# Breaching a Barricaded Door

## by Brian Washburn

Active shooters and school takeovers have become an increasing threat and breaching teams have been looked to for assistance in gaining entry to the buildings which have been barricaded. Additionally, trying to protect students has become a priority for school administration and law enforcement alike. Recently, I found a company selling a product to secure the auto-return feature of many school doors. The Hydra-Lock was designed to slip over the arms of the return and restrict the arm movement. I found this may also create a unique challenge for breaching.

After reviewing the product, which lived up to the web site claims of restricting the door from opening, it was felt a lock strip charge would defeat the locking mechanism, but the Hydra-Lock would still keep the SWAT teams from gaining rapid entry into the room. We felt the best means of defeating a door barricaded with the Hydra-lock was to attack the hinge side of the door.

Our target was an inward opening solid particle core door (32w x 82h), set in a metal frame with an approximate ½ inch metal overlap around the door. The return was a standard hydraulic closure located on the interior side of the door. The door knob had a ½ inch throw into the metal frame. We barricaded the base of the door by wedging wood beneath the door and the floor to cause the door to bind in the frame plus attached the Hydra-Lock to the return. The door was unable to be pulled open and would have taken several hits with a "key" to break out the locking mechanism.

Our shot was a simple strip hinge charge that covered the length of the door along the hinge. The shot was 100gr/ft det cord in plastic conduit. The shot was placed in the joint of the door and frame. The shot was direct bottom primed with a single cap. (Training tie-in, to defray costs of materials) The overall NEW of the shot was .18 lbs TNT EQ or .11 lbs Actual.

Exterior target door

Interior with Hydra-Lock

Two team members were inside the target room which measured approximately 10 feet by 8 feet by 8 feet. The room was a bathroom and tiled from floor to mid-point on the walls. The entry point to the bathroom was a short 3.5 foot by 6 foot by 8 foot enclosed hallway (168 sq ft). The internal overpressure for the entry hallway exceeded the safe threshold and the safe stack point was just out side the hallway door in an adjacent open room. Upon breach of the door there was minimal intrusion into the room. The thermal effect that is shown in the above video capture only lasted one or two frames of the entire video The door hinges were successfully defeated and the door spun slightly inward from the hinge side. The Hydra-Lock remained securely affixed to the return arms and actually assisted by allowing the door to remain standing and pivot on the remaining return hinge rather than falling into the breach point on an extended return arm. The damage to the area surrounding the target was less than predicted in the pre-shot brief. Mostly cosmetic other than the door and metal frame, few tiles falling and some paint cracks. Overall, a successful breach with the desired results.

Video Capture of interior with Hydra-Lock

We learned two things about the Hydra-Lock system. First, we can defeat the system on an inward opening door by attacking the hinge side of the door. Especially if we believe the lock side has been barricaded. Secondly, the Hydra-Lock actually functioned as designed and surpassed the manufactures claims of securing the return arms. We still need to conduct target analysis on outward opening doors with the Hydra-Lock in place to determine the best approach. But, that is for another training day. (www.qwicklock.com)

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Interior door separated from hinge

Door pivoting on return hinge