



## NATIONAL TACTICAL OFFICERS ASSOCIATION

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March 23, 2007

Mitchell Lazarus  
Fletcher, Heald & Hildreth, PLC  
1300 North 17<sup>th</sup> Street, 11<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Arlington, VA 22209

Reference: Garage Door Overmaster Project

Dear Mr. Lazarus:

The National Tactical Officers Association is very pleased to provide this letter of support for Commander Sid Heal's "Garage Door Overmaster" project. Commander Heal is the NTOA Section Chair for Technology; therefore, NTOA has a special interest in helping convince the FCC for an exception to the rules that govern the use of garage door openers which are limited to a "five-second burst."

The National Tactical Officers Association (NTOA) is a membership organization made up of more than 30,000 sworn active and retired law enforcement personnel, sworn correctional officers, tactical emergency medical personnel, military police and special operations personnel. Founded in 1983, NTOA facilitates the exchange of lifesaving information for law enforcement officers. The NTOA serves as a communications resource for SWAT, patrol, crisis negotiations and other units that support the resolution of critical incidents. The NTOA maintains a national law enforcement information resource library, provides comprehensive law enforcement research support, training, and publishes two professional journals.

The topic of this proposal is of considerable interest to NTOA. NTOA's work focuses on supporting its members by providing comprehensive tactical and educational resources to police agencies around the world. Assessing the scientific utility and practical value of the "Garage Door Overmaster" technology is important and can reduce the risk of injury and potentially save the lives of many officers, victims, bystanders and even suspects. When necessary, such a device would permit entry into a location without having to physically damaging the structure. The device is intended to be used only to facilitate a safe entry, search and arrest operations subsequent to an authorized arrest warrant or under the most hazardous situations, such as hostage rescue or a terrorist incident. Such a device would provide important tactical advantages for high-risk warrant services and in dealing with barricaded suspects, especially in those instances in which persons inside are actively resisting lawful authority. Finally, given the severity of the situations in which it would be beneficial, the use of such a device would be infrequent, especially because other methods have proven successful under less hazardous situations. Again, having such a capability promises to save lives.

Should you have questions regarding any aspect of our involvement, please contact me at 800-279-9127 ext 14 or at [Cmdr917@aol.com](mailto:Cmdr917@aol.com).

  
Sincerely,  
John Gnagey  
Executive Director