

## BRADY CENTER TO PREVENT GUN VIOLENCE

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### LAW ENFORCEMENT RELATIONS

March 29, 2006

Dear Law Enforcement Association Executive,

In my work at the Brady Center to Prevent Gun Violence, nothing is as important as the safety of our men and women in the law enforcement. I feel strongly that it is our duty to make information available to law enforcement, especially when it concerns officer safety.

On February 1<sup>st</sup>, 2006 the Brady Center to Prevent Gun Violence sent out a Law Enforcement Officers Safety Alert, concerning the practice of some companies using a ceramic coatings on firearms in pastel colors that changed the appearance of the firearm so that it appeared to be a training weapon or a toy. This is still very much a concern for us at the Brady Center and should be for the law enforcement community.

This issue was first brought to our attention by a safety alert that was sent to our office. The originator of the alert was the State of Washington, and it specifically described the process as "Cerakote Ceramic Finish". We believed the information provided to us by the State of Washington to be correct. I also called the author of the original alert who stated that the information in his alert was accurate.

I recently received a phone call from NIC Industries who has the trademark for the Cerakote<sup>TM</sup> Firearms Coatings. NIC industries related that at no time have they used colors such as pastel blue, pink or red on working firearms, and if requested to do so, they would refuse the request.

NIC industries does a lot of work with local, state and federal government agencies and supports the law enforcement community. NIC Industries stated that they understand the seriousness of the situation with the pastel colored guns, but emphasized that their company strictly prohibits that use of its product.

In light of this information, the Law Enforcement Officers Safety Alert has been reissued with no mention of NIC Industries.

**Please send this explanation to the same group that you originally send the first officers safety alert to, with the amended Officer Safety Alert.**

This is still a concern for law enforcement officers. All officers need to be aware that there are companies that are completely changing the appearance of working firearms with a ceramic colored coating.

In continuing our research we have found that Lauer Custom Weaponry ([www.lauerweaponry.com](http://www.lauerweaponry.com)) not only offers to coat firearms in just about any color, they also market a "stinger pen pistol" (<http://www.lauerweaponry.com/index.cfm?Category=151>). This weapon is easily concealable and can be a serious threat to law enforcement on traffic stops, domestic disturbance calls and other close encounters. Additionally, KG Metal Coatings and Lubricants at (<http://www.kgcoatings.com>) is advertising new colors in their inventory of Royal Blue and Red.

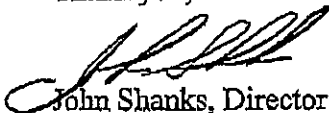
The Brady Center believes this process poses two very serious and immediate threats to law enforcement and to the citizens we protect. First, with the weapon disguised in blue, pink or red, law enforcement officers could easily mistake the firearm for a toy or training weapon, and not take appropriate care when approaching a suspect brandishing the weapon. Second, a child finding a weapon with this coating could easily mistake it for a toy, and we all know the tragic incidents that occur when children get a hold of loaded, unattended firearms.

I would also encourage your organization to consider demanding that these companies – Lauer Custom Weaponry and KG Metal Coatings and Lubricants – STOP using these colors, and instead use realistic colored coatings for firearms. These companies can easily achieve the same success of protecting a firearm from the elements using black and gray coatings, without changing the appearance of the firearm.

**Please feel free to confirm this information independently.** I am confident you will find it credible and reliable. A quick visit to either of these companies' web sites will allow you to see exactly what the process is, and how easy it is to obtain. This is a serious threat to law enforcement. You should also consider doing your own independent research on the web, or with local gunsmiths, to determine the extent of this practice in your community or state.

I would like to thank NIC Industries for their support of the law enforcement community for refusing to participate in this process, and for their willingness to work with us on this very important law enforcement issue. If you have any questions or comments, please do not hesitate to contact me at 202-289-5791 or via e-mail at [jshan@bradymail.org](mailto:jshan@bradymail.org).

Thank you,



John Shanks, Director  
Law Enforcement Relations



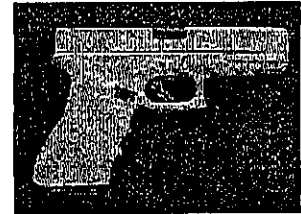
## BRADY CENTER TO PREVENT GUN VIOLENCE LAW ENFORCEMENT RELATIONS

March 29, 2006

### Law Enforcement Officers Safety Alert

#### Ceramic Coated Firearms Appear to Look Like Toys

For years, law enforcement professionals have been extremely concerned that toy guns look too much like real guns, putting young people at risk of being mistaken as being armed. Now the reverse is true. Functioning handguns and semi-automatic assault rifles are being altered with a ceramic coating, making them look like toys!



Each year in America we hear of several incidents where a homeowner or law enforcement officer mistakes a toy gun for a real one, and the result is usually tragic. Many law enforcement leaders have called on the toy industry to stop making realistic-looking toy guns. But now it seems the gun industry needs to be told to stop dressing up real guns to look like toys.

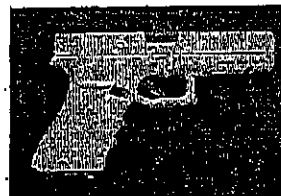
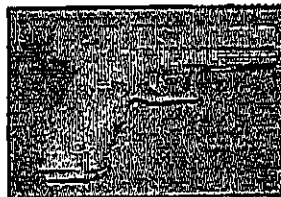
"Police officers should be aware that these guns are on the street," said John Shanks, Director, Law Enforcement Relations at the Brady Center to Prevent Gun Violence in Washington, D.C. "Regularly, I hear stories about police officers mistaking a toy gun for a real one, and the results are often tragic, I cannot even imagine the tragic results that might occur should a police officer encounter a suspect with one of these real guns that look like toys."

Another, harsh reality of this story is what children may do should they come across firearms with this ceramic coating. Can you imagine a child finding a pastel blue or pink Glock, fully loaded? We have all seen the *60 Minutes* story where the kids find the gun in the toy box. What happens when they find this "toy" gun in Mommy's nightstand drawer?

The Brady Center to Prevent Gun Violence issues this "Officer Safety Alert" to help warn officers of this potential danger. We also call on the companies, such as Lauer Custom Weaponry and KG Industries, Inc., to stop the practice of coating firearms with these colorful ceramic coatings immediately, or to only use natural firearms finishes that do not disguise the weapon.

\*\* In a previous alert we listed NIC Industries as a company that participates in this process. NIC Industries does not now, nor have they ever coated any firearms in this manner. They do offer Cerakote™ Firearms Coatings, but in their support for law enforcement, do not use these disguising colors.

**Contact:** John Shanks, Director, Law Enforcement Relations at 202-289-5791 or via e-mail at [jshan@bradymail.org](mailto:jshan@bradymail.org).



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