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*Happy New Year!*

JANUARY 2016

**RANGE • MASTER**

Volume 20 • Issue 01

# RANGEMASTER

DEFENSIVE TACTICS FOR THE REAL WORLD

*Firearms Training Services*

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

Shooters – particularly serious shooters – tend to obsess with details and minutiae about equipment and shooting/gun-handling technique. Unfortunately, this often leaves them lacking in the mental side of defensive shooting. Some effort needs to be put into understanding our opponent on the street and preparing our minds to deal with sudden violence.

I'll let you in on a secret. Here is all you need to know about the hardware part of the equation:

**1** Buy a Glock, an M&P, a SIG or an H&K, make sure it runs reliably, and carry it religiously.

**2** Find modern expanding ammunition from Winchester, Speer or Federal that works 100% in your chosen handgun and hits where the sights are aimed.

**3** Buy a high quality holster, not a cheap, poorly designed one, and a good belt designed to carry the weight of a handgun.

**4** Take two or three quality defensive handgun courses from instructors who understand the realities of private citizen self defense (not military Spec Ops handgun or SWAT handgun use). Practice the skills you learn there.

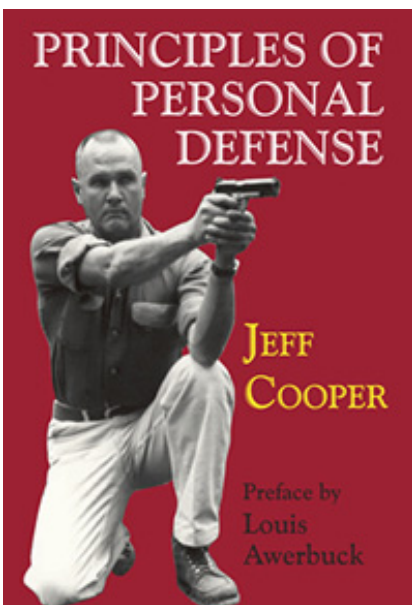
Once this is done, concentrate on the mental side of the equation. I highly recommend these books as a place to start.

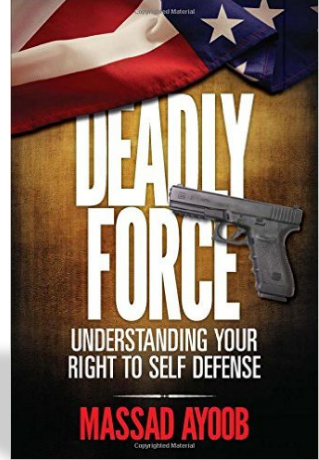
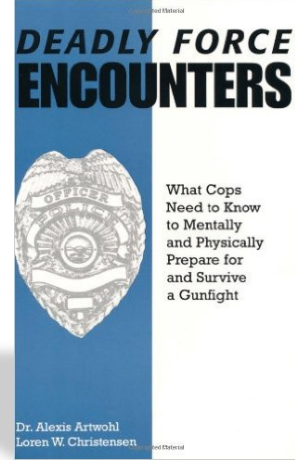
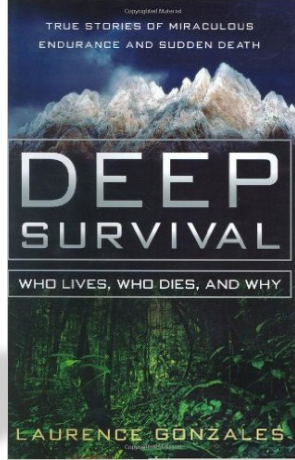
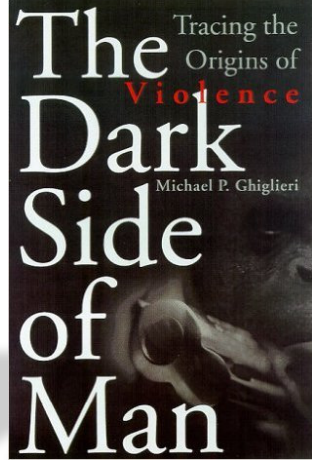
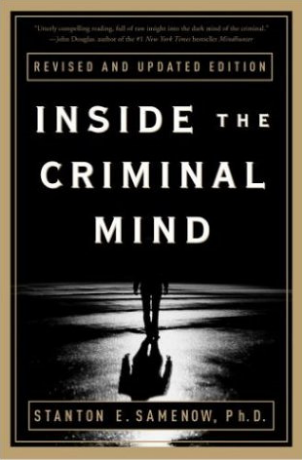
**Principles of Personal Defense, by Jeff Cooper.** This brief booklet is available from Paladin Press and every student of self defense should have a copy. Read it once a year as a refresher course in mindset.

**Inside the Criminal Mind, by Stanton E. Samenow, PhD (the revised and updated edition).** The original version of this book was published in 1984, and became a best-seller. The work was updated in 2004, after Samenow had an additional 20 years of experience in researching criminal behavior. John Douglas was one of the original profilers in the FBI Behavioral Sciences Unit, and he had this to say about Inside the Criminal Mind, "Utterly compelling reading, full of raw insight into the dark mind of the criminal."

**The Dark Side of Man, by Michael Ghiglieri** is a thorough and detailed look at human aggression and violence from the unique perspective

by  
Tom Givens





of a former combat soldier and longtime primate researcher, a protégé of Jane Goodall. The Dark Side of Man offers scientific explanation for behavior such as rape, murder and genocide. Not for the faint hearted.

**Deep Survival: Who Lives, Who Dies, and Why, by Laurence Gonzales.**

This book is a vital description of the mental, emotional and character issues involved in surviving catastrophe, whether natural or man-made. Many years ago Jeff Cooper wrote that “the world is divided into two groups, copers and non-copers”. The purpose of training and personal development was to become a “coper.” According to Gonzales, it appears Jeff was correct.

**Deadly Force Encounters, by Dr. Alexis Artwohl and Loren W. Christensen.**

Dr. Artwohl is a highly respected police psychologist who specializes in police training and in helping officers deal with mental issues in the aftermath of deadly force incidents. Christensen is a police trainer with a long and storied career in law enforcement. This book is highly recommended to help you get your mind prepared to deal with the realities of violence and its aftermath.

**Deadly Force: Understanding Your Right to Self Defense, by Massad Ayoob.**

This is an updated, 2014 volume on your legal rights and responsibilities as someone who goes armed. Lots of sound information on the legal system we all have to work within.

These are all available on Amazon, in many cases as very cheap used copies. This list should keep you busy for a while. Happy reading! ■

by Tom Givens  
**Lost in Translation**

If you have spent any time studying western religions, you might have noticed that modern translations don't always precisely convey the messages of the original texts. There are a lot of reasons for this, some cultural and some political; but suffice to say that translating from Hebrew or Aramaic to Greek to Latin to Old English to modern English created many opportunities for error. The Sixth Commandment is a classic example.

Many people erroneously interpret the Sixth Commandment to forbid killing in general. However, the proper translation of Exodus 20:13 and Deuteronomy 5:17 is “Thou shall not *murder*.” It is interesting that in Matthew 19:18, the King James Version correctly translates the Sixth Commandment: “Thou shalt do no murder.”

The Hebrew word רצח (“retzach”) and the Greek Word φονεύω (“phoneuō”), which are used in the Sixth Commandment in earlier texts, both clearly mean “murder.”



The Hebrew language has a general word for killing: the verb מוּת (“muwth”), meaning “to cause to die.” The Greek equivalent is the verb ἀποκτείνω (“apokteino”). Neither of these broad terms ever appeared in the Sixth Commandment. Instead, more specific words are used to forbid not all killing in general but only *murder* in particular.

רצח = murder  
/ba'tsax/

Thus, there is no Biblical injunction against using deadly force in self defense or in defending the life of another. MURDER is killing unjustly, or without a valid cause, and unlawfully. None of those adjectives describe legitimate self defense. ■



Eventbrite  
**TIME FOR CLASS**

The new year will be here before you know it. Listed to the right are some of our open enrollment courses for the first few months of 2016. The primary instructors for each class are Tom and Lynn Givens.

**Jan 8-10**  
Establishing a Dominance Paradigm  
Shawnee, OK

**Feb 6-7**  
Combative Pistol I  
West Palm Beach, FL

**Feb 12**  
Fundamental Defensive Pistol  
Naples, FL

**Feb 13-14**  
Combative Pistol I  
Naples, FL

**March 19-20**  
Combative Pistol I  
Baton Rouge, LA

**April 2 & 3**  
Intensive Pistol / Defensive Shotgun  
Eustance, TX

**TOM'S**

# TRAINER SPOTLIGHT



Greg  
**Ellifritz**

## ACTIVE RESPONSE TRAINING

**G**reg Ellifritz is Active Response Training's President and Primary Instructor. He is a regular presenter at our annual Tactical Conference. Greg is a 20-year veteran police officer, spending 13 years as the full time tactical training officer for his central Ohio agency. In that position, he was responsible for developing and instructing all of the in-service training for a 54-officer police department. Prior to his training position, he served as patrol officer, bike patrol officer, bike patrol coordinator, sniper, and field training officer for his agency.

He has been an active instructor for the Tactical Defense Institute since 2001 and a lead instructor for TDI's ground fighting, knife fighting, active shooter, impact weapons, and extreme close quarters shooting classes. Greg holds instructor, master instructor, or armorer certifications in more than 75 different weapons systems, defensive tactics programs, and law enforcement specialty areas. In addition to these instructor certifications, Greg has trained with many of the leading firearms and edged weapons instructors across the country.

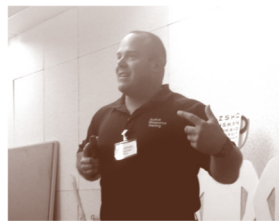
Greg has been an adjunct instructor for the Ohio Peace Officer's Training Academy, teaching firearms, defensive tactics, bike patrol, knife defense and physical fitness topics.

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

He has taught firearms and self defense classes at the national and international level through the International Association of Law Enforcement Firearms Instructors (IALEFI), the American Society of Law Enforcement Trainers, the Rangemaster Tactical Conference, and the Ohio Association of Chiefs of Police.

Greg also has a Master's degree in Public Policy and Management and has written for several publications and websites, including *The Firearms Instructor*, *Ohio Police Chief*, *Combat Handguns*, *Survivalblog.com*, *Concealed Carry Magazine*, *Primedia's Personal & Home Defense Annual*, and *American Handgunner*.

Greg maintains an active blog on his website: [www.activeresponsetraining.net](http://www.activeresponsetraining.net). There are many highly informative articles and reviews archived there. This is a great educational resource for those concerned with personal safety, and Greg updates the content continually. Always good stuff! Highly recommended! ■



by Tom Givens

# Lock Your Doors!

Recently in Indianapolis, a young woman was raped and murdered in her own home at 7:00am. The young woman's husband left their home shortly after 6:00am to go to a local gym. He told police he left the front door of their home unlocked. When he returned two hours later he found his wife raped and near death. It appears that the perpetrators of this atrocity had just burglarized another home two doors down the street.

stealing money, a laptop computer, clothing and other items. This past January, a student of ours was forced to shoot an intruder who kicked in the front door and entered the student's home at 6:30am. Our student had to transition from getting his kids ready to go to school to shooting an intruder, in just seconds.

out, but it alerts you that you have a problem, making a response possible.

Now, here's something to think about. The husband told police he deliberately left the door unlocked. He didn't want to be bothered carrying keys when he walked to the nearby gym to work out. That combination of laziness and

willful naïveté cost his wife her life. As far as I'm concerned, he should be charged with reckless endangerment, which is exactly what he

**"The husband told police he deliberately left the door unlocked. He didn't want to be bothered carrying keys when he walked to the nearby gym to work out."**

It is likely that the suspects saw him leave, and just as likely that they saw him fail to lock the door. They simply entered the home and committed their heinous crimes.

Next, lock your damn doors! It doesn't matter what time of day it is, or that you will only be gone briefly. If an intruder has to break down a door to enter, that gives you warning and time to arm yourself. If they can just walk right in through an unlocked door, there is no delay, no noise to alert you, and no time to react.

did. "But I don't want to live in fear," the wide-eyed sheep says. Locking your doors is not living in fear, any more than wearing a seat belt in traffic or having a fire extinguisher in your home is. Locking your doors is simply taking a reasonable precaution against a real and foreseeable threat.

There are a number of lessons here. First, no time of day and no neighborhood are "off limits" to violent crime. It appears the suspects in this case had broken into two or three other homes in the same neighborhood between 5:30am, and 7:00am,

Third, use your alarm system. Again, a burglar alarm won't keep an intruder

This is a perfect example of a preventable tragedy. Complacency and willful naïveté combine to get decent people killed. ■

# Justice [ HARDLY ]

By Tom Givens

In 2013 there lived in Memphis a man named J.P. Shelley. He was a contractor who remodeled houses. He had a wife and a couple of small children, and by all accounts he was a good man.

At the same time in Memphis there lived three parasitic vermin who produced nothing but pain and suffering. They decided one afternoon to rob someone, so they piled into a car and cruised the neighborhood.

They spotted Mr. Shelley standing in the driveway of a home he was working on, talking with one of his sub-contractors. They pulled over. One of the thugs remained behind the wheel of the car, while the other two got out to commit the armed robbery.

According to the surviving victim (the sub-contractor), Mr. Shelley had already given over his cell phone and wallet at gunpoint and was standing there with his hands raised in surrender when one of the assholes shot him in the face, killing him. The thugs then got back in their car and left. Of course, they were caught. Physical evidence, an eye-witness, and eventual confessions leave no doubt whatsoever that the correct three people were apprehended. Last week, the last of the three was in court for sentencing. Here is what they all got...

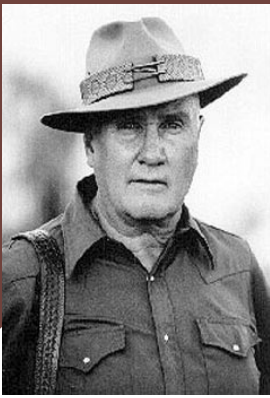
## Teens Indicted For Murder Of Contractor

By localmemphis.com

Published 04/22 2014 05:57PM

Updated 04/22 2014 06:55PM





The driver was sentenced to eight years. With credit for time served awaiting trial, he will probably be out of prison in about a year. One of the robbers who got out of the car was sentenced to fifteen years. The actual shooter was sentenced to thirty years. If he served every day of that time (no one does), he will be in his 40's when he is released, with a lot of life still ahead of him. Mr. Shelley, on the other hand, will still be dead.

Jeff Cooper said it best, thirty years ago: "If violent crime is to be curbed, it is only the intended victim who can do it. The felon does not fear the police, and he fears neither judge nor jury. Therefore, what he must be taught to fear is his victim." ■

**IF VIOLENT  
CRIME IS TO BE  
CURBED, IT IS  
ONLY THE  
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VICTIM WHO  
CAN DO IT.**

- Col. Jeff Cooper

# Not Your Grandma's ANKLET

By  
Tom Givens

**M**any of us carry a small handgun as a second, or back-up gun, in addition to our larger, primary pistol. There are a number of solid reasons for this practice.

First, I teach all over the US, and everywhere I go I see good quality, well maintained handguns break during classes. By "break" I do not mean malfunction. I mean a part in the gun literally fails, putting the gun out of action. If your firing pin, extractor, takedown latch, etc. breaks, the gun is a paperweight until you can procure and install a new part. If it happens in classes, it may happen in a fight. If your primary gun becomes non-functional, a second gun could be a literal life saver. Second, you can give the back-up gun to a trained but unarmed companion. Sometimes when I pick up a colleague at the airport, I loan them my BUG until we get to the

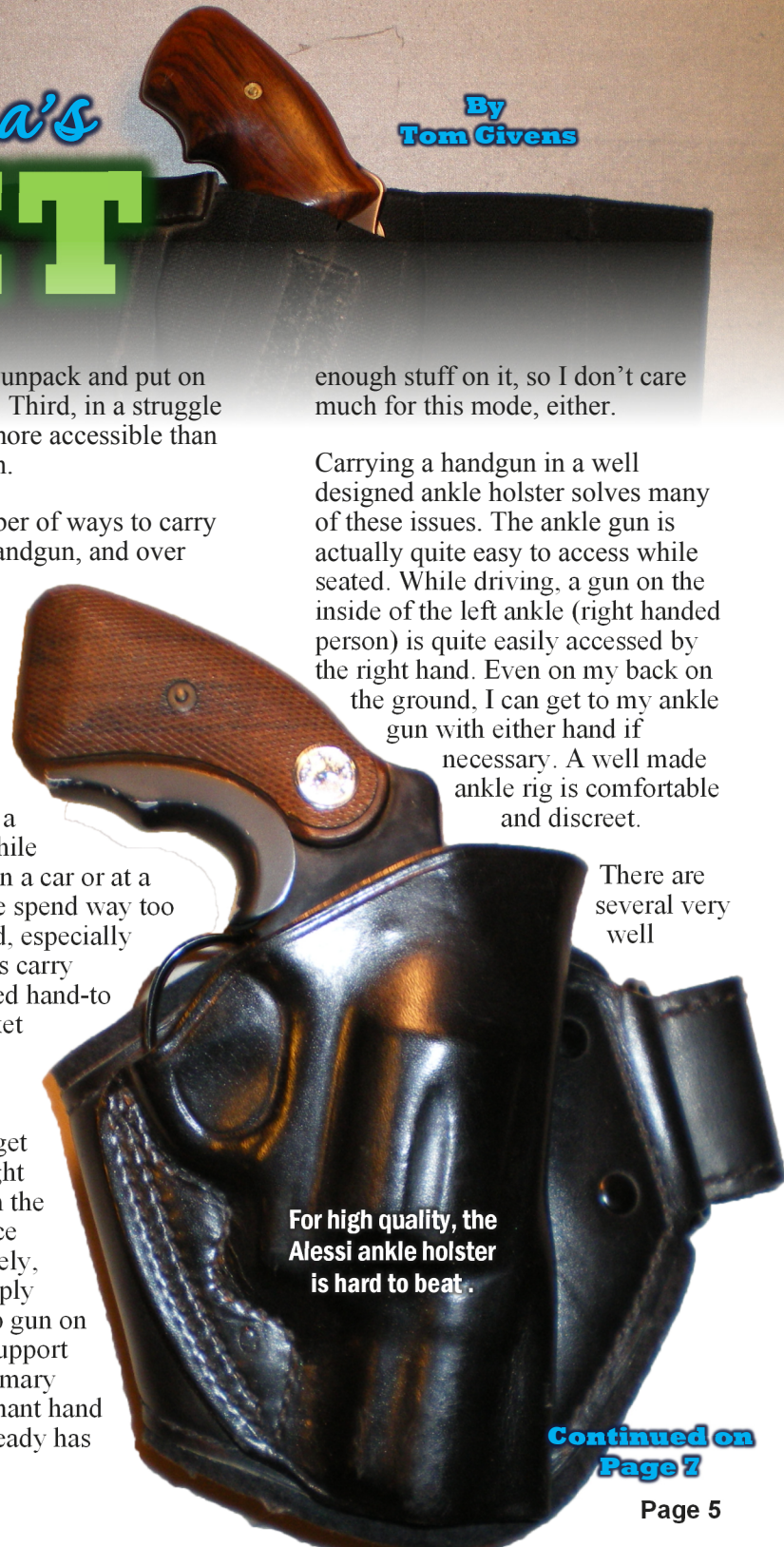
hotel and he can unpack and put on his own sidearm. Third, in a struggle a BUG may be more accessible than your primary gun.

There are a number of ways to carry this secondary handgun, and over the years I have settled on ankle carry for mine. Pocket carry just has too many limitations. It is damn near impossible to draw a gun from a pocket holster while seated, whether in a car or at a desk or table. We spend way too much time seated, especially in the car, for this carry mode. In a tangled hand-to-hand fight, pocket carry would be difficult to draw from. It is also very difficult to get a gun out of a right front pocket with the left hand, and vice versa. Alternatively, some people simply wear the back-up gun on the belt, on the support side, with the primary gun on the dominant hand side. My belt already has

enough stuff on it, so I don't care much for this mode, either.

Carrying a handgun in a well designed ankle holster solves many of these issues. The ankle gun is actually quite easy to access while seated. While driving, a gun on the inside of the left ankle (right handed person) is quite easily accessed by the right hand. Even on my back on the ground, I can get to my ankle gun with either hand if necessary. A well made ankle rig is comfortable and discreet.

There are several very well



For high quality, the Alessi ankle holster is hard to beat.

**Alessi Holsters**  
for the Professional...

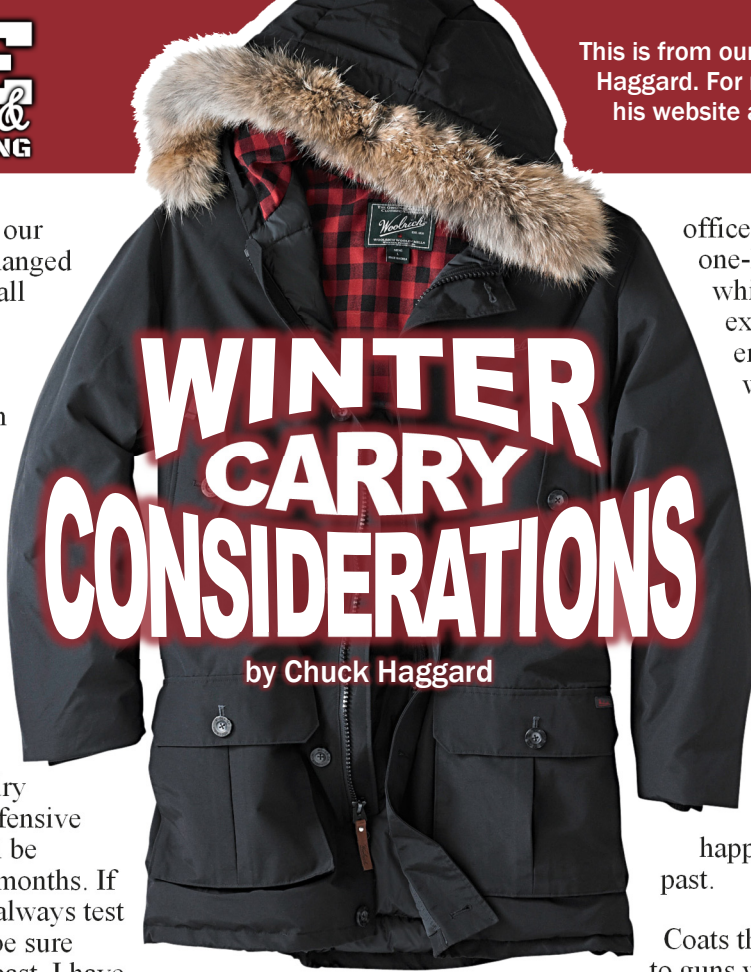


Over the past few days, our weather locally has changed from late summer to fall and then straight to winter rather dramatically, which reminded me that cold weather clothing options can have a serious impact on our defensive handgun and gear choices. Lessons learned from my past experience might be helpful to others – especially those who are new to defensive handgun carry.

Once rule I have learned over the years is to always dry fire and then live fire my defensive pistols with the gloves I will be wearing through the winter months. If I buy a new set of gloves, I always test them with my handguns to be sure they are compatible. In the past, I have seen gloves that didn't allow a shooter's finger to fit into the trigger guard, or wouldn't allow the trigger to reset after the first shot if the shooter did manage to get the trigger depressed. I have also seen gloved fingers get stuck between the trigger and trigger guard, which effectively jams the gun very badly. Further problems can arise if the web area of a glove (between the thumb and the index finger) interferes with the movement of the slide on semi-auto pistols (or the hammer on revolvers), which causes malfunctions.

## WINTER CARRY CONSIDERATIONS

by Chuck Haggard



officers to quickly get the glove off one-handed as part of their draw, while still protecting them from the extreme cold they often encountered due to wind-chill while on the motors.

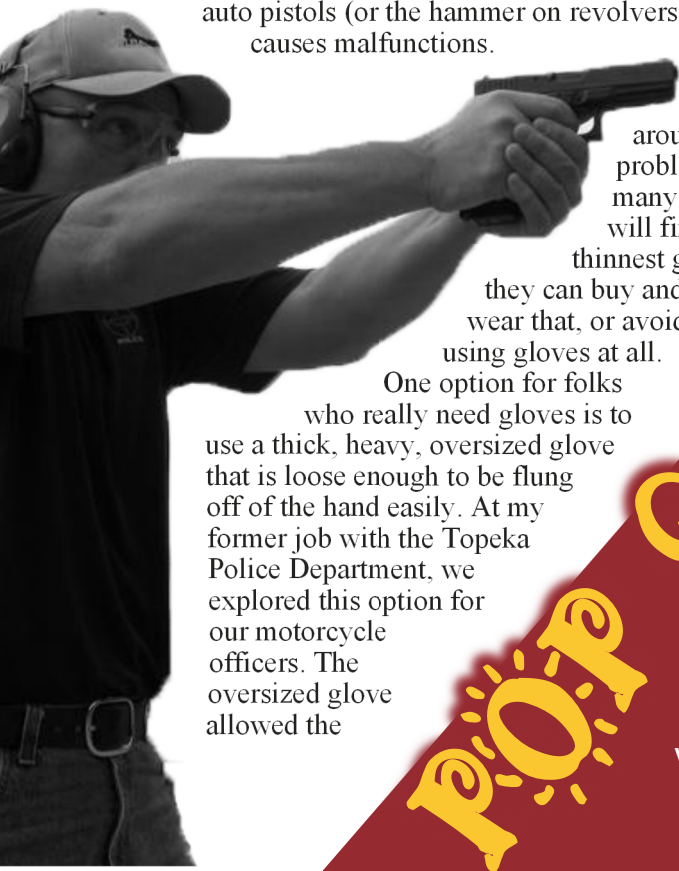
Another winter clothing obstacle could arise from waistband toggles and similar features commonly used to cinch up the waist area of cold weather outerwear. They usually involve dangling cords or bits of plastic or metal that can get hooked on the trigger or lodged in the trigger guard while holstering. This can easily cause an accidental discharge, which has happened a number of times in the past.

Coats that are too bulky to allow access to guns worn at the waist can be another issue as well. When extreme weather calls for thick parkas and other weighty outerwear, oftentimes a coat pocket gun makes a lot of sense. For this carry method, I tend to choose a snub .38 revolver as a coat pocket back-up to my primary CCW pistol, with the S&W 642 series or the Ruger LCR being my top choices.

In live fire drills at the range, I find that I can get a first shot from the draw in as little as six-tenths of a second when I already have the snub in hand but still in the pocket. Defensive presentation from a coat pocket is a discrete skill that differs from a waistline or appendix draw. Anyone opting to carry in this manner should first invest time for practice – starting with dry fire to ensure that the gun and pocket work together well and then moving to live fire at the range. ■

To get around this problem, many people will find the thinnest glove they can buy and wear that, or avoid using gloves at all.

One option for folks who really need gloves is to use a thick, heavy, oversized glove that is loose enough to be flung off of the hand easily. At my former job with the Topeka Police Department, we explored this option for our motorcycle officers. The oversized glove allowed the



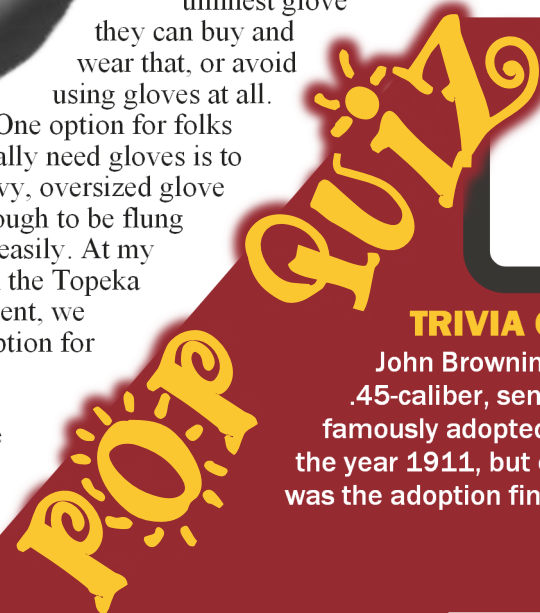
## facebook.

Who will usher in the new year as 2016's very first trivia winner? Be the first to post the answer to on Rangemaster's Facebook page, and this month's crown of awesomeness will be all yours!

### TRIVIA QUESTION:

John Browning's iconic single-action, .45-caliber, semi-automatic pistol was famously adopted by the U.S. Army in the year 1911, but on what specific date was the adoption finalized?

- A. March 29th
- B. July 4th
- C. November 26th
- D. December 7th



# ANKLE *Holsters*

designed and well made choices among ankle holsters. Over the years I have tried several, and have settled on some that are very comfortable and adequately secure while protecting the pistol from the elements and allowing rapid acquisition. My favorites include the ankle holsters from Alessi, Ken Null, DeSantis, and Galco.

If I had to rank them in order of preference, the Alessi and Null rigs

would be tied for first place. Both use Velcro fasteners to secure the holster to your lower calf. Both use precise molding to secure the handgun quite well, while allowing a very

quick presentation. Both have a compressed felt backer on the holster, to protect your leg. In classes, I routinely set up a double feed in my primary handgun and demonstrate dropping my primary handgun and drawing my BUG from one of these ankle rigs in under two seconds, from "Go" signal to first shot.

My next choice is the DeSantis rig. This is an elastic rig that closes with Velcro. In the revolver version, an ingenious bit of leather sits behind the

trigger guard to keep the gun in place until you grasp it and pull firmly. This is a very comfortable and fast ankle set-up. The Galco version has a thumb-break security snap and very lightweight construction. Both the DeSantis and Galco holsters have a sheepskin pad behind the holster to cushion your leg.

Ankle carry works best with handguns that weigh around one pound, or very little more. Among revolvers, the Airweight Smith & Wessons like the Model 642 and the Colt Cobra or Agent are perfect for this role. In auto-pistols, the S&W Shield and the Kahr P9 fit the bill quite well. Wear the thing for three or four weeks and you'll hardly notice it is there from that point on. You may never need that back-up gun, but if you do, you'll need it very badly. ■



## TAC-CON *Women*

On behalf of Eve Kulcsar, Lori Bigley, Julie Thomas, Tiffany Johnson, and the hundreds of Rangemaster-certified instructors across the country, I would like to wish you a healthy, happy, and prosperous 2016. We look forward to seeing you at the Tactical Conference in March.

— Lynn Givens

