



Tactical Talk

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"25 States allow anyone to buy a gun, strap it on, and walk down the street with no permit of any kind: some say it's crazy. However, 4 out of 5 US murders are committed in the other half of the country: so who is crazy?"

— Andrew Ford

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Notes on Crimes Committed in Memphis in 2004

There were 666 reported violent felonies that involved 3 or more suspects at the same time. These included 168 Aggravated Assaults, 416 robberies, and 21 rapes. Bear in mind that this means that roughly twice a day, someone in Memphis had to deal with an attack by 3 or more suspects at one time. Being adequately armed and adequately skilled is vital.

There were 1,371 crimes against persons (violent crimes) committed by juveniles in 2004. These included 11 Murders, 291 Aggravated Assaults, and 187 Aggravated Robberies. Victim's advocacy groups will tell you that only one rape in six is reported to the police, because of the public humiliation and shame that often accompanies this crime. The FBI thinks one in three is reported. There were 408 rapes reported in Memphis.

There were 5,587 Aggravated Assaults in Memphis in 2004. That's an Aggravated Assault for every 142 residents of the city. Many of these would have been homicides if not for the miraculous level of trauma care available at The Med. These occurred in every section of the city, in every segment of the community, at every income level. If there were a serious disease that afflicted one person in every 142, there would be telethons and foundations seeking to stamp it out. In the case of serious assault, everyone just likes to think, "That only happens to someone else." Well, to everyone else on the planet, YOU are someone else.

Attorney General's Report for 2004



I recently received the Shelby County District Attorney General's Report for 2004. The overall crime situation in Memphis is still dismal, but some progress has been made in certain areas. To give credit where it is due, Attorney General Bill Gibbons has launched a number of programs aimed at crime reduction, instead of just doing business the way it has always been done. The Gang and Narcotics Prosecution Unit, and the Drug Dealer Eviction Program target the violent, career criminal types who commit much of the violent crime. Felons caught in possession of firearms are being vigorously prosecuted, and

in some cases transferred to federal court, where they can get much longer prison sentences. It is a crime under both state law and federal law for a convicted felon to possess any type of firearm or ammunition, but in past years these laws were not enforced. The current emphasis on these prosecutions removes the most violence prone repeat offenders from the streets for years at a time, preventing countless crimes.

JOHN FARNAM, ADVANCED HANDGUN IN OCTOBER



John Farnam is one of the most respected firearms trainers in the US, conducting training all over the world for the past 30 years. He'll be at Rangemaster on Oct. 1-2, 2005, (Sat.-Sun.) to conduct his Advanced Defensive Handgun course. John is one of the trainers who will be presenting information at the Tactical Conference this winter, and we have him in every year to do a class. Highly recommended.

SELF DEFENSE AND THE LAW

In August, Jacob Evans was car-jacked by two armed men, who forced him to drive to a bank where they planned to force him to withdraw money at gunpoint. One thug went into the bank, leaving a second thug to cover Evans in his car. When the thug in the back seat looked away, Evans produced a handgun and shot the armed robber to death. The second thug fled the scene, but was later arrested. The shooting of the armed suspect in the back seat was immediately ruled justifiable, to no one's surprise. The press seemed surprised, however, that Evan's was not charged with Carrying a Pistol, since he has no Handgun Carry Permit. In Tennessee, we have what is known as The Safe Harbor Act, which states, in essence, that if you are carrying a gun illegally, but the authorities find that out because you used the gun in lawful self defense, you cannot be charged with carrying the gun. This comes from the legal "Doctrine of Competing Harms", or the lesser of two evils. The law says, "Yes, it is wrong for him to carry a gun illegally, but it would be more wrong for him to be crippled or killed by a thug." This means, quite simply, that you should keep your gun concealed and mind your own business. If you do that, no one will know you are armed unless you have to use the gun to defend yourself.



Another legal section you should be aware of is TCA Section 29-34-201, which states that a criminal shot or otherwise injured while committing certain violent crimes, CAN NOT sue for his injuries. This statute grants immunity from lawsuit by the criminal or the criminal's estate, if the suspect was committing any of 10 different violent felonies when he was shot or otherwise injured. These crimes include committing or attempting to commit: any criminal homicide; aggravated rape; kidnapping; aggravated kidnapping; especially aggravated kidnapping; especially aggravated burglary; aggravated robbery; especially aggravated robbery; carjacking; and attempt to commit first or second degree murder. These cover all of the crimes we would think of as legitimate venues for self defense with a gun. This completely removes the threat of a civil suit in a legitimate self defense shooting.

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On August 12-14, 2005, 21 students successfully completed our annual three-day Firearms Instructor Development & Certification Course. We had students from all over Tennessee, plus Florida and Louisiana in this course. Our next class will be Summer 2006.