

State-of-the-art weaponry offers enhanced cop safety

■ **Bill Cleverley** Times Colonist Victoria, BC September 9, 2005

In a trade show guaranteed to tickle testosterone levels, the latest in high-tech weaponry is on display at the Ocean Pointe Resort as police trainers gather to trade notes.

Want a gun that will shoot around corners? Try the Cornershot at \$9,800 -- pistol not included. It's not actually a gun, but rather a rifle-like swivel apparatus equipped with a video camera that can be fitted with most-calibre pistols (or even a grenade launcher for those indelicate situations).

Currently deployed in Iraq, the Israeli-manufactured Cornershot makes the corner of a building your friend, says Grant Pearson, B.C. district manager for Victoria-based M.D. Charlton Co. a distributor of any manner of security gear ranging from handcuffs to high-tech dri-fit T-shirts to Taser stun guns. The Cornershot allows the shooter to look and point a gun and even fire around a corner.

"The main purpose is officer safety especially in a situation where you're clearing a building, or an attic or underneath cars," Pearson said Thursday. "You can approach and you want to see what's around the other side. I can remain completely concealed, but I can see everything that's happening on the other side of the wall."

Security and security training is big business and business is booming. M.D. Charlton is in the process of moving into a building three times the size of its current space.

The trade show is part of the Canadian Officer Safety Conference and Trade Exhibition that has brought 225 police-training officers from across North America.

Winnipeg buddies Jeff Quail and Rory Bochinski are using the trade show as a pre-launch for their Shockknife, a training tool they plan to officially launch at the end of the month at an International Association of Chiefs of Police convention in Miami.

It was Quail, a use-of-force training officer, who developed the Shockknife when he became frustrated with trying to train recruits using the likes of rubber knives. The Shockknife's real advantage in training? It introduces an element of fear into the exercise.

"When you pull out the rubber knife the initial response of many of the recruits would be to grab the knife. They don't respect it like a real weapon because they know it's not going to hurt them," said Bochinski, Shockknife president.

Training with the Shockknife should change that. A slice with a low setting feels like a paper cut and stings enough to make you recoil. The highest setting delivers 7,500 volts. "If you use this at full steam, it's going to bite you," Bochinski said.

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CREDIT: John McKay, Times Colonist

Grant Pearson of M.D. Charlton Co. demonstrates the Cornershot, a gun capable of shooting around corners. Pearson is attending the Canadian Officer Safety Conference and Trade Exhibition that has brought 225 police-training officers from across North America to the Ocean Pointe Hotel.