
Hello from A.P.T., ([Academy of Professional Trainers](#))

By Steven L. Waterman

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It appears that our investigation has uncovered a hornet's nest in Ozark. The more we kick it, the more hornets come out. Since my original story, I have received numerous emails from people who have known BJ Johnson, the vast majority of whom were either told by him that he was a former SEAL, or have heard it from members of their training classes or Police Departments. In a few cases, people who have dealt with him have refused to have anything to do with his training. Since the story came out about his fake SEAL issues, other departments have written to say they will no longer train at his facility, as they 'smelled a rat' before, but did not have the evidence to back up their gut feelings.

We received one nice letter from a retired LAPD SWAT Team member. He brought up a good point about liability. In the event that any of BJ's students are called upon to send any rounds downrange, there will be an investigation by the defense lawyer of the perpetrator, (or his next of kin) that will encompass every source of training these officers ever received. In the case where there are dubious issues resulting from their having received training from questionable sources, then they win. Another group we are associated with is attempting to determine where BJ Johnson received the training that qualified him to train these Police Departments in SWAT techniques, etc. Before his fake SEAL cover was blown, it was assumed that he had received this training as a result of his service with Naval Special Warfare. It does kinda make you wonder, doesn't it.....?

The Ozark Mountain Gunfighters School, in Stone County near Springfield, MO is another one of those 'training' operations that teaches SWAT techniques to cops and other interested parties. According to some of the police officers who have attended the training, it ain't bad. They seem to know their stuff. There's just one thing wrong with the entire scenario, their head guy, BJ Johnson, claims to be a former SEAL who 'slit lots of throats' and was a sniper in Vietnam. He also allegedly claimed to have the 'most hand to hand kills' of any SEAL who served there. Considering the guy was about 13 years old when Vietnam ended, that's pretty impressive. Of course a lot of these phony bastards don't realize that the SEALs never used any of their own people as snipers in Vietnam and of course BJ was a sniper there, too. Those who have been to his house speak of medals and ribbons on display and the continuous reference to his time with 'the Teams.' He claims a scar on his upper thigh was from a bayonet, when it was actually from surgery. In spite of telling almost anybody who would listen that he was a former SEAL, he was extremely careful not to put anything in writing on his website. We don't know what he's told the Sheriff about his 'military background.'

About a month ago, I was contacted by a young police officer who had been to some of BJ's training when he came to Portland, Maine some time back to teach the SWAT Team a thing or two. At the time a few of the cops in the class had some reservations about some of the crap that BJ



was slinging, but just blew it off, as they had not been trained by a 'real Navy SEAL' before. So he got away with it. However, one day they were at the range doing some pistol or MP-5 work, and one of my old buddies, Ron Damon, a former Army guy who had joined the Navy to go to UDT back in 1958, was out there working with them. For some reason, BJ shied away from him and did not spend much time at all around Ron. Perhaps it was because Ron has one of those 'bullshit filters' that has a very fine screen. Very little of the barnyard brown passes through. Ron goes to all the reunions and knows most all the older team members and is in contact with some on a regular basis. Ron asked around about this guy in Missouri who trained SWAT Teams and claimed to be the end all of Special Operators. (BJ also gives out a certificate in Advanced Special Operations at his school.) Ron smelled a rat at the time, but didn't follow through in checking him out.

A year, or so, ago Captain Larry Bailey was contacted by a student in college out in BJ's area. The kid told Larry about this BJ Johnson who was a 'SEAL.' Some of the college professors thought the sun rose and set in BJ's ass, so the college student, who wanted to graduate from college and go to BUD/S, didn't push the issue for fear of retaliation for busting this 'SEAL' who was everybody's hero there. (The student is now in BUD/S.)

So now yours truly is involved with shaking down this guy and making sure he's a fake. The phone rings here yesterday, and you got it, it's BJ Johnson. He's swearing that he's NEVER told anybody he was a SEAL and that it must be his competition trying to put out the 'bad word' on him so he'll lose business. Although he made no obvious threats, he implied that he would get 'really upset' and 'take it personally' if any of 'these lies' went out that he had said he was a former SEAL.

In BJ's words, "Anybody who says I have made those comments is a liar. There are real SEALs out there, dying for our country, why would I do something like that?" Good question, BJ, why would you?

He's been had now and we will do what we can to make sure the entire law enforcement community knows about this lying sack of shit, as we say. He may be one excellent instructor but his lies have come back to bite him in the ass - - or slightly to one side where he keeps his wallet. There are enough real SEALs out there who are qualified, in most cases, to teach SWAT operations, room clearing, Special Tactics, etc., without having these liars running around cashing in on these unwitting police departments.

By the way, one of the people who exposes fakes called the Sheriff's Department in that county, and asked for BJ. He was out of the office, and never returned any of his several calls, but the person who took the call was asked if BJ was a former SEAL. According to the deputy on the phone, he was.

If you would like to call The Academy of Professional Trainers and line up some training for your police department or just say 'Hi' to ol' BJ, the phone number is 417-357-8482 and is listed on his website, if it's still up.....

Now if any of you who are reading this have some doubt in your mind about some 'hero' you are working with or training under, just go here <http://sec-global.com/services/ctp/vsg/> and fill out the form as completely

as you can. One of us will get back to you in short order. We actually do get a real SEAL now and then, but it is somewhat of a rarity.

Personal note: Our law enforcement people need the absolute best training that is available. It is no longer a matter of just getting trained by some operation that 'specializes' in SWAT training and gives out fancy diplomas. The meat of the issue is that one of these days, and probably not too far off, the shit is going to hit the fan and these guys are going to be called upon to engage the enemy on our own soil. There is NO ROOM for frauds, liars and fake SEALs, SF, or Recon types teaching this stuff. Even if they are GREAT instructors, their credibility is shot to hell if they pull the crap that this guy has. Put him on the stand in a trial when he is the arresting deputy (I may have forgotten to mention he is a deputy sheriff) and see the defendant's lawyer tear him apart because of his lying about his SEAL career.

If any readers of this article have met this guy and heard him spout off about being a SEAL, I would appreciate hearing from them.

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