



Tactical Talk

Volume 11, Issue 7

July 2007

“After a shooting spree, they always want to take the guns away from the people who didn't do it. I sure as hell wouldn't want to live in a society where the only People allowed guns are the police and the military.”

— William Burroughs

Inside this issue:

NTI Report	2
Student Letter	10
Upcoming Courses	12
How to contact us	12

FBI Releases Uniform Crime Report for 2007

Each year the FBI tallies the total reported crimes for each community in the US. The 2006 figures for Memphis are listed below. Please note that this does not cover all crime, just the major, serious crimes that directly affect your safety and well being.

FBI UNIFORM CRIME REPORT 2006

Memphis, TN Population 680,828

Violent Crimes: 13,536 1 for every 50 residents

Violent crimes:

Murder, Aggravated Assault, Rape, Robbery-

Murder 147

Aggravated Assault 7657 1 in every 88 residents 21 day

Rape 423

Robbery 5309 15 per day

Non-violent crimes:

Burglary 16,439 45 per day

Auto Theft 6716

Arson 246

In 2006 in Los Angeles, there was 1 violent crime per each 127 residents. In Memphis, there was 1 violent crime for every 50 residents. The violent crime rate, per capita, is 2.5 times as high here.

This article by Randy Harris:

For those of you wondering where I have been for the last week or so, I have just returned from my first trip to The National Tactical Invitational in Harrisburg Pa. For those not familiar with it the NTI is learning experience that combines interactive force on force in the " Village" with building clearing exercises in the Pneumatic house, the mystery gun stage, the "L" house, and the 360degree range. There is also a "standards" stage and another stage that often requires shots at both close range and 100 yards and farther. It is a true test of skill, equipment and how well the practitioner can run that equipment. The following is my in depth review. I will warn you It is lengthy.

I had read about the NTI since its inception 17 years ago. Like many I wondered how well I could do in such an environment. But really, if you cannot do well there, how well do you really expect to do on the street when it is real? Tom Givens of Rangemaster talked me into signing up and going with him and some of his crew and I am very glad I did. Actually he kind of shamed me into going by telling me that every serious gunman should go at least once. He is right. I have always looked at Tom as a mentor, but after this trip I look at him as my friend.

I met up with Tom and the gang in Knoxville en route to Pennsylvania. There were 4 of us in the van so there was plenty of room. It is also quite a long drive so it gave us plenty of time to discuss all manner of things from Southern culture to Scots-Irish heritage, what long guns we would like to try out, gunmen of old and past NTIs. But with such good company it seemed like the time just flew by. Also along on the trip was John Justice, John Hearne and Jeff Boardman both of whom are instructors for Rangemaster. Since three of us are from Tennessee, one from Alabama and one from Mississippi, all armed with multiple pistols, and heading toward Gettysburg, we became the "Confederate Cavalry". Did I mention it was a fun trip?

We arrived on Tuesday and checked into the hotel and got lunch at the Elephant and Castle English Pub located in the host hotel. How appropriate for a meeting place! That evening we got the overview of the week ahead at the orientation. The storyline for the exercise was that you were an expert witness retained to testify in a trial. You would be picked up at the airport, go to your hotel, give a speech in the local school, and testify in court, go to the mall ,have dinner with the district attorney and go to the doctor. All of this took place in the "Village". In there you would interact with other practitioners and role players and act and react accordingly to what situations ensued. The regular shooting stages somewhat mirrored these force on force stages, they just used voices provided by the safety officers and targets provided by either pneumatic targets that appear and disappear or by stationary targets made of Tactical Ted targets with a thin solid "core" that had to be hit squarely to knock them down.

I have to admit that I was somewhat relieved to be in the first group to shoot. I had been

(Continued on page 3)

(Continued from page 2)

playing "what if" in my head for so long that I was frankly glad to finally get it over with and be thrown into the fire. The first group was given the safety briefing and given our safety equipment (did I mention we use Simmunitions rounds in the village?) and off we went. I elected to wear no extra padding other than the collar they issued and the eye protection and grinders mask used to protect your face. I figure I'd get more out of it by dressing as I normally do and if being shot REALLY hurt.

As Tom and I picked up our bags from baggage claim in the village airport we ducked into the restroom to find our pistols and arm ourselves before hitting the street. Unfortunately the village deputy sheriff ducked into the bathroom and we were detained until the sheriff arrived we could explain why we were pulling guns out of our luggage in a public bathroom. Since our permits were in order we were let go. We rearmed with our J frames and our 10 rounds of sims ammo and went to the hotel.

The hotel acts as a staging area where the practitioners and their individual judges wait until all is clear for the scenarios to begin. But if you left your gun behind in the hotel you might find it stolen when you got back. We went immediately to the local school to give a speech. Upon arrival we were confronted with the sheriff who promptly disarmed us. No guns allowed in school so we were disarmed and we entered the school. A short time later during the speech two thuggish individuals entered one with a gas can and one with a lighter. We immediately set to herding the locals out the door and I grabbed a ball bat as I exited in case the thugs decided on assault instead of arson. I intentionally did not attack the gas man with the bat for fear of being shot by the sheriff who I thought was still outside. Of course there was no law enforcement there when you needed them.....We debriefed, explained our actions got our guns back, checked to make sure they were loaded and all were led off in separate directions. In the debrief on Saturday we were told that some wandered around with empty guns having never checked to make sure they were loaded after they got them back and yet others forget to get their guns back at all!

Next I was taken to the courthouse where I was again disarmed and seated in front of the gallery. As I sat there a rather large intoxicated man sitting next to me with a bottle of booze tried to strike up a conversation. I asked the bailiff if the man was supposed to be drinking in court. About this time a disturbed individual entered the room and promptly shot the bailiff. I got down on the floor and noticed the bailiff had dropped his SW 5906 service pistol when he fell. But I also noticed the safety was on, figured there was no round in the chamber and that it was a glorified paper weight. I knew I'd likely get shot in the head if I reached for it. Instead I stayed low and waited until the gunman came closer and I sprang off the floor performing a disarm on him to end the scenario. This is where that work with William Aprill at the Warrior Talk Symposiums and with Southnarc in his classes and with Gabe on disarms came in handy. I asked some others why they didn't do the same in their turn in that scenario and they said frankly they didn't have that skill set. I was certainly glad I did.

Next up was a trip to the mall. I'll admit that I was a little apprehensive to enter the mall,

(Continued on page 4)

(Continued from page 3)

and I was right to have been. As I walked down the corridor I was confronted by a large man who blocked my path. I said "Excuse me Sir" and tried to slip past, but he stepped to block it again. Now a note on rules here. The practitioners cannot physically "rough up" the role players. So for those of us who have a bag of hand to hand skills to draw from, that was pretty much negated. Also for those of us who carry impact weapons, that was also a no-no. I attempted to use "pepper spray" but the BG was having none of it and kept advancing. By this time his partner had closed the gap on my other side and this narrow hallway became even tighter and BG #1 was now holding a pistol in a retention position. I offered my card wallet and credit card but they wanted to check my other pockets and ordered me to my knees firing a shot into the floor to let me know they meant business. I feigned compliance, told them I had a bad back and slowly got down on one knee keeping my left foot on the ground. Bad guy #1 checked my left pockets and finding nothing started to move behind me from left to right. I took this opportunity to hook him with my left arm and spin quickly to my left and around pushing him into his partner (tying up his gun and his partner) and drawing my own pistol and preparing to start feeding bullets into them when the judge yelled "STOP!!".

We debriefed. I was told I could have done a better job of getting by him, but frankly I was perplexed at the pepper spray having no effect at all and I was still not sure just how much contact I would be allowed to use to move someone so I did kind of just stall out for a few seconds. The judge explained how much physical force was OK, and commended me for not getting rattled and using the time I had to formulate a plan, not to panic. He also commented on my quick draw (appendix carry works people!) and said all in all it worked out well for me. The shots were not needed and it was called to a halt for safety purposes. They try to avoid near contact shots on the role players and practitioners if they can. Part of my "calmness" was that I knew I could get the gun in play and make accurate hits. All that work on the range pays off and allows you to worry about solving the problems not worry whether you can get the gun out and make it run. Taking the fight to them when the opening presents itself works well too. There is time to talk and time to fight and they rarely overlap.

Next we went to the restaurant in the airport where I was to meet with the district attorney for lunch. Of course my quiet meal was interrupted in short order. The same two thugs from the mall entered yelling that I had sent them to jail. I played it like they had the wrong guy and tried to calm them down. The guy who had blocked my path in the mall now moved to block my exit from behind the table. I stood and told him to back off and not to put his hands on me. They both now were within touching distance and I had nowhere to go except to back further into the corner. I again said not to touch me. He did. I quickly drew my pistol and shot him twice from the #2 position, transitioned to his partner and shot him twice in the chest from a 1 handed #3 at which point I heard "BANG" and felt a hot pain in my neck and I spun and fired again, hitting my third assailant and the scenario was stopped.

(Continued on page 5)

(Continued from page 4)

Fortunately the pain was referred pain from a hit I took in the arm and not a shot to the neck so I survived the shot. I also hit my gun wielding antagonist in the arm. She missed me with her second shot as I turned out of the way in an "inquantata" type movement. She later told me had she not gotten off the line of attack when she shot that the arm hit I delivered on her would have been a torso hit. Hmmm. Maybe getting off the X works?

I then was asked to explain why I shot 2 "unarmed" guys. I replied that they were the ones who had already mugged me so I knew they were likely to be carrying weapons, I had testified against them and they were out for revenge, that the disparity of force issue between them and me made lethal force required and that I was acting also in defense of a third person too-the DA. I told the cop he might want to interview the DA and get his story. The DA did not appear to be interested in prosecuting the guy who saved his life so I was released and my time in the village came to an end.

I went on to the pneumatic stage where again having been disarmed upon entry I picked up a fallen man's revolver ,loaded it and continued the fight. Some did not check to make sure the revolver was loaded. Some did not see the spare ammo. Some did not make sure the brass in the cylinder was in fact loaded ammo. I cleared the structure and saved my sister. Ammo management was an issue as some folks used to auto pistols fired 4 or 5 rounds into the first target and used up half their ammo on that one target. I reloaded the revolver as necessary , never running it dry.

On the "Mystery Gun" stage I was in the doctors office and had to clear my way out of the structure using an exposed hammer double barrel shotgun, 5 rounds picked up off the ground, and a flashlight that should have been thrown away last year! When asked where I was shooting the targets because they fell quickly I told them." In the face". Not the answer they expected apparently, but it was effective. At short range room clearing distance you need to put the BGs down NOW. What better way than a load of 12 gauge shot in the eye? I also "tac loaded" the shotgun. That is I would fire 1 round and reload 1. That way if I had to fire 2 at any point I would be able to. Some were very uncomfortable with the gun. I was intimately familiar with it from all the time I have spent with "cowboy" guns. It is a good idea to have a working knowledge of more than just the equipment you carry on a regular basis. Interestingly some of the Marine contingent used the shotgun to butt stroke opponents. Gotta love the Marines!

Next was the standards stage where you shoot several preordained courses of fire. This tests your ability to work your equipment. I will admit I was expecting to do well here, but gremlins reared their ugly heads. On the malfunction clearance my "Tap , Rack" was less than robust and I had to do it twice, eating up precious time. I had spent the prior weekend telling people in the class I taught to not be worried about hurting their guns. Manipulate them forcefully! Of course I then proceeded to not get a good grip on the slide and short stroked the rack. Talk about irony!

On the next stage I was sent into the school set up on the 360 degree range to make a

(Continued on page 6)

(Continued from page 5)

speech. As I waited for my guide to lead me to the gym all hell broke loose. With it being a school, I was unarmed of course before I was allowed entry. I grabbed my writing pen in a pikal grip and stabbed the first knife armed target in the jugular with the pen. I then got behind cover and found the security guard laying on the floor unresponsive. I took his Ruger P85 and checked to make sure it was loaded (it had 3 rounds), found his spare mag (half loaded) and proceeded to work my way through the problem. One issue with the "core" targets is the core only goes to the lower part of the face. So eye socket shots which are what we train for do no good. Unfortunately I ate up a lot of my ammo discovering that. The range officer who monitors the stage through video and communicates with us through a head set tried to tell me to stop, but that headset mutes out when gunshots are going off. So now I have an empty gun and 1 target left to engage around a corner. I went back and got the knife from the guy I stabbed with the pen and crouched at the corner. I then leaped out hurling the P85 at the bad guy hitting him squarely in the head and knocking him down. I then pounced on him stabbing him in the carotid artery and ran out the door.

The next stage was the courthouse where I fully expected to be disarmed again. My pepper spray and knives and sap were secured and as I put my spare magazine in the gun box an explosion rocked the courthouse. Oh joy! I got to use my own gun! I used a combination of slow pieing and dynamic movement to clear the building and find my niece who was there to hear me testify. I got the key card from the wounded security officer and called 911 for him. Unfortunately I did not thoroughly check the closet I pulled my niece out of. I missed the guy deep in the closet. My otherwise stellar run was ruined by that blunder. Better to learn this hard lesson here than on the street.

The final stage was an airport scenario where you are being picked up by your sister. All of your firearms are in locked cases per TSA regulations. You are also in possession of a Stag Arms left handed AR15 you are supposed to evaluate. I will tell you that there is just really no quick way to get cased unloaded guns that are separate from their ammo up and running. We were confronted by several AK armed terrorists at distances from 15 to 150 yards. You also needed to drag your wounded sister to cover and get her to the medic. I was preparing to put a tourniquet on her when the medic told me to bring her to him. In the heat of things I forgot about the core of the target not going to the ocular window and directed 4 rounds through the head of a target with the AR15 before I remembered they have to be body hits to knock 'em down. This left me using my pistol on the far targets, one at about 100 yards and one at about 150 up on a hill. I hit the far one, but never could dial in on the 100 yard one but I caused him worry and consternation with my near misses. He "ran off" and the stage was over.

That evening we retired to the conference room to hear Tom Givens' presentation on 7 shootings involving his students in Memphis. As always quick violent counter attack launched without hesitation or mercy wins the day and did in these cases as well. Also there was no time to go get a gun. CARRY YOUR GUN ON YOU! Next up was John

(Continued on page 7)

(Continued from page 6)

Hearne's lecture on the culture and experience of the criminals we are likely to face on the street. He postulates (correctly in my humble estimation) that they are in fact a different species and have different life experiences and often much more experience with violence that good people do.

Thursday evening we heard John Holschen's lecture on "Terrorist Techniques and Tactics Update" and a lecture by another presenter who I'm not sure how much I should mention about on the "Evolution of Islamic Militancy." Doctor Glen Meyer also gave a short presentation on some interesting findings from a study on whether what type of gun used effects the sentencing in a bad shooting. Again, as we say all the time ...righteous shootings tend to not matter what gun was used. A good shoot is a good shoot.

On Friday we lounged around and that evening there was the panel discussion about teaching people the skills they need versus the skills they think they need. It was a quandary over how to convince civilian students that what they need to know differs from what police and military use in their work. Also discussed was how to attract students to classes that teach them how to think, not just how to shoot. Then we went for our daily trip to Brusters Ice Cream. Yes the ice cream stand was frequented every night by some steely eyed gunmen. What can we say? We like our ice cream. Afterwards we retired to the pub for more story telling and camaraderie.

Saturday brought the pairs force on force. John Hearne and I partnered up. I was actually kind of worried that I would get John killed or otherwise let him down. It is one thing to screw up and get yourself killed but to screw up and get your buddy killed..... In the first scenario we were testifying in court (disarmed as usual) when the defendant's girlfriend entered and tried to help him escape. I warned the bailiff that someone was coming up the hall, but the bailiff was shot before she could react. John jumped up and snatched the gun from the girlfriend as I leaped from the witness stand to assist. We were congratulated on solving it so quickly. John really gets all the credit there for his quick reaction. I was under the gun the whole time she came up the hallway and could only wait for him to make the first move.

Next was another trip to the school and the obligatory disarming. Do we see a pattern here for the week? I was told to stay with the security guard while the auditorium was prepped. John went to the restroom and then the explosion went off. The security guard called for backup and told me to stay put while he investigated. Of course he was shot immediately as he opened the door. With the school on lock down I could not escape through the door I came in so I picked up his revolver and took cover in that small outer room. Laying there wounded he warned me to not get involved. I gave him a tourniquet and told him to put it on to stop bleeding while I covered the door and waited for the reinforcements to arrive. I could hear the attackers yelling "kill them all". I did not yell to John as I knew if they knew we were there together they would tell me to come out or they'd execute him. I wasn't going to come out because then they would then execute BOTH of us. As I later told the judges, this was not going to be my Little Big Horn. I kept moving so

(Continued on page 8)

(Continued from page 7)

that they would not know where in the room I was and each time they opened the door I would shoot one of them. Finally I think this took their attention off of John long enough for him to escape out the back and link up with the SWAT team. He informed them he is a federal law enforcement officer and asked for a backup gun to go back in, but he was told they were just holding perimeter. I continued to shoot whoever opened the door until the last bad guy and I exchanged shot and he missed and I didn't. The scenario was deemed over. The way they had envisioned it was that I would exit the room and get a gun from one of the terrorists and clear the building working my way to my friend. Of course my own plan was not what they expected and they were now reacting to me not the other way around. This broke down their OODA loop and gave us the advantage. I had learned my lesson in the courthouse on Wednesday. This time I would be the man in the closet. We not only survived but won the fights in both team FOF scenarios and retired to the hotel for the debriefing and then the banquet.

John Farnam gave a moving speech on the importance of passing on what we learn to younger guys so the information is not lost and have to be relearned on some foreign battlefield. Skip Gochenour summarized the story of Beowulf and how a small group of righteous warriors is all it takes to defend society from evil. A big thanks to Skip and Hirsch and Jim and all the team members for a job well done. It is a LOT of work to put this event on. My hat is off to them.

As far as equipment goes I used my Glock 34 I carry everyday with 19 rd mags. I carried it A-IWB in my Blade Tech Universal Fits All Glock holster. I used a Glock 26 with 12 rd mag carried in a Mitch Rosen pocket holster as my backup gun. You can only carry 1 spare mag if you have a hi cap pistol so between primary, backup and spare mag I carried a total of 52 rounds of CCI Gold Dot 124+P ammo. I also carried my Clinch Pick, Boston Leather Sap, Fox Labs OC, and my blow out kit (aren't cargo shorts wonderful?) and cell phone and Surefire G2. I never used the flashlight and never even had to draw the backup gun. Of course most of the scenarios had us unarmed and using picked up guns anyways. In the FOF scenarios I carried the J frame in a \$7 nylon holster made by Double Triple brand I bought at a gun store in West Virginia we stopped at on the way. I carried it A-IWB too. I carried the spare J frame ammo loose in my pocket. Frankly I just didn't think to bring a speed loader, but I didn't need it either.

Now for some numbers. In FOF scenarios I fired 8 shots and scored 8 solid hits. I fired 5 shots in the restaurant all one handed using Alternative Indexing Methods. After all I was shooting reactively. I scored 5 hits on 3 targets in a dimly lit room in the span of about 3 seconds. In the courthouse in the team FOF I fired 3 CAREFULLY aimed shots as I was shooting proactively waiting for them to come to me. As I continuously say it is not either sights or alternative indexing it is all of the above!

More importantly than shooting, I did not get killed in any of the FOF scenarios. I'm pretty happy with my performance for a first time participant. Did I make some dumb mistakes that I knew better of in the shoot houses? Yes. But I learned from them and didn't make

(Continued on page 9)

(Continued from page 8)

them in the team FOF. But did my training carry me through when it was real live interaction? ABSOLUTELY. It is a big validation of our program when a first timer goes there and survives all the FOF and scores 100% hit ratio. I have to thank all the guys who's training has gotten me to where this was possible. Gabe Suarez , Southnarc, Tom Givens, William Aprill, Paul Gomez, Marc Denny , Tom Sotis, Henk Iverson and everyone else who has worked with me in local groups. And a big thanks to Tom for inviting me, and John J. John H. and Jeff B. for making this trip a great experience. Ice cream anyone?



Here a role player serving as a “bad guy” orders a robbery victim to get against a wall. Note the Simunitions Glock and protective fask mask.

The 3-D targets used in live fire scenarios at the NTI are disturbingly realistic. This one is a bystander, shot by the “bad guys.” In low light inside the shoot houses, these targets look very real.





Tom,

Just wanted to say thank you for the training and the mind-set that your training has instilled into me. It is a long story of several days of separate events, to make a long-story short, my wife and I were in Iowa on vacation this weekend.

Sunday morning at 7am, we got a call that her Mom had just had a massive heart attack. We

began the trip from Iowa to Ardmore (near the OK/Texas line on I-35). The Dr's were doing everything they could to keep her going. We finally ran into the ICU at 10:38 pm and Tammy told her Mom goodbye and her Mom immediately coded and died at 10:42 pm.

Yesterday in route from Ardmore to a town about 30 miles away to plan the funeral, we were driving in a blinding rain storm. I was driving 55 mph in a 65 mph, ponding on the road and wipers on high. This male in a pickup behind me was in complete road rage because I was in his way. He proceeded to pass me on the left (in a no passing zone and on a hill). As he pulled even with my door, he jerked his wheel to side swipe me. I maintained control of our car (2005 Cadillac CTS) - firm and deliberate and in constant focus. He then backed off and came at us again - this time he tried to do a PIT maneuver on me. He succeeded in ripping open our left rear quarter panel with about an 8" rip from his rear bumper of the pickup - all still at about 50 mph.

With my focus (and I also with the electronics and stability control etc. of the car), the rear end of our car fishtailed, but I maintained complete control, recovered and steered to the shoulder to a short, straight stop (avoiding mail boxes and bar ditch). He tried to run in his truck, so re-entered my car and quickly caught up to him and chased him to the next drive way (less than a half mile). He got out of his truck and said "let's not call the cops, follow me to the next road and we can just exchange info." I said the hell we will, this was attempted murder. He proceeded to attempt to put his hands in his pants pocket, I ordered him to stop and to turn and face away. By this time, my wife had OHP and multiple municipal police units in route. He said he was going to his truck to get something - I told him that if he moved I would kill him. I told him, you can go to jail or straight to hell, your choices. He complied, and stayed frozen against his truck with his hands on the tail gate until the police arrived (less than 2 minutes). I did not have to draw my weapon. I was firm, focused, in control of the situation and met Force on Force.

When the police arrived, they quickly took him into custody (after a scuffle with the 4 officers). Then he got some further compliance when he began to try to kick out the window of the cruiser.

He told the police that he didn't know who I was, but he was afraid of me. The officers asked him, why did you fight with us and not him, the suspect told the officers "he would have killed me, the worst you can do is send me to jail"

He had a suspended license, smell of alcohol on his breath, no insurance and his name, etc did not match the registration on the vehicle. They also said he would obviously face resisting charges and charges related to the road rage.

My wife and I were fine, the car was drivable and will be fixed and we were able to still make the necessary arrangements for her mother.

As my wife and the officers said and also my opinion it was not luck that the situation turned out like this but it was focus, skill, training and mind-set. According to my wife also, I stay that way 24/7. Not easy after driving 16 hours, your wife's mother dying and no sleep for 2 nights, but I did.

By the way, all the officers treated my wife and I with the utmost respect and courtesy. They did not ask for any of my weapon licenses, they did not ask to see my weapons (2 guns, 4 knives and OC that were on my person) or anything. Only my drivers license and insurance. Not the treatment I would have expected from a small town LEO with a force of only a few officers.

They calmed my wife, gave her something to drink, they offered anything they could to us to make us more comfortable, including handshakes and several hugged my wife.

The lieutenant asked me if I was an LEO or something. I told him no, but I have had a lot of very good private training, I did not elaborate further.

Again, thank you for the mind-set, the training and the friendship. Look forward to seeing you soon.

God Bless,

Dee Vick

RANGEMASTER
2611 S. Mendenhall Rd.
Memphis, TN 38115-1503



Phone: 901-370-5600
Fax: 901-370-5699
Email: Rangemaster@peoplepc.com
Please note new e-mail address!



www.rangemaster.com

Annual Three-Day Firearms Instructor Development Course

August 3-5, 2007, Friday-Sunday

Defensive Shotgun Course

Saturday, August 18, 2007

10:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.

Dynamic Marksmanship Course

August 25-26, 2007

*West Shore Sportsmens Association,
Harrisburg, PA*



*Stressed out my ASS!
I am going to KILL the next Son of a
Bitch who says I look STRESSED!*