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RANGE • MASTER

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# RANGEMASTER

DEFENSIVE TACTICS FOR THE REAL WORLD

*Firearms Training Services*

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

*or* **HIT MISS**

## *Tom's Take on the* **WALTHER PPS**

My good friend Craig Douglas (aka Southnarc) loaned me his personal Walther PPS compact pistol a few weeks ago to review. This is a very flat, thin, compact 9mm handgun designed specifically for the concealed carry market.

I have received a lot of inquiries about this gun over the past few years, so I thought I would give it a thorough examination, do some shooting with one, and develop an informed opinion. Lynn and I have handled and fired this gun extensively over the past month and we have been very impressed with it as a low-profile carry piece.

Here are the factory specifications:

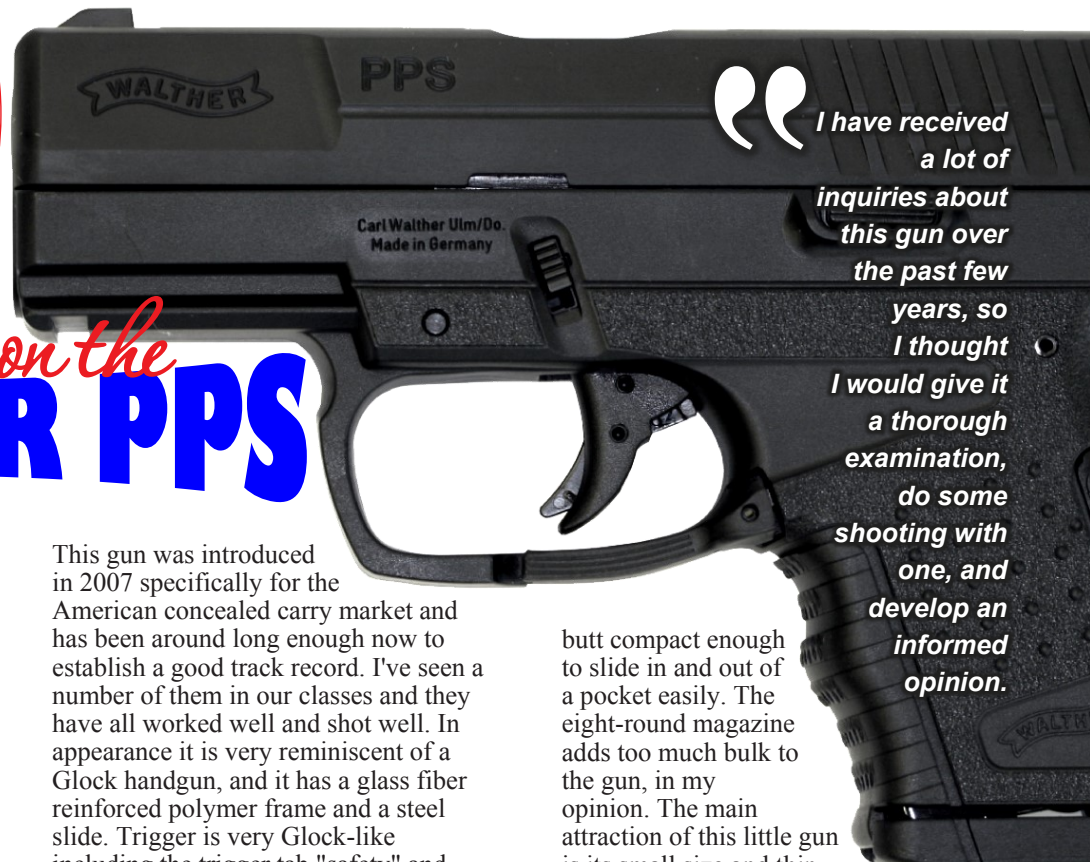
- ◆ 3.2 inch barrel
- ◆ 6.3 inch overall length
- ◆ 4.9 inch height with the seven round magazine in place
- ◆ 0.9 inch width or thickness
- ◆ 20.8 ounces with empty magazine

This gun was introduced in 2007 specifically for the American concealed carry market and has been around long enough now to establish a good track record. I've seen a number of them in our classes and they have all worked well and shot well. In appearance it is very reminiscent of a Glock handgun, and it has a glass fiber reinforced polymer frame and a steel slide. Trigger is very Glock-like including the trigger tab "safety" and slide latch. The main difference is the paddle type magazine release, rather than the traditional pushbutton magazine release.

The pistol has three different magazines available for it, in six-round, seven-round, and eight-round configuration. The six round magazine sits flush with the base of the grip frame, and frankly I do not like it. There is simply no place for the gun hand little finger, which compromises control in rapid firing. On the other hand, if you plan to carry in a pocket holster this magazine makes the

butt compact enough to slide in and out of a pocket easily. The eight-round magazine adds too much bulk to the gun, in my opinion. The main attraction of this little gun is its small size and thin profile. The eight round magazine just adds too much bulk for me. This leaves the seven-round magazine which seems to be a perfect compromise. With the seven round magazine in place the pistol fits my hand perfectly without any extra bulk.

The PPS in 9 mm is surprisingly controllable for such a small handgun. Recoil is not bad and these little guns tend to be quite accurate. For comparison sake I have included photos of the PPS next to a Smith & Wesson Shield 9mm and a Smith & Wesson Model 37



*"I have received a lot of inquiries about this gun over the past few years, so I thought I would give it a thorough examination, do some shooting with one, and develop an informed opinion."*



Airweight .38 Special snubby. Notice that the PPS and the Shield are almost identical in size. My personal preference would be for the PPS. Notice the PPS is also not appreciably larger than the five shot .38, but would be a far more efficient fighting tool. With eight rounds instead of five, better sights and a much better trigger, the PPS is far easier to shoot well than the snubby.

We did some range work with Craig's PPS using a FIST Kydex IWB holster and a Raven Concealment Kydex belt holster. The PPS is so thin that it is ideally suited for IWB carry. Fully loaded, it would be heavier than I would care to wear on an ankle, but in a thin IWB holster it would be really easy to wear this gun well concealed under very light clothing. The PPS sells for between \$500 and \$600 retail. Recommended.



Lynn and I will be teaching literally all over the US in 2015. Our open enrollment courses for January-April are listed below. Please e-mail us with questions about any of these courses.

# 2015 SNEAK PEEK

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For more details or to register for any of these courses, please visit the RFTS Eventbrite page at <http://www.eventbrite.com/o/tom-givens-6762296023>, or click the Eventbrite logo below.



### Establishing a Dominance Paradigm

January 9-11  
Shawnee, OK  
Tom Givens, William Aprill, and Southnarc (indoors)

### Tactical Conference

February 20-22  
Memphis Police Academy  
Memphis, TN  
(over 30 instructors)

### RFTS Instructor Course

February 27 - March 1  
Robertsdale, AL  
(Pensacola, FL area)

### RFTS Instructor Course

March 6-8  
Nexus Shooting Center  
Ft. Lauderdale, FL

### RFTS Advanced Instructor Course

March 14-15  
Nexus Shooting Center  
Ft. Lauderdale, FL

### Dynamic Marksmanship

March 28-29  
Florence, SC

### Intensive Pistol / Defensive Shotgun

April 11-12  
NOLATAC  
New Orleans, LA

### Combative Pistol 1

April 25-26  
KR Training  
Bryan, TX  
(Austin area)

*...and that's just the first quarter!*

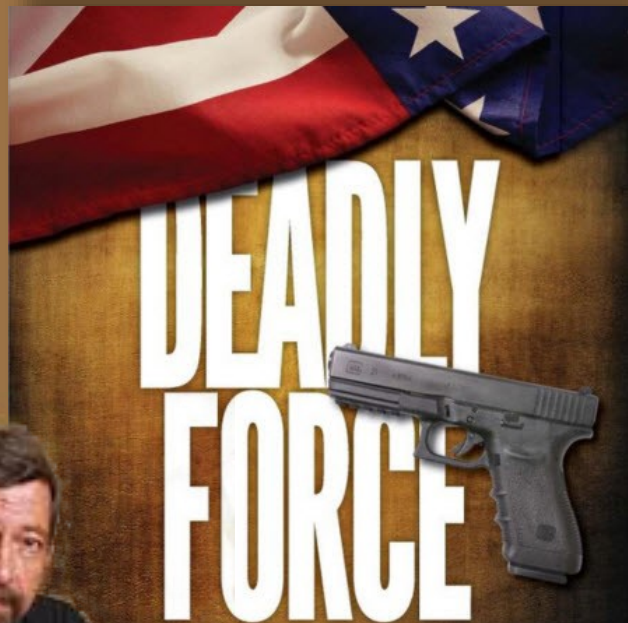
Density X Volume =

# MIAS

If you are reading our newsletter, Massad Ayoob probably needs no introduction. He has been writing about firearms training and self-defense for over 40 years; and his book *In the Gravest Extreme* is considered to be one of the key books in anyone's self-defense library. *Deadly Force* is his latest offering, just-released from Gun Digest Books.

This new book contains 238 pages divided into fourteen chapters, with numerous photographic illustrations. There are several chapters devoted to the essential elements of legal self-defense. Mas also analyzes a few recent cases of civilian self-defense, including those of Larry Hickey and George Zimmerman. Ayoob's ability to state complex legal concepts in plain, understandable English is unsurpassed. I recommend this book to anyone serious about armed self-defense.

This book is available directly from Gun Digest Books for \$21.99. I also just found Amazon for as little as \$15.39 delivered. This is a steal.



UNDERSTANDING YOUR RIGHT TO SELF DEFENSE

by **MASSAD AYOOB**



This is from our friend and colleague, Andrew Branca.

- Tom

Now available online at

# NEW WEBINARS!

[www.lawofselfdefense.com](http://www.lawofselfdefense.com)

- ◆ Reduce your vulnerability to prosecution when defending yourself or your family!
- ◆ **Accessible:** Learn from the convenience of your computer, tablet, or smart phone; no need to travel to a seminar location.
- ◆ **Self-Paced:** View webinars at your leisure, all at once or section by section.
- ◆ **Flexible:** Registration earns you a full 60 days of access, so you can review the material as much as necessary.
- ◆ **Customized:** Learn the self-defense laws of YOUR STATE, as actually applied by courts, prosecutors, defense attorneys and juries.
- ◆ **Responsive:** Webinar viewers can send questions directly to Attorney Branca online.
- ◆ **Comprehensive:** Course covers not only self-defense, but also:
  - ⇒ Defense of Others
  - ⇒ Defense of Property / Business / Vehicle
  - ⇒ Stand Your Ground
  - ⇒ Castle Doctrine
  - ⇒ Self-defense Immunities
  - ⇒ Interacting with Police
  - ⇒ ...and much, much more!

**\$10 OFF**  
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# THE LAW OF SELF DEFENSE

# THE LAW OF SELF DEFENSE

# NAVIGATING THE NET

There is an awful lot of information available on the Internet. Unfortunately, much of it is misleading, incorrect, or just laughably wrong. There are, however, some good sources of solid information that are absolutely free and offer reliable, sensible input. Here are a few recommendations.

## THE TACTICAL WIRE

[www.thetacticalwire.com](http://www.thetacticalwire.com)

One worthy online resource is The Tactical Wire, which is updated every Thursday. The first part of the weekly post features press releases from gun and accessory manufacturers, trainers/schools, and other suppliers that would interest our readers. This is a good way to keep up with new products and services. Following those ads are a few short articles on defensive firearms, accessories, or training. These articles are usually written by Rich Grassi or Chuck Haggard (recently retired law enforcement officers and trainers with an immense amount of experience), or by another well-known trainer and friend of ours, Tiger McKee. The Tactical Wire also features occasional articles by Dave Spaulding, Darryl Bolke, and other notable trainers.

## THE TACTICAL PROFESSOR

<https://tacticalprofessor.wordpress.com>

Another source I can recommend is The Tactical Professor, a blog by our old friend and associate, Claude Werner. Claude served in the U.S. Army in both Ranger and Special Forces units and served for several years as the chief instructor at the famed Rogers School in Georgia. Claude is well known as a deep thinker in the tactical community, and he sometimes takes unorthodox positions on matters of interest to students of personal defense. His writings are always insightful and thought-provoking.



## FRONT SIGHT PRESS

[www.frontsightpress.com](http://www.frontsightpress.com)

There is also Front Sight Press, by our own Tiffany Johnson. Tiffany maintains our website and serves as the editor of this newsletter. She is a Rangemaster certified instructor and advanced firearms instructor, she's an NRA certified instructor, and she has trained with everyone from John Farnam to TDSA in Oklahoma. She is also an attorney and all-around great person. As an African-American woman with both a law degree and passion for firearms training, she has a pretty unique perspective.

## AGILE TRAINING & CONSULTING

[www.agiletactical.com](http://www.agiletactical.com)

Finally, I would recommend our good friend Chuck Haggard. Chuck has been active in private defensive training throughout his nearly thirty years in urban law enforcement. One of the most versatile trainers in the business, Chuck is a certified instructor for OC spray, baton, pistol, shotgun, carbine, and rifle, among other weapon systems. He recently retired from the Topeka Police Department as a lieutenant, and he now joins the ranks of full-time private sector trainers. His new company is called Agile Training & Consulting (A/TaC). Chuck will be presenting a seminar and teaching a live-fire course at the Tactical Conference this February, and I highly recommend his training services. He has started his own blog on the A/TaC website, so we look forward to reading lots of informative posts from Chuck very soon.



*tacticalprofessor - Deeper ideas about personal protection.*