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From: Chuck Smith "[REDACTED].gov"

Sent: 8/29/2007 8:59 AM

To: Spiro Demetriadi "spiro@triadi.com"

Subject: Testimonial Letter – Defensive Tactics/Combatives Training

Dear Spiro,

Once again I would like to thank you and the Triadi team for all of your efforts in coordinating the Gracie Resisting Attack Procedures for Law Enforcement (GRAPLE) Combatives course held at BORTAC Headquarters in El Paso, TX. Your follow-up skills and attention to detail were outstanding and critical in making this training a success.

The value of this training cannot be overstated. The fact is that the techniques taught are ones that work in reality. GRAPLE does not teach techniques merely because they are easy to learn, which has NOT been the case in many law enforcement defensive tactics courses I have been to. GRAPLE techniques work, and students in this course will know that they work, because they will test them throughout their careers working in the field.

Here is a copy of the After Action Report that I wrote for our records regarding GRAPLE:

August 27, 2007

Gracie Resisting Attack Procedures for Law Enforcement (GRAPLE)

Instructor Certification Course

Defensive Tactics/Combatives Training

BORTAC HQ/McGregor Range

El Paso, Texas

Training Dates: 08/20/07 to 08/24/07

The emphasis of this course was to train and certify Special Operations Division (SOD) Agents as instructors in Gracie Resisting Attack Procedures for Law Enforcement (GRAPLE) combatives techniques and philosophy, and was taught by Renner Gracie. GRAPLE is a system of self-defense for the worst-case scenarios a Border Patrol Agent may face. In any physical confrontation an agent's primary option is to employ either intermediate or deadly force to end the threat, and arrest the suspect.

If a physical confrontation is to occur, the best-case scenario for the agent is to recognize, in time, indicators that the suspect is about to become violent. If the suspect successfully hides his intentions or purposely waits until the agent is close enough to go hands-on, the ability to employ a weapon will be greatly reduced and dangerous.

For years the standard response to such an attack was to create distance and escalate to the appropriate weapon. The methods taught for gaining that distance have always relied on a lack of determination on the suspect's part to be effective. The GRAPLE system is a more reality-based system used for dealing with this type of surprise attack. In order to create distance the agent will be backing away from the suspect and this will do little to stop a determined attacker. The problem is that the attacker expects the agent to back away and his attack has planned for it. The most important aspect of the GRAPLE system is that a trained agent will immediately go forward to meet an attack and gain physical control (clinching) of the suspect.

The GRAPLE trained agent now has options on how to continue the fight and more importantly, has the time to choose amongst those options. These options include trips, sweeps and throws that will put the attacker on the ground, leave the agent standing and give him time to employ a weapon. Also included are counters to take down attempts by a suspect. If the agent is unable to execute one of the techniques that would leave him standing, the GRAPLE system teaches take downs that put the agent in a position that neutralizes the suspect's ability to throw dangerous punches. And if the fight ends up on the ground, either because the agent chose to bring the fight there or because of a surprise tackle, GRAPLE teaches simple ways to end the fight right there or ways to reverse a bad position and allow an agent to beat the suspect to his feet (by safely disengaging from suspect, while retaining control of weapons) and give him time to employ his weapons. The key detail in the GRAPLE system is that it is reality-based. The techniques are tested against a determined opponent and techniques that don't work have been discarded.

This class was an instructor certification and the graduates can now bring these techniques back to their teams. The Gracies have worked hard to perfect the teaching methods used for GRAPLE and continue to do so by constantly getting feedback from those who work in the field. Learning the techniques was important, but being able to follow the teaching formula and impart this knowledge was the main goal. The last two days of the class were devoted to ensuring that the Gracie Teaching Methodology was completely understood and followed.

In addition to training their respective Special Response Teams (SRTs) it is hoped that the newly certified instructors can find a way to share this knowledge with other Border Patrol Agents in their sectors. As a suggestion, during the CSB/OC re-certification, GRAPLE instructors could be given a day to introduce some of the most basic, life saving techniques to the line agents. This would serve as a way to keep the instructors' teaching skills sharp by providing more teaching opportunities, as well as foster a good relationship between the sector's headquarters and the SRTs.

The techniques learned in the GRAPLE course are the most effective defensive tactics/combatives system available and sharing them throughout the Border Patrol is a great way for SRT agents to give back to their sectors.

Spiro, I look forward to working with you again soon and thank you for your commitment and care,

SBPA Chuck Smith
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