

Police rifle causes campus commotion

Student government chair opposes campus police possession of semi-automatic rifles

BY TOM GIFFEY
ENVIRONMENTAL REPORTER

UW-Madison Police and Security squad cars have been carrying semi-automatic rifles for over a year, much to the surprise of a prominent student government leader.

The "new" Colt AR-15s were purchased last spring to replace the Remington 870 12-gauge shotguns that had previously been carried in the Police and Security's six squad cars, said Sgt. Kurt D. Feaval.

The recent publicity surrounding the weapons came as a surprise to Associated Students of Madison Chair Angela Smith.

According to Smith, no one in student government was consulted before Police and Security purchased the weapons. This is a concern because the weapons "could potentially be used on students," Smith said.

"Students didn't know that these semi-automatic weapons were going to be used by the police department," Smith said.

Smith only learned about the weapons about two weeks ago when she received a call from a *Capital Times* reporter inquiring about student reaction to the guns.

The 9 millimeter AR-15, which is similar to the M-16 used by the U.S. military, was adopted for a variety of reasons, according to Feaval.

Not all officers, especially those with smaller frames, were able to effectively use the shotguns because of the great amount of recoil involved. This problem is reduced with the AR-15s, Feaval said.

Secondly, opportunities for training were limited with the Remington 870s. Because of the powerful slugs used in these shotguns, they could not be used in indoor training sessions, Feaval said.

"[We] can now shoot [the AR-15s]

"Our concern was to reduce the potential for risk to bystanders."

Sgt. Kurt D. Feaval
UW-Madison Police and Security

indoors, which allows us to train with them all the time," Feaval said. "We train with those as often as we train with our handguns, so that increases the officers' proficiency and familiarity with the weapon."

The AR-15s are also more accurate than either the shotguns or the handguns campus officers carry. Accuracy can be maintained up to 100 yards with the AR-15, Feaval said.

"You don't want to engage anyone with a handgun at over 30 yards," Feaval said.

The AR-15s would be useful in "high risk" situations, when officers were facing an armed subject more than 25 feet away, according to Feaval.

At greater distances, only one or two of the nine pellets in a shotgun shell would be likely to hit a subject, increasing the risk that a bystander might be hit, Feaval said.

"Our concern was to reduce the potential for risk to bystanders . . . One bullet, one suspect [brings] far more accountability, [and] far more accuracy," Feaval said.

However, Smith does not believe Police and Security have a strong justification for using such weapons.

"From what I've heard the justification that is being used is pretty weak," Smith said. "Basically, the justification is that other big cities are using them, and they're not really for on-campus [use], but in case they need to deal with something more serious off-campus."

According to Smith, ASM has no advisory power over UW Police and Security.

"Students have very little control over what the people who are supposed to protect them are doing or the weapons that they are carrying," Smith said.

Smith said that she has heard little public response regarding the issue, but that she believes ASM would pursue it further if students

Jump Missing
in Badger Herald

Athletic Board decision will go unchallenged

By Aaron O'Neill
OF THE CARDINAL STAFF

The Faculty Senate does not have the authority to review the Athletic Board's decision to not renew the contract of UW men's soccer coach Jim Lauderdale, the University Committee said Monday.

By a 5-1 vote, the University Committee said it would not be appropriate for the Faculty Senate to discuss a review of the controversial decision at an upcoming meeting.

Currently, there is a motion before the senate to review the decision. Approving this decision would be outside the realm of the body's powers, committee chair Evelyn Howell said.

"My belief is that the procedures we have established . . . do not allow for a review of the Athletic Board," she said.

Although the committee recommended against reviewing Lauderdale's case specifically, it did approve a related motion to explore the creation of a "redress mechanism for similar cases of contract non-renewal."

In addition, the second motion asks to clarify the relationships between the Athletic Department, the Athletic Board, the University Committee and the Faculty Senate to make sure proper procedures are being followed.

In addition, the senate could still address Lauderdale's case at the meeting unless the motion's sponsor, Professor William Berg, decides to withdraw the motion today. Berg was out of town at the time of Monday's meeting.

In prior arguments, Berg said the senate's right to review Athletic Board decisions is based on a section of university legislation that says the Faculty Senate can review the committees it oversees, including the Athletic Board.

Committee member Bill Courtenay said this rule does not allow for direct control over the board, especially in matters of hiring and firing.

"We can't override the authority of a committee in regards to personnel," he said.

Committee member Ron Schultz said the senate appoints members of the Athletic Board to act in UW-Madison's best interest.

"Have we heard anything to the contrary that they haven't acted in the best interest of the university?" he asked.

In a previous meeting with the University Committee, Athletic Board chair Jim Hoyt warned establishing a review would lead to second guessing of all of the board's decisions. Hoyt also said many members of the board would quit if such an oversight mechanism was put into place.