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*Happy Holidays!*

# RANGEMASTER

DEFENSIVE TACTICS  
FOR THE **REAL** WORLD

*Firearms Training Services*  
MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

**T**he UCR is the Uniform Crime Reporting section of the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI). A lot of people hold the mistaken belief that all police departments in the US report crimes to the UCR. This is incorrect. This is a voluntary reporting system, and a lot of cities, both large and small, opt not to report. Thus, the crime figures are lower than the actual numbers, but they still give us a fair idea of what goes on from year to year.

## by the NUMBERS

63.6% of violent crimes reported, while Robbery offenses accounted for 28%. Rape accounted for 7.2% of the total. Again, these numbers do not reflect the actual total, due to agencies not reporting, but the ratios are probably fairly accurate.

Weapons used in violent crimes broke down as follows: firearms were used in 67.9% of murders; 40.3% of robberies; and in 22.5% of aggravated assaults.

The UCR annual report also contains data on police officers murdered in the line of duty each year. In 2014, a total of 51 law enforcement officers were feloniously killed. A total of 59 offenders were identified as the killers, and here are some tidbits of information about the killers.

The average age of the offenders was 31 years old. Fifty-four of the offenders were male, and five were

female. Forty-two of the offenders were white, 13 were black, two were Native American /Native Alaskan, one was Asian/Pacific Islander, and race was not reported for one offender. I point these facts out for a reason. The typical cop killer listed above does not fit most people's stereotype. Most were white males, well into adulthood. Don't dismiss potential threats just because they do not fit into a neat racial/age group stereotype. You're just as dead if killed by a 40 year old white guy or a 17 year old black kid. Judge people based on their actions, not their age/gender/ethnicity. ■

- Tom Givens

**"The typical cop killer...does not fit most people's stereotype."  
- Tom Givens**

For 2014, the UCR estimates that there were 1,165,383 violent crimes in the US. That is an estimated 365.5 violent crimes per 100,000 inhabitants. Aggravated Assaults accounted for

This would amount to 741,184 aggravated assaults in 2014, or 2,031 Aggravated assaults per day. And, again, that's just the ones reported to the UCR. Be alert, be aware, and be armed.

	Population	Total Violent Crimes	Robberies	Aggravated Assaults	Violent Crime Rate
Memphis	654,922	11,399	3,285	7,473	1 per 57 residents
Nashville	647,689	7,270	1,523	5,219	1 per 89 residents
Los Angeles	3,906,772	19,171	7,949	9,836	1 per 203 residents
Dallas	1,272,396	8,457	3,856	3,704	1 per 150 residents
New Orleans	387,113	3,770	1,470	1,901	1 per 103 residents

**EFFECTIVE**

# DRY PRACTICE

by  
Tom  
Givens

“Dry firing” or “dry practice” consists of practicing firearms manipulations without the presence of any live ammunition. There are a couple of excellent reasons for engaging in this practice. For one thing, the rising cost of ammunition and the time burden of traveling to and from a live fire range often limits the amount of practice we can get. More practice equals more skill. Dry work can be accomplished in your own home and with no expenditure of ammunition, so there is zero cost.

Second, dry work is actually a better way to ingrain many skills. Without live fire, the shooter does not have the noise of a weapon’s discharge, the noise of other shooters’ guns firing, flying brass, reciprocating slides and the myriad other distractions on a typical firing range. Quiet, mentally focused dry work is an excellent way to learn the feel of your trigger, for instance, or to perfect your presentation from the holster. During the 1970’s, the old apartheid government of South Africa was under a UN arms embargo and could not import ammunition. Their domestic production could not keep up with demand. As an experiment, the South African Army had one group of new recruits go through the normal handgun training program, while another group went through doing only dry practice. The “dry” group did not fire a single shot until qualification day. When the scores were tallied, the dry group slightly out-performed the group which had done all the usual live fire practice. In my view, you go to training to learn new skills, but you perfect and ingrain those skills through thousands of correct repetitions. It is easier and quicker to amass 5,000 repetitions if you engage in dry work between range sessions.

Since you will be handling a real gun in your home, there are certain precautions you will need to observe. To the right (and continuing onto the next page) is a checklist for you to use. Make a ritual out of going down this checklist every time, and before long these will be habits.

1 Dry practice should only be conducted in one designated, established area, and nowhere else in your home. That area should have a “safe wall”, that is a wall that will actually stop bullets in the event of an unintended discharge. A brick exterior wall or a stone fireplace can work, or you can use a body-armor vest as a back-stop. Do not dry fire toward an interior drywall.

2 When you enter the dry fire area, clear the gun and remove ALL live ammunition from the area. This includes loaded magazines or speedloaders, rounds in your pocket, or rounds in the desk drawer. Take all live ammunition to another room, then come back and clear your

3 You will need a target, which is simply an object to aim at while you dry fire. You can use an actual commercial target, a hand drawn reduced scale target, or something similar. Don’t use an expensive or important item or the house pet! Remember to place the target on the safe wall or body armor backstop.

4 A session of mentally focused practice should probably not last more than ten to fifteen minutes. If you try to stretch the session out, you will tend to get bored and sloppy. Sloppy practice is worse than no practice. Remember our goal is to rack up a huge number of correct repetitions over time, to build reflexive skills. “Muscle memory”, kinesthetic programming, conditioned reflexive responses, and habit all actually mean the same thing. All are born of consistent repetition.



**5** If you get interrupted during the session by a phone call or other distraction, start all over again, back at step one. Failure to do this is an invitation to disaster, unintentionally using a loaded gun for dry work.

**6** There are two points in this process where there is actually a danger of an unintended discharge. Those two points are the very beginning and the very end of the session. Failure to clear the gun, move all ammo out of the room, and then clear the gun again can result in an unwanted discharge. The most common error seems to be finishing the session, loading the gun, and then saying, "Just one more rep." When the session is over, say out loud to yourself, "This session is over. No more practice." Leave the dry fire area for a while. Later, go back, load the gun and say out loud to yourself, "This gun is now loaded." At that point, it can be safely put back in the holster, or wherever you keep it.

There are certain skills that lend themselves well to dry practice. Below are some that I suggest you practice frequently. By the way, these should be practiced dressed exactly as you are when going armed, including using a cover garment for concealment.

**1** Work on your presentation from the holster. In the real world, whether you wind up drawing to ready to challenge someone, or draw to shoot, you will have to produce your pistol before you can do anything else with it. Both options should be practiced until they are second nature.

**2** Work on trigger control. In dry practice you can more easily feel the slack take up, the trigger break, and re-set. If you press the trigger and the gun goes "click" with the sights still sitting on your point of aim, that would be a hit in live fire. If the sights move off the point of aim as the gun goes "click", that would be a miss. Keep working.

**3** Empty gun reloads can be easily practiced with a couple of dummy rounds (again, **NO** live ammo). Start with the gun in hand, slide locked open, empty magazine in the gun. Have a spare magazine with one or two dummy rounds in it. Punch out the empty magazine, insert the magazine with dummies, and close the slide. Get your hands back on the gun and get a sight picture. The dummy rounds allow the slide to go forward, simulating an actual reloading sequence.

Those are some of the obvious skills you can polish in dry work. Use your imagination as your skills progress. Recoil recovery and building a tolerance to the noise and concussion of gunfire are really about the only skills we cannot improve by dry practice, so get to work! ■



facebook

**TRIVIA TIME!**

**POP  
QUIZ:**

As of the moment you're reading this, how many days, hours, and minutes are left before the Tactical Conference begins? (Hint: the answer is on our website.) Be the first to post the correct answer on our Facebook page and your Christmas just might come a little early this year!

# DOMINANCE

Noun. \ˈdā-mə-nən(t)s. Rule; power over others; control; authority; supremacy.



Our first course in 2016 is a very special one we offer just once per year. Craig Douglas (Southnarc), William Aprill and Tom Givens combine forces to offer Establishing a Dominance Paradigm (EDP) — a three-day, immersion-level course in self defense. Designed for serious practitioners, this course is conducted in a modern, spacious indoor training complex in Shawnee, Oklahoma, just east of Oklahoma City. We have a very nice indoor range to work in, a modern classroom, and a practical area for scenario work with marking cartridges. In the scenario area we can replicate a convenience store, an office environment, and other venues where self defense incidents are common.

EDP consists of three days of training. Each trainer leads for about one-third of the time, but the material is broken down into different segments each day.

Craig Douglas (Southnarc) will conduct Simunitions force-on-force scenarios on an indoor facility built for this purpose. Trained role players will be involved, giving the

students a very realistic experience in threat management. See [www.shivworks.com](http://www.shivworks.com).

William Aprill is a psychologist and former law enforcement officer. He will conduct classroom training on mental factors, including criminal psychology and strategies for functioning under high stress. See <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ccBGungr6Qk> for a quick peek.

Tom Givens will be conducting live-fire training on a spacious, modern, indoor range. The emphasis will be on accuracy at speed, under duress, with a handgun. See [www.Rangemaster.com](http://www.Rangemaster.com).

The three training modules are designed to dovetail together into a seamless system for prevailing in armed confrontations with criminals. This is a unique course offering, with three renowned specialists in their field. Advance registration is required. Please visit our Eventbrite page for more information or to register. ■



The BDC Gun Room training complex in Shawnee, OK, includes two very modern ranges and multiple classrooms. First class!



**Below:** Southnarc (aka Craig Douglas) leading a group discussion at the Establishing a Dominance Paradigm course in Shawnee, OK.



**Above (left to right):** Tiffany Johnson, Tom Givens, Lynn Givens, Craig Douglas, and William Aprill at last year's Establishing a Dominance Paradigm course in Shawnee, OK. Lynn and Tiffany worked as role players during some of the scenario-based training, which is a valuable source of experience in decision making and handling rapidly evolving situations.





**FINISH**

**STRONG**



The 2015 training year closed out with a bang. Throughout the year, Rangemaster conducted 36 training courses in 14 states. That's our busiest year ever on the road, teaching everywhere from Arizona to New Hampshire and everywhere in between. We presented topics at two major conferences, the Tactical Conference in Memphis and the Georgia Law Enforcement Firearms Instructors conference in Carrollton, GA. Not counting the Tactical Conference, we trained 497 students this year.

We would like to extend our sincere thanks to everyone who came out and trained with us. We work hard in class and hold our students to a high standard. As a result, we turn out some very capable shooters.

Our 2016 schedule is already packed. We'll be all over the country again, with courses booked in 16 states so far. This includes some new venues in Nevada, North Dakota, Kansas, and Wisconsin, plus our usual stops. We hope to see a lot of you in class next year! - Tom & Lynn

**2016**

## Upcoming Classes *2016*

Jan 8-10

Establishing a  
Dominance Paradigm  
Shawnee, Oklahoma

Feb 6-7

Combative Pistol 1  
West Palm Beach, Florida

Feb 12

Basic Defensive  
Handgun (One Day)  
Naples, Florida

Feb 13-14

Combative Pistol I  
Naples Florida

March 19-20

Combative Pistol 1  
Baton Rouge, Louisiana

April 8-10

Firearms Instructor  
Development Course  
Florence, South Carolina

May 13-15

Firearms Instructor  
Development Course  
Athens, Georgia

May 21

Intensive Pistol Skills  
(One Day)  
Reno, Nevada

May 22

Defensive Shotgun  
(One Day)  
Reno, Nevada

May 27-29

Firearms Instructor  
Development Course  
Culpeper, Virginia

**Register  
Today!**

**Eventbrite**



Tom Givens, teaching Defensive Shotgun in Franklin, TN (November 2015).