

Please retain/copy/pass on to help the facts of the KCMOPD/NLETC LVNR® System become more widely known to the law enforcement community.

40 Years of Success

with the

KCMO PD/NLETC

Lateral Vascular Neck Restraint (LVNR®) System

By Jim Lindell, President, Lindell Systems, LLC

The LVNR® system was introduced to the KCMO Police Department on October 15, 1970. It has been in use for 40 years without a single instance of death or serious injury attributed to its use by any agency or officer that was currently certified and who had maintained KCMO PD/NLETC standards and annual re-certification. At the same time, there has been no litigation against the KCMO PD, the NLETC or any other agency or officer as a result of the use of the LVNR® by certified agencies and officers.

Every year since 1981, the National Law Enforcement Training Center (NLETC), in coordination with the Kansas City, Missouri Police Department, has presented the Handgun/Long Gun Retention and Disarming System and the Lateral Vascular Neck Restraint (LVNR®) System at law enforcement conferences. The Handgun/Long Gun Retention and Disarming tactics have become a part of many law enforcement retention and disarming systems because the techniques and principles are easy to learn and apply.

While this contribution has been useful for greater officer safety and survival for those who know of and use it, the number of officers who are disarmed and killed annually shows that there are still many agencies that lack a sufficient annual weapon retention and disarming system. I urge those administrators and use-of-force trainers to continue to examine their agencies' training programs to ensure that their officers receive annual training in Handgun/Long Gun Retention and Disarming. Your officers deserve no less.

Lateral Vascular Neck Restraint

While the Handgun/Long Gun Retention and Disarming tactics have become almost generic in their use by the law enforcement community, the Lateral Vascular Neck Restraint (LVNR®) System has not. Perhaps one reason for this is the strict regulations concerning training standards, use and annual recertification in the LVNR® system by user agencies and officers. As the copyright and patent holder and sole certifying organizations, the KCMO PD and NLETC are very serious about maintaining these standards.

LVNR® trained officers are able to respond to both control and defense needs while standing, kneeling or on the ground. They are able to apply an LVNR® from the front, side, or rear of a subject. The result of an LVNR® application is that the average subject finds that he cannot resist its application, and in 90 out of 100 applications the subject will cease to resist because he cannot get away. In only 10 percent of LVNR® applications does a subject resist to the point of unconsciousness for a period of 5-20 seconds, and most of them a few seconds at most as officers become more confident in its application.

Marketing

The KCMOPD/NLETC has never been promoted as a substitute for any other use-of-force tactics or equipment that an agency may teach and use. It has not been aggressively marketed to law enforcement agencies because of limited resources and an unwillingness to gain support through salesmanship.

Instead, the successful adoption of the LVNR® System by user agencies has been - without exception - through the efforts of agency use-of-force trainers who, often with great patience, have been able to convince their leadership that the LVNR® System will reduce injury to citizens and officers and limit excessive use-of-force claims, reduce litigation for a very reasonable cost to an agency.

As a result of this method of introduction, it has been difficult for many trainers to convince their administrators and legal advisors to accept the LVNR® System despite the indisputable evidence that it is safe, effective, reduces injuries to both officers and subjects and results in fewer excessive force complaints and resultant litigation than many other use-of-force tactics and equipment used by law enforcement.

Standards and Principles

When an agency commits to the use of the LVNR® System it is necessary that it maintain the standards and principles that have made it so safe, successful and effective. The majority of user agencies have been dedicated to the maintenance of the system as instructed and their officers have unfailingly observed the established policies as outlined.

Problems have arisen in a few instances when a change in agency training leadership training resulted in annual LVNR® basic certification for officers being allowed to lapse. It is a primary requirement that officers receive mandated annual re-certification in the LVNR® System, just as they should in the Handgun/Long Gun Retention and Disarming System,

if they are going to be proficient in its use when needed.

Once the LVNR® training is established, it is vital to check with the use-of-force training unit to be sure this policy is being observed annually. In those few instances mentioned above, this was not done for a variety of reasons, including the age-old complaint of not having enough time and personnel to accommodate in-service training. This is an unacceptable excuse and should be rigorously rejected by training administrators and the legal staff. Where standards are strictly maintained, the results are positive and give user officers a feeling of confidence such as they never have with any other tactics or equipment.

Legal Challenges

Over the years, various unauthorized use-of-force providers have attempted to appropriate and certify agencies and officers in the LVNR® System. None of these attempts have been successful, although they have had the effect of causing confusion in the law enforcement community among those interested in adopting the KCMO PD/NLETC LVNR® System.

It is not uncommon for the KCMO PD/NLETC to receive reports from various sources claiming that a death or injury was attributed to the LVNR®. Upon receipt of a report from an identifiable source, the KCMO PD/NLETC will seek a letter of verification. To date, dozens of letters have been sent and none has resulted in identifying a single agency, trainer or officer who had ever received certification or was currently certified and in policy with KCMO PD/NLETC standards, involved in one of these incidents.



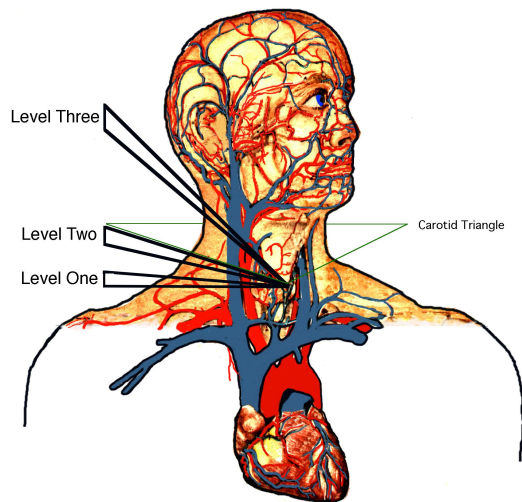
Two-Arm LVNR® Restraint - Rear Approach, Standing - Level One - Forearms 0° Angle, Minimum Compression, Horizontal



Level Two - Forearms 20° Angle, Moderate Compression



Level Three - Forearms 45° Angle, Maximum Compression



Lateral Vascular Neck Restraint (LVNR®) physiology.

LVNR® or Not?

If you attend a conference, seminar, etc. and the LVNR® is identified as having caused the death of a subject, inquire if the reporting agency is certified in the KCMO PD/NLETC LVNR® System. Most likely you won't get a knowledgeable answer because the presenter is using the term LVNR® as a generic term for any neck control rather than identifying the copyrighted, trademarked, regulated, exclusive system.

In other instances, the presenter may be promoting another use-of-force program and does not benefit from the competition of another control method. This sort of erroneous information and bias do a disservice to law enforcement by making it more difficult for officers and agencies to choose tactics on their own merits.

Newspaper articles and television reports have been some of the worst offenders when it comes to spreading misinformation by misusing the term LVNR®. Often when officers have controlled subjects using alternative methods of neck control, the media reports the control as the LVNR®. I have talked to some reporters for hours about the KCMO PD/NLETC LVNR® System and sent them materials and documentation, explaining how it differs from other neck restraints and about the success and longtime use of the LVNR® by various agencies for 15, 20, and even 35 years in some instances. Almost invariably the results of these exchanges have been extremely negative articles associated the LVNR® with agencies that do not use or endorse the LVNR®. The media generally

make no attempt to contact satisfied user agencies and have nothing positive at all to say about neck restraints in general, including the LVNR®.

In other words, the media want to tell their story, not your story or the truth of the matter. This attitude is understandable, in part, because of the tremendous amount of negative publicity and results of other neck control methods reported in the past. It is easy for them to simply continue in that mode rather than to recognize and accept that a tremendous breakthrough occurred 40 years ago and is still largely unreported by the media today. Meanwhile, many more thousands of police officers do not enjoy the advantage of the LVNR® because some trainers, administrators and legal advisers would rather not take the chance of its misuse and resultant litigation, thus bringing unwanted attention to themselves and their agency.

Such hesitancy denies officers the use of a tactic that can help them avoid being injured or killed, reduce litigation to zero, and save agencies money through the avoidance of officer medical leave. In addition, there is no equipment cost and training time is minimal for such an invaluable tool: training certification, 16 hours; academy basic training, 16 hours; in-service introduction, 12 hours, and annual re-certification, 4 hours.

Agencies do a lot of certification training during the year. Officers receive training in the LVNR® with enthusiasm because they feel empowered by it. Training in the LVNR® is a great morale builder because the officers realize that their agency administrators think enough of their safety and survival to subscribe to a system that is both proven and street effective.

Relative Safety – LVNR® vs. TASER®

We are all aware that subjects at risk could die regardless of the means used to restrain them. However, the history of the LVNR® alone is testament to its safety. As medical science continues to evolve, it becomes more apparent that the causes of most of the extremely infrequent control and in-custody deaths can more easily be explained by overuse of drugs, pre-existing medical conditions, elevated heart rate and cardiac arrest, dementia, delirium, or acute exhaustive mania due to extreme overexertion and dehydration of the subject.

The continued use of the TASER® justifies the adoption of the LVNR® as an even safer, less expensive alternative and optional back-up control method. It is particularly effective in controlling and subduing

violent individuals who, in some instances, are not affected sufficiently by the TASER®, or when more than one subject needs to be controlled.

Therefore, it is the position of the National Law Enforcement Training Center, Inc. that all officers should be entitled to become certified and use the LVNR® as a means of defense and subject control for the same reason the TASER® is being promoted. It is "among the safest alternatives available to law enforcement to subdue violent individuals". Another advantage of using the versatile LVNR® to control subjects is that officers who apply it can regulate control through compression in a matter of seconds, from minimum, to moderate, to maximum to minus compression, according to the amount of resistance being offered. This cannot be done with a TASER® which, once fired cannot be recalled.

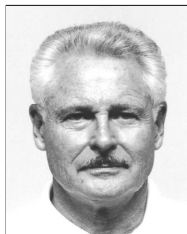
In these days of tight budgets and limited resources, agencies should compare the cost of purchasing, maintaining and training officers to use a TASER® as opposed to the cost of adopting and having a number of trainers certified in the New LVNR® System. The officer's ability to use the LVNR® is always present, and after initial introduction and certification, it requires only four hours of annual in-service re-certification in order for officers to maintain a knowledge of medical implications, subject care and handling, and application skills.

In Conclusion

Please bring these issues to the attention of agency police chiefs, sheriffs, corrections administrators, legal advisors, administrators, supervisors, trainers and others in the chain of command who can affect policy to give officers more use of force options as a means to greater officer safety and survival and safer subject control tactics.

LVNR® trained officers are able to respond both to control needs or to defense needs while standing, kneeling or on the ground. They are able to apply an LVNR® from the front, side, or rear of a subject. The results of neck restraint application is that the average subject finds that they cannot resist its application and 90 out of 100 subjects will cease to resist because they cannot get away. In only 10 percent of LVNR® applications does a subject resist to the point of unconsciousness lasting for a period of 5-20 seconds, with most of them lasting a few seconds at most, as officers become more confident in the LVNR®'s application.

For legal information about KCMOPD/NLETC LVNR®, contact KCMOPD legal advisor Lisa Morris at (816) 234-5000. For training information, contact Jennifer Williams (816) 531-2447.



Jim Lindell joined the Kansas City, Missouri Police Department in October, 1970 as the Physical Training and Defensive Tactics Supervisor. He was hired for his ability to employ superior methods of control in handling police resistor and aggressor problems. Mr. Lindell retired in February, 1993 from the KCMO PD after 23 years of service. He continues to work in the law enforcement field as the advisor to the not-for-profit National Law Enforcement Training Center and is a consultant and coordinator of training and certification seminars nationally and internationally for law enforcement agencies. He is also the president of Lindell Systems, LLC, which provides the courses for the KCMOPD/NLETC training and certification seminars.

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January 27, 2006

Dear Mr. Lindell:

I recently read an article in *Guns and Weapons for Law Enforcement* which was written by Mike Boyle. In the article he credits your retention system with the reduction in officers being killed with their own guns.

I just wanted to take a moment to express my sincere appreciation to you for the many years you have tirelessly "served" law enforcement with life saving training. We will never know how many lives were saved because of you and your training but I am confident there have been many!

Thank you so much! I trust you are doing well.

Sincerely,

James D. Corwin
Chief of Police
Kansas City, Missouri