



# Tactical Talk

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"Taking my gun away because I might shoot someone is like cutting my tongue out because I might yell 'Fire!' in a crowded theater."

-- Peter Venetoklis

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## The Armed Citizen's Legal Defense Network

by Tom Givens

Our friend Marty Hayes has founded an organization which I strongly support, and encourage you to consider. The Armed Citizen Legal Defense Network, LLC, is an organization dedicated to protecting the legal rights of people who lawfully carry guns for self defense. Their brochure states, "Believing that armed self defense is a legal and moral right, the Armed Citizens' Legal Defense Network exists to aid, educate, and support lawfully armed Americans who are forced to defend against criminal attack."

The network will have qualified defense attorneys on stand-by in every region of the US, as well as qualified expert witnesses to assist in technical matters. If a member is involved in a shooting and is subsequently charged criminally or sued in civil court, the network's attorneys and experts will be on hand to assist. If, after a review of the case, the network finds your prosecution to be unwarranted, you may be eligible for financial assistance to pay for your defense. I have accepted a position on the Advisory Board, along with Massad Ayoob, John Farnam, and Jim Cirillo, Jr. The network also puts out an E-Journal, with tons of useful information for members. For more information, see [www.armedcitizensnetwork.org](http://www.armedcitizensnetwork.org), or contact them at P.O. Box 400, Onalaska, WA, 98570, or 360-978-5200.



## 2008 Tactical Conference

Rangemaster's annual Tactical Conference was held on 23-24 Feb 2008, again at the wonderful facilities of the Memphis Police Department Training Academy. This was the biggest and best event in the ten year history of the Tactical Conference. A total of 19 well known trainers conducted classroom, hands-on, and live fire blocks of instruction. Trainers present this year made up a virtual Who's Who in the self defense training industry, including John Farnam (Defense Training Int'l.), Skip Gochenour (Director of the NTI), Mike Warsocki (Insights Training), Steve Moses and Hany Mahmoud (Bluff Dale Academy), T.J. Pilling (Tiger Valley Training), James Yeager (Tactical Response), Claude Werner and Mike Benedict (Rogers School), Randy Harris (Suarez Int'l.), Paul Gomez (Tac Pro), Will Andrews (H&H Gun Range), Mike Brown (USSA), Karl Rehn (KR Training), Rob Pincus (ICE), Southnarc (Shiv-Works) and John Hearne, William Aprill, and Tom Givens of Rangemaster.

In addition to all of the training, there was a competitive shooting event, involving three stages on the main indoor range and two stages on the main outdoor range. The indoor stages were conducted in very low light, while the outdoor shooting was in daylight. Outdoor problems included shooting while seated inside a real car, while the indoor problems included rescuing a female family member during a home invasion. The targets were realistic 3-D mannequins, with clothing and realistic looking fake guns for the hostiles. Shooters had to discriminate between armed threats and un-armed parties while remotely fired shotguns with blanks provided return fire from the threat targets.

Twenty five Rangemaster staff members ran the shooting event. Their scores are recorded separately. The top five shooters in the Event Staff class were:

Randy Harris	59.24	William Aprill	73.28
John Hearne	80.18	Jeff Boardman	81.10
Randy Richardson	88.14.		

Not everyone present chose to shoot in the competition, but 65 attendees did and their scores/standings were as follows:

Mike Brown	57.33	Thad Espy	67.68
Hany Mahmoud	73.24	Karl Rehn	76.00
Terry Pregler	81.64.		

In addition to being the Overall Champion, Mike Brown also received the High Lawman award. Mike is an instructor at the United States Shooting Academy (USSA) in Tulsa, OK, and is also an active officer with the Tulsa Police Department. Congratulations, Mike!

The Tactical Conference has become one of the premiere training events in the US. The annual National Tactical Invitational (NTI) in Pennsylvania is the only other comparable annual event (see [www.teddytactical.com](http://www.teddytactical.com) for details on the NTI). We're making plans for the 2009 Tactical Conference now.





Shooter inside a car has to engage two armed carjackers outside the car.

*Tactical Conference 2008*

Shooter passes a wall and is confronted by realistic reactive targets. The smoke is from a 12-gauge blank fired by one of the targets.

*Tactical Conference 2008*



There were a number of excellent classroom presentations at the conference. Here, Hany Mahmoud from North Texas Tactical discusses active shooters.

*Tactical Conference 2008*

# Another Gun-Free Zone Mass Shooting

By Tom Givens

In February a deranged gunman opened fire at Northern Illinois University, killing five people and wounding 16 before killing himself. The first campus police arrived at the building in 6 minutes—the shooting had been over for several minutes when they arrived, as always.

Illinois has some of the most stringent gun control laws in the nation. Illinois is one of only two states in the whole country that have no provision for a civilian gun carry permit, and you must have a Firearms Owner Identification Card from the State Police just to buy a box of ammunition. It is specifically illegal to carry a gun of any kind onto a campus in Illinois. So why did this happen? Because nut-cases are *drawn* to gun free zones by the knowledge that no one there will be able to interfere with their fantasy. All of these mass shootings occur where regular citizens are prohibited from having the means to defend themselves.

The same week as the NIU shooting, in Maryland a large group of people were conducting an illegal drag race on a public highway at 4:00 am, when a car plowed into the crowd, killing eight people and injuring over fifty. Did you even hear about that on the news? More people were killed or injured than in the campus shooting, so why didn't the mainstream media make a circus of the Maryland incident? I'll tell you why. Because drivers are licensed and their cars are registered, but people still commit crimes with them and more people are killed with cars in the US than with guns. The press, however, have an irrational, unreasoning fear and dislike of guns and gun owners, but don't have those feelings about cars or drivers. It's that simple.



“Dang. Now what do we do?”

## Upcoming Classes of Interest

May 5-6, **Dynamic Marksmanship**, H&H Gun Range, Oklahoma City, OK

May 9, **BUG, Vehicle Defense, Low Light**, South River Gun Club, Atlanta

May 10-11, **Dynamic Marksmanship**, South River Gun Club, Atlanta

May 17-18, **Combative Pistol**, Reno, NV

May 24-25, **Dynamic Marksmanship**, 31 Range, Tyler, Texas

June 1, **Ladies Only Introduction to Handguns**, Rangemaster, Memphis

June 14, **1911 Operators Course**, 9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m., Rangemaster, Memphis

June 21, **Back-Up Gun (BUG) Course**, Rangemaster, Memphis

June 22, **Vehicle Defense Course**, Rangemaster, Memphis

July 12-13, **Defensive Shotgun**, Rangemaster, Memphis

July 28, **Vehicle Defense Course**, Rangemaster, Memphis

Aug. 1-3, **Annual 3-Day Firearms Instructor Certification**,  
Rangemaster, Memphis





This is the new Walther PPS 9mm sub-compact. It is very small and operates just like a Glock.

As this view shows, the PPS is very thin and flat. It should make an excellent deep concealment or back-up gun.



# Home Burglaries and Safety

Burglary is the forced entry into your home with the intent to commit a felony. The most common intent in burglary is theft, followed by rape. Burglary is a serious problem in Memphis, with about 16,000 episodes each year here. Nationally speaking, 62% of burglaries occur between 6:00 am and 6:00 pm, the so-called daylight hours. In fact, 30% of all burglaries occur between 10:00am and 3:00 pm, when most people are at work and the kids are at school. In many middle class neighborhoods, there is literally no one home on the whole block during these hours, creating a prime opportunity for property crimes. In 2005, the average loss in a residential burglary was \$1,725.00, a significant amount to most people. The items most often taken are jewelry, cameras and electronics, credit cards, and guns. These are all items that are easily portable and can be converted to cash on the street quickly. Be sure to lock up guns you don't carry when you are away from home. If you come home and surprise a burglar in your home, you don't want him to be armed with your gun.

To prevent this type of crime, you need a layered approach to security. Obtain good dead bolt locks on all doors, and use them. Lock all windows, and keep shades or curtains closed, to limit visibility from the outside. Use your alarm system any time you are gone. Remember that only a monitored alarm system will do you any good—there is no one home on the block to hear your local alarm.

Burglaries of occupied homes are a greater threat to you and your family, and unfortunately, there are about 5,000 incidents of burglaries of occupied homes each year in Memphis. Thugs who break into occupied homes at night are a different breed from the property crime daytime burglars. Rape, torture, and murder are the common results of these intrusions. Again, a layered approach to security is your best defense.

Outdoor motion sensor lighting is a great idea. Simply having some lights come on whenever someone approaches the home can be a great deterrent. Use your dead bolt locks, and use your alarm system. Several of our students have successfully defended themselves and their families in late night home invasions because the alarm system woke them up and gave them the few

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seconds it took to get a gun and be ready. Your worst nightmare is to wake up and find a thug standing over your bed. It's a bit late to do anything at that point. This is avoided by using good locks and your alarm system, so that it takes a few seconds and lots of noise to get in. Obviously, most of your guns should be locked up securely, but your home defense weapon must be readily accessible. If the alarm goes off in the middle of the night you will only have a few seconds to arm yourself and get ready to intercept intruders.

Lighting is a simple and effective tool in your arsenal. As mentioned, outdoor motion detector lights are great. Inside, except for rooms people sleep in, your home should not be dark. A few simple night lights in wall outlets can help tremendously. There are screw in fluorescent light bulbs now for lamps and light fixtures that last for years and cost only a few cents a day to run. I keep one of these on upstairs, and one downstairs, 24/7. That way, I can see to move around once I leave my bedroom, and it keeps outsiders guessing as to whether we're home or not.

In many home invasions, the electric lines and/or the telephone lines are cut by the intruders just prior to forced entry. You should have a charged cell phone in your bedroom at night. This may be your only means of communication with police.

Finally, get smoke alarms and keep fresh batteries in them. Home fire deaths are largely avoidable- 74% of home fire deaths occur in homes with no functioning smoke alarm.