

Architects, Shooting Range Designers & Developers Seminar 2020





JOIN US

Oct. 28-29, 2020

Crowne Plaza Hotel

14670 Duval Rd Jacksonville, FL

Sponsored by TROY ACOUSTICS CORPORATION

and











We look forward to meeting you at the 4th Annual Architects, Shooting Range Designers & Developers Seminar in Jacksonville, FL. Enclosed are the updated details.

Crowne Plaza Jacksonville Airport/I-95N 14670 Duval Rd, Jacksonville, FL 32218

Reservations: MUST call 877-786-2807 and reference : groups code TAS

EARLY DEPARTURE FEE:

In the event that you reserved a room within this block & you check out prior to your reserved checkout date, an early departure fee of \$50 will be charged to you credit card. Guests wishing to avoid this fee **must** advise the hotel at or before check-in of any change in the scheduled length of stay.

Room Rate: \$105.00 \$96.00 for government employees with ID (possible increase Oct 1, 2020)

Check in: Tuesday, October 27 Check out: Thursday, October 30

*All room rates are exclusive of applicable state and local taxes, Florida State

AIA CES with 10 HSW Learning Units

Troy Acoustics Corporation in partnership with Siebein Associates, Inc. which is a registered provider with the American Institute of Architects continuing education system offers credit earned on completion of this program . This will be reported to CES records for AIA members. Certificates of completion for non-AIA members are available upon request.

This program is registered with the AIA / CES for continuing professional education. As such, it does not include the content that may be deemed or construed to be an approval or endorsement by the AIA of any material of construction or any method or manner of handling, using, distributing, or dealing in any material or product. Questions related to specific materials will be answered at the end of each presentation.

Day 2 Thursday, Oct. 28: Seminar starts at 8:00 a.m. ends 5:00 p.m. Day 2 Thursday, Oct. 29: Seminar starts at 8:00 a.m. ends at NOON. Plated Meals included:

Day 1 Oct. 28 Breakfast (7-8 am) Lunch (12-1 pm) and Dinner (7-8 pm) included.

Day 2 Oct. 29 Breakfast ONLY (7-8 am)

RSVP

Limited Seating

Administrative Fee:

\$100.00 (includes meals)

This fee may be paid by Paypal or by check.



Please mail check to
Troy Acoustics Corporation

2580 Sidney Lanier Drive

Brunswick, GA 31525

Any questions?

Please call Joan Terry Drucker

800-987-3306 Ext. 400

RSVP info@troyacoustics.com

by September 30, 2020





Speakers (in alphabetical order)

BILL BERGIADIS

BOBBY CUMMINGS, PE, DBIA/MIKE STILLWELL

MILES HALL

DALE KRUPINSKI

CAPTAIN WILLIAM J. MURPHY, PHD./Richard

McKinley

GARY SIEBEIN, PROFESSOR EMERITUS

JEFFREY NIELSEN

DWAYNE SLOAN, UL LLC

BRIAN WRIGHT,

NING XIANG, PHD RPI



Tuesday Check-in October 27, 2020

Crowne Plaza at JAX Jacksonville, FL

Wednesday October 28, 2020

7:00 a.m. Full Breakfast Location: TBD

8:00 a.m. Introductions by Bill Bergiadis, Location: Sago Room

CEO, Troy Acoustics Corporation

8:15 a.m.—9:15 a.m. Speaker: Bobby Cummings, PE, DBIA /Mike Stillwell

Topic: Shooting Range Architecture and Engineering

9:15 a.m.—9:30 a.m. Break

9:30 a.m.—10:30 a.m. Speaker: Richard McKinley /Capt. William Murphy, PhD

Topic: Assessments of Firearms Noise Exposures and

Hearing Loss Prevention

10:30 a.m.—10:45 a.m. Break

10:45 a.m.—11:45 a.m. Speaker: Ning Xiang, PhD

Topic: Architectural Acoustic Fundamentals and

Challenges for Shooting Ranges

11:45 a.m.—12:45 p.m. lunch Location: Canary Room

12:45 p.m.—1:45 p.m. Speaker: Jeffrey Nielsen

Topic: DoD Small Arms Range Design Criteria

UFC 4-179-02

1:45 p.m.— 2:00 p.m.. Break

2:00p.m.—3:00 p.m. Speaker: Dwayne Sloan, UL LLC

Topic: Importance of Third Party Testing

and Certification for Shooting Range Buildings

3:00 p.m.—3:10 p.m. Break

3:10 p.m.—4:10 p.m. Speaker: Miles Hall

Topic: Expecting and Inspecting the Unexpected

4:10 p.m.-4:20 p.m. Break

4:20 p.m.—5:20 p.m. Speaker: Dale Krupinski

Topic Environmental, Health, & Safety Design Considera

tions for Firing Ranges

Dinner at 6:00 p.m.—Location and Logistics

to be announced





Thursday October 29, 2020

7:00 a.m. Full Breakfast Location: TBD

8:00 a.m.—8:15 Welcome to day 2

8:15—9:15 a.m. Speaker: Gary Siebein, FASA, FAIA Professor Emeritus

Topic: State-of-the-Art Design Methods for Indoor and

Outdoor Firing Range Acoustics

9:15 a.m..—9:30 a.m. Break

9:30 a.m. -10:30 a.m. Speaker: Brian Wright,

Topic: Indoor Firing Range Ventilation Systems

10:30 a.m.—10:45 a.m. Break

10:45 a.m.—11:45 a.m. Speaker: Bill Bergiadis, Troy Acoustics

Topics: The Criticality of Shooting Range

Sound Attenuation

12:00 NOON Depart End of session

Thank you for joining us.

NOTE: To those of you who are requesting AIA credit please make sure that you sign

up on sign up sheet in the rear of the classroom for each

class.

Speakers (in alphabetical order)

BILL BERGIADIS

BOBBY CUMMINGS, PE, DBIA/MIKE STILLWELL

MILES HALL

DALE KRUPINSKI

CAPTAIN WILLIAM J. MURPHY, PHD./RICHARD

MCKINLEY

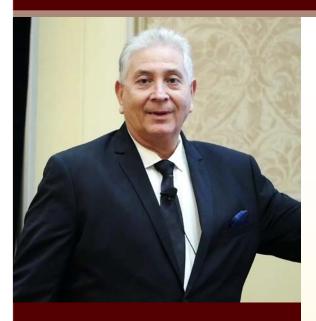
GARY SIEBEIN, PROFESSOR EMERITUS

JEFFREY NIELSEN

DWAYNE SLOAN, UL Labs

BRIAN WRIGHT,

NING XIANG, PHD RPI



"The problem with range noise for police departments are two-fold. First, as neighborhoods grow closer and closer to ranges, the ranges are increasingly perceived as nuisances. Second, officers are realizing that repeated exposure to gunfire on a range leads to stress and possible disability

Bill Bergiadis
Troy Acoustics Corporation

TOPIC: ACOUSTIC AND DESIGN SOLUTIONS AS IT RELATES TO SHOOTING RANGE NOISE

Architects' and Range Designers' Seminar April 22-23,2020

• President/CEO Troy Acoustics Corporation

has extensive experience in shooting range acoustics design for multiple ranges worldwide including all 14 of the USAF ETL (Engineering Technical Letter) 11-18 com- pliant ranges; four (4) USACE (United States Army Corps of Engineers Special Operations RT60 of 1.25 seconds reverb time across all octaves from 125 Hz to 8000 Hz compliant ranges as well as the FBI range at Quantico. Bergiadis co-developed the industry accepted acoustic standard for multiple military shooting range facilities as well as sound testing procedures specifically geared to shooting range RT60 testing.

Bergiadis is also a renowned speaker at NRA Range Development Conferences as well as at SHOT Show. He is often called upon as an expert witness for court cases involving shooting range noise attenuation.

Bergiadis developed acoustic designs for multiple indoor and outdoor shooting ranges as well as major broadcast installation including the Weather Channel, Fox News and Accuweather to meet OSHA, ETL 11-18, UFC, military specifications as well as local noise ordinances.

PARTIAL LISTING of related projects:

Firearms & Ammunition firms Beretta; FN Mfg.; ,Hornady, IWI; Sig Sauer Indoor Shooting Ranges: Ankeny Police;;Chandler Police;;Council Bluffs PD, FBI Quantico, Georgia Gun Club Atlanta; Triangle Shooting Academy, NC. USACE –United States Army Corp of Engineers: Aberdeen; Fort AP Hill; Fort Bragg; Fort Campbell; Fort Carson; Fort Drum; Fort Lewis; Camp Lejeune MARSOC,; Parris Island

USAF- United States Air Force Range: Andrews AFB, Barksdale AFB; Kadena AB, Japan; Keesler AFB; Maxwell AFB; Misawa AFB, Japan; Patrick AFB; Vance AFB; Whiteman AFB; Wright Patterson AFB US Marine Corps Miramar, Pu'ualoa

Contact information:

Title: President/CEO

Company: Troy Acoustics Corporation
Location: 2580 Sidney Lanier Drive

Brunswick, GA 31525

Email: <u>bill.bergiadis@troyacoustics.com</u>

Phone: 818-376-8491 direct or 800-987-3306 X200

Website: www.troyacoustics.com



"His professional focus is fueled by personal passion.
As a reserve deputy sheriff in Bedford County, his firsthand experience informs and enhances his public safety

Bobby Cummings
Clark Nexsen



- Principal, Clark Nexsen
- *Member of the Society of American Military Engineers (SAME)*
- Served on the board for the Tidewater Chapter of the Virginia Society of Professional Engineers.
- Clark Nexsen ranked as a top 10 military design firm by <u>Building Design + Construction</u>
- Enjoys outdoor activities such as hunting and camping.
- Reserve Deputy Bedford County Sheriff's Office

"We also understand that firearms and police training is a hot-button issue, putting safety at the forefront of our shooting range design effort. With design leaders who have personally served in law enforcement, our public safety team understands the challenges facing law enforcement, military, and commercial agencies today. We partner with our clients to determine which trends are generating the most impact in their situation, from increasing training needs, to budget constraints, to community interest, and develop solutions that enable them to train more effectively in safe range environments." Clark Nexsen

COURSE OUTLINE:

- 1. Historical Change in Range Design Requirements over 20 years
 a. You will be able to select design criteria appropriate for modern ranges that provide both a better training environment and a safer space to occupy.
 - 2. Design for Noise Control
 - a. The course participant will be able to choose appropriate materials and techniques for noise control based on range configuration and noise level requirements.
 - 3. Prevention of Environmental Contamination
 - a. You will be able to choose appropriate design features to prevent environmental contamination.
 - 4. Ballistic Containment
 - a. The course participant will be able to choose appropriate design features to provide ballistic containment for various range configurations.

Contact information:

Title: Principal Clark Nexsen

Location: 213 South Jefferson Suite 1011

Roanoke, VA24011

bcummings@clarknexsen.com

540.613.6686



Email: Phone:



"Helping range/retailers around the country improve their operation in a safe manner and keep growing and building the shooting sports."

Miles Hall Hall-N-Hall LLC TOPIC: Inspecting and Expecting the Unexpected (co-presenter) Architects' and Range Designers' Seminar April 22-23, 2020

Miles Hall

SENIOR ADVISOR

- Along with his wife Jayne, were the Founders of H & H Shooting Sports Complex in Oklahoma City. After 35 years of success; sold business in 2016
- Ranked as a top "10 dealer" by most major manufacturers in the shooting sports.
- *H&H* sold over \$20 million a year and sold 16,000 + firearms a year
- Honored as founding member and past president of the Association of Shooting Ranges, a founding member of the Association of Firearm Retailers, and a past board member of the National Shooting Sports Foundation.
- Named "2004 Retailer of the Year" by Shot Business Magazine and were cofounders of the first P-20 peer review groups in the shooting sports industry.
- In 2004, they were selected for the first Shooting Industry Academy of Excellence "Citizenship Award."
- *H&H* received the first "Range of the Year" honor in 2006.
- *H&H* was the first facility to receive a "5 Star" rating from the National Shooting Sports Foundation.
- Inc. Magazine had selected H&H as one of the fastest growing privately held business in the United States for nine years and is the only gun dealer ever in that list for four of those years.
- They were one of the nation's largest indoor range and retail center for the shooting sports.

This course will provide guidance for range/retail facilities structure that impacts the health, safety, reliability and longevity of not only the building but the occupants ;and are important in the engineering and development process.

Contact information:

Company: Hall-N-Hall, LLC
Location: Edmond OK 73013
Email: Miles@HallNHall.com
Phone: 405-774-9014 cell 405-850-0334

Web page: www.HallNHall.com



"Safety, health, and welfare

must be addressed in the project planning and design phase. Hazards identified during the design of a firing range can be eliminated or controlled through thoughtful design and engineering. Using a safety by design approach will reduce hazardous exposure and liability. Anticipating, identifying and controlling hazards in the design phase is easier and more effective than redesigning after a range becomes operational.

In this seminar, you'll review and apply the hierarchy of control system to minimize and/or eliminate common range hazards. "

Dale Krupinski MT2

TOPIC: ENVIRONMENTAL, HEALTH, AND SAFETY DESIGN CONSIDERATIONS FOR FIRING RANGES

Architects' and Range Designers' Seminar April 22-23, 2020

Mr. Krupinski has over 20 years of safety and health management experience including for lead/metals remediation and firing range environmental services such as: lead recovery/recycling, lead contamination remediation, range maintenance/improvements, hazardous waste stabilization, sampling, lead dust remediation, lead impacted soil treatment, and compliant site closure. Areas of expertise include OSHA compliance assessments, training, and program development in areas, such as but not limited to, recordkeeping, ventilation, occupational noise, personal protective equipment, respiratory protection, confined spaces, lockout/tagout, powered industrial trucks, machine guarding, electrical safety, and toxic/hazardous substances exposure monitoring.

Education

• B.S. Environmental Health; Bowling Green State University M.S. Environmental and Occupational Health Sciences University of Illinois at Chicago

Professional Certifications

• Certified Industrial Hygienist (ABIH #8578) Certified Safety Professional (BCSP #18214)

Employment History

- 2011 Present: MT2 Senior Consultant providing overall project Safety and Health Management
- 2007 2011: Environmental and Occupational Health Services Manager, Federal Prison Industries (UNICOR)
- 2000 2007: Industrial Hygienist, US DOL-OSHA: Toledo, Chicago, and Englewood Area Offices, Directorate of Cooperative and State Programs, Office of Outreach Services & Alliances, and Directorate of Construction, Office of Construction Services 1999 2000: Industrial Hygienist, Abbott Laboratories: Pharmaceutical Products Division

Contact information:

Title: Certified Industrial Hygienist (ABIH)

Firm: MT₂ Firing Range Services

Location: 14045 W. 66th Avenue

Arvada, CO 80004

Email: dkrupinski@mt2.com



"A major proponent of proactive hearing loss prevention programs that reduce workplace noise, shifting the focus from documentation of an injury to the prevention of occupation hearing loss"

NIOSH (National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health) Division of Applied Research and Technology, Hearing Loss Prevention Team

CHANGE NOTICE:

Captain Murphy's presentation will be presented by Rich McKinley

TOPIC: Measurements of Firearm Noise Exposures and Evaluation of Acoustic Treatments for Indoor and Outdoor Firing Ranges

Architects' and Range Designers' Seminar April 22-23,2020

Captain Murphy has been involved with research for the causative factors for occupational hearing loss for more than 25 years. He is a subject matter expert on noise exposure due to firearm noise and methods to prevent noise-induced hearing loss. He has served as the chair of the American National Standards Institute, Subcommittee 12 on Noise and he is the chair of the Acoustical Society of America's Technical Committee on Noise Recipient of the National Hearing Conservation Association's Outstanding Hearing Conservationist Award in 2015.

- Keynote speaker for the 2017 National Hearing Conservation Association conference.
- Authored more than 100 peer-reviewed papers, articles and reports on topics related to hearing loss prevention, noise exposure assessments, and hearing protection devices.
- Co-inventor of the NIOSH HPD Well-Fit[™] hearing protector fit-testing system.
- Developer of software for testing hearing protector attenuation.
- Co-designer of the GRAS 67SB blast probe for measuring high level impulse noises.
- Recipient of the USPHS Meritorious Service Medal for his research in impulse noise.
- Recipient of the USPHS Outstanding Service Medal for his work on developing acoustic standards for hearing protection devices.

Contact information:

Title: Captain, Commissioned Corps of the

United States Public Health Service

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

Agency: National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health

Location: 1090 Tusculum Ave. MS C-27

Cincinnati OH 45226-1998

Email: wjm4@cdc.gov

Rich McKinley: rich3audio@aol.com

Phone: (513) 533-8125 (Voice)

(513) 533-8139 *Fax* (preferred)

Website: https://www.cdc.gov/niosh/



Jeffrey Nielsen, author of ETL 11-18 and coauthor of UFC 4-179-02 Unified Facilities Criteria

Mr. Jeffrey Nielsen from the Air Force Civil Engineer Center (AFCEC) is the author of Engineering Technical Letter (ETL) 11-18 which for the past 20 years has been the design criteria for all Air Force small arms ranges. Mr. Nielsen is also the co-author of the new joint small arms range Unified Facility Criteria (UFC) document UFC 4-179-02 which will replace ETL 11-18 and provide the design criteria for all three Services; including the US Air Force, the US Army and the US Navy which includes the US Marine Corps.

Jeffrey Nielsen, US Air Force DAF; AFCEC/COSC Small Arms Range SME SHOOTING RANGE ARCHITECTURE AND ENGINEERING Architects' and Range Designers' Seminar April 22-23, 2020

TOPIC: DoD Small Arms Range Design Criteria UFC 4-179-02 (Unified Facilities Criteria) Published March 2020

COURSE OBJECTIVE

The Small Arms Range Design Criteria Course is intended to present an overview of the Department of Defense (DoD) requirements for designing and constructing new small arms ranges and major renovations to existing ranges. The DoD criteria is comprehensive and covers the unique criteria for all engineering disciplines from architectural to electrical.

Contact information:

Name Jeffrey Nielsen,

Title: GS-14, DAF; AFCEC/COSC, Small Arms Range SME

Agency: US Air Force

Location: Tyndall AFB

Email: jeffrey.nielsen@us.af.mil

Phone: DSN 523-6119 Comm (850) 283-6119



"Siebein implemented a long term research agenda to provide a scientific basis for environmental and building acoustic design issues."

Senior Principal and Professor Emeritus, **Architecture and Acoustics** University of Florida

TOPIC: STATE-OF-THE-ART DESIGN METHODS FOR INDOOR **OUTDOOR FIRING RANGE ACOUSTICS** Architects' and Range Designers' Seminar April 22-23, 2019

Gary W. Siebein, Senior Principal Consultant, has wo-11rked on over 2,175 architectural and environmental acoustics projects around the world and conducted NSF-sponsored research in building acoustics through his Architecture Technology Research Laboratory at the University of Florida during a 39-year career.

His firm has developed unique measurement systems that can be taken in the field to measure firearms sound levels; developed computer modeling and noise assessment methods to address acoustical design issues in both indoor and outdoor ranges; and has developed instrumentation to measure the noise exposure of active shooters on ranges at their ears.

- His firm has worked on a number of ranges including the FBI Academy range in Quantico, Virginia; the Federal Law Enforcement Training Centers in Cheltenham, Charleston and Glynco (Brunswick); Camp Hansen in Okinawa; the Asymmetric Warfare Group range at Fort A.P. Hill; the Special Weapons Assessment Range in Crane, Indiana; police training facilities in
 - Montgomery County, Maryland; Omaha, Nebraska; Dubuque, Iowa; Tampa, Florida; Pinellas County, Florida; and Albemarle, Virginia among others.
- The firm works on the full range of acoustical design and consulting for firing ranges including environmental, architectural, sound isolation, noise and vibration, and occupational.

Contact information:

Title: Senior Principal Consultant in Architectural and Environmental Acoustics and Professor Emeritus, Architecture and Acoustics, Univ. of FL

Company: Siebein Associates

Location: 625 NW 60th Street, Suite C

> Gainesville, Florida 32607 gsiebein@siebeinacoustic.com

Phone: 352.331.5111 ext. 25

Website:

Email:

www.siebeinacoustic.com





UL Labs - Dwayne Sloan
Technical Director,
Building & Life safety Technologies,
UL LLC

"Architects, building owners, contractors and affiliated design professionals for shooting range buildings need to understand the safety and performance code requirements that govern these structures. Understanding this connection between building regulation, test standards, and third party certification will have a positive impact on the installation of compliant products – ultimately achieving a positive impact on the health, safety, and welfare of those in shooting range buildings."

Dwayne Sloan

TOPIC: IMPORTANCE OF THIRD PARTY TESTING AND CERTIFICATION FOR SHOOTING RANGE BUILDINGS

Architects' and Range Designers' Seminar April 22-23, 2020

- 32 years in fire testing and certification with UL
- UL Corporate Fellow
- First Vice Chair of ASTM Eo₅ Fire Standards
- Chair of UL's Fire Council
- Member of National Fire Protection Association and serves on several of their Technical Committees
- Member of International Fire Safety Standards (IFSS) Standards Setting Committee

Several magazine and journal publications on various fire topics

UL's Mission – "To promote safe, secure and sustainable living and working environments for people by the application of science, hazard-based safety engineering and data acumen"

COURSE SYNOPSIS:

In this course, participants gain a better understanding of the connection between Building & Safety Codes, test Standards, and the importance of third party testing and certifications. This session will explore various means of demonstrating compliance of shooting range building materials and fire protection products. The course will also equip architects, building owners, contractors and affiliated design professionals with UL compliance systems and tools that can be used to determine whether building materials and fire protection related products comply with applicable standards.

Contact information:

Company: UL LLC

Email: 'Dwayne.E.Sloan@ul.com'



"The design, installation, and control of the range ventilation system can be the difference between an unsafe range and a range that meets the IMC 2009, OSHA, EPA and NIOSH standards."

Brian Wright
Carey's Small Arms Range Ventilation



TOPIC:

SHOOTING RANGE HEATING, VENTILATION AND AIR CONDITIONING Architects' and Range Designers' Seminar April 22-23,2020

Brian and his team have collectively:

- Designed and installed successful small arms indoor firing range ventilation systems for the past two decades.
- Designed and installed over 800 ventilation systems in military, federal, municipal, and commercial indoor firing range projects over the past 25 years.
- Specialized their design in the control of contaminants created by indoor ranges and are currently known as an industry leader.
- Worked with the United States Navy to develop the current range ventilation standards as described in the Unified Facilities Criteria (UFC).
- Written the ventilation standards for the **GSA**, edited the standards for the United States Air Force as published in the **ETL**, and have been consultants for the Federal Law Enforcement Training Center (Department of Homeland Security) and **FBI**.

Contact information:

Title: Shooting Range HVAC SME

Company: Carey's Small Arms Range Ventilation

Location: Tinley Park, IL

Email: bwright@careyscentral.com

Phone: (708) 532-2449



"The need to understand acoustics is more profound than ever. As we have more sound and understand how to control and improve the sound, we are making a real difference in society."

Dr. Ning Xiang

Director, Architectural Acoustics

Graduate Program, RPI (Rensselaer

Polytech Institute), Troy, NY

TOPIC: ARCHITECTURAL ACOUSTICS: FUNDAMENTALS AND CHALLENGES FOR SHOOTING RANGES
Architects' and Range Designers' Seminar April 22-23, 2020

- Director, Architectural Acoustics Graduate Program, RPI (Rensselaer Polytech Institute), Troy, NY.
- Extensive knowledge of ASTM RT 60 advanced computer-based simulations, designed specifically for shooting range conditions.

A researcher, educator, and inventor, Xiang is one of just 16 individuals world-wide to win the prestigious <u>Wallace Clement Sabine Medal</u>, the architectural acoustics field's top honor.

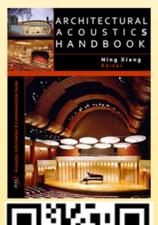
- •
- Recipient, Wallace Clement Sabine Award, Acoustical Society of America
- Editor Architectural Acoustics Handbook, (504 pages, J. Ross Publishing), which culls the theory and applications from some of the leading minds in architectural acoustics, including his advanced RT methods
- Presented with the Albert Nelson Marquis Lifetime Achievement Award by Marquis Who's Who
- Doctorate, Ruhr-Universität Bochum

Contact information:

Title:
Company:
Location:
Email:

Professor Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute Troy, NY United States NXiang1688@yahoo.com

Phone: (518) 469-0659







TROY ACOUSTICS CORPORATION

To attendees:

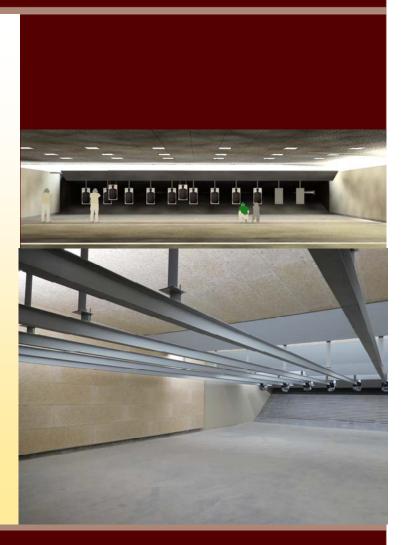
We look forward to meeting you at our 4TH Annual Architects' and Range Designers' Seminar with a focus on acoustics and health, safety and welfare as it relates to shooting range design.

Troy Acoustics is proud to be the sponsor of this one of a kind opportunity, bringing the best of the best in the shooting range industry to share their experiences.

We are here to answer any questions that you might have. Just call us at 800-987-3306 Ext. 400

Best regards.

Bill Bergiadis, CEO
TROY ACOUSTICS CORPORATION



Architects and Range Designers Seminar April 22-23, 2020

TROY ACOUSTICS CORPORATION

2580 Sidney Lanier Dr. Brunswick, GA 31525

800-987-3306 www.troyacoustics.com