Consent Form (IRB Approval #)

This research project is being conducted by Dr. J. Pete Blair of Texas State University. He can be contacted at (512)245-2456 or pete.blair@txstate.edu. This study is funded by the Criminal Justice Division of The Texas Governor’s Office under grant number 1638608. You were selected to participate in this project because you are a participant in the Texas Tactical Police Officer Association Conference.

The purpose of this study is to test the reaction time of police officers. The study will be conducted at the ALERRT Bowie Training Center. Should you choose to participate, you will be asked to play the role of a police officer confronting a suspect with a gun. All of the guns used in this study will be Simunition Marking Pistols. These look like real guns, but fire a wax cartridge. You enter a room in which there is an armed suspect with your pistol drawn. You will order the suspect to put his or her pistol down. In some of the situations, the suspect will comply with your commands. In others, the suspect will attempt to shoot you, and you will attempt to shoot him or her. We are interested in whether or not you can shoot the suspect before he or she shoots you. Participation should take about 2 hours of your time.

These sessions will be videotaped and these tapes will both be reviewed to examine reaction time and utilized in training sessions. It is possible that people will be able to recognize you from the videotapes. You will be able to withdraw your tape from the study and future training sessions if you desire at no penalty to yourself. The data gathered from the videotapes will be confidential. That is the researcher will be able to identify your specific data, but the published results will not link you to your specific performance. This data will be maintained in the researcher’s office for a period of three years, but the videotapes maybe used indefinitely in training sessions. The signed copies of the consent forms will be destroyed once the project is complete. If you wish to be provided with a summary of the results, the researcher will provide one to you upon request. Please contact him at the e-mail above if you wish to receive a summary.

This study poses some physical risk to you. The wax cartridges fired by the marking pistols can leave welts similar to those left by paintballs. To minimize the chance of this occurring, you will be required to wear a long sleeved shirt, pants, and gloves. You will also be given safety equipment which will protect your head and neck. While this equipment will reduce the chances that you will receive a welt, it is still possible that you will receive a welt. Ice will be kept on site to treat the welts. Should you require additional treatment, we will contact EMS for you, but you will be financially responsible for any charges incurred.

You may experience some psychological stress from having a realistic looking pistol pointed at you and/or being shot with the wax cartridge. Additionally, you will be searched to ensure that no real weapons are brought into the experiment area. These searches will be conducted by either active or retired police officers. Should you need to speak to someone about psychological issues after participation, the following mental health resources are available in the area: Austin Travis County MHMR Center (512)447-4141, Hill Country Community MHMR Center (830)792-3300, and The Center for Health Care Services (210)731-1300. You will be responsible for costs incurred at the treatment centers.

You may benefit in that you will learn about the research process and your ability to react.

Your participation is voluntary and you may choose to withdraw from the study at anytime without prejudice or jeopardy to your standing with Texas State University or the Texas Tactical Police Officer Association. You may also choose not to answer any of the questions for any reason. If you have any questions about the research, your rights, and/or injuries you can contact the Institutional Review Board Chair, Dr. Jon Lasser at (512) 245-3413 or lasser@txstate.edu or Ms. Becky Northcut, Compliance Specialist at (512) 245-2102. You will be provided with a copy of this form.

Participant Signature \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Researcher Signature \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_