



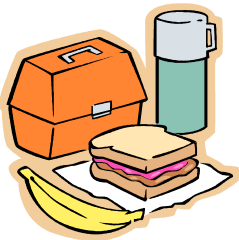
Tactical Talk

Volume 11, Issue 9

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2007

The important questions in life



Since bread is square, then why is sandwich meat round?

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TACTICAL CONFERENCE 2008 ANNOUNCED!

The 2008 annual Tactical Conference will be conducted on Saturday-Sunday, February 23-24, 2008. This will be the ten year anniversary for the Tactical Conference which has become one of the premiere annual training events in the U.S. Again in 2008, we will be using the wonderful facilities of the Memphis Police Department Training Academy. This complex includes multiple indoor and outdoor ranges and modern classrooms. Once again, a dozen well known trainers from all over the U.S. will be conducting hands-on training as well as classroom lectures on a variety of useful topics. Attendees will rotate through various shooting stages and classes all week-end receiving an amazing amount of training in two days.

Cost for the Tactical Conference is \$149.00 which includes the shooting competition, entry to all classes and seminars, and a prize drawing after the event. There will be discounted motels nearby for attendees. Advance registration is required. This event fills every year by November, so sign up soon to avoid disappointment.

Send your name, address, phone, e-mail address and payment to:

Rangemaster
2611 S. Mendenhall Rd.
Memphis, TN 38115

Or call 901-370-5600 to register. Checks or credit cards are accepted by mail.

DEALING WITH VICIOUS DOGS



Dog bites are a serious concern in any urban environment in the US. Here in Memphis, a number of criminal types, including gang members and drug dealers routinely raise large, vicious dogs both as a means of self protection and as an intimidation tool and status symbol. Bites from these dogs are both common and dangerous.

According to the CDC, there are about 4.7 million reported dog bites each year in the US, and that is just the *reported* injuries. Fatalities are common in large dog attacks, with the majority of the fatalities involving children or the elderly. The five breeds most often involved in fatal attacks are Pit Bulls, Rottweilers, German Shepherds, Huskies, and Malamutes, in that order. The top two, Pit Bulls and Rottweilers, are also the ones most likely to be owned by criminal types. These are large, powerful dogs with incredibly strong jaws, sharp teeth, and strong neck muscles. Bites from these dogs can easily be fatal or permanently crippling or disabling. Understand, though, ANY large dog can be an extreme danger, especially to children or smaller, weaker adults. A German Shepherd, for instance, bites with a force of about 500 pounds of pressure per square inch, as compared to the 150-200 pounds of pressure from a typical smaller breed. Pit Bulls, on the other hand, have special jaw/head muscles designed for powerful biting, and can exert a force of 2,000 pounds per square inch.

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When evaluating a dog on the street as a potential threat there are certain guidelines to keep in mind. Number one, remember that ALL dogs will bite, regardless of breed or temperament, under certain conditions. There are body language signs of impending attack that can be helpful in determining the threat at the moment.

If the dog's tail is wagging, but his hindquarters are still, as he intently watches you, that's a bad sign. Hair standing up is also a clue. A sure sign is a dog who closes his mouth between barks, while he points his ears forward toward you. These are traits often exhibited by a dominant dog who is aggressive toward you because he feels you have encroached on his property or his owner.

A more subordinate dog will exhibit different pre-attack traits, such as baring his teeth, mouth open, ears back, head and tail low. He may avoid eye contact with you while working up to attack. False charges, stopping just short of you, are preludes to a real attack.

Your best defense in the event of a large dog attack is a big caliber firearm, preferably a shotgun. If you have to use a pistol, understand that one shot will probably not be effective. Several rapid hits to the chest/head area will generally work. Tear gas is not very effective against dogs, but OC (Pepper Spray) seems to work well. Usually, a dog sprayed with OC will stop right where he is and start rubbing his face in the grass. DO NOT stand there and admire your handiwork! The effect lasts only a few seconds, so exit the area immediately while the dog is briefly pre-occupied with the OC. If you don't have a gun or OC, shame on you! In that case, grab the nearest object and try to feed it to the dog. Anything else you can stuff in his jaws is better than a body part.



This from our friend and associate, Randy Harris, in Chattanooga:



As you know, the Blackhawk Serpa holster uses a pushbutton lock as a retention device for the holster. It is a somewhat unconventional design in that the operator uses his index finger to push the button. While this surely works well in the friendly confines of a gun store, I have seen more than one occasion where someone has been unable to quickly get the pistol from the holster in competition. I have also heard of issues with them from trainers I know with respect to sand causing the lock to not open and even heard of at least one ND resulting in injury. I was not surprised to hear this, looking at the design of the holster, but was skeptical that I would ever see one.....

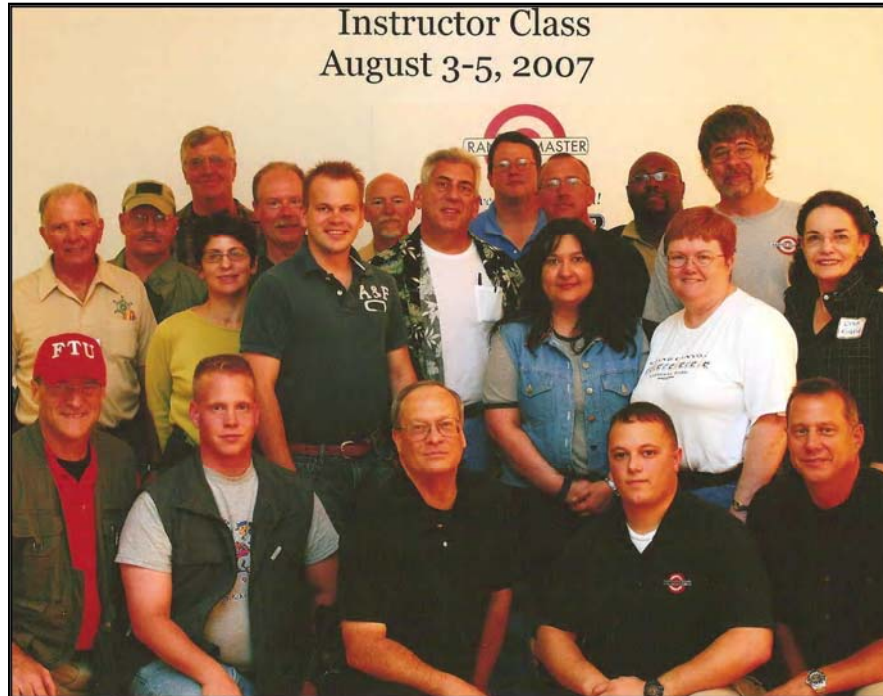
In the class I was teaching there is a force on force component that is essentially time and distance "Tueller Drills" where the students are armed with airsoft BB guns. I use a "guest villain" who is a rather large 6' 285 lb former bull rider and construction worker who works in the county jail. When he comes running at you with a rubber knife it makes you get religion real quick.

The drill set up was the typical 7 yards and the student goes off the action of the bad guy. As the bad guy launched toward him, the student got off the X, got a less than robust grip on the pistol, fumbled to disengage the lock and promptly shot himself in the stomach!

When he saw the hulking assailant coming, he in a hurry just didn't get a solid grip, got his finger hooked in the trigger guard after he depressed the lock and pressed the trigger as he pulled it from the holster. Had this been a real fight the outcome would have been disastrous for the good guy.

While these holsters may be perfectly fine for non dedicated gun carriers who just need a range holster, or MAYBE for better trained personnel carrying pistols like Sig

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2007 Instructor School

On August 3-5, 2007, we conducted our annual three-day Firearms Instructor Development & Certification Course. We had twenty highly skilled candidates from this area as well as Minnesota and Louisiana, and the twenty students expended almost 16,000 rounds of ammunition over the course of three full, long days. Some of these newly certified instructors will be working with us at Rangemaster helping to deliver training in our various courses. Our congratulations to these dedicated and talented shooters!

Finn Aagaard was a professional hunter in Africa who moved to the United States and became a US citizen. He wrote this several years ago, but it remains relevant today.

By Finn Aagaard, from Rifle magazine, December 1999

I carry my pistol always, whenever the law permits, inside or outside the house; at night it goes under my pillow, where I have slept with one on and off for 45 years. Am I utterly paranoid, do I feel that evil out to get me is lurking everywhere, am I so ruled by fear that I must have my security blanket at all times?

No. To think so would be to completely misunderstand the role of the personal gun in my life. My pistol, combined with some competence in its use, has indeed been a wonderful comfort in a few potentially unpleasant circumstances, and the knowledge I can retain command of my immediate environment does tend to encourage a calm self-confidence in everyday life, while precluding panic in an emergency.

The chief virtue of the pistol is that I wear it; you do not have to go and fetch it when criminal violence threatens with shocking suddenness "out of the blue," as can happen even in peaceful Llano County, Texas, where I live. If you have time to fetch a gun, you would do better to grab a shotgun, probably. Wear your pistol, keep all other firearms locked away. On you, it is safe from kids and other unauthorized persons, you do not have to remember where you stashed it or fumble with the combination lock of a pistol safe. It is there, instantly ready to protect you and your family. On the street concealed carry is usually required either by law or social usage and has the advantage of protecting everyone, even antigun liberals, because criminals cannot tell which of their potential victims might be armed.

Yet my pistol is more than just security. Like an Orthodox Jew's yarmulke or a Christian cross, it is a symbol of who I am, what I believe and the moral standards by which I live. It symbolizes the Social Contract between myself and society and declares that I am no mere subject but a free and independent citizen of the Republic who holds inalienable rights while honoring the responsibilities that accompany those rights. My pistol states that I will defend the common weal, that I will uphold what is right and decent and that I am willing and able to protect myself and

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mine. (The police cannot and are not required to protect the individual person or family. They are spread too thin for that. When called they will do their best, but all too often they can get there only in time to clean up the aftermath. You are responsible for your own safety.)

My pistol is my family's shield, my guarantee that upon my life I will let no evil touch them. When a malefactor demands, "Your dignity and your money, or your life!" my pistol introduces a very sobering third alternative: "No - if you persist in this criminal endeavor, it is your life that will be at hazard."

Many people will suggest that the contents of your wallet are not worth jeopardizing your life for, just hand it over to the thug and move on. By doing so you are encouraging crime - success ensures the robber will seek another victim. I consider it to be a citizen's duty (a hard word to the me generation) to resist attempted violent crime by all means at his disposal, even at considerable risk to himself. Remember, action is always faster than reaction (unless your assailant has the reaction time of a Bill Jordan). Dissemble, pretend to go along. "I don't w-w-want any trouble, you can have my wallet, I'm getting it out of my hip pocket now." As your hand closes on your gun, yell: "Look out, behind you!" Side-step as you present the pistol, and when he turns back your front sight rests squarely on his chest. With variations to suit the particular circumstances, this sort of ploy will work far more often than most victims would believe. Statistics suggest that an intended victim who resists with a firearm is by a good margin less likely to be injured than one who does not resist at all. On the other hand, the surest way to survive a gunfight is not to get into one. Stay alert and avoid potentially bad situations if you possibly can.

Research by Professor John Lott, Gary Kleck and others into the effects of concealed carry laws prove beyond quibbling that they reduce violent crime quite considerably. Since it began to license responsible citizens to carry arms, Florida's murder rate has sunk from 36 percent above the national average to well below it, and overall the decline in violent crime in states with concealed carry laws (compared to the others) runs at east 15 percent for murder, 11 percent for robberies and 9 percent for rape, according to Professor Lott. Private citizens are said to use firearms in self-defense as often as a million times a year. In the vast majority of these incidents no blood is shed; the thug flees or surrenders. Nevertheless, it

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is claimed that private citizens justifiably in twice as many criminals as the entire law enforcement establishment in any given year.

Obviously, an armed and responsible citizenry is a very potent force in keeping crime in check. In many nations where private citizens are denied firearms - as most recently in Australia - violent crime is on the upswing, whereas in the U.S. the rate is declining.

However, the right to be armed does not depend on these facts; it goes way back to our very beginnings. Long before the Second Amendment and the rights acknowledged by English Common Law traditions, the right of a free man to bear arms was recognized by almost every culture or civilization that comes to mind. Until well into this sorry century, free men were armed, and like the yeomen of England and our own militia, they constituted the backbone of their societies.

Every right includes commitments, not least the right to bear arms. Anyone who carries a pistol in public has an obligation to society to be reasonably competent with it, able to hit his target - under stress - rather than uninvolved bystanders; he must know and abide by the laws limiting the use of lethal force; he must avoid quarrels and altercations and understand that he will be held to higher standards of restraint and responsibility than an unarmed person. The course of instruction that is rightly required (in addition to background checks) in order to earn a Texas Concealed Handgun License teaches all this, and more, including conflict resolution. Passing a shooting test is mandatory, but the class does not include shooting instruction; you are expected to have arranged for adequate training beforehand. It is a fine course; anybody who intends to go armed ought to take a similar one.

My pistol has aided no evil, it has added not a tittle of gratuitous violence to the world. On the contrary, its presence on my hip or on the Land Rover seat very definitely defused a couple of dangerous situations in the old days in Kenya. More recently, on a dark street, I am convinced the mere suspicion of its presence, engendered by my alert, confident demeanor, averted what could otherwise have been a nasty incident. Colt got it right; a pistol in the hands of a de-

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cent, courageous citizen is a convincing peacemaker. My pistol is a positive influence for stability, for decency, for righteousness, for freedom from fear and violence, for all that is right and proper. (If anyone can present a rational argument that factually disproves this statement, I will discard the gun and never carry it again.)

One's self-image matters a great deal; it is what charts one's course through life. If I refuse to compromise my integrity, my self-respect and what the Founding Fathers referred to as their sacred honor, it is because my image of myself will not permit it. Self-images are complex, of course. Basically I see myself as a sound and responsible citizen, a scrupulously law-abiding, friendly, reasonable, middle-class, normally intelligent and fairly well educated paterfamilias with some understanding of true values who has been blessed beyond his deserts in this life and is truly grateful.

At the very root and foundation of my being, though, I am a warrior - a very mild one, but a warrior nevertheless - as any man must be to some degree. My pistol symbolizes that as such I will not be coerced by fear or by any political, social or physical threats whatsoever into doing anything I consider dishonorable or unworthy of my self-respect. You can push me only so far, but no farther. It symbolizes the positive side of the warrior spirit, which is the one force that can maintain respect for the law, stability, freedom, peace and decency in this world. Without it we are done.

Warriors and hunters tend to be fascinated by fine personal arms and will often cherish one above all others, far beyond its utility as a tool. That is why embellished firearms are commonplace, while engraved carpenter's hammers are not. I dote on my Colt Officer's ACP carry gun, and delight in its presence on my hip. Now do you begin to understand what my pistol means to me?

Be that as it may, our body of armed citizens has always been a potent force for law and order, liberty and all that is good in the land. If we allow the hoplophobic left to destroy it on an emotional whim, to make themselves "feel good," or in accordance with their unrealistic and failed political philosophy, we will come to rue the day.

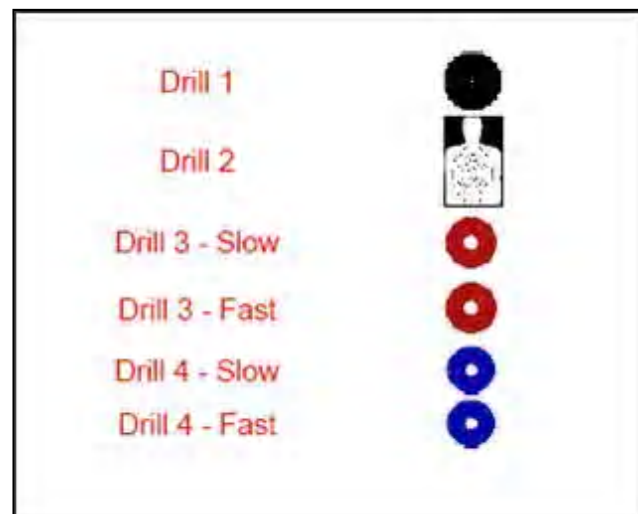
Dry Fire Practice

Dry firing is manipulating the gun without any live ammunition. Dry practice is essential to learning and ingraining the complex motor skills involved in rapidly presenting a concealed handgun and getting good hits quickly, under extreme stress. Newer shooters should probably dry fire 4-5 sessions per week. For maintenance of skills, 2 nights per week is probably sufficient. A ten minute session of concentrated effort is better than an hour of fooling around. Here, we have put together a dry fire regimen that will help you get the most from your time and effort. You can modify this to suit your needs.

Suggested Dry Fire Drills

You can go to www.rangemaster.com and click on "Dry Fire Drills". This will give you the option of several target arrays, including a silhouette that appears and disappears on your screen. You can also use a small paper target or something like a light switch on the wall as an aiming point.

RANGE • MASTER



CLEAR YOUR GUN! REMOVE ALL AMMUNITION FROM THE DRY FIRE AREA! CHECK YOUR GUN AGAIN!

We suggest the following drills, with your gun holstered as worn normally and your concealment garment on, just like on the street.

DRAW TO "READY" Do this 10 times. Remember to keep the gun low enough for you to see an adversary's hands and waistline, trigger finger straight. Be aggressive and positive in your movements.

DRAW TO "ON TARGET", BUT DO NOT PRESS THE TRIGGER. Do this 10 times. As the gun comes up, take up the trigger slack and get your focus on the front sight. Get an acceptable sight picture quickly.

DRAW TO "ON TARGET" AND PRESS OFF A DRY SHOT. Do this 10 times. Make sure the gun doesn't move when it goes "click". Follow through! Keep your eye on the front sight and your finger on the trigger a couple of seconds after the "click".

START WITH THE GUN AT THE READY, EMPTY MAGAZINE IN GUN, SLIDE LOCKED OPEN. HAVE A SPARE MAGAZINE WITH 1-2 DUMMY ROUNDS IN IT IN YOUR POUCH. (DO NOT USE LIVE AMMO FOR THIS DRILL!) Do this 5 times. Start with the gun on target. Eject the empty magazine, insert the magazine with the dummy rounds, and pull/release the slide briskly. Get your support hand back in your proper two-handed grip. As the gun goes into battery, get the slack out of the trigger, focus on the front sight, and press off a dry shot.

START WITH THE GUN IN YOUR DOMINANT HAND ONLY. Do this 5 times. Bring the gun up, take up the slack, get on the front sight and press off one good dry shot, using your dominant hand only.

START WITH THE GUN IN YOUR NON-DOMINANT HAND ONLY. Do this 5 times. Bring the gun up, take up the slack, get on the front sight, and press off one good dry shot, using your non-dominant hand only.

WHEN FINISHED, TELL YOURSELF, "THE SESSION IS OVER". THAT'S IT, DON'T DO ANY MORE PRACTICE. LEAVE THE DRY FIRE AREA, LOAD THE GUN, AND PUT IT BACK WHERE IT SHOULD BE.

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or Beretta with long DA trigger pulls, I feel they are just an accident waiting to happen with any of the pistols with short light triggers like Glock. And while they work fine in a gunshop showroom, I have seen them fail more than once in competition when there is just a little stress placed on the competitor. Now I have seen an ND when the practitioner was under duress of dynamic physical assault. I feel the ND was directly a result of the design which puts the hooked trigger finger dangerously close to the trigger guard - especially under duress of impending contact. While training might somewhat mitigate this danger, it is just human physiological nature to hook that finger in under stress and get it into the trigger guard before the pistol is out of the holster. The only thing that would make this any safer is to move the location of the lock.

I'm not sure how you feel about these, but I am sure how I do. I do not recommend them and advise everyone I know who has one to NEVER carry it for REAL. If a holster does not allow a clean draw under less than "showroom conditions" and makes an ND more likely under conditions of physical assault, it is less than useless to a serious gun carrier. It is in fact dangerous.