



March 27, 2007

Mitchell Lazarus
Fletcher, Heald & Hildreth, PLC
1300 North 17th St, 11th floor
Arlington VA 22209

Dear Mr. Lazarus,

The Hays County SWAT Team is aware that the Los Angeles Sheriff's Department, in conjunction with the Scientific Applications International Corporation and the Technical Support Working Group, is attempting to build a "Garage Door Overmaster" device to remotely open garage doors during hostage rescue situations, barricaded suspect operations and high-risk warrant services. Such a device would provide substantial tactical advantages in these hazardous situations and would greatly facilitate the safe and effective entry into structures without damaging the structure.

Currently, the most common methods of entering a house with a barricaded suspect is through the doors or windows. This is particularly troublesome, not only because many houses have barred them to resist entry, but because such a predictable tactic provides suspects ample opportunity for countermeasures. An ability to enter through a garage is particularly appealing because they are almost never fortified and even opening the door requires a barricaded suspect to consider the potential for entry. When fully developed and appropriately employed, this type of a device would reduce the risk of injury, not only for our officers, but to hostages, bystanders, occupants of the house, and even the suspect.

It is our understanding that in order to effectively operate such a device that a waiver is required from the FCC to allow the device to operate for more than a few seconds duration. The Hays County SWAT Team is in complete support of this waiver and believe any negative impacts to be extremely minimal. In particular, such a device would only be used by sworn police officers and only in those situations in which other methods of entry are too dangerous to employ. Consequently, the risk of "collateral damage" is exceptionally small.

If we may be of any assistance in this matter, please contact us.

Sincerely,


Commander Terry Nichols
Hays County SWAT