



BULLETIN

2 June 2009

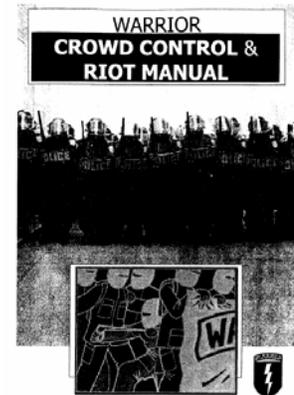
**(U//FOUO//LES) Officer Safety: Manual Demonstrates Methods to
Defeat Law Enforcement Crowd Control Techniques**

(U//FOUO//LES) The purpose of this bulletin is officer awareness. Officers should know that instigators involved in violent demonstrations might be familiar with, and might try to apply, techniques from the “Crowd Control and Riot Manual.” The handbook, from Warrior Publications teaches protestors how to defeat law enforcement crowd control techniques. Although it does not address specific groups or organizations, the information is widely applicable.



(U) Anti-Crowd Control Measures

(U) The handbook addresses methods used by police to control crowds and countermeasures to defeat them. Figure 1, from the chapter *Riot Training*, illustrates police protective gear, and then identifies its potential vulnerabilities. The chapter goes on to recommend effective weapons for rioters to carry, offers tactical guidelines, and suggests ways to counter tactical operations by police:



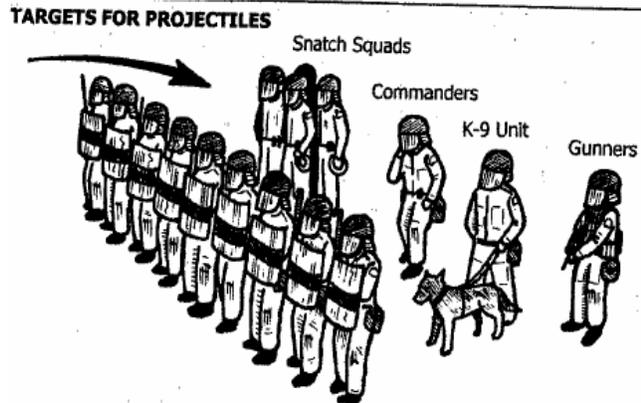
**(U) Cover of the manual with
Warrior Publications logo**

(U) Figure 1: The manual provides this view of typical law enforcement riot gear

- (U) While an officer’s uniform contains fire retardant material, it may still be set on fire if fuel lands upon it
- (U) Although specialized gear provides protection against projectile and baton strikes, it can limit mobility on hot days; constant running and maneuvering with this gear may cause intense fatigue
- (U) Lightly equipped riot police may be vulnerable to projectile and baton strikes
- (U) Patrol vehicles may be damaged with projectiles, destroyed with Molotov cocktails, blinded with paint bombs or disabled with cut/punctured tires; these tactics are also effective against armored vehicles
- (U) Barricades (including those made with burning tires) may be used to limit vision and mobility
- (U) When encountering small arms open fire, return fire may be the best counter



- (U) The best response to a baton charge is a heavy barrage of projectiles and the use of barricades
- (U) If an arrest squad (also called a “snatch squad”) is identified, they should be targeted with a heavy barrage of projectiles when they exit police lines
- (U) The use of individual riot weapons is important; primary targets are commanders, ARWEN gunners, snatch squads and K-9 units, as none of these typically carry shields (see Figure 2)
 - (U) Against riot police, the 3’ long Hambo (also known as a long baton) is a preferred weapon to break through Plexiglas shields and visors: metal pipes or aluminum baseball bats are also good, as they have solid impact against riot armor
 - (U) Pepper/bear spray is good against police not wearing gas masks, as well as vigilante citizens
 - (U) Slingshots are useful against both vehicles and police; when used against people, they should be aimed at the face
 - (U) Improvised paint bombs (condoms, empty eggs, spray paint cans) are effective when thrown at masks, visors or shields
 - (U) Additional effective projectiles include concrete/bricks, flares, fireworks, bottles and rocks
 - (U) Projectiles should be thrown from the front of a crowd to avoid injuring cohorts
- (U) In order to escape arrest, team members should practice and rehearse holds, locks, strikes and escaping from holds and locks; individuals should fight back and attempt escape
- (U) Ambushes can be laid for police if the opportunity arises; assailants can hide behind a corner, vehicle, in a building entrance, roof-top, overhanging bridge, etc.



(U) Figure 2: Diagram of riot officer deployment, and trajectory of projectiles

(U//FOUO//LES) *Anti-Riot Control Tactics Applied Locally*

(U//FOUO//LES) Several mass gatherings in the Joint Regional Intelligence Center area of responsibility (JRIC AoR) have involved tactics described in the manual. For example, in April 2002, activists at an event in Irvine, California locked themselves to a bus whose tires they deflated effectively impeding a passageway.¹ In 2007, toward the end of a May Day immigration rally, a small group used a line of lawful demonstrators as an “improvised barricade” across which they threw rocks and bottles at officers.² In 2001, another May Day rally ended in 125 arrests as a group of anarchists—one of several groups participating in the rally—grew violent. Witnesses from law enforcement reported:³

- (U//FOUO//LES) Rioters using protective gear such as foam pads, magazines taped to the body, soccer gear, and bandanas and protective face gear (such as those seen in Figure 3)



- (U//FOUO//LES) Backpacks containing hammers and fireworks (M-80s, cherry bombs)
- (U//FOUO//LES) Rioters targeting officers who were separated from the main line, specifically those not wearing protective gear (for example, an officer without a helmet was struck with concrete)
- (U//FOUO//LES) Police barricades broken down and used against officers
- (U//FOUO//LES) Banners used by rioters as shields to effectively deter/negate baton strikes
- (U//FOUO//LES) Three foot 2x2s holding up the banners broken down and used as weapons
- (U//FOUO//LES) Leaders directing rioters from higher ground (for example, building rooftops)
- (U//FOUO//LES) On-site medics and lawyers supporting rioters; different colors (bandanas and hats) worn to differentiate between groups
- (U//FOUO//LES) Rioters attacking with ball bearings, rocks, and bags filled with urine/feces

(U//FOUO//LES) Law enforcement officers involved in the event emphasized the rioters were organized and unafraid to challenge officers.

(U) Implications

(U//FOUO//LES) The “Crowd Control and Riot Manual” is available online at [eBay](#) and [Earthlightbooks](#), and has been posted on a number of Web sites and forums since approximately 2007. In the JRIC AoR, use of these tactics predates online availability by at least six years, indicating that the information may have been circulating via oral transmission and print copies.

(U) Reporting Information

(U//FOUO) All questions, concerns, and comments regarding this bulletin should be directed to the JRIC Situational Awareness Watch at (562) 345-1100 or jric@lajric.org

(U) Endnotes

¹ (U) Interview with Los Angeles Police Detective, 20 May 2009.

² (U) Interview with Los Angeles Police Detective, 20 May 2009.

³ (U) Interview with Long Beach Police Detective, 20 May 2009.



(U) Figure 3: The manual recommends an assortment of protective gear for rioters