



Tactical Talk

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"I got my wife a mood ring. When she's in a good mood it turns green. When she's in a bad mood it leaves an ugly red mark on my forehead."

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Expect trouble as an inevitable part of life, and when it comes, hold your head high, look it squarely in the eye and say, "I will be bigger than you. You cannot defeat me".

—Ann Landers

GANGS FLOODING MEMPHIS SCHOOLS

MEMPHIS, TN - Flashing gang signs right outside school. That's what students outside one downtown high school are- doing when school let out- Police say gangs are invading schools all over the city. But they say it's not just high school kids being initiated into gangs anymore. An increasing number of elementary kids are joining gang& This month at Craigmont High School, a student was beat up by his classmates who are proclaimed members of the "Vice Lords" gang.

At Raleigh-Egypt a student skipped school for hours to be initiated into the "Cups" gang. And at Southside High School members of the "Gangsta Disciples" and "Vice Lords" allegedly shot up another classmates home. School Board Commissioner, Stephanie Gatewood, organized a joint meeting night with parents, law enforcement, school, and government officials at Raleigh-Egypt High School. They say some parents don't even know their kids are in gangs and when they find out it's too late. Members of the police anti-gang unit say there are some things you can look out for. To show they're in gangs, some kids wear bandanas. others wear necklaces with stars on them, certain color clothes and some even identify which gang they're in based on which wrist they wear their watch on. —Source: WREC TV

2006 Tactical Conference A Success!

In February Rangemaster again hosted our annual Tactical Conference, which was attended by 90 practitioners from literally all over the United States, plus Great Britain. We had excellent classroom presentations from a number of very highly regarded trainers, including Skip Gochenour,



John Farnam, Steve Moses, James Yeager, John Hearne, Claude Werner, and William Aprill. We also had airsoft force on force training, hands-on disarming instruction, and a low light live-fire match on the pistol range. Well known trainer John Farnam posted an "after action" report on his performance that is on pages 2-3.



Well known trainer John Farnam was one of the nationally recognized instructors who gave classes at the Tactical Conference.

27 Feb 06

Polite Society:

I shot the 2006 PS event yesterday. There were four stages, all live-fire, on Tom Given's wonderful indoor range in Memphis, TN. All shooting was in low light. Most required the use of a flashlight.

I used my SIG229/DAK in 40S&W carried in a Comp-Tac C-Tac holster, and my Detonics snubby (45ACP) in a Lou Alessi shoulder holster. Ammunition was Cor-Bon DPX in both calibers. All equipment worked just fine. My flashlight was Blackhawk's Gladius.

In the First Stage, one was required to draw and fire on three paper targets, one handed in once case, with a one-handed reload in another. Range was four to seven meters. Starting positions included both standing and sitting. Targets were line drawings, and the bad guys were carrying Kalashnikovs and wearing black-and-white, striped shirts. Between the Gladius' bright light and the striped shirt, my front sight was hard to find. In "strobe" mode, the front sight was extremely hard to see, as it kept getting lost on the shirt's stripes!

In the Second Stage, one was required to enter a darkened building and rescue a wounded colleague, who had to be dragged out. Shooting required a flashlight. Targets were dressed mannequins and were reactive. Good, body-midline hits were required, often several.

In the third stage, one was buckled into the seat of a car when there is an armed, car jacking attempt. Targets (two) were close and directly out the right window. In addition, the car-jacking suspects used the doors of another car for cover, and that car's headlights are shining directly in your face! I elected to go for my Detonics, since going for the waist holster was difficult and slow. It popped into my hand, and I twisted around in an attempt to engage both suspects. The one on the left was no problem. He went right down, but the one of the right required me to shoot one-handed, as I couldn't get turned far enough while still keeping my pistol in both hands. I thought about undoing the seat belt, but there was no time, and I'm poor at multitasking!

In Stage Four, one started the exercise reclining on a bed. All guns and other weapons were in a nearby night stand. One must get up, retrieve weapons, and then peer into a darkened room, filled with suspects who are mixed in with your own family members. As I rolled out to look into the room, a deafening, concussive shotgun blast, emanating from a suspect in a corner of the room, nearly knocked me over! (Blank firing shotgun rigged to a target!) I recovered and started shooting, but the blast really rebooted my hard disk! I hit a family member, mostly because I forgot she was there. A real gaff! When I gunned down the last bad guy, it was with rounds from the magazine for my backup Detonics.

John Hearne ran two, excellent, force-on-force, Airsoft exercises, one involved an ATM. The other involved a self-service gas station.

As one approaches an ATM with the intent of using it, two sleazy, unkempt characters standing nearby exchange glances and then abruptly stop talking. I know the school solution was to simply walk past them and keep going, but I decided to use the machine anyway, calculating that, during a busy day, I'm probably not going to interrupt my schedule because of every sleazy mope I see. Well, both suspects confronted me with guns as soon as I retrieved my cash. I threw it on the ground and invited them to take it, which they did. After scooping it up, they separated. I saw no chance to overpower them during the confrontation.

You pull into a self-service gas station and start filling up. Someone else pulls up on the opposite side, gets out, and asks directions. Simultaneously, a station attendant approaches and asks you how you like your new truck. While all this is happening, a man with a pistol inserted in his waistband and clearly visible, approaches from the rear. Many never saw him until he was within touching distance. When I noticed him and saw his pistol, I immediately disengaged from the other two, commanding them to get away from me and take cover. I then drew and took cover behind my truck, announcing my office and commanding him to stop. He approached no further and obeyed my suggestion that he find something else to do!

Steve Moses presented an excellent class on using a knife to break contact with attackers who have you on the ground or grab you from the rear. Quick, aggressive, and violent action is required!

William Aprill presented his excellent weapon disarm and retention class. William is a rough bronk, and he teaches an aggressive, heavy-contact style. His class was well received.

The Polite Society Event, like the NTI, is a wonderful, tactical clinic and an opportunity to get together with like-minded friends and colleagues. It is important for all of us to test ourselves now and then, taking our lumps in the process.

Next year, the Polite Society Event will be moved to the expansive Memphis Police Department range complex, so many more people will be able to be accommodated. I'm looking forward to it. Good show, Tom!

John Farnam



2006 Tactical Conference Photo Gallery





Anatomy, as it Relates to Self Defense

You must understand that handgun bullets do not operate in the same realm as rifle or shotgun projectiles. High velocity rifle bullets (anything above 2100 fps) cause tissue damage all out of proportion to the bullet's size. Shotgun slugs punch nearly inch-wide holes clear through a chest. Buckshot pellets spread through the chest, perforating numerous organs at once. These projectiles cause vast disruption of bodily functions, and overload the nervous system with trauma.

Handgun bullets are low velocity projectiles, with nowhere near the power of a shotgun or rifle shot. There are many jet aircraft that fly faster than pistol bullets, with a pilot flying them. When a pistol bullet strikes a body, the bullet attempts to continue on its flight path, making a hole. As it burrows through the flesh, it rapidly decelerates, and comes to rest when it runs out of energy and momentum. It may have enough energy/momentum to perforate the body (exit) or not. This can be affected by variables which include the size of the person struck; whether the person struck is hard and muscular, or soft and flabby; and the weight/velocity of the bullet.

Also, pistol bullets often fail to follow a straight line path once they enter a body. Even relatively small bones may deflect a bullet, causing it to veer from its original path. This is one instance in which bigger, heavier bullets have a distinct advantage. Lighter bullets tend to deflect more, or more easily, than do heavier bullets. Big, heavy bullets are more likely to break a bone and continue on something close to its original flight path. Regardless of where you aim, the bullet may wind up in an altogether different area after it enters the body and strikes the various structures within. This is one reason it is so often necessary to hit with more than one bullet to do the job.

To put it in simplest terms, then, a pistol bullet creates a hole. We need:

- Big holes

- Deep holes

- Holes in the right places.

The Skeleton- Note that the major bones can often deflect pistol bullets, especially smaller caliber, lighter weight bullets. The skeleton is the body's superstructure, or support structure, but breaking even major bones does not rule out return fire.

The Nervous System- The nervous system is the electronic command and control system of the body. The brain generates signals which the nerves take to muscles to cause them to DO something. Note that the brain, the cervical spinal cord, and the brachial plexus are all in the upper part of the body. Even hits to the spinal cord below the top third of it do not rule out return fire.

The Cardiovascular System- The muscles and the brain must have oxygen to function. The electrical system is powered by burning oxygen and sugar in the brain. All of this is dependent on the circulatory system to deliver oxygenated blood to the brain and the body. Note that the most important vascular structures are in the upper torso, on the vertical centerline. The heart itself is about at arm-pit level. The aorta and superior vena cava are on the centerline, running down the front surface of the spinal column. At the top of the heart, the major plumbing all comes together in one place—this is the most vital area as far as circulation is concerned. This is right on the vertical centerline, just above center of the sternum (breastbone).

The Respiratory System- The lungs obtain the oxygen that the circulatory system delivers to the brain and the rest of the body. Note that the lungs are fairly high in the chest, from the bottom of the sternum upward to the collarbone.

Shot Placement for Rapid Incapacitation- By reviewing the information above, we see that in the trunk, the most vital structures lie on the vertical centerline, between the bottom of the sternum and the collarbone. The easiest way to accurately describe this to a student is: Collarbone to diaphragm, between the nipples. On an average size man, this is about an eight inch circle.

This is an approximation. The lungs are cone shaped, and taper inward a good bit at the top. A hit inside this eight inch circle can still miss EVERYTHING important. This is why rapid repeat shots are so critical. Typically, it is an accumulation of damage that forces incapacitation, not a single hit's trauma.

From my colleague, Jeff Gonzales, "In a fight, any hole is better than no hole, more holes are better than fewer holes, bigger holes are better than smaller holes."

From my friend, Clint Smith, "Shoot what is available, until it is no longer available."

From Tom Givens, "A good hit with a marginal bullet is better than a marginal hit with a good bullet."

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The Independent, Collierville's weekly newspaper, recently ran a favorable story on the Rosewood Plantation Neighborhood Association's decision to become trained and capable of defending themselves. Nineteen residents attended our Basic Personal Protection Course as a group. Eight ladies and eleven men attended, and learned the basics of using a handgun in self defense. They had a ball, since most of them already knew each other from the neighborhood. This would be an excellent way for your neighbors to get together, get to know each other, and band together for mutual support and defense. If you already have a Neighborhood Watch organized, this would be a great way to build team spirit while learning critical skills and knowledge.



Just FYI, there are currently almost 9,000 women in Shelby County who have a state issued Handgun Carry Permit. Women have every right to go where they need or want to go, and many times they will not be in the company of husband, boyfriend, or other male escort. Women need the same self defense skills any man needs-- if anything they may need them more badly. Women are frequently the target of violent criminals, who perceive them to be an easier target. You CAN take control over your life, but you have to be willing to invest some time and effort.