



Tactical Talk

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*The sooner
you fall
behind, the
more time
you'll have
to catch up.*

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CRIME GUNS

The Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, & Explosives (BATFE) is the federal law enforcement agency tasked with enforcing federal gun control laws. For the past couple of years, the BATFE has had a program in 46 U.S. cities, in which they have traced and catalogued all of the guns seized by police in those cities. These include guns found at the scenes of crimes, as well as guns taken off criminals when they were arrested. Recently, BATFE released a list of the 10 most commonly seized firearms.

1. **Smith & Wesson .38 revolver**- no surprise, as this is probably the single most common handgun in the US. Literally millions have been made since 1899.
2. **Ruger 9mm auto**- inexpensive, therefore common.
3. **Lorcin .380**- dirt cheap junk guns sold in every pawn shop.
4. **Raven .25**- see #3
5. **Mossberg 12 gauge pump**- about the least expensive pump shotgun, and very common.
6. **Smith & Wesson 9mm auto**- again a very common gun, S&W makes dozens of variations
7. **Smith & Wesson .357 revolver**- continuous production since 1937
8. **Bryco 9mm**- see #3
9. **Bryco .380**- see #3
10. **Davis .380**- see #3.

No real surprises here. The overwhelming majority are ultra-cheap, poorly made, small caliber pocket autos (# 3,4, 8,9, and 10 all fall into this category). By the way, the total number of guns confiscated in one year in these 46 cities was 88,570.



Combative Pistol Courses

This is our intensive two-day weekend course, which we conduct all over the US. There is an all day session Saturday, a low light session Saturday evening, plus a full day Sunday. There is a small amount of classroom work, and lots of shooting. Skills addressed include rapid presentation from concealment; quick, accurate shooting; rapid reloading skills; disability drills; dynamic movement; and much more.

Students fire between 800 and 1,000 rounds, allowing us to get enough repetitions to raise students' skill levels appreciably. Some dates for this class in the near future include:

JUNE 12-13, at Rangemaster, in Memphis
AUG 21-22, at Pine Barrens Range, Westhampton, NY
AUG 28-29, at Bluegrass Indoor Range, Louisville, KY
SEPT 18-19, Strategic Weapons Academy, near Dallas, TX
OCT 16-17, FOP Range, Anniston, AL
OCT 30-31, at CASA near Little Rock, AR

NATIONAL TACTICAL INVITATIONAL

The NTI is an annual event conducted near Harrisburg, PA, each Spring. It is a week long event in which attendees are tested in live fire scenarios, as well as in force-on-force scenarios with Simunitions, in a "village" of shops and building fronts in an elaborate training/testing environment. The fourteenth NTI will take place the first week of June, and Tom Givens of Rangemaster has been invited to conduct a seminar at this prestigious event. Tom will be presenting a lecture on the Evolution of Flashlight Technology and Flashlight Assisted Shooting Techniques.



Tom Givens and Jeff Myers of Rangemaster coaching students in a recent Combative Pistol Course in Texas. We'll be conducting this course all over the US in 2004.

Shotgun Shooting Case

There was recently a fatal officer involved shooting in Memphis that sparked a bit of controversy.

A male subject went to a local storage facility, where he found his estranged former girlfriend. Subject began threatening her with a handgun, someone called the police, they arrived shortly. An officer armed with an 870 pump with 14" barrel managed to enter the building and approach the disturbance without being noticed.

Upon challenging the subject, the subject raised his handgun toward the ex-girlfriend and took a step toward her. This presented the officer, just across the room, with a side shot. The officer fired, but the first shot raked across the subject's shoulder and back, without penetrating into his trunk at all. At this shot, the subject crouched low, and bent over at the waist, simultaneously turning away from the officer, all of this movement taking place as the officer continued to fire, as he should have. The next three rounds entered the subject's lower torso and buttocks, penetrating up into his trunk. Subject was DRT. The M.E. stated the 00 pellets penetrated 8"-10" up into the subject's mid-body, piercing several vital organs. Ammunition involved was Federal Tactical 00 buckshot.

The controversy occurred when the word spread through the department that a suspect had been shot once with the shotgun at close range, then had to be shot 3 more times before being put down. This was blamed on the "weaker" tactical load. Of course, this is nonsense. The first shot was just a grazing flesh wound, and would have had the same effect if it had been delivered with a .458.

Lessons from this incident:

- 1. Don't expect miraculous instant stops with small arms, including shotguns.**
- 2. Shot placement is the key to putting dangerous criminals down and out.**
- 3. Shoot until the threat is neutralized. Don't shoot "a little bit" and wait to see what happens. Shoot until he's down or surrenders.**
- 4. Tactical buckshot loads penetrate slightly less flesh than do full power traditional buckshot loads. At typical room ranges, however, they work fine. The 8"-10" penetration depth reported in this instance was enough to get through vital organs, even from an odd, awkward target angle.**

When lives are on the line, shoot well and often.

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Trident Concepts, LLC.

Jeff Gonzales retired from the US Navy a couple of years ago. His last 12 years in the Navy were spent as a SEAL, primarily in Latin America, with extensive operational combat experience, earning him several decorations. He also served as an instructor at the SEAL school in California. Since retiring, Jeff has served often as an instructor at Gunsite and on the road as Trident Concepts. He also continues to work in an operational capacity part of each year in the Middle East. His methods and techniques have been tested in actual combat, and are continually refined as he continues to travel and work with operators in the field.

Jeff will again be at Rangemaster on July 17-18 to conduct his Combative Pistol Concepts course. This will be the third year for Jeff to conduct this course here, and his students all give his program rave reviews. Jeff is a highly skilled shooter and trainer, and a gifted communicator. I recommend this course highly. —**Tom Givens**

"Liberalizing concealed carry laws won't lead to a return to the Wild West. ... in 19th Century cattle towns, homicide was confined to transient males who shot each other in saloon disturbances. The per capita robbery rate was 7% of modern New York City's. The burglary rate was 1%. Rape was unknown."

David Kopel - quoted in the WALL STREET JOURNAL, February 28, 1994