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**-We welcome the 80 Krav Maga Summer Camp participants to our newsletter! We had the biggest turnout this year ever! We will have a section for your class photos in the September newsletter – watch for it.**

**-On August 24<sup>th</sup> the SIS TV show we worked on will appear on Spike TV – Channel 241 Scott appears as a Detective in the pilot and he plays, well, himself! Please send us your feedback on the show.**

**-This fall we will be doing classes in some new venues. See the fall schedule for classes in Placerville, Boston and Fort Lauderdale as well as our upcoming St. Paul class the end of September and Atlanta class in October.**

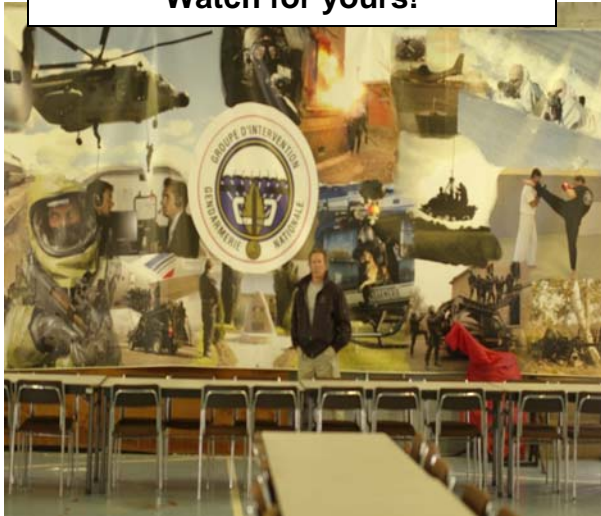
**-With the high cost of gas and ammunition, starting in September, we will be offering ammunition for sale at very reasonable prices. We hope to save you time and money. Please let us know when you book the class that you will need ammunition and what caliber. It will be waiting for you when you arrive at the class. What could be easier!**

**-Our office will be closed from August 17 to August 29. We will be doing some training in Oregon and then having a family vacation with our 'kids' in Washington State. We're looking forward to seeing many of you when we return. You can sign up online for classes at [www.internationaltactical.com](http://www.internationaltactical.com) or call us at 310-471-2029 to sign up. Please be patient with us- we will get back to you as soon as possible, but not between August 22-29. That's 'family' time!!**

**Courses Coming up Soon:**

September 13-14	Defensive Handgun I
September 15-17	Carbine/Handgun in Placerville
September 29-Oct 1	Rifle/Handgun in St. Paul
October 4-5	Defensive Handgun II
October 11-12	Couple's Class- (only \$650 for two)

Most months we will have photos  
from classes  
Watch for yours!



GIGN Training 2008



## September 2008- March 2009 Course Schedule

September 13-14	Defensive Handgun I
September 15-17	*Carbine/Handgun in <u>Placerville, CA</u>
September 19-21	Advanced Handgun Series
September 29-Oct 1	*Rifle/Handgun in <u>St. Paul, Minnesota</u>
October 4-5	Defensive Handgun II
October 11-12	Couple's Class – <b>NEW</b>
October 17-19	Problem-Solving Tactics in <u>Atlanta, GA</u>
October 21-23	*Vehicle Defense w/ Rifle/Handgun in <u>Boston, Massachusetts</u> - <b>NEW</b>
November 7-9	Inter Handgun in <u>Ft Lauderdale, FL</u> - <b>NEW</b>
November 7-9	Defensive Handgun III
November 14-16	Advanced Tactical Shotgun
November 15-16	Defensive Handgun I
December 6-7	*Nighttime Vehicle Assault/Stops - <b>NEW</b>
December 12-14	Advanced Handgun
January 10-11	Defensive Handgun II
January 30-Feb 1	Tactical Shotgun/ Handgun
February 7	Private Instruction
February 7-8	Defensive Handgun I
February 27-March 1	Active Shooter – <b>NEW</b>
March 7-8	Defensive Handgun III – 2 day – <b>NEW</b>
March 21-22	*Vehicles Assaults/Stops
March 27-29	Tactical Carbine/Handgun

\* Denotes Law Enforcement Restricted Courses

# **Training the French GIGN and National Police** by Scott Reitz

The GIGN are members of the Gendarmerie which are police. However in many regards they are unlike police forces here in the U.S. They are parachute and dive qualified, they climb and rappel, conduct warrant services throughout the country and perform hostage rescues. They are very much a counterpart to our Navy SEALs. They are all tough as nails and they shoot very well. They are a closely bonded group and from what I have observed and experienced, they are as tight a group with one another as any that I have ever seen. Any problem you throw at them they instantly come together and solve it as a group. Their training is intense and very unlike police training here in the states. For instance; at the compound where they conduct training they are not allowed to enter the barracks from the first floor level until they graduate. What this entails is climbing the buildings sides where there are no real visible means to do so. If their training ends at 0300 and it's raining and they're exhausted they still have to negotiate this obstacle just to get rest. Not much of a party. When they eat, they eat together and everyone including the commanding officers pitches in and helps from start to finish. Try that on LAPD. They will test you right from the get go and they can detect a fraud from the start which I truly admire. They are also deployed overseas in various missions which, again is very unlike our domestic police agencies.

The members that I trained will throw themselves into every evolution with enthusiasm and they are constantly trying not only to improve on the great skills that they have but they compete with one another at every phase. They question why things are done a certain way and if they don't like something they tell you right then and there which is a refreshing change. They listen to reason and if they like something and believe in it, they let you know right then as well. Due to the fact that they conduct sensitive missions they are very reticent to let anyone know where or how they train and what the exact nature of their missions may or may not be a fact of which none of them violate. They took copious notes during my training and then sent me a manual (in French of course) of the drills and explanations of the drills that they had transcribed. I don't think I've ever seen that before. They are very dedicated to training. In terms of their shooting, they expend 60% of all the ammunition allotted to the entire French Police force and yet they number only about 200 plus members! They are marvelous shots and their accuracy was dead on, on the more complicated drills which many police might struggle with.

The French National Police are stationed throughout France in all the provinces therein. They do have some rather unusual restrictions on the sidearms that they carry depending on the missions to which they are assigned however. For example the police working on the transportation section (at least the members that I trained) carry revolvers and are only allowed to carry ten rounds and no more. Presumably this is so that only a limited number of rounds may be fired in crowded situations at any one time. (One officer asked what he should do if he is confronted by ten suspects and I responded, "Don't miss!") They do not experience nearly the number of officer involved shootings that we do here in the states. It is not at all unusual they explain, for a judge to hold them after a shooting until they decide whether or not the shooting was justified or not. This determination is made by a single judge so some are liberal in this regard and some are not. In other words, an officer is pretty much at the mercy of a single judge and how he views police actions and each of them might differ vastly on their adjudication of the same shooting which cannot be an overwhelming confidence builder. Not too shortly before I arrived, an officer had been shot in the vest and rather than return fire he holstered his pistol as he did not want to be arrested for shooting another individual. This is a bit of a departure from how we might respond in a similar situation.

France itself is a virtual melting pot of the world and some groups there can be extremely violent. They are experiencing this more and more so perhaps some notions about deadly force and its application on behalf of the police might change.

\*\*\* The pilot movie S.I.S. (Special Investigations Section) based on the LAPD's unit of the same name will air, on August 24 on Spike TV. Brett and I trained the main actors and appear in it as well. It is a drama, so those of you looking for a documentary of the unit are not going to find it here. It is written and directed by John Herzfeld who wrote and directed 'Two Days in the Valley'. The actors gave it their all on the range so we'll see how it translates to film so watch for it and give us your feedback. Thanks, Scott

## Training in France

