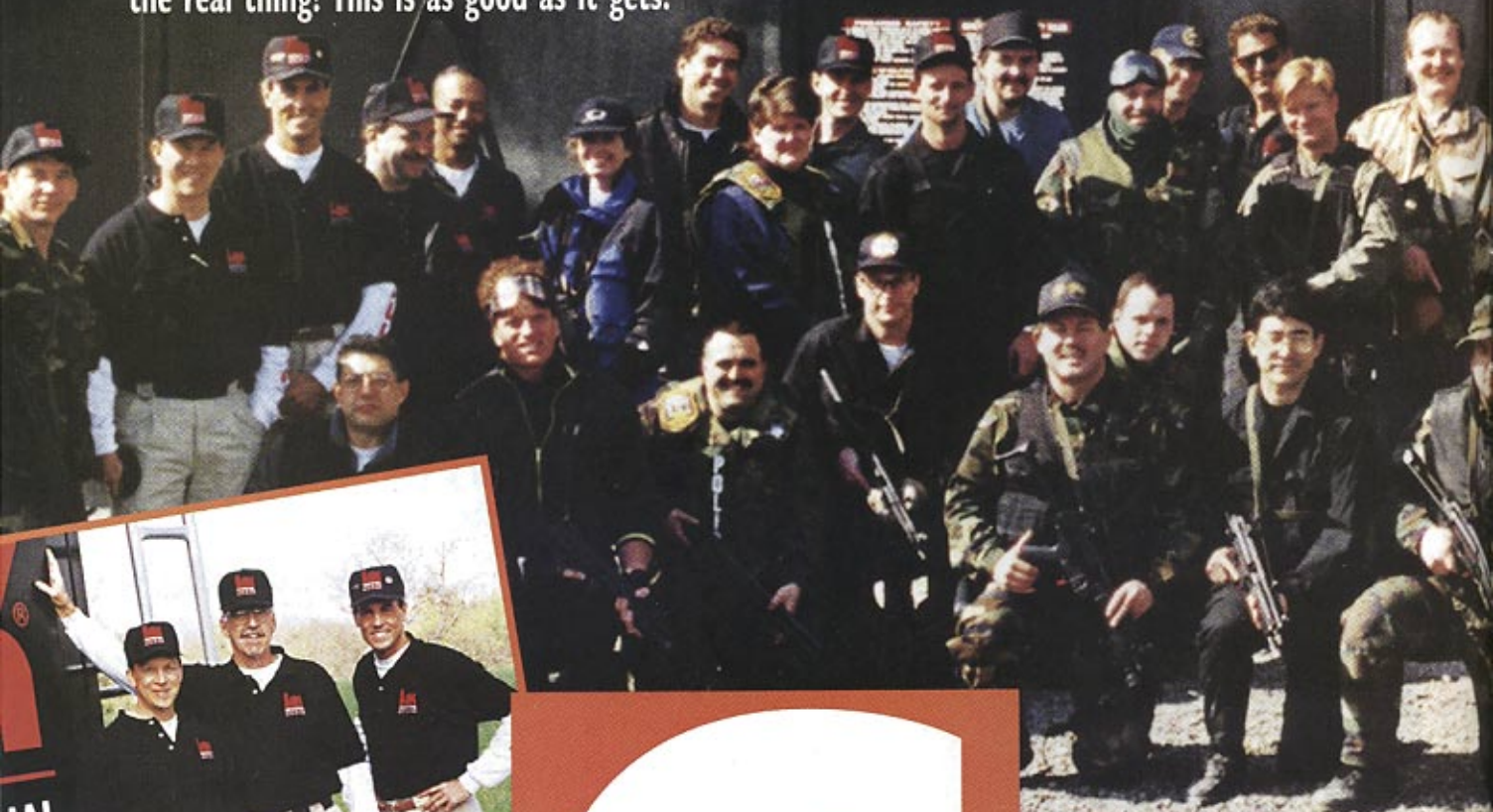
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It is springtime in Virginia, the air is crisp. As the sun dries the early morning dew, a SWAT team is preparing to execute a high-risk warrant. The suspects are drug dealers and known to be armed and dangerous. The "congo line" is formed with precision, and an instant later a diversionary device ignites with a thunderous bang and brilliant flash of light. The team enters and shots are fired. An officer is wounded and suddenly an unexpected bomb explodes, critically injuring another officer. Blood is squirting from the wounds, and the situation is critical. Tactical officers subdue and cuff the suspects.

H&K'S TACTICAL MEDICINE COURSE...



Medical support is summoned and within seconds, the tactical medics are assessing the injuries and treating the injured officers. Sound like the real thing? This is as good as it gets!



H A L



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L E N G I N G

STATE-OF-THE-ART

by Lawrence E. Heiskell, M.D., FACEP, FAAFP
and Dale M. Carrison, D.O., FACEP



Heckler & Koch, Inc., launched its new Tactical Emergency Medicine Course on April 12th near H&K USA headquarters in Northern Virginia. The inaugural class of 32 students came from all over the country. Although over half were physicians, the class consisted of EMTs, paramedics, military medics, trauma surgeons, emergency physicians, family physicians, anesthesiologists, an ophthalmologist and a reserve Air Force flight surgeon. Although displaying varied background and a wide range of medical training, they all have one thing in common: They provide emergency medical support for law-enforcement special operations teams.

While drawing upon their years of experience as Advanced Trauma Life Support Instructors, utilizing the art of moulage and working closely with the tactical instructors, the H&K physician instructors created realistic training situations that are second to none. This intensive five-day course pushed the students to their limits to expose them to realistic scenarios in the realm of tactical emergency medicine.

John T. Meyer, Jr., director of the international training division, opened the course with a welcome statement and introduction of the Heckler & Koch teaching staff. The course faculty consists of six tactical instructors and three medical instruc-

tors. The tactical instructors are handpicked by H&K and bring many years of experience as team leaders and tactical operators to the course. The medical instructors, also carefully selected by H&K, are all residency-trained, board-certified emergency physicians who are active on SWAT teams as emergency medical care providers—i.e., tactical physicians.

Heckler & Koch's International Training Division enjoys a reputation worldwide as providers of the most comprehensive and realistic tactical training available anywhere. The Tactical Emergency Medicine Course is no exception. Fundamental to the teaching is the building block approach. Each day the students are taught skills that build upon those learned the previous day. This body of knowledge and skill acquisition culminates on Day Five as the students prepare for 12 intensive tactical scenarios requiring the application of the tactical and medical skills learned during the week.

The core content medical curriculum consists of 16 hours of didactic clinical material specific to the medical problems often encountered in the arena of tactical operations. The lectures include many slides, some taken during actual tactical operations, to help the students appreciate and learn from the experience of the instructors—both in a medical and tactical capacity.

Day One

On the morning of the first day, an overview of Tactical Emergency Medical Support is presented, and this sets the stage for the course. Next the students are exposed to all aspects of personal tactical equipment, including tactical medical equipment. The tactical medical equipment is demonstrated and discussed by the tactical physicians who have field tested the gear in actual operations.

The afternoon is devoted to teaching the fundamentals of team concepts, planning, cover and concealment. Tactical exercises involving slow and deliberate movement are demonstrated and practiced. With these exercises, students learn firsthand the importance of effective coordinated team movement.

Class participants practice with guns, body armor and mirrors to enhance their learning experiences. Day One culminates in classroom instruction on the topic of Evidence Preservation and Collection in the tactical environment.

Day Two

Day Two begins with the morning devoted to classroom work covering the topics of Tactical Medical Care Parts I & II, Medical Aspects of Clandestine Drug Labs and Medical Management of K-9 Emergencies. The first part of the afternoon is devoted to learning the fundamentals of dynamic clearing. This material is covered by classroom lectures and practical exercises. In the latter part of Day Two, using Redman body protection, students are taught the basics of active personal countermeasures.

Day Three

Team health management and medical aspects of wound ballistics start off Day Three. The tactical emergency medicine course provides instruction on the three basic weapon systems: the pistol, shotgun and submachine gun. Students learn more than just how to put the weapon on safe. Instruction includes training on safety, weapons handling, marksmanship and firing on the move. Portions of Day Three are devoted to instruction on the tactical pistol and the tactical shotgun.

The pistols supplied are Heckler & Koch's USP (Universal Self-Loading Pistol), although students are permitted to

Opening page: Inaugural graduating class including the H&K instructors pose in front of the H&K shooting house: This unique, custom-manufactured shooting house is located at the Training Division's range in Northern Virginia. Made by Porta Target, Inc., it is equipped with multiple 3-D, swing-out, pop-up targets. The H&K shooting house provides a realistic environment for tactical medical instruction.

Insets, clockwise from bottom far left: Photo of the H&K Tactical Emergency Course physician instructors. From left to right: David H. Tang, M.D., Dale M. Carrison, D.O., Lawrence E. Heiskell, M.D.

When seconds count, the presence of on-scene medical personnel may be critical.

During a simulated exercise, students practice gunshot wound management skills.

Tactical medical personnel practice on-scene medical assessment and management of an injured suspect during a simulated training exercise.

Tactical medics search a wounded "suspect" for weapons.

Opposite, top to bottom: Marty Labrusciano, instructor with H&K and a Captain with the Seminole County Sheriff's Office (Florida), instructs a student on diversionary device deployment.

Class participants learn weapon handling skills with the H&K MP5 submachine gun.

Active countermeasures are an important part of tactical training. Using Redman body protection suits, these students practice street survival techniques.

bring their own handgun. Benelli shotguns are also issued to each student during the tactical shotgun portion of the course.

Also on Day Three are extensive lectures and practicals involving the use and medical aspects of distraction devices and forced-entry techniques. Students become familiar with bar pulls, shotlocks, rams and hooks. Each student is required to safely deploy a distraction device while under the direct supervision of a tactical instructor. Students also have the option of experiencing firsthand the effects of a Def-Tec dis-

traction device while being in a room while one is detonated.

Day Four

The morning of the fourth day is academically challenging, with lectures on special operation aeromedical evacuation, medial threat assessment, barricade medicine, booby traps, bombs and explosives. A hands-on lecture is presented covering disguised weapons and street survival for medical personnel. The afternoon is devoted to the MP5 family of weapons with classroom instruction and range exercises.

Each student is issued an MP5 submachine gun for use during the course. Following the lectures on medical aspects of chemical agents and field decontamination, there is a chemical agents demo at the range.

Day Five

It all comes together on Day Five as students prepare for 12 tactical exercises that involve injuries that must be recognized and treated successfully in less than optimal conditions. In this austere environment, the students come to appreciate the realities of tactical emergency medicine. Several tactical exercises utilizing Simunitions are also

performed. Before getting suited up for the tactical exercises there is a one-hour written examination. Upon completion of the tactical exercises the students return to the classroom for graduation and closing remarks.

Summary

This course is intensive and includes extensive hands-on instruction. The student to instructor ratio is less than four to one, which translates into lots of personalized attention. The H&K Tactical Emergency Medicine Course is a cost-effective method for law-enforcement agencies to train their medical support personnel. The response has been tremendous and a second course for 1996 has been confirmed for October 14-18 in Las Vegas, Nevada.

This course, as well as the other 25 courses offered by Heckler & Koch, is only open to law enforcement and others with official credentials.

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