

Thai, U.S. Marines turn up pressure for non-lethal training

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ROYAL THAI MARINE BASE, CAMP SAMAESAN, Kingdom of Thailand(May 15, 2003) -- ROYAL THAI MARINE BASE, CAMP SAMAESAN, Kingdom of Thailand "Lang, Lang, Lang," is the Thai phrase meaning "harder" and it was adopted by the 30 Marines from Headquarters and Service Co., 1st Bn., 3rd Marine Regiment, when any of the 50 Royal Thai Marines applied a pressure point control technique while conducting combined non-lethal weapons training during Operation Cobra Gold 2003 here, May 15-19.

Non-lethal training may be used for a myriad of occasions to include guarding U.S. Embassies or Counsels, during humanitarian assistance or engaging in combat. It is mostly used during uncontrollable protests, riots, mobs or any large gathering of people that has the propensity to get out of hand.

"You don't want to kill innocent people," said Staff Sgt. Craig Humphrey, force protection chief, Brigade Service Support Group 3. "Also, it gives the Marine Corps an alternative to the employment of lethal means."

"Given that alternative you can incapacitate someone without killing them to calm a potential hostile outcome."

During the five-day event, service members learned hand techniques, which include offensive and defensive techniques and pressure point control techniques.

Once that was covered, the Marines from both countries learned about shield retention, baton techniques, covered formations along with the duties of the personnel within it and crowd dynamic and control techniques.

"The instructions were given to prepare control force personnel to be able to react in the most favorable conditions all the way to the least favorable," said Humphrey. In addition to the hands techniques, the periods of instruction were also given and demonstrated as in to when and how much force is necessary to achieve the desired outcome to a given situation.

"That decision that a noncommissioned officer makes or has to make on the spot to protect his own forces as well as other local population personnel and based on the decision he makes can affect not only the immediate situation as well as the policies and host nation relations," said Humphrey.

All in all, the training provided Lava Dogs and Royal Thai Marines with a better understanding of the operational procedures to take during the use of non-lethal weapons handling and fortified the bond between the two military allies.

"This exercise really built camaraderie between the Marine and their Thai counterparts," said Sgt. Michael Clark, non-lethal weapons instructor, BSSG-3. "The two nations were very enthusiastic performing techniques learned and they meshed well during the training. This is a great tool for both militaries to have in their toolbox."