



BRADY CENTER TO PREVENT GUN VIOLENCE

LAW ENFORCEMENT RELATIONS

February 1, 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 Glockmeister, Inc. and NIC 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.

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