



# Tactical Talk

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*"When young men seek to be like you, when lazy men resent you, when powerful men look over their shoulder at you, when cowardly men plot behind your back, when corrupt men wish you were gone and evil men want you dead . . . Only then will you have done your share."*

— **Phil Messina**

#### Inside this issue:

<b>Gomez Report</b>	2
<b>Registration Form</b>	3
<b>USSA Waiver</b>	4
<b>Order Form</b>	5
<b>Concealed Carry, 100 Years Ago</b>	6
<b>Givens Article</b>	8
<b>How to Contact Us</b>	12

## **Rangemaster/Polite Society 2010 Tactical Conference**

**Saturday/Sunday, April 24-25, 2010  
United States Shooting Academy (USSA) Tulsa, Oklahoma**

Registration fee is \$189.00. This includes all of the training segments, the tactical match, the side match, and the prize drawing.

All of the trainers present for 2009 will be returning, plus we will have some new trainers presenting topics. We will be expanding to take advantage of USSA's sprawling range complex, and there will be 21 instructors presenting various live-fire, hands on, and classroom training segments. This event will fill completely two to three months in advance, so sign up early to avoid disappointment.

You MAY NOT register for this event by phone. The only way to register is to print and complete a registration form and print and complete the USSA liability waiver, and send these to Rangemaster, along with payment. We have included the registration form and USSA Liability Waiver here for your convenience. Print, them, fill them out, and mail them to us asap.

Mail-in registration may be accompanied by a personal or company check, a money order, or credit/debit card information. FAX registrations can be accepted with credit/debit card info. The fax number is 901-370-5699.

Mail entries to: Rangemaster  
2611 S. Mendenhall Rd  
Memphis, TN, 38115.

Registered attendees will receive a detailed equipment list, list of trainers and their topics, and other information prior to the event date.

*The following after-action report was written by Paul Gomez, a trainer who presented a topic at the 2009 conference.*

## **RangeMaster's Polite Society/ Tactical Conference 2009**

Over the last ten years, Tom Givens has put together the 'must attend' event in the training community. The Polite Society Tactical Conference began as the RangeMaster IDPA Winter Invitational in 1996 and evolved into the Tactical Conference in 1999. Starting in 1999, Tom began coordinating a large number of trainers who gave of their time to journey to Memphis and offer short blocks of training around the shooting competition. Two years ago, the event shifted to the Memphis Police Department Firearms Training Unit and, for 2009, the event shifted to the best venue yet...the US Shooting Academy in Tulsa, Oklahoma.

This year the competition was divided into two phases, one conducted on the outdoor range and another conducted in a shoot house. Additionally, there was a Back Up Gun side match conducted on each day.

Seventeen trainers offered lecture and/or hands-on blocks running the gamut from Immediate Trauma Management to Combat Focus Shooting. Some of the grand, old men this year included Massad Ayoob, Skip Gochenour and John Farnam. Of course, [Marty Hayes](#) and [Rob Pincus](#) were present and, perhaps less well-known, but very competent trainers; [Hany Mahmoud](#), [William Aprill](#), [John Hearne](#), Will Andrews and Glenn Meyer also offered blocks to the approximately 150 attendees. As has become the norm for this gathering, [Karl Rehn](#), offered Force-on-Force scenario training utilizing airsoft guns each day.

As this event has grown, it is impossible for one person to attend every presentation. My first block on Saturday morning was occupied with presenting on the Need for Medical Training for People that Carry Guns/Immediate Trauma Management. I discussed an abbreviated version of the TC3 medical model with the express purpose of 'extending the Platinum 10 minutes to allow the injured party entry into the EMS system'.

From 1000 to 1200 I attended Massad Ayoob's 'Shooting Incidents, Aftermath Management'. Mas is always entertaining and informative. This was no different. Using a series of court cases to emphasize each point, Ayoob offered a simple protocol for post event interactions with authorities.

Mike Seeklander's module was initially billed as 'Grounded/Wounded Shooter Drills' but, more explicitly, it focused on one hand gun manipulations, both right and left handed. Mike is an USPSA/IPSC Grand Master class shooter, as well as having spent more than ten years as working cop and having extensive experience with the Federal Air Marshall program. He is currently the Operations Manager for the US Shooting Academy. This class was very well thought out and executed. I had already developed rather high expectations for USSA prior to being exposed to Mike's block and I was not disappointed. I am looking at making my way back to USSA this year for more in-depth study.

For those not familiar with William Aprill, you are missing out. William offered a presentation entitled 'Violent Actors, Violent Acts, a Conceptual Overview' that was truly outstanding. He provided the attendees with an understanding of a number of psychological theories pertaining to violent criminals & their behavior and explained the best, current theory and the implications as it applies to our behaviors in complex, confusing environments. This was my favorite presentation of the weekend.

My last block for Saturday was John Farnam's wide ranging discussion ostensibly entitled 'Urban Rifle, the AR & its Alternatives'. In all of human history, there has never been a recorded instance of John staying on a single topic and this was no exception! Listening to John is an always worthwhile endeavor and this was no exception. He is one of the last of the first generation trainers and time spent with him is never wasted.

No comments pertaining to Saturday night will be included to protect the guilty.

I spent the first block on Sunday morning visiting with friends and getting a look around the facility. I attended Glenn Meyer's presentation on Modern Psychology and Firearms Usage at 1000. Glenn and I first met during an injured shooter course in 1999. Glenn showed up with a broken arm, broken leg and a couple of broken ribs...he always was an over achiever. His lecture covered a wide range of topics dealing with everything from some classic experiments and findings through some of the research that he was directly involved in regarding jury perceptions in 'lethal force' cases.

SouthNarc offered his block on Managing Unknown Contacts. This was taught from 0800 to 1000 each day with Mike Brown's Fighting & Weapon Access in the Clinch immediately following from 1000 to 1200. Anyone who has not taken advantage of these blocks being offered in this format is truly missing out on some absolutely vital knowledge and skills.

*(Continued on page 3)*

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John Hearne's presentation on the Newhall Incident and its Training Implications has continued to evolve and is truly eye-opening. Viewing of this presentation and Tom Givens Miami Massacre Analysis ought to be considered mandatory for anyone involved in training or who carries a gun.

A quick rundown of stuff that I did not get to witness:

Marty Hayes offered a classroom presentation on 'Reducing Firearms Instructor Liability'. It was very well received by those who did get to attend, unfortunately, I didn't get in on this one.

Skip Gochenour spoke on Criminal Behavior. Skip is a wealth of information and I always enjoy listening to him. Between running the National Tactical Invitational and his 'day job', there is no one quite like Skip.

Will Andrews covered Shooting On the Move but the timing coincided with my attending Ayoob's lecture.

Steve Moses offered a live fire block on the AK47 as a Battlefield Pickup Weapon.

TJ Pillings did a live fire shotgun block.

Rob Pincus offered a block on Combat Focus Shooting.

The RangeMaster Polite Society Tactical Conference has grown each year. What began as a fun time has grown into the best value for time and money invested in the training community. My hat is off to Tom Givens for sticking with this thing, his staff for busting their [collective] ass to make this thing what it has become, to USSA for offering their wonderful facility, to all the trainers who devote their time and energy and to all those who show up and make the Polite Society Tactical Conference event the event.

## RANGEMASTER/POLITE SOCIETY ANNUAL TACTICAL CONFERENCE

**24-25 April 2010 — United States Shooting Academy, Tulsa, OK**

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

e-mail address \_\_\_\_\_



Category:    \_\_\_\_\_ Open    \_\_\_\_\_ Lawman    \_\_\_\_\_ Lady

Entry Fee\*    \$189.00    \*includes match, all training segments, prize drawing

Payment:    \_\_\_\_\_ check, payable to Rangemaster

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Card # \_\_\_\_\_

Exp date \_\_\_\_\_ cv # \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

**For use by Rangemaster: date received** \_\_\_\_\_

**Attendee number** \_\_\_\_\_

## ACKNOWLEDGMENT, RELEASE AND HOLD HARMLESS AGREEMENT FOR USE OF USSA FACILITIES

In order to utilize the facilities at the United States Shooting Academy (“USSA”), I, \_\_\_\_\_, in consideration of the right to enter and use the facilities and services of USSA, do enter into this Acknowledgement, Release and Hold Harmless Agreement (“Agreement”), and do hereby consent and agree as follows:

1. I acknowledge that engaging in target shooting and the firearm training activities conducted at USSA are dangerous activities. I am fully informed and understand that these risks, hazards and dangers include the risk of serious bodily injury, including permanent disability, paralysis and death, as well as damage to property. I engage in these activities voluntarily and at my own risk.
2. I acknowledge and represent that I am familiar with the significant risks and dangerous nature of these activities and hereby assume any and all responsibilities and liabilities pertaining to such risks, whether to myself or to others, and without limitation or qualification.
3. I acknowledge that at the time of signing this Agreement I am of sufficient physical and mental condition to engage in target shooting and/or firearms training activities at USSA.
4. I agree that USSA, or any representative thereof, may, but has no duty to, provide to me with first aid, or through medical personnel of their choice, medical or training assistance, transportation, and emergency medical services if I am injured at USSA. This consent does not, however, impose an affirmative duty upon USSA to provide such assistance, transportation or services. I agree to be solely responsible for all medical expenses incurred in connection with my association with USSA and/or my use of USSA’s facility. I understand that I may be unattended and unsupervised, and medical attention may be hours away, if any. I understand I may die without getting any medical attention, by getting improper attention, and/or not being evacuated promptly, or at all.
5. In consideration for utilizing USSA’s services and/or facilities, I do on behalf of myself, my heirs, executors, administrators and assigns, release, waive, discharge and covenant not to sue USSA, its successors, officers, employees, agents, representatives, contractors, subsidiaries and affiliates and each person acting by, through, under or in concert with any of them (hereinafter referred to as “Released Parties”) with regard to any and all liability, claims, demands, actions, and causes of action whatsoever arising out of or related to any loss, damage, or injury, including death, that may be sustained by me, or to any property belonging to me, whether caused by the negligence or gross negligence of the Released Parties or otherwise, while participating in any target shooting or firearms training activities, or while upon USSA’s premises where the activities are being conducted.
6. I shall indemnify, without qualification or limitation, the Released Parties, and shall defend and hold the Released Parties harmless from any and all claims, causes of action, demands or charges of every kind (including attorney’s fees and costs) which any party may claim to have for property damage or personal injuries or any other damages, including death, arising from any cause or reason of every kind pertaining to or referring to or relating to: (1) my use of USSA’s facilities; (2) my activities on the USSA facility; (3) any training I receive from USSA; and/or (4) my use of any vehicles, assets or materials of USSA.
7. This Agreement shall be construed and interpreted pursuant to Oklahoma law. Neither party shall commence any litigation against the other arising out this Agreement except in the District Court of Tulsa County, Oklahoma. Each party hereby consents to jurisdiction over it by, and exclusive venue in, the District Court of Tulsa County, Oklahoma.
8. In the event any provision of this Agreement is held to be overbroad as written, such provision shall be deemed to be amended to narrow its application to the extent necessary to make the provision enforceable according to applicable law.
9. By my signature on this application, I state that I have no criminal convictions, am not currently under indictment or prosecution for any offense, and am not wanted for questioning or arrest by any law enforcement or government agency. I further state that I have no history of mental illness or substance abuse. I understand that my training may be terminated at any time during the course if my actions are not deemed appropriate by United States Shooting Academy’s staff.
10. I affirm that I have read, understand and agree to be bound by the terms of this Agreement.

EXECUTED this \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2009.

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Printed Name: \_\_\_\_\_



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	DVD: “Concealed Carry for Self Defense”	\$34.95	
	DVD: “Defensive Shotgun”	\$29.95	
Subtotal			
Shipping (\$3.00 per DVD, \$4.00 per Book)			
Order Total			

Billing Information	Shipping Information (If Different)
Name:	Name:
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City, State:	City, State:
Zip Code:	Zip Code
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Credit Card Information	
Number:	Type: Visa MasterCard AmEx Discover
Expiration:	Signature:

# Concealed Carry, 100 Years Ago

A lot of people seem to be unaware that until after World War II, it was extremely common for regular, normal, everyday people to go discretely armed. When men came to town from the farm, they often had a handgun in their pocket. When going out on the town in the evening, both gentlemen and ladies regularly included a small handgun in their wardrobe. Bicyclists carried guns to ward off aggressive dogs, and motorists carried guns in case their newfangled car broke down in a remote area. To the right is an ad reprinted directly from the Iver Johnson catalog of 1914.

Below is a photo of a pair of these revolvers from my collection. The one with black stocks is a gentleman's .38, while the smaller gun with pearl grips is a lady's .32.



IVER JOHNSON'S ARMS & CYCLE WORKS

## Iver Johnson Safety "Cycle" Automatic Revolvers

THESE handy, compact weapons correspond in every detail with our regular models, with the exception of the short barrels. At close ranges they are equally as effective as the larger weapons and of course have the great advantage that they can be carried in the vest pocket. The Safety Hammer "Cycle" has become popular with cyclists and autoists, for it fulfills all requirements and can be kept out of sight, yet in reach. The Safety Hammerless "Cycle" is a perfect revolver for women,



as its weight and size would not be noticeable in a hand bag, or in a holster worn below the knee. The growing tendency in certain sections for ladies to carry revolvers has created a big demand for the "Cycle," as in addition to its size it is the only safe revolver for a woman to handle.

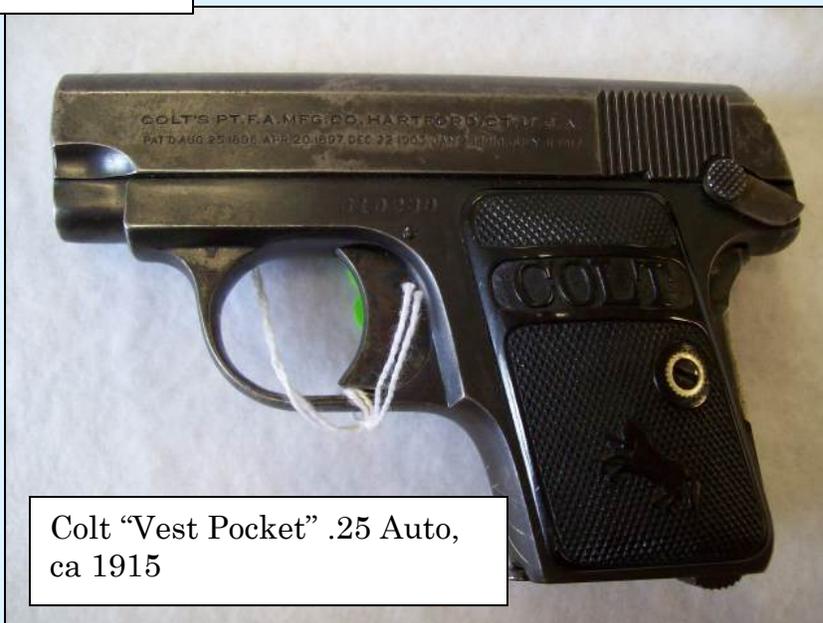
### SPECIFICATIONS

Weight, regular	22 Cal.	32 Cal.	38 Cal.
Chamber	12½ oz.	13 oz.	17½ oz.
Barrel	7 shot	5 shot	5 shot
Finish	2 inch only		
Stock	Handsomely nickeled		
Extras	Rubber		
	Pearl or Ivory stocks, Bleed finish		

IVER JOHNSON

(16)

The semi-automatic pistol was also popular in this era. John Browning designed several small autos specifically for the civilian market, naming two of them the "Colt Pocket Pistol". The Model 1903 in .32 and the Model 1908 in .380 were very commonly carried pocket pistols. The nickel plated auto in this photo is a 1903 .32 and the blue gun is a 1908 .380, from my collection. He also designed the "Colt Vest Pocket .25", which was designed expressly to carry in a man's vest pocket. In the 1920's, Colt introduced the "Banker's Special", a small frame, short barrel revolver made expressly for concealed carry by businessmen.



Colt "Vest Pocket" .25 Auto, ca 1915

# Intelligence Gathering for Personal Safety

by Tom Givens

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

My dictionary defines “intelligence” as follows:

“1. Capacity for understanding and for other forms of adaptive behavior; aptitude for grasping truths, facts, meanings; 2. Good mental capacity; 3. The faculty of understanding; 6. The gathering or distribution of information, especially secret information; 7. A staff of persons engaged in obtaining such information”.

The selected definitions listed above accurately reflect what we mean when we refer to gathering personal intelligence. Make no mistake—the law-abiding populace of this country is at war with the criminal sub-culture, and the gathering of accurate intelligence on the enemy’s identity, location, and strength is a vital part of planning your overall defensive strategy. Unless you are aware of the threat, how can you plan to counter it?

In this article we will examine some of the facets of personal intelligence gathering and processing, to assist you in a realistic threat assessment of your environment, and to provide forewarning in street encounters with likely threat sources. While this will not be an exhaustive examination of every threat, it will at least expose you to the main elements of some of the more common criminal types with which you will likely deal.

The purpose of this endeavor is to allow you to recognize subtle danger signs that will be present prior to an assault. By recognizing these cues, you can place yourself on alert, and be thinking about a planned response. As we discussed previously, being aware of a threat and having a plan in mind to deal with it greatly decreases reaction time, and helps overcome the mental inertia that slows down our response. When interacting with strangers, these subtle cues, once learned, can assist you in evaluating the proper degree of vigilance and readiness to act.

Be alert for these signs as you go through your daily routine. Forewarned is forearmed.

## **STREET GANGS-**

One of the most common threats right now is that of the violent youth street gang, whether that gang has its origins in the black, Latino, Southeast Asian, or white communities. Street gangs, once confined largely to places like Chicago and Los Angeles, have now spread throughout the United States, driven largely by the lucrative market in illicit drugs, particularly cocaine and crack.

Street gangs become surrogate families of sorts for many members, providing the companionship, support, affirmation, and respect missing from their home life. This mutual bond among gang members is the source of one cause of violence against non-members. “Dissing” a gang member (showing disrespect to him or his associates) causes him to lose face in the eyes of his peers, unless redeemed by violence against the person showing the real or imagined disrespect. Since there are usually multiple members present, you are faced with an attack by all of them (fight one, fight them all). Other attacks are motivated by desire for your money, and carjacking is a common crime among youthful offenders, who take a new vehicle each night to use in the “cruising”, robberies, and drive-by shootings they have planned for the evening’s entertainment. In some organizations, gang members must commit a serious crime, such as shooting a stranger (you) in the presence of a senior gang member in order to move up in the social order. Regardless of the intent, these are dangerous individuals, and they must be taken seriously as a threat.

Gang graffiti is not just vandalism; it is a form of advertising and communication. Gangsters use graffiti to mark territory and to establish dominance, just as a predator might urinate on the tree trunks around the perimeter of his home range. Gang graffiti must be taken seriously as a red flag; its appearance around your place of business means that you must be on the lookout for gang members and activity.

Black street gangs in this country are typically affiliated with one of several major national groups. The best known of these are the Crips and the Bloods, which originated in Los Angeles, and The Folk Nation and The People Nation, which originated in Chicago. All of these groups have sent recruiters throughout the U.S., and there is now no area of the country completely free from their influence. The illustrations show some of the major forms and symbols commonly used in their graffiti.

Bear in mind that graffiti is not the only form of expression in which these symbols are used. The same images often appear as tattoos, and these provide a ready means of identification. In the past, gang members usually sported “colors”, readily identifiable pieces of clothing, which made identification easier for both friend and foe. Examples included red or blue ban-

dannas, and “dressing right, or left” which means cap brim turned a certain direction, or one pants leg rolled up and the other not. In most areas these practices have been abandoned, as they lead to attention from law enforcement officers on patrol. Now, tattoos are probably your best means of identifying gang members.

Among the major Latino gangs are the “Mexican Mafia” and Nuestra Familia, with their origins in Southwest U.S. prisons, and the Latin Kings, a common street gang. Tattoos are a prevalent form of communication among these gangsters, with often ornate, colorful, and extensive coverage. The Mexican national emblem, the eagle and snake, are common, as well as stylized initials like eMe (the pronunciation of “M” in Spanish, for the Mexican Mafia), and a crown in Latin Kings tattoos.

Among the most dangerous of the white gang types is the “Skinhead”, a white, neo-Nazi type that specializes in personal brutality, particularly violence directed towards Jews, blacks, homosexuals, and other “inferior” people. Skinheads got their name from the practice of shaving their heads, but again, this has been largely abandoned to prevent harassment (oops, I meant monitoring) by police. Heavy boots, suspenders (braces), muscle shirts, and black leather jackets or military style jackets are the principal mode of dress. Again, tattoos are your best indicator. The Celtic cross, Nordic or Viking artwork, and Christian religious symbols are the most common form of tattoos.

The other predominately white threat group is the “biker gang” or “outlaw bikers”. Bikers live in a culture all their own, in a world dominated by their motorcycle, degradation of women, drugs, and violence. Bikers seldom work in the traditional sense, but make their living from prostituting their “old ladies”, selling drugs, and working as enforcers for other criminal enterprises. Bikers tend to be extremely violence prone, especially if they perceive weakness in a victim or opponent, and they tend to be both well armed and often, better skilled than most other gang types. This makes them formidable adversaries.

Obviously, the most common indicator is the biker’s motorcycle, but this is not always present. Bikers often travel in other vehicles, and a group of bikers traveling on “business” will often be accompanied by a van containing back-up members, heavy weapons, including automatic weapons, and extra ammunition.

The primary indicator is the biker’s colors, a vest adorned with the symbols of his gang, and of his personal achievements. A biker wears his life story on his vest, with his status within the gang, his rank, his past deeds, and other information proudly displayed, although somewhat encoded. A biker will usually die before he will surrender, or risk loss of his colors. The same markings found on his colors will often be found in tattoos, which are quite common among bikers.

#### **DRUG ABUSERS-**

According to many authorities in law enforcement, as much as 80% of the crime in the United States, is driven by the use of illegal drugs. From turf wars among drug dealers, to robberies for money to get money to buy dope, drug abusers are your single largest threat group. According to a recent detailed study by the FBI, 80% of the offenders studied who had killed police officers were under the influence of drugs, alcohol, or drugs and alcohol at the time of the fatal assault. Many types of drugs lower social inhibitions (this is why alcohol is so important to so many people at social functions). Unfortunately, these social inhibitions include the inhibition to kill a fellow human being.

The most commonly abused drugs in this country include: Cocaine, Crack, Amphetamines, Methamphetamines, and other Nervous System Stimulants; PCP, LSD, MDMA, and other Hallucinogens; Marijuana; Anabolic Steroids, and of course, Alcohol.

Different types of drugs can cause different physical symptoms, of which you need to be aware. In addition, certain drugs can cause psychological effects on the offender that you must be prepared for. Remember that different people can have different reactions to drugs. A complete discussion of these drug types and their effects is outside the scope of this brief article, but the information is readily available

#### **MENTAL CASES-**

In any major urban area, street contacts with mentally or emotionally disturbed persons are practically unavoidable. According to the American Psychiatric Association, one of every three Americans will suffer some form of serious mental or emotional illness at some point in his life. I’m OK, but frankly I’ve been a bit worried about you.

The most common group of mentally disturbed persons you will encounter is the “street person”, typically a homeless drifter, or “bum”, usually shabbily dressed, unkempt, bearded, and dirty. A lot of people will try to tell you that these people are helpless, harmless victims of the failed mental health care system. This is not typically true.

It is now extremely difficult in this country to involuntarily commit someone for a mental illness, even a serious one. Even disturbed persons who kill are typically stabilized with medication and released back into the public, with the frail hope that they

*(Continued on page 10)*

*(Continued from page 9)*

will continue to faithfully take their medication without supervision. Most mentally ill street people have been placed in care homes or mental institutions at some point, but since they cannot be held there against their will, they left and went back on the street. In my experience, many of these persons prefer uncertain life on the street to the structured and confining life in an institution. Of course, once on the street and broke, they have no access to medications, and no one to evaluate their progress or deterioration.

In my area, for instance, I used to patrol a residential area, which was a short distance from the main concentration of hospitals, including mental health facilities. We would arrest these "disturbed persons" for theft, burglary, or assault so many times we knew them all by name. Some were not violent, some were. In court, the judges recognized them as persistent offenders, but understood that they were seriously mentally ill, so were reluctant to put them in jail. In jail, true criminals victimized these typically poorly physically conditioned people horribly. The judges were powerless to commit these individuals to mental institutions for any length of time, as the admitting psychiatrists would judge them not to be "an imminent threat to their own safety or that of others". Back on the street they went in 24 hours. One night one of these "repeat customers" of ours, a fifty-ish female of slight build, knocked a man down, sat astride his chest, and cut his heart out with a steak knife. Sometimes three of four of us would have to "pile up" on one of these offenders to get him into custody without having to kill him. Harmless? Hardly.

A large percentage of these street people are armed, with usually crude weapons such as knives, screwdrivers, straight razors, or improvised weapons. They are often very territorial about "their home", which may be a cozy spot behind your office's dumpster. They also tend to be very touchy about personal space, and inadvertently getting too close to one may be interpreted as the worst sort of aggressive attack against him, resulting in a furious assault against the "intruder" (you!).

Aside from the obvious "bum" be on the lookout for behavior such as a shuffling, uncoordinated gait; a vacant, "thousand-yard stare"; incoherent mumbling; talking to himself or unseen associates; and other bizarre behavior. (Bear in mind, he may just be a Democrat.)

With anyone you suspect to be mentally disturbed, try these tips to avoid or de-escalate a contact:

1. Remember his personal space, and don't invade it.
2. Do not try to touch him, unless you are prepared to fight him.
3. Do not make sudden, rapid, or startling movements.
4. Speak quietly and slowly. Do not shout.
5. Try to increase distance, and get an obstacle (parked car, fence, etc.) between you, as if he is armed it is probably with an edged weapon.

### **PLAIN OLD CRIMINALS-**

Criminals must go through certain specific stages of activity before they can assault/rob/abduct/rape/etc. These stages will differ slightly in different types of crimes, but will generally fall into these categories.

1. **SELECTION-** The criminal views you as a prospective victim. He looks at your "victim potential", on two separate bases. First, do you have the type of car he wants, are you wearing expensive watches and jewelry, have you flashed a roll of cash, do you fit his rape victim profile? We think of this as, "Do you have what I want?". If the answer is, "Yes.", he moves to the next question.

Then he evaluates you as a threat to him. First and foremost, are you paying attention to your surroundings? Are you aware of his presence? Do you look like you might be a physical problem? Do you look like you might be armed? I assure you he goes through these questions. We think of this as, "Can I get what I want from you, safely?".

If the answer to either question, "Do you have what I want, and can I get it from you, safely?", is "NO", then off he goes, in search of easier prey. Thugs are not looking for a fight. What they're looking for is the easy mark. Someone they can get to, get what they want from, and get away from, without being hurt and without being caught.

Several years ago, some psychology students conducted a fascinating study. They took photos of ordinary people as they came and went from a downtown business area. They then planned to show these to criminals and ask them to identify the people they would choose as victims, and identify the people they would choose to bypass. In the preliminary write-up, they said that they expected to see a 10-15% correlation among the "victim" and "non-victim" groups.

They then went to a state prison and got a very large number of career violent offenders (rapists, muggers, etc.) to enter a room one at a time and view these photos. Time after time, the thugs said, "I want that one", and pointed to others and said, "But I don't want that one!" When it was over, the psychologists were shocked. There was a 95% correlation rate! Ninety-five times out of a hundred, individual thugs, with no communication among them, picked the same people to be victims, or to bypass. How did they do that? Body language. The only thing available from these photos was body

language, but that was enough for the thugs to instantly identify the true victims as well as the people they would not risk a confrontation with.

Whom did they choose as victims? Gender, size, and age were surprisingly not the keys. Instead, they looked for people who shuffled along, head down, avoiding eye contact, unaware of their surroundings (Condition White). In contrast, they avoided choosing people, even small females, if they were alert, confident, head up, and looked like they knew what was going on around them (Condition Yellow). Remember what he really wants. He wants to get to you, get what he wants from you, and get away from you, without being hurt or caught.

There are signs that a potential attacker is evaluating you. They include:

1. Anyone who appears to be watching you should be viewed with mild alarm. If every time you look up, the same guy is looking at you, ask yourself, "Why?"
2. Anyone who is inactive until you approach, then tries to look busy;
3. Anyone whose activity is geared to yours. You speed up, he speeds up, etc.

2. **POSITIONING-** Once a criminal selects a victim, he must move into a position from which an attack is possible. Always remember that to assault, rob, or rape you, he must be close enough to talk to you. He will attempt to maneuver into this position by stealth (which is defeated by being alert), or by ruse. He may ask you for the time, for change, for directions, anything to distract you and preferably cause you to look away from him. When you look away, here comes the blow! The best course of action is to politely refuse any request, no matter what it is. Keep your eye on him and say, "No". Anything you agree to is the springboard for the next request, which then escalates to demands. Just say "No".

Positioning prior to the assault is vital to him, as he relies almost totally on surprise for success. If you avoid his attempts to properly position himself, you forestall the attack. Be alert and watchful for these cues:

1. Anyone who falls in behind you after you walk by;
2. Two or more people who are together, but split up as you approach;
3. Anyone staying in one place, observing, but begins to move toward you;
4. Two or more people lined up along a wall or fence; or
5. Anyone who moves to block an exit after you enter a confined space.

If you see one of these cues, cross the street, change directions, turn a corner. If he alters his course to match yours, he has tipped his hand. Go to Orange and start planning an escape or response.

3. **THE ATTACK-** The attack phase can only come after the evaluation phase and the positioning phase. It is simply not possible to attack you until these first two stages have been completed. The very best defense, therefore, is to circumvent the attack by not allowing the Evaluation Phase and the Positioning Phase to be fruitfully completed. Every single attack you avoid is a battle won! In every attack you fail to prevent, you are at enormous risk! A one-eyed, three-fingered jackass can miss you by ten feet with a handgun, and ricochet a round off the pavement and into your femoral artery. Although you are "accidentally" dead, you're still dead. Be alert and use your head and you won't have to use your pistol nearly as often.

### **BEHAVIORAL CUES TO IMPENDING AGGRESSION-**

With the exception of the true sociopath (more on him later), there will normally be cues, principally body language, which will assist you in forecasting aggressive activity by an individual you are observing. Being aware of these cues is vital to your accurate threat assessment.

Of course, verbalization by the offender is a critical cue. Someone cursing, shouting epithets, and generally being aggressive verbally is a likely candidate for physical aggression. Bear in mind, however, that 80% of human communication is non-verbal, and you must be aware of and watchful for these sometimes-subtle indicators.

One of the most reliable indicators of an impending assault occurs when you are in a position of authority and the offender fails to comply with or contemptuously ignores your commands. If, for instance, you encounter an intruder in your home, and he does not immediately comply with your commands, you are in for a fight!

Other definitive indicators can include these, alone or in combination:

1. hands on hips;
2. cocked head
3. arms folded across the chest
4. fists clenched, or clenched and flexed alternately
5. jaw clenched
6. spitting

*(Continued on page 12)*

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*"Socialism is a philosophy of failure, the creed of ignorance, and the gospel of envy, its inherent virtue is the equal sharing of misery."* **--Winston Churchill**

*"The problem with Socialism, is sooner or later you run out of other people's money."* **-- Margaret Thatcher**

*(Continued from page 11)*

7. deliberate avoidance of eye contact
8. continuously looking around
9. sustained verbal rationalizations
10. continuous yawning and stretching
11. target glancing.

"Target glancing" refers to brief, repeated shifting of the offender's eyes to your chin, your nose, or your weapon. Repeated target glances to your chin or nose means he is gauging the distance for a punch. Target glances at your weapon indicate a gun snatch may be imminent.

Always, when the pre-attack indicators are present, shift to the highest level of mental readiness (Condition Red) and be geared up. If at all possible, extend the distance between the two of you. Keep a 360 degree scan up for associates of the one(s) who first got your attention.



"Dang. Now what do we do?"