

What's with Pepper?

Quick stuff for your amusement.



BLM Riots - Downtown San Diego

What a time it was to be working a big city. A couple months of 14-hour days, 7-days a week, nightly adventures, and an unbelievable amount of chemical agents.



Do you need some pepper?

A gun is really good at solving a narrow window of problems. A knife is similar; I would argue not as good, but similar.

Most problems you encounter will not likely require a gun or a knife to resolve. Many problems can be solved with **WEAPONIZED**

LANGUAGE (trademark pending JK).

But like weapons, not all problems can be resolved with words alone.

If that's the case, you need an option that works in the line between a “harsh word and a gunshot.” (Thanks, Chuck.) What a great way to express the need for levels of force below lethal.



Pepper Spray:

Chemical agents like OC spray fill that gap. Think POM (on our site)—one of many options.



*OC spray, short for oleoresin capsicum spray, is a non-lethal chemical agent commonly known as pepper spray. When deployed, it irritates the eyes, skin, and respiratory system, causing intense burning, temporary blindness, coughing, and difficulty breathing



But the civilian stuff is toned down from pro-grade, with almost no risk of lasting damage.

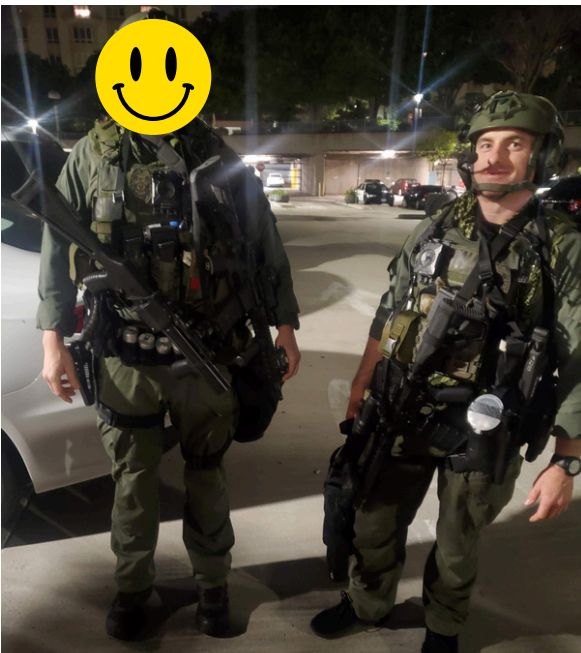
So WHY bother?



Story time:

I've had a good amount of exposure. Marine CBRN days—mop gear on, CS gas choking the air, running Ocourses while tearing up. Police academy put us through a nice tasting menu: Mace, powdered CS, CN gas up the nose, liquid OC. For me, CS gas is annoying but manageable. But OC? OC! It's brutal for me. Drooling, snot, coughing, burning—I'm one of the sensitive ones. It won't drop me, but I am not a fan. Knowing how it made me feel grew a desire to watch others marinate, and I got a lot of opportunities.

When I was with San Diego SWAT we gassed houses, put chemical shotgun rounds through windows, vapor cans in cars, we liked making people uncomfortable. The most memorable time? The BLM riots in downtown San Diego? BearCat rolling, we hammered pepper balls and 40mm chem rounds like it was open season.



There is always a chance!

You might not get to blast an overweight Karen in the FUPA with a 40mil at a riot, but a quick POM shot? That's well within reach.



OC spray is a very forgiving level use of force. If you make the first move based on your observations of the situation and spray someone but it turns out you misread intentions, SPRAY is a lot easier to wash away than a bullet. I am not advocating for indiscriminate use only pointing out the goal of force.

The **goal of force**, whether as a cop or in self-defense, should be the most effective, least injurious technique based on context and ability. That's my view on "de-escalation"— If you get a good deployment of spray and it gives you time to run then there is no need to elevate to a higher level of force. The number one thing to remember about spray (same as using an eye jab) it buys you time to do something. You can't spray and wait to see what happens you have to make something happen. Grab some from our site, train it, and own that window when it counts.

