



ILLINOIS TACTICAL OFFICERS ASSOCIATION

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April 16, 2007

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

Dear Mr. Lazarus,

As president of the Illinois Tactical Officers Association, I have been informed 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 offender 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.

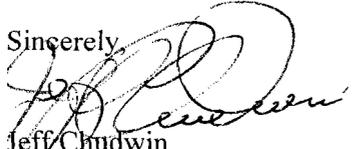
Currently, the most common methods of entering a house with a barricaded offender is through the doors or windows. This is particularly troublesome because in many houses the windows are barred to prevent or resist entry and such a predictable tactic provides armed offenders the opportunity to employ dangerous countermeasures. The ability to enter through a garage is particularly appealing because the main door is seldom fortified and opening the door forces a barricaded offender to focus on the potential for entry. When fully developed and appropriately employed, this type of a device would reduce the risk of injury, not only for police officers, but also to hostages, bystanders, occupants of the house, and the offender.

It is my 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 Illinois Tactical Officers Association strongly supports this waiver. This entry 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, any negative impact in the use of this equipment is far outweighed by the positives.

Thank you for your consideration in this matter.

If I may be of further assistance, feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,


Jeff Chudwin

Chief, Olympia Fields IL P.D.
President, Illinois Tactical Officers Association