



Tactical Talk

Volume 11, Issue 11

November

2007

Inside this issue:

Selecting Ammo 2

Glock Grip
Reductions 4

Being Armed 6

Nevada Law
Change 7

Memphis #1 7

Jefferson,
Gun Nut 8

2008 Tactical Conference Trainers Line-Up

The annual Tactical Conference and Polite Society Match will be held February 23-24, 2008 at the fabulous Memphis Police Department Training Academy. This will be the tenth year for the Tactical Conference and we have a number of new trainers added to the list of regulars who attend. The academy has numerous ranges and classrooms, so we will have an incredible array of training events going on simultaneously all over the campus. Some of the new additions this time will include:

Tom Sotis- nationally famous knife fighting instructor and founder of the AMOK! System, will conduct a knife defense segment.

Hany Mahmoud, North Texas Tactical will present a segment on active shooter response for armed citizens.

T.J. Pilling- Texas SWAT Officer and operator Tiger Valley is a very experienced SWAT sniper. He will present a segment on Precision Rifle Shooting as Applied to Sport and Defense.

Steve Moses, Texas peace officer and trainer, owner Bluff Dale Firearms Academy will conduct a segment on Emergency Knife Defense Against Violent Criminal Actors with Mixed Martial Arts Skills.

Paul Gomez, OPS will conduct a range session on the Evolution of the Draw-stroke and a classroom session on the History of Private Sector Firearms Training.

Southnarc will provide a session on Managing Unknown Contacts, a critical "pre-fight" skill. These skills often determine the winner when it becomes a fight.

Ed Lovette, retired CIA para-military officer, combat veteran, author and police firearms instructor will conduct a session on living safely in a dangerous world. Ed literally wrote the book on this subject.

Karl Rehn, KR Training, Austin, Texas, will be conducting his Airsoft Force on Force drills, this time in a low light environment. Good stuff!

Mike Brown, The Praesidium Group, Tulsa, OK, will be doing excellent real world hand to hand skills again. **James Yeager** from Tactical Response and **Andy Stanford** of Options for Personal Security will also be conducting blocks.

These are just some of the trainers who will be conducting sessions at this event. Register now to avoid disappointment as this event fills well in advance every year.

SELECTING DEFENSIVE AMMUNITION

Today we have a wide variety of excellent defensive loadings in all of the common defensive handgun calibers. Over the past fifteen to twenty years, the ammunition companies have put a lot of R&D money and effort into developing more effective pistol ammunition, spurred on by the law enforcement market and the burgeoning concealed carry market. We have ammo today that is far more effective than that available twenty years ago.

Among the major American manufacturers there is really not a lot of difference in the wounding effect of their “premium” lines of ammunition. This does not apply to foreign makers. A lot of foreign jacketed hollow point ammo is nothing more than ball ammo with a hole in the end, and it won’t actually expand in flesh. The American companies have put a great deal of research into the dynamics of penetration and expansion, and that R&D expense is the main reason for the higher cost of premium US ammo like Winchester Ranger, Speer Gold Dot, Federal HST and so forth.

Here are some seldom mentioned items to watch for in selecting defensive ammunition:

Nickel plated cases- Nickel plated cases are “slicker” than plain brass cases. This aids both feeding and extraction, making for better reliability. This is, therefore, a desirable feature.

Sealed cases- The cartridge case should have a waterproof seal around the primer and the case mouth. The case mouth is usually sealed by putting a small amount of asphalt-based adhesive around the base of the bullet before it is seated in the cartridge case. The primer is sealed with a small amount of lacquer around the primer. This seal keeps out moisture and vapors from cleaning solvents. Most manufacturers only go to these extra steps on ammo intended for the police or military markets, which specify this feature in their bids. This is a desirable feature.

Function testing- Each handgun is an individual. You must test fire the ammunition you intend to carry, and test it in your pistol. It must function 100% reliably in your gun, and hit to point of aim. If you have one malfunction in one hundred rounds of carry ammunition, you should not carry that ammo. (If this happens with more than one type/brand of ammo, you have a gun problem—get it fixed!) Once you establish the ammo is reliable, it needs to hit exactly where you aim. Use a small target, such as a bullseye and verify that the ammo hits exactly where you aim it. Some handguns will shoot certain ammo right where aimed, but shoot other ammo way off the mark. The only way to know is to shoot it. Obviously, you don’t want to carry ammunition that hits a foot low or six inches to one side.

Here are our current recommendations for defensive ammo in various calibers. These recommendations are based on extensive testing, including chronograph testing for velocity, target firing for accuracy, and the reports from autopsies and research by major agencies like the FBI:

.38 Special

Speer 135 grain Gold Dot
 CorBon 110 grain DPX
 Winchester 158 grain +P lead hollow point

9mm

Federal "Homeland Defender" 124 grain HST
 Speer 124 grain Gold Dot +P
 Winchester Ranger Law Enforcement 124 grain +P
 Winchester Ranger Law Enforcement 147 grain
 CorBon 115 grain DPX
 Remington 124 grain +P Golden Saber

.40 S&W

Federal "Homeland Defender" 180 grain HST
 Speer 165 grain or 180 grain Gold Dot
 Winchester Ranger Law Enforcement 165 grain or 180 grain
 Remington 180 grain Golden Saber
 Federal Tactical Bonded 165 grain

.45 Auto

Federal "Homeland Defender" 230 grain HST
 Speer 200 grain or 230 grain Gold Dot
 Winchester Ranger Law Enforcement 230 grain
 Remington 230 grain Golden Saber

My current personal choices for my own self defense guns are:

Glock 35, .40 S&W, Federal "Homeland Defender" 180 grain HST- this load develops 1135 feet per second at the muzzle and is VERY accurate. Nickel cases with sealed mouth and primer.

Kahr PM9, 9mm back-up gun- Speer 124 grain +P Gold Dot. Develops a muzzle velocity of 1140 fps in this little gun, ensuring adequate penetration and expansion. Interchangeable with Federal 124 grain +P HST.

Colt Detective Special, 2" barrel, .38 Special (sometimes BUG)- Speer 135 grain Gold Dot- good load, developed specially for short barrel revolvers. Goes 800 fps plus and is soft enough to expand at that speed.

These are my picks, based on how they perform in my guns. YMMV.

Note: The "Homeland Defender" line of ammo is made by Federal in their premium line, and sold exclusively to Ellett Brothers, a major distributor. We get it from Ellett Brothers. The packaging is a bit hokey, but the ammo is first rate and my first choice.

Note: Winchester Ranger ammunition comes in boxes marked "Law Enforcement Only." Federal Tactical ammo is marked "Law Enforcement Ammunition." This DOES NOT mean that private citizens cannot possess or use this ammunition. These boxes are marked thus by company policy, not by law, and I suspect it is largely to make it more appealing to the general public.

Glock Grip Reductions

The Glock line of pistols are excellent defensive pistols. They are rugged, reliable, simple, and easy to maintain. They come in various frame sizes, slide lengths, and calibers, to suit just about anyone's defensive needs. For many, however, the grip frame is too large, too square, and the finger grooves are in the wrong places.

I, for example, have slightly smaller than average hands, and I find the standard Glock grip to be quite uncomfortable. The angle is wrong for me, the finger grooves are in the wrong place, and the root of the trigger guard rubs my middle finger raw. To correct these problems, we recommend a "grip reduction" job like those pictured. A proper grip reduction has the following advantages:

the gun points more naturally for most shooters;

shooters with smaller hands can get a more secure grip;

the root of the trigger guard is relieved, preventing rubbing the middle finger;

the surface can be textured to provide a more secure grip with sweaty or wet hands;

manipulations like ejecting a spent magazine are easier to perform.

The grip reductions shown in the photos were done by Arizona Response Systems and by Bowie Tactical Concepts. Both companies do an exceptionally good job and are highly recommended.

Bowie Tactical Concepts

124 Roy Pence Road

West Union, Ohio, 45693

www.bowietacticalconcepts.com

Arizona Response Systems

16014 W. Remuda Drive

Surprise, AZ, 85387

www.arizonaresponsesystems.com



Comparison of Glock 35's with grip reductions by Bowie Tactical Concepts and Arizona Response Systems



Close-up of
Bowie
Tactical
Glock grip
reduction

Being Armed Reduces Your Risks (Duhh . . .)

A lot of people are under the mistaken impression that police work is the most dangerous profession. Actually, it doesn't even make the Top Ten List from OSHA for workplace deaths. The police deal with violent, often armed individuals, many of whom are repeat serious criminals, so why don't they get hurt/killed more often? Because the police are armed.

The most recent year I could get the OSHA report for was 2002. In that year in the US, 840 people were killed in workplace violence. Nearly nine out of ten retail cashiers who died on the job were murdered. Restaurant and hotel management also saw a high percentage of workplace murders, with homicides accounting for 80% of workplace deaths. Cab and limousine drivers were also often targeted, with 59% of their workplace deaths due to murder. This was a much higher percentage than the deaths caused by highway accidents. Of the 441 women who died at work in 2002, the number one cause of death was homicide.

An "emergency" is defined as a "sudden, unexpected crisis". The key words are "sudden and unexpected". No one expects a workplace rampage at their office, but they happen frequently. Why not be prepared?

It is very rare for the mainstream media to report successful defensive uses of guns, leading the uninformed to think such uses are rare. They are anything but rare, the media just don't report them. According to one study, there are about 2.5 million defensive gun uses each year in the US, with about half involving actually firing the gun.

One study, by the US Dept of Justice, found that for the years 1987-1992 there were an average of 83,000 *successful defensive gun uses by private citizens* each year in the US. (That's 227 per day.) In 75% of those cases, the citizen was defending against a violent crime (robbery, rape, aggravated assault), with the remaining 25% defending against burglary or theft. In the DoJ study, 38% of the cases involved actually firing the gun, while in 62% of the cases simply producing the gun scared off the attacker. Please note that this Justice Department study was done during the Clinton administration, when they did their best to downplay the legitimate use of guns by private citizens. They STILL found an average of 83,000 cases a year! (By the way, that works out to 1 defensive gun use per 350 Americans, per year.) According to the FBI, from 1995-1999, the police in the US killed 1,775 felons in action. That's an average of 355 per year. During the same years, private citizens killed a total of 1,193 felons in legitimate, lawful self-defense (justifiable homicides). That's an average of 239 per year. Only one intentional gunshot in five is fatal, so that means private citizens legally shot about 1200 felons a year during that period. That's not rare.

Gun Free Zone.



In case of emergency, call 911, then crawl to the nearest exit. If help is delayed in arriving, kiss your defenseless butt good-bye!



As of Oct 1, 2007, Nevada now recognizes a Tennessee Handgun Carry Permit. This brings the total to 32 states in which you can legally carry a handgun on a Tennessee permit.



In late September the FBI announced its metropolitan area rankings for violent crime for 2006. For the purposes of this ranking, violent crime is defined as Murder, Rape, Armed Robbery, and Aggravated Assault. Of the 311 metropolitan areas in the US, Memphis was ranked Number 1 for number of violent crimes per capita. This is up from #2 ranking in 2005.

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

Thomas Jefferson, Gun Nut



Jefferson

Thomas Jefferson was the author of our nation's Declaration of Independence, was one of the principal authors of the Constitution, and was our second President. He was also a devout proponent of the individual citizen's right to be armed. Here are some excerpts from letters he wrote:

"The Constitution of most of our States assert that all power is inherent in the people; that...it is their right and duty to be at all times armed."

"Laws that forbid the carrying of arms disarm only those who are neither inclined nor determined to commit crimes... Such laws make things worse for the assaulted and better for the assailants; they serve rather to encourage rather than prevent homicides, for an unarmed man may be attacked with greater confidence than an armed man."