



Tactical Talk

Volume 12, Issue 1

January 2008

Inside this issue:

Gun –Free Zones 2

Combative Pistol I 3

IWB Holsters 4

Food for Thought 5

Ladies Only Class

Fighting Smarter 6

Avoiding Carjacking 6

Special Classes 7

Workplace Violence 8

Church Shootings

by Tom Givens

On Sunday, December 9, a gunman clad in dark clothing invaded the grounds of the New Life Church, a 14,000-member institution. Wearing combat boots and carrying an assault rifle and at least one pistol, the gunman, apparently without provocation, opened fire in a parking lot and shot four people, one of them fatally, as bystanders dashed for cover. There were about 7,000 worshipers inside the church when the shooting erupted, a church official said.

The Colorado Springs chief of police, Richard Myers, said that after the parking-lot shootings the assailant ran into the 10,000-seat church with his high-powered rifle, and was confronted by an armed member of the church's plain clothes security detail, who shot and killed him. At a news conference last night, Chief Myers praised the armed congregation member, whom he did not name, and said her actions had undoubtedly saved lives.

The pastor of the New Life Church, the Rev. Brady Boyd, said he had watched the horror unfold from his second-floor office. "My heart is broken today for the people who lost their lives," he said. But he noted that the church had security and that "many, many" lives had been spared by the actions of the armed member. (The person who saved the day was not a police officer or licensed security guard, but a volunteer member of the congregation, with a carry permit and enough sense to carry her pistol.)



Once again, a person on the scene, discreetly armed, saved the day. How many innocent lives would have been lost if this person had not been wearing a concealed handgun? I simply don't understand why it is so hard to get some people to grasp this concept. Carry your gun.

GUN FREE ZONES

By Tom Givens

In early December, in Omaha, Nebraska, a disturbed person shot 8 people to death before killing himself. This was the fourth such shooting in a shopping mall in the US in 2007. Guess what all four involved malls had in common? At each one there were signs posted at the entrances prohibiting guns. I guess the deranged gunman didn't see them.

This sort of thing literally fills me with disgust. Law abiding citizens are required to be defenseless sheep. Does any moron really think a criminal or a deranged person is going to obey the sign? Of course not! Who will obey it? Law abiding citizens, and no one else! This simply guarantees the criminal, the crazy, or the terrorist a large pool of unarmed victims. This is what draws these people to malls or schools- the virtual assurance that no one else there will be armed. Do you realize there were NO school shootings in the United States until AFTER it was made a crime to carry a weapon on school grounds? There has never been a mass shooting at a gun show. Why not? Because there are thousands of guns there and hundreds of people who know how to use them.

In one of the 2007 mall shootings, an off-duty police officer was present with his family. He was armed, despite the fact that being armed was a direct violation of the mall's policy. When the shooting started, this courageous officer engaged the gunman and kept him pinned down until on-duty officers arrived and killed him. The off-duty officer's actions, *in violation of mall rules*, undoubtedly saved many lives. How many more lives could have been saved in the other mall incidents if there had been an armed good guy present?



You need to understand that the so-called "security measures" at malls are not there for your safety. They are in place to limit the property owners' legal liabilities. How will an unarmed security guard or a surveillance camera protect you from a criminal shooting into the crowd? In fact, a mall employee sat in the security center and watched the entire Omaha incident on surveillance cameras, relaying info on victims and the shooter's location to police. How will the police protect you? In the Omaha case, the first officers arrived at the mall six minutes after the 911 calls came in. The shooting was all over in the first two minutes. Do the math. That means the incident had already been OVER for four minutes when the first police arrived.

When you and your family go to a mall, or anywhere else, YOU are responsible for their safety. You do what you think is right; I know what I'll be doing.



In a recent edition of the newsletter we warned against the practice of continually loading and unloading the same ammunition in a semi-automatic pistol. One of our students checked his carry ammo and found the three cartridges shown here in the chamber and the magazine of his pistol. All three are the same brand and bullet weight. As you can clearly see, the round on the left is normal length, the one in the center is noticeably shorter, and the one on the right shorter still. The one on the right may actually be dangerous to fire.

Combative Pistol I at Rangemaster



Combative Pistol is our signature two-day class our staff teaches all over the United States. In 2008 we'll be conducting these courses in Pennsylvania, Georgia, Nevada, Texas, Oklahoma and other locations.

On Feb 9-10, 2008, we'll be conducting a Combative Pistol I course here at Rangemaster in Memphis. This is a rare opportunity to take this course on a heated indoor range with a modern classroom and all the audio-visual aids that make the tactical instruction more beneficial. This class runs from 9:00 am to 6:00pm on both Saturday and Sunday, and each student will fire approximately 1,000 rounds of ammunition. This amount of time and ammo allows us to actually ingrain proper responses, and your gunhandling and marksmanship skills are guaranteed to improve.

For those of you who live elsewhere, Rangemaster is only 15 minutes from Memphis International Airport, and several hotels are located within a short drive. There is even free shuttle service available to from the hotel, the airport and Rangemaster.

Topics covered in this course will include:

- ◆ Rapid presentation from concealed carry
- ◆ Effective gunhandling techniques, designed to work under stress
- ◆ Rapid reloading techniques
- ◆ Movement skills, including effectively engaging targets on the move
- ◆ Disability drills, including drawing and reloading with one hand
- ◆ Precision shooting at mid-ranges
- ◆ Effective scanning techniques for locating additional threats
- ◆ Low light firing techniques, both with and without a flashlight
- ◆ Proper defensive mindset and more

IWB Holsters

By Tom Givens

Many of us on the staff carry full size guns all day, every day. We do this because the purpose of your sidearm is *to fight for your life*. With that in mind, we carry the biggest, most powerful, easiest to use gun we can. I've debriefed a LOT of people after gunfights, but I've never heard one say he wished he'd had a smaller, less powerful pistol when the ship hit the sand.



To accomplish this, many of us wear an IWB (inside waist-band) holster. This is the easiest way to discreetly conceal a full size handgun. Most of the gun/holster rides inside your trousers, with only the butt of the gun exposed above the belt. This allows a longer pistol, without the need for a longer cover garment. It also tucks the pistol in tighter to the torso than any holster mounted on the outside of the belt.

As in most things, there are traits to look for, and traits to avoid in IWB rigs. To be avoided like the plague are the cheap, thin, chicken-hide or nylon IWB's that clamp onto the belt with a plastic or steel clip. These tend to come out of the pants with the gun (really embarrassing!), and when the gun is drawn the holster collapses. This makes it impossible to holster the gun one handed. A properly designed rig will stay open when the gun is out, allowing easy one handed re-holstering. Belt attachments should be a closed belt tunnel, as in the GWH holster I wear, or one-way snap loops, like those illustrated below. This holster is the PCH, from master leather maker Lou Alessi. As in most things, quality costs a bit more, but is well worth it.



Food for Thought

Very few of us have the time to read as much as we should any more. The following quotes are intended to provoke thought and maybe tickle your interest in learning more.

"Democracy is two wolves and a lamb voting on what to have for lunch. Liberty is a well-armed lamb contesting the vote." —**Benjamin Franklin**

"Some princes, in order to hold their possessions securely, have disarmed their citizens... But when you disarm them, you . . . show that you distrust them, either through cowardice or lack of confidence in yourself. Disarming the citizens for these reasons makes them hate you."

Niccolo Machiavelli, (1469-1532) the Prince (Il Principe)

"The only freedom deserving the name, is that of pursuing our own good in our own way, so long as we do not attempt to deprive others of theirs, or impede their efforts to obtain it. Each is the proper guardian of his own health, whether bodily, or mental and spiritual. Mankind are greater gainers by suffering each other to live as seems good to themselves, than by compelling each to live as seems good to the rest."

—**John Stuart Mill**

"I am free, no matter what rules surround me. If I find them tolerable, I tolerate them; if I find them too obnoxious, I break them. I am free because I know that I alone am morally responsible for everything I do." —**Robert Heinlein**

"GOOD JUDGMENT CAN'T BE BOUGHT OR LEARNED FROM BOOKS. PEOPLE AREN'T BORN WITH IT, AND IT ISN'T TAUGHT IN SCHOOL. ONLY SELF-AWARENESS AND VAST KNOWLEDGE OF CIRCUMSTANCES, THE ENVIRONMENT, AND POTENTIALITIES, WHEN COMBINED WITH PERSONAL EXPERIENCE, RESULT IN GOOD JUDGMENT. MENTORS CAN SPEED THE PROCESS, SUPPLYING INFORMATION AND EVEN EXPERIENCE THROUGH THE ARTFULLY TOLD STORY. OTHERWISE, THE BURNED HAND TEACHES BEST.

GOOD JUDGMENT IS THE RESULT OF EXPERIENCE, WHILE AN "EXPERIENCE" IS THE RESULT OF POOR JUDGMENT."

—**Mark Twight, *Extreme Alpinism***

To be a warrior is not a simple matter of wishing to be one. It is rather an endless struggle that will go on to the very last moment of our lives. Nobody is born a warrior, in exactly the same way that nobody is born an average man. We make ourselves into one or the other.

—**Carlos Castaneda**



On Oct 21, 2007, we conducted another Ladies Only Introduction to Handguns Course. The course was taught by Lynn Givens, Lani Glancy, Lynn Kugele, and Sophie Culp, who are all state certified instructors. Twenty women attended, of various ages and professions, and the class was a big hit. This course is intended to make women who are totally unfamiliar with handguns safe and comfortable, so they can get the maximum benefit from a Handgun Carry Permit Course or simply feel comfortable handling a handgun their spouse has in the home. There will be another Ladies Only class on Sunday, January 27, 2008, from 2:00pm to 6:00 pm. Cost is only \$49.00, which includes the use of a handgun and ammunition. Advance registration is required.

Fighting Smarter, 3rd Edition

Tom Given's™ latest book, *Fighting Smarter*, is a general guide to armed self defense for the private citizen. Organized into 34 chapters, this book covers the basics of mental preparation, personal tactics, and the nuts and bolts of equipment selection and shooting technique. Many of the chapters deal with the often overlooked aspects of being mentally prepared to defend one's self and family. Chapters on these subjects include:

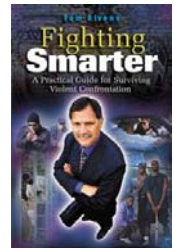
- ◆ States of Awareness, the Cooper Color Codes
- ◆ Appropriate Use of Force
- ◆ Principles of Personal Defense
- ◆ Zen and Pistolcraft
- ◆ Controlling Fear
- ◆ Making Sound Decisions Under Stress and more.

There are also a number of chapters dealing with "hardware issues" such as:

- Selecting a Sidearm
- Holster Design
- Clothing for Concealed Carry
- ◆ Calibers and Ammunition and much more

Fighting Smarter includes 234 pages and numerous illustrations and photos.

The third edition of this book is now available in print format. The book is only \$27.95, plus \$4.00 shipping and handling. Order yours today by calling 901-370-5600, or fax orders to 901-370-5699.



Avoiding Car-Jacking

by Tom Givens

“Car-jacking” refers to forcibly taking your automobile while you are in it, or standing by it. According to a U.S. Bureau of Justice Statistics study, there are about 49,000 attempted or completed car-jackings in the United States each year. In Memphis, there are about 500 successful car-jackings each year. In roughly half of these, the driver is seriously injured.

According to the BJS study, the following is typical in car-jackings:

- there is only one occupant in the target car
- the offender is armed with a gun, or less often a knife
- most incidents occurred within five miles of the victim's home
- on the street, most car-jackings occur at stop signs, traffic lights, or bus stops
- off street, the most likely locations are the parking lots of stores, restaurants, gas stations, and office buildings.



To avoid becoming a car-jack victim, follow these tips:

- Be alert! Look around your vehicle as you approach it. Be especially wary of anyone loitering near your vehicle.
- Look inside your car before you get into it.
- Immediately, lock all of the doors and keep them locked while you are in the vehicle.
- Don't loiter in a parked car. Start the car and drive.
- Whenever stopped, such as at a traffic light, keep your head up and move your eyes around! Be especially watchful for anyone approaching your car on foot.
- When stopped, be sure you can see the bottoms of the tires of the car in front of you. This leaves you enough room to drive around that vehicle if needed.

Remember your car is your best weapon. If danger appears, hit the skinny pedal on the right and GO!

2008 On-the-Road Classes and Special Classes Here



February 9-10	Combative Pistol I at Rangemaster, Memphis Saturday-Sunday, 9:00 a.m.—6:00 p.m. both days
February 24-25	Tactical Conference , MPD Training Academy
March 29-30	Dynamic Markmanship , WSSA, Harrisburg, PA
April 12-13	Joint Full Spectrum Course Ed Lovette, Southnarc & Tom Givens at Rangemaster Pre-flight intelligence; pre-assault indicators; managing unknown contacts; live fire in both daylight and low light; vehicle defenses, more! \$ 499 for three of the best trainers in the business. Students will rotate all weekend among the three instructors.
April 26	BUG Course/Vehicle Defense Course/Low Light Clinic Carrolton, GA
April 27	1911 Operator's Course , Carrolton, GA
May 5-6	Dynamic Markmanship Course , H&H Range, OKC
May 9	BUG Course/Vehicle Defense Course/Low Light Clinic South River Gun Club, Atlanta, GA
May 10-11	Dynamic Markmanship Course , SRGC, Atlanta, GA
May 17-18	Combative Pistol I , Reno, NV
May 24-25	Dynamic Markmanship Course , Tyler, TX
Aug 1-3	Three-Day Instructor Development Course at Rangemaster Friday-Sunday

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



Phone: 901-370-5600
Fax: 901-370-5699
Email: [rangemaster.tom@gmail](mailto:rangemaster.tom@gmail.com)
Please note new e-mail address!



www.rangemaster.com

Workplace Violence by Tom Givens

We all would like to think we are safe at work, but this is a dangerous illusion. If you work outside your home, you must interface with co-workers and the public, any of whom could be or become a threat. Workplace violence has become an epidemic in the U.S., although one not widely reported, as companies have a vested interest in keeping such events low profile.

According to the latest figures from OSHA, here is a more accurate look at the actual magnitude of the problem:

Approximately 2 million (that's right, millions) assaults in the workplace per year.
40,000 Aggravated Assaults (serious injury, deadly weapons)
51,000 raped or sexually assaulted at work in a year
1 out of every 6 fatal occupational injuries is a homicide!

To put it into another time context, EVERY SINGLE WEEK
18,000 workers are assaulted
1,000 are raped or sexually assaulted
20 are murdered while at work



Remember that there are things you can do to reduce your risk:

1. Be alert. Do not assume you are safe at any time in public.
2. Know where exits and escape routes are. Mentally rehearse crises before they occur. Have a plan!
3. Take threats or oddball behavior seriously. Report them to management or security and insist on follow up.
4. Equipment you did not wear today will NOT be available in an emergency.