



# LEEPAC

Law Enforcement Environmental Planning  
Association of California

August 2003

## To Be Or Not To Be? That Is The Question

Hamlet pondered this question when contemplating the end of his existence. Now LEEPAC has come to the same conclusion as Shakespeare's dark hero. I have been your president for almost two years and have requested help in many areas without success. The bi-monthly meetings have been rather grim in attendance, budgets have been cut, and many people have changed their assignments. I recently sent out our monthly membership dues request and the following are the results:

Members paid through May 2004:	24
Members paid through May 2003:	11
Members not paid for two years:	23

As you can see the numbers are dwindling and the general response to our organization is somewhat apathetic. What is most interesting are the calls I get from various agencies and city staff that have a keen interest in what LEEPAC is doing and are very interested in our manual. I have recently been asked to speak on behalf of LEEPAC at a "Cops West" conference in Ontario, CA this October. Many people, especially in law enforcement, are very interested in re-

questing safety conditions on new developments and are asking us how to go about it. Their issues are the same as we all have dealt with, and the fact that LEEPAC has people who have "been there, done that," has created a great resource for those in need.

The point is we have the expertise to assist our fellow officers and city staff, however, I have not been able to get the assistance in running this non-profit organization and, frankly, now that I am retired, I cannot be as consistent, nor devote the time that is necessary. I travel a great deal and am no longer involved with law enforcement, so I am requesting from you, our membership, for a volunteer to take over the presidency of LEEPAC. I think a two-year term is long enough and, if you feel you can prevent the downfall

(Continued on page 3)

<b>Inside this issue:</b>	
<i>Manhunt locks downs schools</i>	2
<i>Have you done a security survey at your local schools?</i>	3
<i>Saying goodbye</i>	3
<i>Identifiers for Terrorist Defense</i>	4
<i>Membership Application</i>	

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# Are your city schools physically safe from criminals or other intruders?

## Manuhunt paralyzes S.J. schools

On June 4th this year six San Jose school campuses were locked down after a fugitive wanted by federal agents was spotted on the grounds of an elementary school in the Berryessa Union School District.

As reported in the San Jose Mercury News (June 5, 2003), the trouble started at 9:45 a.m. when federal agents noticed Harry B. Williams, wanted on a weapons charge in Colorado, on the campus of Majestic Way School. Police quickly urged school officials to "lock down" the campus. Teachers then rushed to cover windows and shove tables against their doors and students ducked under desks.

## More schools affected

As about 50 officers spread across a two-mile area, near Berryessa Creek Park, five other schools locked down as a precaution.

Williams, whose criminal history in Santa Clara county includes two felonies and seven misdemeanor cases, was wanted by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms on a warrant for illegally possessing a firearm in 2000 when authorities said he fired a .22 caliber rifle at two people in Colorado.

The 36-year-old was restricted from carrying a firearm because he was convicted in 1989 for possessing cocaine for sale.

## Spotted at house

ATF investigators had monitored Williams' parents' house four times without spotting him. They returned on the morning of June 4th to talk to his family and saw him standing at the side of the house.

When Willima saw the agents, he bolted. Federal agents searched the area for 45 minutes and spotted Williams at Majestic Way School, but he ran again. So the ATF called San Jose police, and the principal locked down the school.

"This whole thing wouldn't have been a major thing if he didn't end up on school grounds," said ATF spokeswoman Marti McKee. "But you don't know if the guy is armed or not, and you just can't take the chance that he was."

Police and school official asked parents to stay home, but many showed up.

"I know the situation is under control, but I still want to talk to my son and see that he's OK and not upset about this," said one parent shortly after the lockdown ended at Majestic Way.

During the lockdown, Sierramont Middle School principal Joseph Amelio said the office staff could hear people banging on the front doors. But during a lockdown, nobody can be let in or out.

"I know who it was—it was parents," said Amelio, a former police officer. "But we don't know that for sure. It could be a suspect."

When Northwood Elementary principal Betsy Preciado was notified by the Berryessa School District of the manhunt that began 1 1/2 miles to the east, she knew there was a pedestrian overpass a half-block away where the fugitive could cross Interstate 680 into the neighborhood near her school.

"He was escaping, he was going to be jumping gardens," said Preciado, who decided to lock down her school as well.

Williams was caught a block away.

## Resident helps locate fugitive

It was the fugitive's bad luck to flee into the neighborhood where a 38 year resident knows every hiding place.

He saw a police helicopter circling. His mother turned on the television to find out the manhunt was under way. And then the officers came down his street.

The resident told officers that he could be hiding in a stand of trees 200 feet away in the channel of Berryessa Creek where there's a concrete tunnel that they used to catch frogs in as kids. Police caught Williams in minutes.

## Have you done a security survey at your local schools?

Ever since the shootings at Columbine High School in 1999, most U. S. schools have instituted elaborate procedures to try to make students safe from armed intruders. In California, for instance, every public school has a plan in place to “lock down” the campus.

Just such a plan was put into place on June 4th at six schools in the Berryessa Union School District. When police notified them they were conducting a manhunt nearby, school administrators at the schools in north San Jose announced the lockdown code.

Students and staff then turned out lights, barricaded doors and moved to a designated “safe place” in the classroom. Students were expected to maintain quiet for the duration of the lockdown, which lasted up to 90 minutes.

“There was a little bit of noise in some substitutes’ classrooms, which is to be expected,” said Sierramont Middle School principal Joseph Amelio. “But all in all, it worked out really well.

Each school district is responsible for devising its own safety plan. But in San Jose, in a rare example of inter-district collaboration, all districts have received lockdown training from the police department along with Carla Holtzclaw, a safety officer with the East Side Union High School District.

“We only have to deal with the

threat,” said San Jose Police Chief William Lansdowne. “We don’t have to manage the kids.”

In Milpitas, administrators locked down Pomeroy Elementary and Milpitas High in May when a woman was shot in a nearby home.

“We practice lockdowns all the time,” said Milpitas Superintendent Karl Black. In that case, the lockdown lasted about 45 minutes.

Students and staff reacted according to plan, Black said, and that’s not necessarily as simple as it sounds. For example, they have to be able to recognize different alarm codes—depending on whether the emergency is an earthquake, a fire that requires a quick exit, or an intruder that requires fortification.

“In the old days, all we ever did was duck, cover and hold—or we get the heck out,” Black said. “Now we do both—get the heck out, and get the heck in.”

Robert Wright teaches seventh grade at Morrill Middle School, which was locked down. His students responded in a “very cooperative, very mature” way, he said.

“They’ve grown up with Columbine and things like that. For them, this is just part of going to school.”

*This article was reprinted from the San Jose Mercury News.  
By Larry Slonaker  
www.mercurynews.com*

## President’s Message

*(Continued from page 1)*

of our good organization than please contact me and we will work together in getting our membership increased and more active. Otherwise, it will be a sad day to relinquish such a great organization because we did not get involved.

Let me know what you would like me to do and I will interact with anyone willing to work with me.

Your President, Craig Sala

## Saying Goodbye

Tom Manzari, one of the original LEEPAC members, board member, and past LEEPAC president, will be retiring at the end of this month from the Sacramento Sheriff’s Department.

We wish Tom all the best in his new adventure—retirement!

**LEEPAC Meeting, Tuesday**

**August 26th at Vacaville City Hall**

**Please call Elena Valentin of the Vacaville Police Dept. if you can attend. 707-449-6142**

# Important Identifiers for Terrorist Defense

The Department of Homeland Security Information Bulletin 03-004 suggests possible indicators of terrorist surveillance.

Al-Qaeda operations have been characterized by meticulous planning, a focus on inflicting mass casualties, and multiple, simultaneous suicide attacks. Operatives are highly trained in basic and sophisticated surveillance techniques. Recent information and analysis point to surveillance practices that traditionally have been utilized by Al-Qaeda-affiliated operatives.

⇒ Unusual or prolonged interest in security measures of personnel, entry points and access controls, or perimeter barriers such as fences or walls.

- ⇒ Unusual behavior such as starting or quickly looking away from personnel or vehicles entering or leaving designated facilities or parking areas.
- ⇒ Observation of security reaction drills or procedures.
- ⇒ Increase in anonymous telephone or e-mail threats to facilities in conjunction with suspected surveillance incidents—indicating possible surveillance of threat reaction procedures.
- ⇒ Foot surveillance involving two or three individuals working together.
- ⇒ Mobile surveillance using bicycles, scooters, motorcycles, cars, trucks, SUV's, boats, or small aircraft.
- ⇒ Prolonged static surveillance using operatives disguised as

panhandlers, demonstrators, show shiners, food or flower vendors, news agents, or street sweepers not previously seen in area.

- ⇒ Discreet use of still cameras, video recorders or note taking at non-tourist type locations.
- ⇒ Use of multiple sets of clothing, identifications, or use of sketching materials (paper, pencils, etc.)
- ⇒ Questioning of security or facility personnel.

General information on possible terrorist planning activities proceeding an attack can be found at [www.dhs.gov](http://www.dhs.gov).

## LEEPAC Membership Application

Federal Tax ID # 68-018-4576

Annual dues are \$40 for the year June 1, 2003 to May 31, 2004. The CPTED Binder Manual is also available to members for \$50 plus \$7.00 shipping. (Non-members may purchase the manual for \$75 plus shipping).

Please mail the completed application with check payable to LEEPAC to:  
 LEEPAC  
 c/o Robin Valencia  
 PO Box 245, Sutter Creek, CA 95685

- Renewal   
  New Membership   
  Purchase CPTED Manual  
 General Membership—Law Enforcement   
  Associate Membership—Non-Law Enforcement

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Department/Organization \_\_\_\_\_

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For more information please visit the LEEPAC web site at: [www.leepac.20m.com](http://www.leepac.20m.com)