



Tactical Talk

Volume 17, Issue 4

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Do not argue
with an idiot. He
will drag you
down to his level
and beat you
with experience.



Inside this issue:

<i>Conference Report</i>	3
<i>Personal Responsibility</i>	4
<i>Harper Article</i>	6
<i>The Lie of Need</i>	8
<i>Ayooob Returns</i>	9
<i>Out-of-Town Classes</i>	11

*You're
on
Your
Own!*



To borrow a phrase from trainer Darryl Bolke, when someone breaks into your home or pulls a gun on you in a street robbery, **YOU** are the first responder. The police are secondary responders, who will arrive long after the event is over.

According to a recent article in the Atlanta Journal Constitution, Atlanta police were the slowest to answer high-priority, life-threatening situations, such as armed robberies, assaults, shootings in progress, and similar high priority emergency calls among police departments from seven similar-sized cities. The results were part of a survey of police response times. In Atlanta last year it took, on average, 11 minutes and 12 seconds from the time a high-priority 911 call was received until an Atlanta police officer showed up at the scene. The response times reported by the El Paso (Texas) Police Department were only one second quicker than Atlanta's, with an average of 11 minutes and 11 seconds. This is sadly typical in just about all large cities.



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Annual Tactical Conference Report

The Tactical Conference and Polite Society Match was conducted Friday through Sunday, March 1-3 at Rangemaster. The event was a huge success.

One hundred and fifty trainers, attendees and Rangemaster staff spent three days training and testing their skills. We had 25 presenters this year, who gave two-hour blocks of instruction on everything from immediate field trauma care, to criminal psychology, to flashlight searching and shooting techniques and tactics, to setting up a training program. There was hands on training in weapon retention/disarms, knife defense, and managing unknown contacts, including some Sims and airsoft scenario work against live opponents. The shooting match involved an "active shooter" theme, requiring both accurate shooting and fast decision making. Good stuff!

The list of trainers who participated reads like a virtual Who's Who of the training industry, including Massad Ayoob, John Farnam, Southnarc, Wayne Dobbs, Darryl Bolke, Rob Pincus, John Hearne, William Aprill, Greg Ellifritz, Chuck Gaggard, Karl Rehn, Caleb Causey, Paul Pawela, Skip Gochenour, Shane Gosa, Steve Moses, Leslie Buck, Dr Troy Miller, "Doc K", Spencer Keepers, Jon Hodoway, Claude Werner, Kathy Jackson, Marty Hayes, and Tom Givens. Todd Green and Dr Gary Roberts were scheduled to attend, but both

were sidelined by health issues and couldn't be here.

The match was fired by 136 shooters. There were 20 currently serving law enforcement officers who shot. The High Lawman Award went to Indiana police firearms instructor Jerrod Baugh, followed by David Hicks and Dave Garren in second and third places. A Total of 16 females shot the match, with the High Lady Award going to Anita Hopkins, followed closely by Lynn Givens and Gail Pepin in the second and third places. The overall winner was Dave Reichel, followed by Randy Richardson and Karl Rehn in the second and third spots.

Twenty five members of Rangemaster's staff provided support services throughout the event, including running the match twelve hours a day and logistical support behind the sales counter and elsewhere. Our sincere thanks to them, as the event could not go on without them.

Next year's event will be at Rangemaster on Feb 21-23, 2014. Make your plans to attend now. We already have some new trainers committed to present topics at this event, plus the usual suspects. Registration forms will be available soon.



Personal Responsibility

By Loren W. Christensen

One of the unique aspects of my 29 years in law enforcement is that I saw so many victims of brutal crimes. Cops and ambulance crews see the end result of man's inhumanity to man, often just moments after they have been beaten, knifed, shot, burned, tortured, raped, abused, or suffered a host of other inventive ways that violate human flesh and spirit. Only the first responders see victims where they fall, where loved ones wail, and where the perpetrator resists arrest with rage, fists, knives, and guns.

Experiencing that for 29 years does something to a person. In short, it gives the individual great compassion for victims, especially innocent ones, and a detestation for those who cause such pain and suffering. I learned early that most perpetrators are cowards, sickos, bullies, and simple-minded criminals who enjoy giving others pain. I never tired of putting such vermin behind bars.

Portland, Oregon, where I served as a police officer, is a city considered medium-large with all the crime problems that go with so many people stuffed into its boundaries. Our 911 center is typical of most large police departments. Officers are dispatched based on priority ranking. A Priority 1 call is considered hot, such as a shooting, knifing, or an armed robbery in progress. A Priority 5 is a cold call, such as a stolen lawn mower or a bad check. Clearly, a Priority 1 gets an officer now—at least it should.

Although my police bureau's response time is top notch, some shifts are so busy that Priority 1 calls get backed up. You call 911 on a busy night to report that someone is getting attacked on the corner by a gangbanger, and you get a "please hold" message. Or if you do get an operator, you're told it's going to be a while because all police units are on other Priority 1 calls, and there are 10 more in the system waiting to be dispatched as soon as an officer is free.

There are other causes of a seemingly slow police response. The closest police officer to you might be a long way from where you are. One of the largest beats in Portland is 35 blocks long. If the officer responsible for it gets a Priority 1 call at its far end at 5 p.m. during heavy going-home traffic, even racing with overhead lights and siren could take several minutes. It takes even longer when he is at the far end of a neighboring police beat helping an officer there with one of his problems, as he now has to drive across that beat and then across the length of his beat to reach the Priority 1. Sometimes he can't respond to the hot call because he has a prisoner in custody or because he has been waved over by someone regarding a problem. In that case, the officer working the next beat over would be sent, which means he would have to drive across two beats to get to the priority call.

In short, there are any number of reasons why the police aren't always going to be instantly available when you want them. Some people huff and puff about this and accuse the police, their local government, and the current U.S. president of all kinds of things. That's fine, but what remains is the fact that sometimes the police are just a block away when you call and other times it will take them awhile to get to where you need them.

What this means is that you have to be responsible for your safety and that of your family's. Some people don't like this bit of reality. If you're one of them, think of it this way: It's your life — do you really want to leave it up to the way things ought to be?

As a guy who has spent much of his life witnessing the cruel street dance of ugly predator and helpless prey, I can sadly report that the world can be an extraordinarily brutal place. To borrow from author Ray Bradbury, you never know when suddenly "something wicked this way comes." Your day is full of innocent, routine activi-

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ties: you take your spouse to a movie or your kids to the park, or you stop at a coffee joint for a latte. You've done these things hundreds of times, but on this occasion you come face to face with a predator. Maybe he wants your car, your money, or your kid. Maybe he doesn't want anything tangible; he just wants to hurt you. While you never know for sure what a predator wants or is going to do, you do know that your life and the lives of your loved ones need to be protected.

When I was a cop, there were times when I could see that a situation with someone was rapidly deteriorating and would soon turn physical. Though I have always practiced my martial arts four or five days a week, I would nonetheless have a fleeting thought that I should have practiced harder. While illogical, it was still an uncomfortable feeling to experience.

So right here, right now, pause to determine your weaknesses. It might be your:

- ♦ fitness
- ♦ hand-to-hand skills
- ♦ blade skills
- ♦ firearm skills
- ♦ improvised weapons skill
- ♦ home security
- ♦ office security
- ♦ school security
- ♦ wilderness skills

Paladin Press offers books and DVDs in all of these categories that will quickly get you on the right path to greater confidence in your ability to handle any situation. Don't get caught unprepared. It's not a good feeling.



Loren Christensen is the author of two dozen Paladin books and videos, including [Deadly Force Encounters](#), [Restraint and Control Strategies](#), and [Warriors](#). Loren was a military policeman in Saigon during the Vietnam War and retired from the Portland, Oregon, Police Department after more than two decades of service. He can be contacted through his website at www.lwcbbooks.com.

PERSONAL DEFENSE LESSONS FROM MILITARY SPECIAL OPERATIONS

by Rangemaster Instructor Craig Harper

It's not likely that any of us are going to be participating in military special operations like Operation Neptune Spear, the raid that killed Osama bin Laden. None-the-less, there are lessons from Spec Ops that are applicable to civilians interested in personal defense. To be sure, street encounters with thugs are not glamorous - there will be no movie made about our actions - but for us, they will be every bit as intense and every bit as special as the most daring Spec Op.

I recently read a book by Admiral William H. McRaven, the current commander of the U.S. Special Force Command. Admiral McRaven is a career special forces guy, starting as a SEAL platoon commander and rising to his current position as the leader of all U.S. Special Forces. In his book, *Cases Studies in Special Operation Warfare; Theory and Practice*, McRaven examined eight special operations and concluded that there are six principles of Spec Ops:

- ◆ Simplicity
- ◆ Security
- ◆ Repetition
- ◆ Surprise
- ◆ Speed
- ◆ Purpose

All six of these have application in personal defense.

Simplicity: While all the studied operations were successful to varying degrees, the most successful were the ones with a simple plan. Complexity adds friction that can slow an operation and even cause it to fail. Simplicity is important in personal defense too. Our actions must be simple and easily repeatable. For example, our need to use the same overhand grip to close the slide when fixing malfunctions as we use when reloading. The more we complicate our actions, the greater the likelihood of failure.

Security: This is obvious for Spec Ops. The operation will not be successful if the enemy knows what you're up to. How does security apply to us? The most obvious is to carry your weapons concealed. While open carry may be legal; it's not smart. Other security measures include not wearing clothing that may indicate you're armed. A ball cap or t-shirt that advertises your favorite brand of pistol may be cool, but it could also tip off bad guys that you are armed. Save those items of clothing for the practice range, not for street wear.

(Continued on page 7)

(Continued from page 6)

Repetition: The most successful raids were those when the operators had the opportunity to repeatedly practice the exact actions they were to take during the operation. As civilians, we don't know the exact situation we will be in when we have to defend ourselves, but we do know what skills we may have to draw upon. The practice of basic skills need to be frequent enough to be able to rely on them as they are needed. That means practice of: verbal commands, presenting the weapon, moving off the line of attack, checking for multiple threats, use of cover and concealment, malfunction drills, and, of course, marksmanship. We may need only one or two of those skills in any given encounter. The trick is, we don't know which ones we will need so we better be skillful with all of them.

Surprise: All the successful special operations had some degree of surprise. There was sufficient surprise to keep the enemy from being prepared for the attack, obviously, and once the attack was underway, to keep the enemy in a constant state of confusion and defense. Jeff Cooper made this point years ago concerning personal defense: do the unexpected; fight back! One of the reasons we carry our weapons concealed is for the momentary tactical advantage it provides over our adversary.

Speed: The longer the mission takes, the less chance for success. The most successful Spec Ops were the ones that took the least amount of time considering the total context of the mission. In personal defense, we know that the actual fight is generally over in 3 seconds or less. The total encounter with thugs may extend a bit but, criminals are in a hurry, so it's not going to run long. We also know that alertness is key to personal defense for it provides us the opportunity to rapidly grasp a situation, to quickly develop a plan that includes disengagement if possible and, if we can't disengage, to be proactive instead of reactive. It's obvious why we need to challenge ourselves during range practice to be quick in our actions.

Purpose: It may seem odd that purpose would be a principle; wouldn't purpose be obvious? It's included because single operations have been planned that had several purposes, resulting in mixed outcomes. Successful raids have clear purpose. The 1976 Israeli raid at Entebbe, one of the all-time most successful operations, had a clear purpose: free the hostages and keep them alive. Conversely, the 1942 British raid at Saint-Nazaire, France was less successful. While the main goal of the operation was successful, because there were multiple objectives, the British suffered considerable losses; both in deaths and capture. As civilians, our purpose is clear: to do everything in our power to keep ourselves and our loved ones free from harm. It is that simple and it should never be forgotten.

On the surface, Special Operations and personal defense would seem to have little in common. Our scale may be much smaller, but our "wars" are equally intense and critical. We will do well when we adhere to the principles of Spec Ops.



The Lie of Need

By Todd Green

My wife is a nationally recognized expert in her professional community, a community in which liberals are substantially more prevalent than conservatives. She travels the country quite a bit attending conferences and seminars, and many of her peers know she is a gun owner. She came home from one such conference recently, where someone asked her why anyone needed so-called “assault rifles” and high capacity magazines.

The problem isn’t coming up with an answer to the question, the problem is the question itself. Need is not the deciding factor when it comes to a Constitutionally protected natural right. I don’t have to list reasons why I need a firearm, or a certain type of firearm, or a certain number of firearms. As soon as we fall into the trap of arguing why we need something, we’ve already capitulated.

Who needs a backyard pool? More children die in drowning accidents each year than are killed by firearms. Yet in most states there is no license needed to have a backyard pool. There are no training requirements. There are no pool capacity limits... think how many children’s lives could be saved if we limited all personally owned pools to no more than 10 gallons! Sure, people enjoy swimming (recreation) and some even participate in athletic events (competition), but is that worth the lives of more than 700 children a year? And there’s no Constitutional right to own a swimming pool.

Who needs alcohol? According to the [Centers for Disease Control](#), more people are killed in vehicular accidents than all gun-related deaths (accidental, felonious, and justified) combined. CDC also tells us that five times more children were killed in drunk driving accidents than drowned (so that’s seven times more children killed by drunk drivers than firearms). Furthermore, CDC reports that 1.4 million people are arrested each year for violating drunk driving laws in the U.S., and that almost one hundred times more people violate the law but are not caught. That’s almost as many drunk drivers as lawful gun owners! But what state would tell its citizens they can only buy one six-pack of beer a month, and outlaw dangerous high-octane “assault liquors” for the children?

Not convinced? OK, how many people among us need the protections of the Fourth Amendment? Are you hiding illegal contraband in your house? If not, then you don’t need the 4th. You’ve got nothing to hide, so you don’t need any protection against random house to house searches.

Don’t fall into the trap of debating need. The government doesn’t have the authority to restrict a Constitutional right based solely on need.



Tom Givens teaches a class in Georgia.

Massad Ayoob Returning to Rangemaster

June 29-30, 2013

for MAG-20, “Rules of Engagement for the Armed Citizen”

This is Ayoob’s signature course, with 20 hours of all classroom training on the legal aspects of the use of deadly force by private citizens. Class will run from 8am until 6pm on Saturday and Sunday in our modern, comfortable classroom. Tuition is \$400. Call 901-370-5600 to register.

The following Monday, July 1, Tom Givens will conduct a one day Advanced Pistol Skills course on our air conditioned indoor range. Students who attend Ayoob’s course can stay over an extra day and get a full day of intensive shooting skills training with Tom. Cost is only \$200, and you will need 400 rounds of jacketed ammunition, which can be purchased here. Again, call 901-370-5600 to register.





Proper grip and an aggressive stance control recoil. Note the two fired cases in the air right by this student's pistol, but gun back on target.



Students learn to shoot on the move in a Dynamic Marksmanship Course



We had an excellent Firearms Instructor Development Course in South Carolina in March. This class had students from South Carolina, North Carolina, New York, and Washington state.

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contact John Farquhar

937-787-4414 513-503-1367 johndavidfarquhar@frontier.com

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Sclay896@yahoo.com \$425.00

May 31- June 2 Combined Skills, Longview, Texas (Fri eve, Sat-Sun)

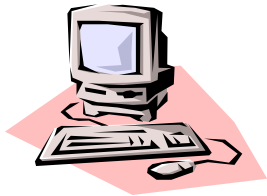
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