



# Tactical Talk

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“A man with a gun is a citizen, a man without a gun is a subject. Our forefathers knew this to be true..... Why do so many of us question their wisdom? “

—D. Michael  
Wiechman  
May 14, 1996

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## Memphis Mall Crimes



Many make the mistake of thinking of shopping malls as “safe places”. Actually, they are magnets for criminals. Shoppers have cash, credit cards, checkbooks, and ID’s, and a shopper leaving the mall with an armload of packages is an easy target. Area malls have “security”, which consists of unarmed elderly retirees with no special training or ability. They are there for liability reasons, and have no effect whatsoever on the criminal element. As elsewhere, you are on your own!



I have heard a number of people say they go to Wolfchase Galleria, for instance, because it is way out East and “safer”. In 2004, there were 511 crimes reported to Memphis police at Wolfchase Galleria, ranging from theft to armed robbery and carjacking. In the same year, Southland Mall had 165 reported crimes, Oak Court reported 255, Hickory Ridge Mall had 123, and Peabody Place reported 149. Note that the thugs followed the money East to Wolfchase. You are safe where you make yourself safe—nowhere else.

# Live Storage and Dead Storage of Handguns

Proper storage of your handgun when you are not wearing it is a critical issue. Whether an inquisitive child, a depressed teenager, or a stupid brother in law, there are people in your immediate circle who must not be allowed access to your guns. On the other hand, you need access to your sidearm, even when at home. Last year in Memphis there were over 5,000 burglaries of occupied homes, and several of our students have been forced to shoot intruders inside their homes. That's hard to do if you can't get to your pistol quickly.



*The Life Jacket completely encases the pistol, covering the trigger and other controls safely.*

There are two forms of storage, which for simplicity's sake we'll call Live Storage and Dead Storage. In live storage, the gun is loaded and accessible to you in a fairly quick manner. This is best accomplished with either a Life Jacket, or a quick access gun safe. Either option allows you to quickly retrieve a loaded handgun, while preventing access by anyone who does not have the key or combination.



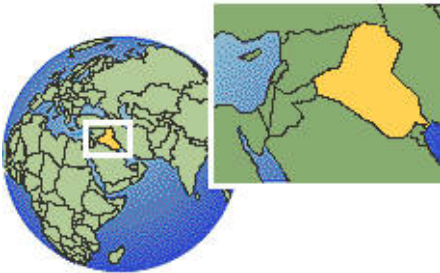
*A digital gun safe offers a good balance between speed of access and security for your ready pistol.*

Trigger locks are best avoided altogether. They provide inadequate assurance that the gun won't fire, and they require fiddling around the trigger of the weapon, which invites negligent discharges.

In dead storage, the gun is unloaded, locked up, and put away. This is primarily for "extra" handguns, other than the one you wear daily. Unload them, lock them in a hardshell case with a padlock, and put them away for long term storage.

# Annual Handgun Instructor Course

On August 12-14, 2005, which is Friday through Sunday, Rangemaster will conduct our annual Handgun Instructor Certification Course. This is an intensive three day course, with a lot of range time plus a great deal of classroom training. You will fire a variety of handgun types and become familiar with their operation. You will learn to teach/coach other shooters, and maximize your own performance as a shooter. In the classroom you will learn more about “why” we teach what we teach and adult learning theory and practice. The tuition of \$399.00 includes around 700 rounds of ammunition. Graduates become licensed as State Certified Handgun Instructors in Tennessee.



## YOU'RE SAFER IN IRAQ!

In the 22 months that US troops have been in Iraq, there has been an average of 160,000 US soldiers and Marines in country. Almost all of the deaths among these troops have been caused by explosives: either roadside bombs, rocket and mortar attacks, car bombs, and suicide bombers. In fact, the rate of firearms deaths among these soldiers has been 60 deaths per 100,000 troops. During the same period, the firearms death rate in Washington, DC, was 80.6 deaths per 100,000 population. This in the city with the most draconian gun control laws in the entire US! Prohibiting guns only disarms the law abiding, turning them into helpless victims.

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# Combative Pistol 1 in Erie, PA

For those of you in the Northeast part of the country, we will be conducting a CP1 course at the Lethal Weapons Training Academy near Erie, PA, on June 4-5. This is a very nice training facility. Contact the host range at [www.lethalweaponstraining.com](http://www.lethalweaponstraining.com) for details or to enroll.



***Students shoot in the recent  
Combative Pistol 2 course  
near Dallas, Texas***