



Case Study

2001 Summit of the Americas

May, 2001



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Med-Eng Systems

Feedback from Insp. Maurice Bezombes (SQ) on the Performance of the V-Top Crowd Management System



Bezombes advised the equipment was worn between 18 to 20 hours a day, without reports of discomfort or equipment failures during the weekend's intense events. The V-Top equipment was subjected to a range of projectiles including, golf balls, lead balls, blocks of pavement, bricks, sticks, Molotov cocktails, emergency road flares and paint. The distance between the most violent protestors and police forces was often only a few metres. In addition, other police forces reported protestors throwing galvanized pipe, tire irons, baseball bats, ball bearings launched by hunting sling shots and glass bottles filled with gravel.

Insp. Maurice Bezombes, leader of the Surete du Quebec Crowd Management Operations, during the Summit of the Americas, 20-22 April 2001, has reported that he was very pleased with Med-Eng Systems' V-Top equipment and proud of his Force's efforts and accomplishments in maintaining a controlled environment throughout the event.



The Inspector has received numerous congratulatory calls from police forces in Europe and USA, for the success in what will be one of the most complex and critical crowd management operations in the world this year. The leaders of thirty-four countries, including United States President George W. Bush, were present during the Summit, held in Quebec City, Quebec, Canada.



The injury report card was minimal, with only 19 out of 1,500 officers reporting an injury. Of the 19, 11 were due to fatigue and dehydration, 5 were due to gas inhalation and 3 were due to blunt impact from a projectile. Two of the projectile-related injuries were minor and the other was a moderate injury to an officer's neck area, the result of a brick thrown from a





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roof. Inspector Bezombes noted an impressive improvement in the levels of injury prevention, compared to a World Bank meeting recently held in Prague, where approximately 250 officers reported injuries (including many fractures and burns).

Bezombes identified the pre-event training as an essential reason behind his organizations' success. The Force had 1500 members on duty, with 1300 officers performing crowd management duties for the first time. Using the V-Top equipment during training allowed the Force to train under real-life conditions, a necessity for developing the kind of confidence required to perform optimally in critical situations. Bezombes credits the equipment and training, stating they were important

elements in his Force's ability to hold their positions and protect the safety of both Summit delegates and innocent civilians and media during 3 days of protests.

The officers in the field supported the Inspector's comments, by declaring their satisfaction with the equipment's performance and comfort. They also did not feel any modifications to the equipment would be necessary at this time.



For more information, please contact Med-Eng System Inc. by e-mail at info@med-eng.com.

