



Tactical Talk

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To steal ideas from one person is plagiarism; to steal from many is research.

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Carry Every Day? **By Tom Givens**

Every now and then, someone asks me, "Why do you think it is necessary to carry a pistol all the time, everywhere? On most days, at the end of the day you have not needed the gun, so carrying it was a wasted effort." This is a fairly common attitude among folks who have simply not thought through the problem.

Let's say that, unknown to you, you are going to need your gun to stay alive next Tuesday evening at 9:30 p.m. The fact that you have not needed your gun on a single day of your life up until then has no bearing at all on how badly you will need it next Tuesday! Since you don't know you will need it next Tuesday, how will you be assured of having it handy? Of course, the answer is to always have it handy.

Here is another way to look at it. Let's say you are 40 years old. That means that you have lived over 14,600 days so far. You have not died on any one of those days. I can assure you, however, that one fine day you will, in fact, die. Right now, you don't know which day that will be. The fact that you have not died a single time so far does not in any way reduce the odds that you will one day die. The same holds true for violent crime. The fact that you have not been raped, crippled or murdered, so far, has nothing to do with whatever is going to happen in the future. The only way to have your gun on the day you desperately need it, is to have it every day.



"The Human Element"

By Randy Richardson, Rangemaster Instructor

The local training schedule afforded me the opportunity to take an interesting and thought provoking class on April 28th & 29th in Memphis. The class was Southnarc's "Armed Movement in Structures". I took the class because I teach a structure clearing block in the Rangemaster level 2 class. I approached the class not knowing exactly what to expect and was slightly concerned that my middle aged body might not endure a Southnarc ECQ class. Thankfully, the class did not include grappling. However, my mind was thoroughly challenged and my moral compass was fine tuned. Why, you may ask. Well, for the first time I was introduced to the human element in an armed confrontation.

Throughout my training, all of my targets were inanimate objects or people that had a specific role understood by all parties. During the 2 day course, we learned to hunt other people and be hunted by people in increasingly difficult scenarios. Also, all parties had air pistols, which at close range can provide a pain stimulus sufficient to inspire your best performance. The course also introduced me to "confrontational" situational awareness training and how to professionally handle a perp in your residence. I died several times, but usually I took them with me, and I definitely gained valuable experience from each confrontation.

The training showed us how to move with purpose and stealth. It also involved pacing your fight to the situation and making rapid decisions based on the circumstances. The class also demonstrated situations where it is necessary to act aggressively to quickly regain the initiative in a close quarter's battle.

Southnarc also showed us the complicated reality of dealing with humans. One response does not always fit all circumstances. I used to think that any perp that was in my house while I was there was going to get shot. However, Southnarc, without a moral judgement, challenged any of us to shoot our new neighbor that is drunk and has mistakenly entered our house or the kid down the block committing a theft on a dare and begging for his life while you hold him at gun-point. Have you been presented with these scenarios in your training? Would you know what to do?

Lastly, this training actually showed me how to think strategically in a gun fight and modify my tactics to give me the best chance of prevailing in a crappy situation. The first sentence of Southnarc's beginning power point presentation was, "There is no good way to do this". While this statement was true, what I learned was invaluable. This class will be back in Memphis next April. If you want to challenge yourself, I would highly recommend the class. P.S. Do not team with the Rangemaster Den mother (Lynn Givens); she shoots very well under pressure.



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Homicide Trends

The US Department of Justice gathers and reports information on a number of crime classifications from all over the United States. They recently released a huge amount of data on homicides occurring during the time period 1976-2005. This is a 29 year period, so there was a lot of data to examine. Here are a few tidbits from that information.

Males are almost four times as likely to be murdered as females. Males are also far more likely to be the offender.

Among male victims, they were killed by:

Spouse, ex-spouse, or girlfriend	5%
Other family member	6.8%
Acquaintance/known person	35.3%
Stranger or unknown	52.9%

Among female victims, they were killed by:

Spouse, ex-spouse, boyfriend	30%
Other family member	11.8%
Acquaintance/ known person	21.8%
Stranger/unknown	36.3%

Cases involving:

male offender/ male victim	65.3%
male offender/female victim	22.7%
female offender/male victim	9.6%
female offender/female victim	2.4%

Age of victims:

Under 18	9.8%
18-34	52.7%
35-49	22.8%
50+	14.7%

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Circumstances of murder, 2005 only:

Felony murder*	2,432	15%
Argument	4,787	
Gang related	955	5.7%
Other **	2,223	
Unknown **	6,295	

Felony murder is a murder committed during the commission of some other felony, such as armed robbery, car-jacking, rape, etc.

“Other” and “Unknown” accounted for 51% of all homicides. “Other”, “Unknown” and “Felony Murder” together comprised 66% (2 out of 3) of these homicides. These are the ones we go armed to prevent.

A couple of other quick facts:

Each year about 4,400 unidentified human bodies are recovered in the US. About 1,000 remain unidentified after one year. At any given time, there are approximately 100,000 active missing person cases in the US. Many of these are soon found, as they are voluntary disappearances due to marital discord, domestic violence, credit issues, etc. However, several thousand each year disappear without a trace and are never seen again. Obviously, these are undetected homicides that add to the data detailed above.

Other Violent Crime

These figures are also from the Bureau of Justice Statistics, a branch of the US Department of Justice. These deal specifically with 2006.

Total Violent Crime Incidents for 2006 = 5,685,620 (1 for every 54 people)

A common fallacy is that this violent crime takes place in the wee hours, after midnight. Wrong!

6 am-6 pm 52.4% 6 pm-midnight 32.8% midnight-6 am 10.9%

Robbery = 645,950 with injury to the victim= 232,380

Rape = 255,630 Victim's advocacy groups believe about 1 rape out of every 6 is reported to the police. Do the math.

Aggravated Assault = 1,209,730 (assault with a deadly weapon or serious injury to the victim)

Tennessee Handgun Carry Permits Update

As of May 7, 2012, there were 360,053 valid Handgun Carry Permits in Tennessee. This includes 46,423 residents in Shelby County with Handgun Carry Permits. This is roughly 10% of the adult population of the county.



Over the Memorial Day three day weekend in Chicago, 11 people were shot dead and at least 43 others were wounded. This in a city where until recently no one could legally own a handgun and where there is still no legal way for a private citizen to carry a side-arm for self defense.

When only the criminals are allowed to have guns, they attack the citizens with impunity, with no fear of anyone fighting back. This is the predictable outcome of all gun control restrictions. The only people who abide by gun laws are law abiding citizens. You would think even politicians would eventually realize this.

FBI Releases 2011 Preliminary Statistics for Law Enforcement Officers Killed in the Line of Duty

According to preliminary statistics released today by the FBI, 72 of our nation's law enforcement officers were feloniously killed in the line of duty during 2011. By region, 29 victims were killed in the South, 21 in the Midwest, 10 each were killed in the West and the Northeast, and two were killed in Puerto Rico. The total number of officers feloniously killed in 2011 was 16 more than the 56 officers slain in 2010.





We taught a four day instructor development course at the Firearms Academy of Seattle in June. Great people, great class!

Tom on the line during the FAS Instructor Course in June, Washington state.



We managed to work in a day of salmon fishing while teaching in Washington. Lynn caught a couple of really big salmon on her first such outing.

Thoughts on Concealed Carry

By: Lt. Marlan J. Ingram, Memphis Law Enforcement Unit

There is a saying when it comes to firearms usage that, 'you hope you never need a gun, because if you *need it*, you are going to *need it real bad*'. While this is a colorful statement, I take it to be a true one. In addition to being a firearms instructor, I'm also a Tennessee Certified Concealed Carry Instructor, and I also have a Handgun Carry Permit. I not only counsel and teach others about the ins and outs of concealed carry, I've even taken it to the extent of designing and making what I feel are the ideal concealed carry holsters. I would like to take this opportunity to share my thoughts on carrying concealed firearms.

As of this writing, 49 states now have provisions for civilians to legally carry firearms, and the LEOSA (Law Enforcement Officers Safety Act) has greatly expanded the rights of law enforcement officers, both current and retired, to carry firearms off duty and concealed, respectively, as well. With the perception of both terrorism and crime at an all time high, many people are taking advantage of the right to carry, but many of those carrying a firearm concealed for the first time find that it's not as easy as they initially thought it would be. For one, it represents a lifestyle change, with added responsibilities. On top of that, you are now carrying around a lump of metal weighing up to a couple of pounds or so, which can present its own comfort challenges as well. Actually, those issues of comfort are the easiest to deal with, so let's discuss those first.

Those who get into carrying concealed for the first time often make a series of mistakes which can hamper both effectiveness and comfort, and those mistakes are; the wrong gun, the wrong holster, the wrong belt, and the wrong clothing. Let's take a closer look.

The Handgun

When choosing a handgun to carry for defense, those new to the concealed carry lifestyle often make what I call 'the first mistake', that is, they usually select the smallest pistol they can get, usually in a relatively ineffective caliber. If you will consider, the handgun is a personal defense weapon to be deployed in a worst case scenario, when life is on the line. Just how bad that situation can be is one you have no control over, but if you find yourself in the midst of a Mumbai Style attack, and all you have is a .22 caliber two shot derringer, well, it doesn't take a whole lot of imagination to figure that the situation might not work out in your favor. Therefore, the recommendation in a handgun is that you carry a full size 'fighting pistol', or at least a compact version of one. The pistol should be in a 'service' caliber, meaning .9mm or greater for a semi-automatic pistol, and .38 caliber or better in a revolver. Something simple in operation is best, as you have to keep in mind that it will be deployed under great stress. For semi-auto pistols, I like designs such as the Glock and the XD Springfield. For revolvers, I prefer Smith & Wessons. At any rate, these are personal choices, and if you have a certain type of firearm that you have utilized for several years as a duty side-arm, and

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you are intimately familiar with it, then sticking with the same design for off duty and concealed carry is advisable. Whatever you choose, it should be 100% reliable.

The Holster

Once someone new to concealed carry buys their handgun, they often make what I call 'the second mistake'. They will spend \$500 or \$600 on a new pistol, and then walk over to the holster section and ask, "What's the cheapest holster you've got for this gun?" They usually wind up with a flimsy, nylon clip on holster that completely fails at its primary objectives, which are securing, supporting and aiding in concealing the pistol. The new concealed carrier then has a misperception that the pistol is 'too heavy', and more often than not, find themselves leaving the pistol at home, meaning that when they really need it, chances are they may not have it.

While ankle holsters, shoulder holsters, fanny packs, belly bands, pager pals, and a wide variety of holsters have been used in the past, and are still available, what most experienced, savvy concealed carriers eventually settle on is carrying the pistol in a holster at the waist. When carrying at the waist, there are two basic methods; IWB (Inside the Waistband) and OWB (Outside the Waistband). Both methods tend to be popular, with OWB probably having a stronger following, and being known for being a bit more comfortable. When the pistol is worn at the waist, the holster should hold it in a position that I refer to as 'high and tight'. The 'high' part means that the trigger guard of the pistol should be at or above the level of the belt, and the 'tight' part means that the holster should pull the pistol into the body, so that the handle of the pistol doesn't flare out. The holster should have a 'cant', meaning an angle that tilts the butt of the pistol forward, preventing it from sticking out (printing) the back of the shirt. From a standpoint of comfort, the belt loop slots on the holster should be widely spaced, which distributes the weight of the pistol over a wider area. The holster should have a sweat guard, which not only prevents sweat from contacting the pistol, but also keeps the slide of the pistol from digging into the wearer's side. Finally, the holster should be made from thick, high quality 9/10 oz. leather, and wet molded to the contours of the pistol, which aids in retention.

As mentioned earlier, I make my own holsters to follow these basic guidelines, and my advice is that custom, semi or fully hand-made gun leather is well worth the price, which can run from approximately \$75 dollars on up to \$175, and sometimes more. However, wait times for such leather work can go from a low of three months, to a high of about three years. Some of the top names in the industry are; Del Fatti, Milt Sparks, Mitch Rosen, Tucker, Horseshoe Leather Products, and 5 Shot Leather. For revolver holsters, I think that Bell Charter Oak products are excellent. With that said, if you don't want the extended wait times associated with custom gun leather, then buying off the rack (ready-made) is an option. My preference for off the rack holsters is Galco.

The following pages illustrate photos of holsters that I've made, which follow the guidelines outlined in the article.

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This is my off duty Glock 22, in a holster of my own design and make, which follows the basic guidelines given in the article. Remember, when your ammo runs out, your life expectancy runs out, so if you carry a pistol, always carry at least one reload. Personally, I always carry TWO spare magazines.

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On those occasions when I carry a revolver off duty, I carry this S&W Model 10 Snub Nose, along with an additional speed loader.

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For those desiring to carry a J-frame revolver, this S&W Model 40 Centennial rides comfortably in a Cross Draw holster.

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This is what I call a ‘minimalist’ approach, a J-frame Smith & Wesson in a pocket holster.

The Gun Belt

Once a correct pistol and holster has been selected, another common mistake is to then put this combination of pistol and holster on a regular trousers belt. A trousers belt is intended to hold up the pants, and nothing more, and is usually pliable and thin. Instead, a gun belt should be selected that is made specifically to carry a holstered fire-arm. What makes such a belt different? For starters, it’s both thicker and stiffer than a traditional trousers belt, so that it can adequately support the weight of the holstered pistol. To get maximum efficiency out of this concept, the belt should be matched to the holster. What I mean by this is, if the holster has slots for a 1 ¼ inch belt, then a 1 ¼ inch belt should be selected. Likewise, if a holster has slots for a 1 ½ inch belt, then a 1 ½ inch belt should be selected. Not only does this adequately support the weight of the holstered pistol, but it also keeps the holster in place, so that there is no need to continuously adjust or manipulate the holster for comfort. The manufacturers of holsters that I listed above also provide excellent quality gun belts.

Clothing

Another common problem I see among new concealed carriers, is not wearing clothing

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that supports the carriage of a concealed pistol. However, even in warmer weather, this can easily be accomplished. When it comes to pants, I prefer jeans, as these ruggedly constructed pants provide a base for the gun belt to be looped through. Khaki or similar material works as well, and in hotter weather, shorts made of this material will also suffice. You will also want a t-shirt, which aids in keeping the holster/gun combo off of the skin, and in hotter weather, a tank top style t-shirt works just as well. Over this, a simple un-tucked polo shirt helps to conceal the holstered pistol. As a final note on clothing, secure, rugged footwear, such as hiking boots or shoes, or at the least, rugged tennis shoes are preferable. While flip flops or sandals may be popular footwear in the warmer months, they can be a hindrance in a violent fight requiring dynamic movement.

That wasn't so bad, was it? Now you know what it takes to carry a concealed firearm in comfort. That's the easy part, but there's more to the story, because now we have to talk about the responsibilities associated with carrying a concealed firearm.

Responsibilities

The first responsibility that you have if you are legally carrying a concealed handgun is to know, and obey your state laws regarding concealed carry, including use of force. In most cases, stating that you didn't know what the law was to a law enforcement officer or a judge is NOT considered to be an affirmative defense. Fortunately, I've found that simple internet searches can yield all of the information you desire, so use this invaluable resource and stay abreast of the current laws not only in your state, but in the states that you travel to (that recognize your carry permit). A good starting point is the website www.LegallyArmed.com, which gives a basic synopsis of the laws in each state.

The next category on the list that you are responsible for is marksmanship. Years ago, when I was much younger, and long before I was involved in the law enforcement field, I remember an altercation back in my old neighborhood between a police officer, and an assailant. The altercation unfortunately led to gunfire, and while neither the officer or the assailant was hit, the officer managed to shoot and kill a three year old child sitting on a nearby porch. It doesn't take much to imagine how this tragedy affected all involved. Sure, anything can happen in a gunfight, but there is NO excuse for being a poor marksman, especially if you are going to carry a firearm as a means of personal protection. Remember two important things: Every bullet that comes out of the barrel of your gun has a lawyer attached to it, and firearms skills are perishable. Take the responsibility, get to the range, and improve your skill NOW.

To this, I will add one more item, and that is ammunition selection. If you are forced to shoot an attacker, then your goal is to stop that attacker from hurting you, or someone else. Ball ammunition, also called LRN (Lead Round Nose) or FMJ (Full Metal Jacket) is generally used for practice, but in most cases makes poor defensive ammunition. The reason it is generally not considered adequate for defense is because it has a high likelihood of passing through the attacker and NOT stopping them, while continuing on to hit an innocent bystander. Fortunately, most major manufacturers, such as Remington, Winchester, Federal, Speer, etc., make a variety of JHP (Jacketed Hollow Point) ammunition that has a higher likelihood of actually stopping an attack, and less of a possibility of passing through

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and hitting someone innocent. Choose wisely.

I often compare carrying a firearm to putting on a seat belt in an automobile. Every time I get behind the wheel, I put on the seat belt, and I'm grateful that I also have an air bag. The thing is, those two tools, the seat belt and air bag, are NOT guarantees that you will survive a crash, but they do increase your chances. However, being attentive to what is going on around you while driving can go a long way towards not getting into an accident in the first place, which brings us to two other responsibilities for concealed carriers that go hand in hand; Awareness, and Conflict Avoidance. Basically, I try to see trouble before it starts. I keep my eyes open and stay aware of my surroundings, and try not to go places where the likely hood of trouble is high. If I can see the trouble before it starts, then I am in an excellent position to practice the next phase, which is Conflict Avoidance. Don't seek trouble just because you are carrying a firearm. Walk away from insults, don't participate in road rage incidents, and don't participate in arguments. You always have to keep in mind where such altercations can lead. If you have an alternative to a violent encounter, then choose the alternative. Remember, a firearm and deadly force are to be used when life is on the line, and no other alternative exists.

In addition to your firearm, there are three other tools that I consider to be essential, and which may help in keeping you from having to resort to using a firearm. One of those tools is a good pocket knife. Many of us grew up carrying a pocket knife as a regular item, and find it hard to be without one. It's one of those items that you can take for granted, and not really miss it, until you are at a point where you need to cut something, and find that you don't have one. However, it can also serve as a good back-up weapon, and it can aid in weapon (firearm) retention.

Another tool which is a favorite of mine for everyday carry is O.C. Spray. There may in fact be some assaults that you are subjected to where the usage of a firearm is not appropriate, and where the application of a less lethal object like O.C. Spray can have advantages. As an O.C. Spray instructor, I've practiced (with both Inert and live) spraying with my off-hand, and that is where I routinely carry it when I get out of my vehicle. Shopping mall parking lots are notorious for robberies and assaults, and having and utilizing O.C. Spray in a 'hit and run' technique in such instances can go a long way towards keeping you from harm, and keeping you from having to resort to a higher level of force.

While we are talking about alternatives to the use of firearms, it makes excellent sense to have solid, realistic, hand to hand skills in your arsenal. One of the best systems around, in my opinion, is Krav Maga (The Israeli Martial Arts System) Keep in mind, however, that if you are attacked, and you resort to physical tactics to resolve the situation, that you should end it aggressively and quickly. The longer the fight goes on, the more fatigue becomes a factor, which can change the game – and not always in your favor (especially if you find yourself facing multiple assailants). For this reason, although I'm a Defensive Tactics Instructor, I would prefer to utilize O.C. Spray before resorting to hands on, if possible. Keep in mind that just as with firearms, additional, advanced training is available dealing with both knives and O.C. Spray. An inquiry at your local firing ranges and martial arts academies should point you in the right direction for training resources.

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A final tool that I consider to be essential is a cell phone. If you just avoided, or were just involved in an altercation, then I feel that the next responsible course of action is to immediately call the police. In any encounter where you may be called upon to use force, or threaten to use force, there are three main players. One is the attacker, one is the victim, and the other is the police, who are the responders. If you are forced into a position where you have to use force against another individual, and you don't call the police, but the other individual (or bystander) DOES call the police, which role do you think that YOU get to play? Have your cell phone available, and make sure you are the first to call. When those officers respond to the scene, it is imperative that you **follow the officer's commands and instructions immediately and without hesitation**. It is not unknown for off-duty or plain clothes officers to be mistakenly shot by uniformed officers arriving on the scene. Yes, this may in fact mean that you will temporarily be placed in handcuffs. Remain calm and comply with the responding officers. The situation and details will be sorted out in due time.

The final responsibility I feel that we have as concealed carriers is discretion. In other words, if you follow the clothing and holster guidelines that I gave earlier, you should be able to adequately carry a firearm with you throughout your daily activities, with none being the wiser. In addition, while carrying concealed is certainly nothing to be ashamed of, there can be several pitfalls to advertising the fact that you are armed, one of which is that you don't know how those around you will react. Concealed means concealed. It's like that seatbelt that we discussed earlier, it's better to have it and not need it, than it is to need it and not have it.