

Brian Muller, Sergeant
Sheriff's Response Teams
Emergency Operations Bureau
Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department

To whom it may concern,

The purpose of this letter is to describe to you how I used a variety of HPV Technology's "Magnetic Audio Device" (MAD speakers) over the years and the impact they had during field operations.

My name is Brian Muller. I am a Sergeant with the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department (LASD) assigned to the Sheriff's Response Teams (SRT) from January 2008 to February 2021. The SRT is the Department's "SWAT" team for Public Order – Crowd Management, Crowd Intervention and Crowd Control.

In 2016, my immediate supervisor retired, and I became the Commanding officer of the SRT. My duties included and were not limited to the following: Training, Strategy & Tactics, Operation Plans, Equipment Acquisition & Maintenance, Rule of Engagement (ROE), After Action Reports (AAR), and Personnel.

An assignment I had on two separate occasions prior to the SRT was at the "Technology Exploration Project." The focus of effort was to find emerging cutting-edge Non-lethal technologies to intervene on non-compliant crowds or individuals.

In that assignment, we looked at and tested a variety of "long range hailer" (audio speakers). The criteria were clarity and distance. We determined that the "Magnetic Audio Devices" (MAD) speakers made by HPV Technologies, outperformed all the others. As a result, the LASD has exclusively used a variety of MAD speakers ever since.

I believe Mr. Simidian uses a lot of photographs I provided over the years in actual deployments in some of his brochures. These deployments have been parades (Rose Parade in Pasadena, California) and others, numerous protest marches, riotous situations, training sessions, and the like.

As you are probably aware, 2020 was an election year and very turbulent with riots, protest marches, protest demonstrations, anti-law enforcement sentiment for six months. Every week the SRT deployed to South Los Angeles Sheriff's Station, The Hall of Justice (Sheriff's HQ), West Hollywood Station, Compton Sheriff's Station, Grand Park in Downtown, Men's Central Jail, Twin Towers Correctional Facility, Santa Clarita Sheriff's Station, and assistance request from the City of Long Beach, the City of Santa Monica, and many others.

The crowds, at times, were very emotional and purposely confrontational. In many instances, the mobs of protesters yelled, chanted, and/or had their own portable speakers. They used the noise they created to disrupt our efforts to communicate with them and more sinisterly to disrupt or prevent our ability to communicate thus creating an officer safety hazard.

Fortunately, the LASD / SRT had anticipated the above-described protester tactic. We had prepared by investing in a variety of MAD speakers that we knew would "over-match" the volume protesters could produce.

In California, a law requires us that when we declare a protest an "Unlawful Assembly," that we give verbal notice to the crowd as to directions of travel to vacate the area, how much time they have to leave otherwise they are subject arrest, etc. In the aftermath, some protesters will always file a formal complaint that they did NOT hear an unlawful assembly announcement advising them they had to leave and thus their arrest was unlawful.

With "smart" phones and other portable recording devices they will document what we do. There have been many occasions where we were able to "save" their social media posts where it can be heard in the background, our verbal announcements. This is over the volume of noise from the crowd voices, vehicle tires squealing, exploding fireworks thrown at us, their speakers, distance they are from our truck mounted MAD LTPMS-16 speaker, etc.

The size of the LASD black & white dually pick-up truck where the MAD LTPMS-16 is mounted also makes for a great visual that is often uploaded by the protesters on their social media and or recorded and broadcast on the local TV channels of ABC, NBC, CBS, which actually assists us in defending ourselves when complaints are made.

On May 30, 2020, the Los Angeles Police Department (LAPD) requested help from the LASD / SRT platoon as their staging area in the Fairfax District was being overrun by rioters. I took the platoon from our SRT HQ in East Los Angeles to the west side (Fairfax District is next to Beverly Hills & West Hollywood Sheriff's Station). Upon arrival, we engaged with a violent mob for 5hrs straight nonstop. We used every non-lethal weapon we had (Tear gas, Pepper Ball, FN 303, 40mm Exact Impact). We ran low and even had to re-load our Pepper Ball launchers with Inert training rounds. We used everything but bullets.

Communication and coordination were difficult amongst the squad sergeants with their squad members. I was lucky in that I was wearing a "Clear voice" vest mounted speaker. It was on "loan" to me from HPV Technologies for field testing. As the deputies and sergeants focused forward towards the mobs, they could hear me giving direction and guidance. At the end of this operation, a couple of the sergeants had lost their voices from yelling or shouting to communicate with their squad members. One said he wished he had one of the vest mounted speakers.

This same evening, on two occasions we split the platoon into 4 separate elements to saturate the area to make it look like we had more deputies than we actually had. Each squad of 17 personnel rode on their own armored up Ford F-350 quad cab truck. Each had a pole mounted MAD speaker above the cab either a 2 or a 4 "Turbo." Inside each truck was either a MAD speaker 1 HH or a 2HH for dismounted movement away from the SRT Squad Transport Vehicle (Squad Truck).

There have been numerous times when on a static skirmish line formation that I have used the vest mounted speaker to talk to some of the most verbally antagonistic protesters. As a strategy, I purposefully used a friendly or nonaggressive voice (When appropriate) to contrast against what they yell at me. I do this so when they upload our verbal exchange, they sound like and are perceived as the antagonist and not me/us.

Other times, when there are incidents that happen around the world coupled with Los Angeles having large ethnic communities that are from that part of the world, we have protests at the Federal Building at 11000 Wilshire Bl. When we know what group and language they speak, we will pre-record the

required unlawful assembly announcement in the appropriate language and as necessary, deliver it through any one of the MAD speakers.

All in all, we have had great success with all the HPV MAD speakers over the years and any problems or concerns have been resolved quickly. Great customer service.

Brian Muller, Sergeant
Sheriff's Response Teams
Emergency Operations Bureau
Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department