# Less-Than-Lethal Capabilities in an Urban Setting

Capt. Sid Heal
Los Angeles Sheriff's Department
Special Enforcement Bureau

## The underlying tenant of law enforcement

**People don’t get the amount of law enforcement they can afford, they get the amount they can tolerate!**

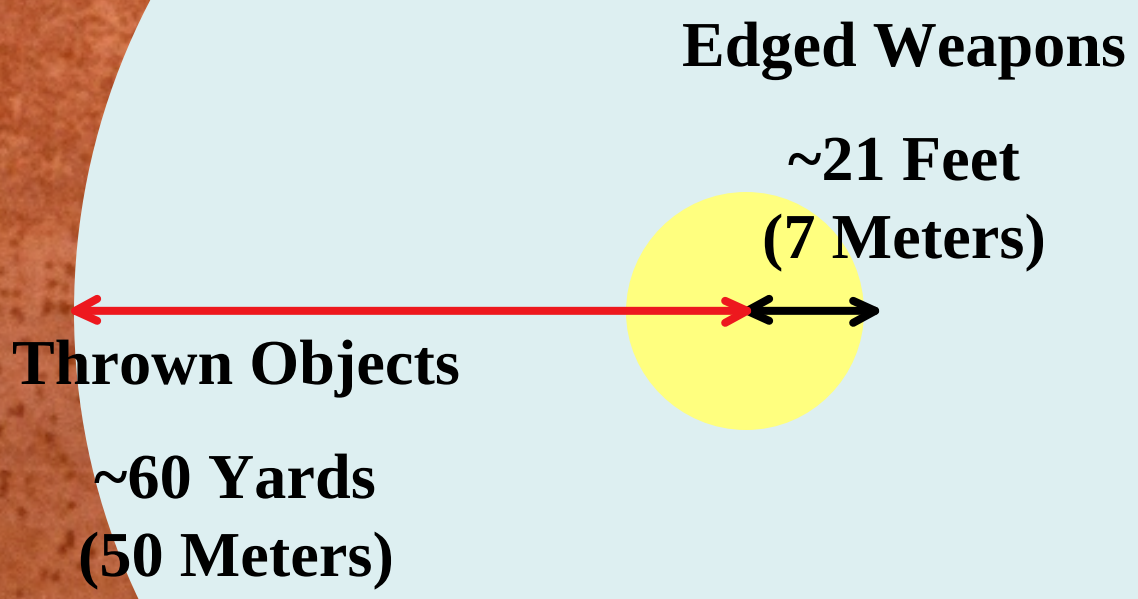
# Types of Nonlethal

- **Chemical Agents** — **Dosage Factor**
  - CN, CS, OC (Pepper Spray)
- **Impact Munitions** — **Sweet Spot**
  - Baton, “Bean Bags,” Pellets, Fin-Stabilized, etc.
  - Most Diverse
- **Hybrid** — **Single Subjects**
  - Encapsulated, Ring Air-Foil
  - Pepper Dust, Dyes, etc.
- **Electrical** — **Limited Range**
  - Tasers
  - “Shock Belts”
- **Directed Energy** — **Emerging**
  - Laser Dazzler
  - Active Denial System

# What We Know
## Ranges and Encounters

- 88% of all field encounters occur at less than 40 feet (12.2m)
  (70% occur at less than 30 feet, 9.1m)
- 52% of the impacts will strike the abdomen or chest area
- More than 60% of all encounters require more than one impact

# How Far is Far Enough?




**Generally, an edged weapon can be considered lethal if the suspect is within 21 feet, (7 meters).**

# Blunderbuss Age

Every single device is encumbered with major shortcomings

- Range, effectiveness, decontamination, cross-contamination,

- Use the advantages of one to offset the shortcomings of another
- Learn from the mistakes of others, you'll never live long enough to make them all yourself!

# Failures will Occur

LOCAL NEWS / WEATHER / EDITORIALS

SECTION B

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METRO

Los Angeles Times

## Police Clash May Cost Woman an Eye

■ LAPD: Before arrest, she was shot with a beanbag as she knelt. Officers say she appeared to be reaching for a weapon.

By SCOTT GLOVER and MATT LAIT
TIMES STAFF WRITERS

A 38-year-old mother of four is expected to lose her eye after an officer from the Los Angeles Police Department's Rampart Division shot her three times with a beanbag shotgun early Monday because he mistakenly thought the woman was reaching for a weapon hidden in her jacket.

Annette Amoroso of Westlake Village said in an interview from her hospital room Thursday that officers ordered her to the ground as they investigated a report that the sport utility vehicle in which she was a passenger was stolen.

"I was on my knees, with my hands up, and my back to them," said Amoroso, who is expected to have her right eye removed today. "First, they shot me in the shoulder. As I started to turn around, they shot me in the eye."

LAPD Capt. Michel Moore, commanding officer of the Rampart Division, said a preliminary investigation had led him to believe that Officer Craig Marquez opened fire on Amoroso after she was uncooperative during the investigation and reached into her jacket.

"It's very regrettable the type of injury she sustained," Moore said.

Moore said Marquez, a five-year LAPD veteran, interpreted the movement as a threat to his safety and that of his partners. Moore added that Amoroso swore at the officers and resisted their commands to lie prone on the pavement at a gas station at Vermont Avenue and Wilshire Boulevard.

Moore said police investigators interviewed civilian witnesses, including occupants of the car, who agreed that Amoroso was uncooperative. One witness, he said, supported the officers' contention that she reached inside her jacket.

The captain said the sequence of the shots fired from the beanbag shotgun, and the justification for each of the three shots, remained under investigation. Moore said police believe Amoroso was hit once while she was still standing, allegedly because Marquez felt she might try to enter the gas station mini-mart where she could have posed a risk to customers. Another shot, Moore said, was fired while she was on her knees and turning to face officers. That shot hit her in the eye. A third shot may have missed her entirely, Moore said.

Amoroso, who owns a beauty salon in Woodland Hills, agreed that she was reluctant to lie face-down on the pavement, saying she was dressed in a suede skirt that she did not want to ruin. She said she also had no idea that her friend's car had been reported stolen and therefore did not understand why officers had their guns drawn and were shouting orders at her.

She denied, however, that she made any type of "movement."

"I didn't do anything," she said, adding that her attire would have afforded her no place to hide a weapon in the first place.

She said she was dressed in a miniskirt and tight-fitting sweater for a night out at the Viper Room on Sunset Boulevard, where some friends were playing in the band featured at the club that night.

"Where am I going to hide something?" she said.

Amoroso said that after prying the cloth beanbag from her eye socket, she lay in a pool of blood, moaning, "I'm dying, I'm dying," for 20 minutes as officers looked on. She was later arrested on suspicion of as-

Please see EYE, B4

ANNE WILLIAMS / Los Angeles Times

Annette Amoroso was struck i shoulder and eye by beanbag

## "Revenge Factor"

- First described by American Sociologist, Dr. David Klinger, University of Missouri-St. Louis

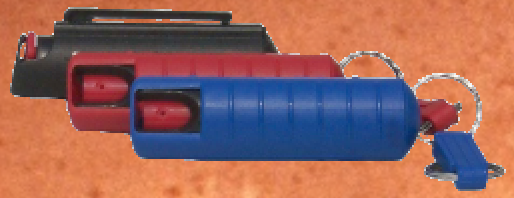
- A paradox in that the user of less lethal options often finds himself trying to spare the life of the person trying to kill him!

**The standard is the alternative, not perfection.**

**The fact that the elephant dances well,**
**is not as important as that the elephant dances at all!**

# Success Comes with its Own Penalties

- Existing Force Standards will be Challenged
  - Type and amount of force
- To the degree less lethal options prove effective, so too will the demand for access by the public
  - Pepper Spray
  - Tasers



# Questions?

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