

# MPRA

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## THE DRAGOON

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# RESOLVING CONFLICT WITH COMMUNICATION

Powerful hailing systems enable military and law enforcement to effectively determine intent, influence behavior and save lives

**W**ith the world in a heightened state of tension due to tough economic times, ongoing terrorist threats and civil unrest, military personnel and law enforcement are challenged to keep the peace. In many areas of the world, potentially hostile and uncertain environments make it increasingly difficult to protect soldiers, law enforcement and innocent civilians.

Until the recent introduction of acoustic hailing devices (AHDs), military personnel and law enforcement did not have an effective way to communicate with unruly crowds, occupants hiding inside buildings, drivers/operators of boats and vehicles not responding to radio calls, and unknown threats in severe terrain.

## AHDs help avert life-threatening situations

The following incident illustrates the necessity for effective communication systems when soldiers and police patrol dangerous areas. It was dusk just outside Baghdad in 2007, when a patrol encountered a car speeding toward their vehicle in a secure area as it was returning to the command post. In their attempts to get the driver's attention, the patrol applied all of the then appropriate ROE with the vehicle that was rapidly approaching. Lasers, flashing vehicle lights, yelling and obvious and urgent motioning were used yet the driver continued to approach the patrol's position.

With none of their efforts to gain the driver's attention working and a possible deadly threat fast approaching, lethal force was the last available option. One of the patrol's gunners put two rounds into the hood of the vehicle and one round at the driver. Unfortunately, he missed the driver by inches and the last round hit a 12 year-old girl riding in the back seat. She was killed because her uncle failed to comprehend or comply with the attempted efforts of the patrol.

According to a soldier at the scene, "I believe if we would have had the AHD, LRAD® (Long Range Acoustic Device®) on our vehicle, we could have used several host nation languages to assist the gunner in getting the driver attention. It



also would have given our gunner several ways to communicate by voice and tone to go along with the light and laser. The LRAD definitely provides the capability to clearly communicate your intentions and provides soldiers time to evaluate situations and then escalate through their ROE process from a safe distance. If we would have had the LRAD, that outcome of this tragic incident may have been averted."

The soldier continues, "We were also involved in situations where Iraqis threw rocks, ran out in front of our convoys, and harassed us at close quarters. In these situations, LRAD's powerful deterrent tone gets the attention of crowds and then is highly effective in broadcasting warnings and instructions in the host nation language."

## LRAD – Not another bullhorn

Unlike bullhorns with their poor sound quality and limited range, LRAD systems feature highly intelligible, long-range communications to clearly broadcast warnings, critical information and instructions in multiple languages up to distances of 3 km. LRAD broadcasts are far superior to bullhorns, allowing military personnel and law enforcement to create large standoff and safety zones to support the resolution of uncertain situations, and potentially prevent the use of deadly force. This is highly preferable to events that happen almost every day throughout the world where officials use guns and other lethal and non-lethal weapons to disperse unruly crowds or end armed situations.

Military and law enforcement personnel are trained in the proper use of the systems and have full control of the audio output through pre-recorded broadcasts stored on LRAD's military grade MP3 player or by issuing live instructions through a hardened microphone. Portable LRAD systems are easy to install and operate and their broadcasts can be quickly adjusted based on situational use. Unlike tear gas, tasers, rubber bullets, pepper spray, bullets and other non-lethal and lethal responses, LRAD can be quickly modulated in response

to a target's actions.

LRAD systems are rapidly deployed through hands-on or remotely operated operation. LRAD is the only AHD that has been approved by the U.S. Navy and the U.S. Army and all LRAD systems are Mil Spec approved to perform in the harshest land and maritime conditions.

### LRAD in action

LRAD was introduced to the world in November 2005 when it was successfully used by the security team on the luxury cruise liner, Seabourn Spirit to repel Somali pirates off the Horn of Africa. Since then, LRAD systems have been used to hail, warn, determine intent and repel pirates in several other naval and commercial maritime incidents.

Military forces in Iraq, Afghanistan, Australia, Thailand, China, Japan, South Korea, France, the U.K., and several other nations are deploying LRAD systems as an essential part of their layered defense strategies. Law enforcement has proven LRAD's efficacy by using it to control crowds at the 2009 G20 Summit in Pittsburgh, to end a SWAT situation in Santa Ana, Ca., to communicate with survivors of Hurricane Katrina and in the aftermath of last year's devastating Haitian earthquake.



### First response capability

If regional or national catastrophes ranging from natural disasters to CBRN incidents occur, LRAD provides crisis management response forces, the National Guard, and regional/local law enforcement the critical capability of quickly communicating instructions and warnings over large areas either on the ground or from the air (via helicopters). The use of LRAD systems to broadcast emergency instructions to the general population frees first responders to perform life-saving actions rather than going door to door, street by street to notify local residents. In emergency situations, LRAD can also be used for perimeter security and to broadcast instructions around critical infrastructure.

LRAD's unique capability to communicate instructions clearly and forcefully over distance, its capacity to determine intent and resolve uncertain situations peacefully, and its potential to save lives on both sides of the device, is an important new asset to assist military and law enforcement personnel in their difficult duties of keeping the peace around the world.

— JEFF PALMER, LRAD CORP.

70th Military Police Anniversary and Regimental Conference

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