



Tactical Talk

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“Courage is not the absence of fear. It is the ability to cope with it.”

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Germantown/ Collierville Crime Alert!



As you may know, there has been a large number of late night home intrusions in the past few months, first in Collierville then in Germantown. The suspect description in these incidents has been very consistent, along with the circumstances, leading police to believe they may be the work of a single individual. In the early cases, the suspect entered the home and poked around, sometimes stealing small items. In several cases, he awoke homeowners and fled when they got up to challenge him.

Recently, his criminal activity escalated when he returned to a home he had entered previously and this time raped the female occupant. This escalating violence is common among these serial offenders, who become bolder and more aggressive as they gain experience and confidence. Unfortunately, if he goes on, he will rape again and may even be involved in a serious assault or death when confronted by a homeowner. Someone willing to enter an occupied house in the dead of night is *dangerous*, and the threat should be treated seriously.

To counter this threat, you must first realize there is no such thing as a crime-proof neighborhood. The completion of 385, or Nonconnah Parkway has created a quick and easy route to and from the eastern suburbs. Thugs tend to go where their victims are. Second, most of the entries in these cases have been made through *unlocked* doors and windows! You wouldn't think you would have to point this out in 2003—lock your doors and windows, and use your alarm system! Keep bushes trimmed away from downstairs windows, and use a motion detector light or two on the exterior of your house. Finally, be aware of unusual cars in your neighborhood, and jot down the license number when you see one parked in the area. That might be the crucial tip that allows police to apprehend this guy before someone gets killed.

New Book, Soldiering On

Our long time friend and associate Alan Brosnan has just published a book about his adventures all over the world. Alan began as a trooper in the New Zealand SAS (Special Air Service), an elite commando group in the military of his native land. Alan later moved to the United States, first working in the Executive Protection field, as well as providing expert training in anti-terrorist operations. In the 1980's, he founded the Tactical Explosives Entry School near Memphis, and TEES has become a world recognized leader in explosive breaching and SWAT operations.



Alan has continued to teach and participate in combat operations all over the world, from South America to Afghanistan. He also became associated with the DeSoto County, Mississippi, Sheriff's Office SWAT Team, both as a trainer and as a deputy, taking part in high risk entries on everything from drug houses to militia members, to escaped convicts. The chapters dealing with his SWAT exploits in DeSoto County give you a rare glimpse into the gritty reality of policing in the Memphis Metro area, and this part of the book alone makes it worthwhile.

Soldiering On is available at Rangemaster for only \$24.95. I recommend it highly.



Dummy Rounds For Dry Practice

Dummy rounds, sometimes called placebo rounds are an indispensable aid in your dry practice drills at home. Dummies are inert training rounds, with no primer or powder in them. The best ones have regular brass cartridge cases, with a bright orange rubber or plastic bullet in place. These allow you to practice loading/unloading/reloading your pistol at home, without any chance of an accidental discharge. They are also useful at the range during live fire practice. Mix a few dummies in with your live ammo to create malfunctions, so you can practice your malfunction clearance techniques. The dummy will also make it obvious if you have a flinching or trigger jerking problem, as the gun will move violently when it goes click if you do.

CLOSE QUARTER FIGHTING

with Jeff Gonzales of Trident Concepts

Jeff is a retired US Navy SEAL, with a lot of operational combat experience. He is also a gifted trainer. I try to bring Jeff in once a year to teach various courses from his program, and we are pleased to have him teach his Close Quarters Fighting course this time. This is a very intensive, dynamic, and demanding course, and it assumes the student already has a strong understanding of the basic principles of marksmanship and gunhandling. On the range, Jeff will focus on fast, effective close range shooting skills, non-diagnostic malfunction remedies, and other survival skills for the dirty realities of close quarter engagements. There will also be hands-on training in contact weapons and empty hand defenses against armed assailants at "too close" range.

Class size will be limited, and the tuition is \$350.00. There will be an all day session Saturday and Sunday, plus an evening session on Saturday, making this a real value for your training dollar.



Defensive Shotgun Course in April

About once each year we conduct a basic Defensive Shotgun Course, held on two weekend days. This year's class will be Saturday-Sunday, April 26-27, 2003, from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. both days. We will combine classroom work, basic drills on the range, and some tactical exercises to give you some idea of the real world uses, strengths, and weaknesses of this weapon system.

The shotgun fills a definite tactical niche, but you must know how to use it effectively to take advantage of its power. We supply all ammunition for this course, including birdshot and buckshot.

BASIC KNIFE COURSE

with Steve Moses, Progressive Training Group

On Saturday, May 31, 2003, Steve Moses of Dallas based PTG will conduct an intensive one-day basic defensive knife course at Rangemaster. There will be very little lecture, and lots of hands-on training in the use of the folding knife for self defense. You will learn some simple but surprisingly effective techniques with the knife, plus get a lot of insight into what it takes to defend yourself against a knife attack.



Steve is a Texas peace officer, a long time competitive shooter, an experienced martial artist, and an effective trainer. He has been studying the knife for some time now, and has integrated this skill into an overall defensive program. The cost of this course is only \$150.00.

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The opening page of our website, rangemaster.com, now features a photo gallery. Just click on the "Photo Gallery" and you'll find fourteen photos from various Rangemaster activities, with detailed captions.

Local Deputy Receives Top Honor!

Deputy Kevin Nelms of the Shelby County Sheriff's Office was recently named the NRA 2002 Law Enforcement Officer of the Year. Deputy Nelms was selected from among almost 900,000 police officers in the U.S. for this prestigious award.

One night last year Deputy Nelms was assaulted by a deranged gunman, who shot Nelms without warning or provocation, hitting the deputy on his body armor. Deputy Nelms retreated to cover at his patrol car, firing as he went. A second bullet from the gunman struck Nelms, this time on his two way radio. Nelms continued to return fire, striking his assailant in the torso with all nine of his shots. The suspect finally went down for the count. In the course of the gunfight, Deputy Nelms had the presence of mind to seek and use cover, reload his gun during a brief lull, instead of waiting to run out of ammo, and hit his adversary with every shot he fired. Deputy Nelms had been a member of the Sheriff's Office Pistol Team for about two years at the time of this shooting, and the skill and confidence he gained in practice paid off. Our sincere congratulations to Deputy Nelms for his performance and this award.



T-Shirt Sale!

For the Tactical Conference in February, we had some really nice looking t-shirts made. These are heather gray, with the Rangemaster logo and the wording Tactical Conference 2003. We have some of these left over from the event. You can purchase them for only \$6.95 each. Get yours before they re all gone.