

Jim Wagner (circled) with members of the Baleric Liberation Army (BLA) "terrorist cell" created by Jim as an OPFOR (Opposing Force) for the Costa Mesa Police Department SWAT Team in 1988. Jim Wagner was tasked by Sergeant Ron Smith in representing a terrorist cell for training purposes in police SWAT scenarios using booby traps and paint ball guns, thus making for a more realistic experience for SWAT team operators. The team members shown here are wearing the logo of Jim's martial arts school The Academie of Fighting Arts. This school was the first civilian martial arts school to first start using paint ball guns, stage make-up, explosives survival training, firearms survival training, and military and police tactics along side self-defense techniques and training methods. This was later to become the Jim Wagner Reality-Based Personal Protection system available to the public on January 21, 2003 after several years of Jim Wagner training exclusively police, corrections, probation, and military units. The events of September 11, 2001, the terrorist attacks on the United States, prompted Jim to start teaching civilian courses again. Jim Wagner is credited for starting the "reality-based" movement in the martial arts community.



Note: Fingers are on the triggers. This is a "terrorist team," and not a police or military unit.