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 student in criminal justice classes at Texas State University.

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 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 will stand in a room with your pistol. A police officer will enter the room and give you commands to put the pistol down. The police officer will have his Simunition Marking Pistol drawn and pointed at you. In some of the situations, you will comply with the police officer’s commands. In others, you will attempt to shoot the police officer, and he will attempt to shoot you. We are interested in whether or not the police officer can shoot you before you shoot him. 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. While the protective equipment will conceal your face and head, 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 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, being ordered to put your pistol down, 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: Texas State Counseling Center (512)245-2167, Hill Country Community MHMR Center (830)792-3300, and Counseling and Assessment Clinic on campus in the Education building (512) 245-8349. If you are registered Texas State student, the Texas State Counseling Center services are free, but the number of sessions allowed may be limited. You will be responsible for costs incurred at the other treatment centers.

You may benefit in that you will learn about the research process and tactical police procedures.

Your instructor may or may not give you credit for participation in this study. If credit is offered, but you do not want to participate in this study, you may receive the credit by reading an article from a peer reviewed journal and writing a 1 page summary of the article. You may not participate in this study if you are under 18 or pregnant, but you can still receive credit by writing the article summary.

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. 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. A copy of this consent form will be provided to you.

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

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