



# Tactical Talk

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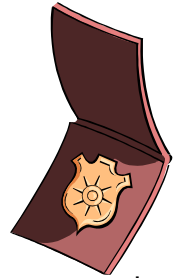


**Nothing is  
foolproof to a  
sufficiently  
talented fool.**

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## Concealed Carry Badges: Good or Bad?



Every month I get at least one call from someone wanting to know if we sell those nifty Concealed Weapon Permit badges, which are designed to be clipped to your belt just in front of the holstered handgun. They're often sold at gun shows or by mail order in shooting sport magazines. We do not carry them or offer them for sale, and we have reasons for that.

From talking to these people as they call, it appears that they fall into one of two groups. The first group have seen police officers on TV news and in the movies, walking around at crime scenes with the jacket removed, and their badge clipped to their belt near their pistol. The viewer then assumes this would be a good thing, since the cops do it. Wrong. The police do it for a very specific reason. In any large agency, no officer knows every other officer by sight. By wearing their official badge by the gun, everyone at the scene (other officers, citizens, and media), know at a glance who the officers are. For a non-officer to do this is often seen as a deliberate attempt to mislead at best, and impersonate an officer at worst. Bad idea.

The second group are just too lazy to find a way to wear their gun accessible but concealed. They think that the badge on the belt does away with the need to keep the gun discreetly concealed. Wrong again. In an urban environment, there are two critical reasons for keeping your sidearm out of sight, unseen by anyone unless drawn.

First, there are an awful lot of people out there who will be distressed by the mere sight of your pistol. These people may be either frightened or offended. In either case, you are needlessly hassling people and making a public nuisance of yourself. Cover up your gun.

The second issue is a tactical one. Wandering around with your sidearm exposed to view gives up your vital advantage of surprise. Remember, in a violent confrontation with a criminal, your two worst enemies are hesitation and confusion. Induce these in your adversary by suddenly producing a pistol he did not know you have. Second, think of the incident described elsewhere in this edition of Tactical Talk. When J first saw his adversaries, they already had a gun pointed at him. If he had been wearing his gun openly, he would have been disarmed as their very first move. This would have left him defenseless. Instead, his pistol was so well concealed his attackers never knew he had one until he got an opening and produced it, thereby saving his life.



## Upcoming Special Classes

- August 16-17      *Rangemaster*, Memphis, **Combative Pistol**, Tom Givens
- September 13-14      *Rangemaster*, Memphis, **Surgical Speed Shooting**,  
Andy Stanford
- October 11-12      *KR Training*, Austin, Texas, **Dynamic Pistol Marksmanship**,  
Tom Givens & Jim Higginbotham
- October 18-19      *The Forge*, Clarksville, TN, **Combative Pistol**, Tom Givens
- October 25-26      *Rangemaster*, Memphis, **Close Range Gunfighting**,  
Gabe Suarez

# UNIVERSITY OF MEMPHIS RIFLE TEAM SCORES BIG!

As you may know, Coach Butch Woolbright and the U of M varsity rifle team are based at Rangemaster, which serves as their home range for air rifle and small bore rifle competition. One of the team's newest members, freshman Beth Tidwell, has had a phenomenal Spring and Summer! First, Beth took First Place in the National Junior Olympics, then more recently placed Third in the USA National Shooting Championships. She was named to the All American Team, and it was just announced that she has been selected for the US Olympic Shooting Team, representing the US in the 2008 Olympic games. Of course, you didn't hear a word about this outstanding success in the mainstream media, because it involves the shooting sports. Our sincere congratulations to Beth and Coach Woolbright on this major achievement.

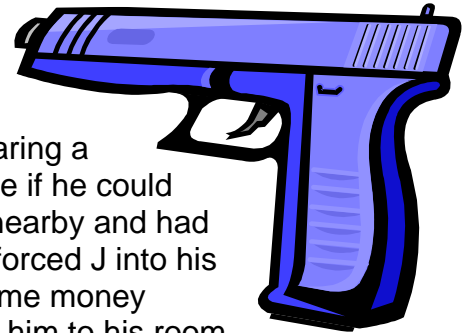


# Local Shooting Incident

## by Tom Givens

In the past four weeks in Memphis, there have been four incidents in which a homeowner shot and killed a home invader. The most recent incident occurred last Friday night, and involved a Rangemaster student. I debriefed him Saturday morning, and would like to share some of his experiences with you. Our student will be referred to as J, and the Bad Guys as BG1 and BG2.

J had gone to a shopping center just a few blocks from his East Memphis home, in a nice residential area. The two BG's came around a vehicle and accosted him. As they came into view, BG1 already had a pistol out and pointed at J. J was wearing a concealed pistol (S&W 908), but wisely decided to wait and see if he could get an opening to respond. The BG's ordered him to an ATM nearby and had him insert a card, which the machine promptly ate. They then forced J into his truck and made him drive home, saying he had better have some money there. Upon entering the house, still at gunpoint, they ordered him to his room to look for money.



BG2 left the room, and BG1 bent over to pick up some cash he found in a drawer. At that point J drew his concealed gun, and fired 6 rounds at BG1, hitting him with 5 of them. BG1 collapsed and was DRT. J pivoted to cover the door of the room and waited. BG2 apparently assumed his partner had just executed J, and came strolling through the door, only to be met by J, who fired 2 quick rounds into his chest. BG2 ran away and collapsed outside. J was not injured. J called 911 and the police arrived quickly, coming from another call just a few blocks away. No charges are being contemplated against J.

J and his mother came by Rangemaster to thank us for providing him with the physical skills and the mental preparation to handle such an incident. He also bought a bigger gun, an XD-40. Here are some thoughts on J's experience.

1. Stay calm and focus your thoughts and energies on finding a way to win!
2. Once an opening was available, J moved swiftly and decisively. An **AGGRESSIVE** counter-attack saved the day.
3. Bullets are cheap, don't be stingy with them. It was critical to **RAPIDLY** incapacitate these dangerous offenders, and that is best accomplished with fast repeat hits in the torso.
4. In the four such incidents in the past month, two involved one BG, and two involved two BG's. Be prepared for multiple adversaries.
5. Although "only going to the store" J wore his sidearm. You simply cannot predict these incidents. If you don't have your gear with you, you sure won't get to defend yourself with it.

Our sincere congratulations to J for a job well done.

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*The opening page of our website, [rangemaster.com](http://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.*

# Fighting Smarter On Sale!

Tom Givens' most recent textbook, Fighting Smarter, has been a big success. It has been adopted as a training textbook in the Memphis Police Department Training Academy and is sold in the Pro Shops at Gunsite, Thunder Ranch, and the Firearms Academy of Seattle. This book normally sells for \$24.95 plus \$4.00 shipping. Until August 31 you can obtain a signed copy for only \$15.00, including shipping, saving you \$13.95 per copy! Call 901-370-5600, or fax 901-370-5699 to order your copies today.

## **Tom s Article in SWAT Magazine**

The new issue of SWAT Magazine, scheduled to hit the news-stands on August 5<sup>th</sup>, contains an article by Tom Givens on the evolution of the Inside Waistband Holster (IWB), which is the preferred carry method for many armed professionals. If you've been considering the purchase of such a holster, the information and photos in this article may help you choose wisely.