



# Tactical Talk

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**"Crime is not only a complete disavowal of the social contract, but also a commandeering of the victim's person and liberty. If the individual's dignity lies in the fact that he is a moral agent engaging in actions of his own will, in free exchange with others, then crime always violates the victim's dignity. It is, in fact, an act of enslavement. Your wallet, your purse, or your car may not be worth your life, but your dignity is; and if it is not worth fighting for, it can hardly be said to exist."**

**-- Jeffrey R. Snyder**

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## The truth from Harvard. *Incredible.*

[http://www.law.harvard.edu/students/orgs/ilpp/Vol30\\_No2/KatesMauseronline.pdf](http://www.law.harvard.edu/students/orgs/ilpp/Vol30_No2/KatesMauseronline.pdf)

A Harvard Study titled "Would Banning Firearms Reduce Murder and Suicide?" looks at figures for "intentional deaths" throughout continental Europe and juxtaposes them with the U.S. to show that more gun control does not necessarily lead to lower death rates or violent crime.

Because the findings so clearly demonstrate that more gun laws may in fact increase death rates, the study says that "the mantra that more guns mean more deaths and that fewer guns, therefore, mean fewer deaths" is wrong.



Looking at Western Europe, the study shows that Norway "has far and away Western Europe's highest household gun ownership rate (32%), but also its lowest murder rate."

And when the study focuses on intentional deaths by looking at the U.S. vs. Continental Europe, the findings are no less revealing. The U.S., which is so often labeled as the most violent nation in the world by gun control proponents, comes in 7th--behind Russia, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Belarus, and the Ukraine--in murders. America also only ranks 22nd in suicides.

The murder rate in Russia, where handguns are banned, is 30.6; the rate in the U.S. is 7.8.

***—borrowed comments from UrgentAgenda.com***

## A Tale of Two Cities

The IWO is the Austrian equivalent of our NRA, and is the primary organization for the protection of Austrian citizens' gun rights. The following information appeared in their journal recently. It seems the Austrians get it, even if American Leftists don't.

	Chicago, IL	Houston, TX
Population	2.7 million	2.15 million
Median household income	\$38,600	\$37,000
% African-American	38.9%	24%
% Hispanic	29.9%	44%
%Asian	5.5%	6%
%Non-Hispanic White	38.7%	26%
<b><i>Pretty similar until you compare the following:</i></b>		
Concealed carry permits available	NO	YES
Number of gun shops	0	84*
Homicides, 2012	806	207
Homicides per 100,000	28.4	9.6



(\*Plus 1,500 other legally licensed places to buy guns in Houston, such as Wal-Mart, sporting goods stores, etc.)

In Houston, guns are widely available and Texas is a "shall issue" state for carry permits. Tens of thousands of Houston residents have handgun carry permits. Houston's per capita murder rate, however, is one third that of Chicago, where no one has a permit to carry and until just recently handguns were banned. Criminals thrive wherever decent citizens are forced to be unarmed.



*Class photo from the Instructor Development Course we did in Memphis in August. There were 20 students from Indiana, Michigan, Kentucky, Oklahoma, Texas, Ohio, Mississippi, and Tennessee. The back row consists of Rangemaster staff who coached and assisted with the class.*



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## ***It has happened again! Death and destruction!***

by Craig Harper, Rangemaster Instructor

Another senseless act of violence! This must stop! We need common sense laws! There needs to be congressional hearings! Our culture promotes an atmosphere of violence where those who shouldn't have access to weapons of mass destruction have gotten their hands on one and death and injury to innocent people resulted!

I've been waiting to hear things like that from the usual voices of outrage concerning one of the latest mass killing but so far - crickets. That's because in this incident the nut case used an automobile - not firearms - to kill 1 (so far) and injure 11 in early August in Venice, CA. As far as I've been able to determine, the anti-gun screamers have not trotted out any of the chestnuts usually heard if someone used a firearm to perpetrate violence on society. The reason is simple - it's not about the violence, it's about wanting to disarm citizens.

A very hasty, one click internet search for the number of mass deaths caused by crazed people using a motor vehicle as a weapon turned up 6 prior incidents (and I know there are more) resulting in the deaths of 14 and injury to another 167. In none of those cases, did I see any related story calling for the restriction on ownership or use of motor vehicles. Nor should there have been.

According to the FBI, about 1/3 of mass killings since 2006 were the result of the use of knives or blunt objects. Yet, there is no outcry for the control of your steak knives or the need for expanded background checks before you purchase your child's softball bat. Nor should there be.

Other perpetrators of mass killings (defined by the FBI as an incident taking place over a short period of time and resulting in the death of 4 or more people) have used arson and bombs to commit their crimes. Yet you'll not hear about the need to control charcoal lighter or pressure cookers; the device used by the Boston bombers. Nor should there be.

It is also interesting to note that most of the mass killings take place where firearms are often banned; the workplace, schools and "posted" buildings. Armed citizens - had they not been prohibited from doing so - might have stopped the mass killing or minimized the damage. Since the perpetrators of mass killings are very methodical in the planning of their crime, it is quite likely that they knew there was nobody around who could stop them from carrying out their violent acts.

The fact of the matter is that we cannot possibly control the behavior of every person in the country. If some nut case decides to commit mayhem, they are going to find a way to do it.

When a firearm is used in a mass killing, guns and gun owners are convenient targets of the gun grabbers. It is easy to blame the instrument used or those who legally possess them as fostering a culture of violence. The facts do not support this position; but facts don't matter to those who would, at the least, restrict our ownership and legal use of firearms. In reality, they would rather ban them.

At the moment, anti-gun legislative activity has quieted down. But it will be back - guaranteed. We must take every opportunity to defend our legal ownership and use of firearms. This is the reality that we face and it's why we can never, ever let our guard down against the gun grabbers. Never. Ever.



# Training in Austria

In August, Lynn and I traveled to Austria to conduct a series of handgun training courses. We got to use a nice indoor police training range near Vienna, and had a multi-national group of motivated and talented students from Austria, Germany and Ireland. Most had Glocks of one model or another (no surprise) and one Smith & Wesson M&P. We taught a two day Defensive Pistol I course, followed by a two-day Defensive Pistol II course, and then two days of force on force training with marking cartridges and gear. Most of the students elected to do the whole six days of training.

It may come as a surprise to some in this country, but buying a handgun in Austria is easier than buying one in California or Illinois. It's also easier to get a "carry license" in Austria than in those states. Guns and ammunition are available, and for the most part prices seemed pretty reasonable. Competent training, however, is harder to come by than in the US. As a result, our students were highly motivated, worked hard and paid close attention to instruction. As a result, we had a lot of really good shooters by the end of the training cycle. We're set to return in 2014.



## Upcoming Rangemaster Road Classes

**Oct 19th**, Saturday, *Defensive Pistol Skills*, One Day, Americus, Georgia

**Oct 20th**, Sunday, *One Day Defensive Shotgun*, Americus, Georgia

**October 26-27th**, Saturday-Sunday, *Combative Pistol II*, Carthage, North Carolina

**Dec 7-8th**, Saturday-Sunday, *Dynamic Marksmanship Course*, Baton Rouge, Louisiana



## New Personal Security Book for Travelers

***This brand new (July 2013) book includes a chapter by our favorite writer, Tom Givens.***

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**Latest Book! Personal Security: A Guide for International Travelers**  
(July 2013, CRC Press)

<http://www.crcpress.com/product/isbn/9781466559448>

### Personal Security: A Guide for International Travelers

Tanya Spencer, Training Solutions, Copenhagen, Denmark

"... provides the perfect mix of lessons learned, tools, and recommendations from experts so that readers can personalize their own approach to managing travel risks. ... The information provided will allow readers to get out and experience the local culture while still traveling safely"

—Bernie Sullivan, Director Global Security, Hanesbrands Inc.



## Carry Your Darned Gun!

Rangemaster students' success rate (at least on events I know about) is 61/0/2 for 63 incidents. That's 61 clear victories, zero losses and 2 forfeits. The two forfeits were people who died as a result of not being armed on The Big Day. Both were killed in separate street robberies. Essentially, both were executed for the contents of their pockets. They were not able to defend themselves because they chose not to be armed that day. They made a poor choice.

Of the 61 students who won, only 3 were injured, and all recovered from those injuries. Based on my interviews with the winners, I believe the two **MOST** important factors are:

1. Having your damn gun on you when the event occurs, and
2. Being willing to use it to save your life.

Everything else-- gun model, caliber, ammo choice and Yes, even amount of training, seems to be a distant third after these primary two. Three of the shooters in our group were trained to our instructor level, four or five more to what I would call competency, and the rest had only had an eight hour carry permit course.

One of the things we stress at ALL training levels is the need to actually carry the gun daily, as one simply cannot make an appointment for an emergency. An emergency, in this context, is a sudden, unforeseen crisis in which one's life is in immediate mortal danger. The key words are "sudden, unforeseen", so making carrying a handgun a daily routine assures that it will be there when needed. I believe that because we stress this heavily, our students tend to be armed, and thus win when attacked.

I believe a big factor is the Bad Guy's training, education and life experience. Most BG's go through their entire careers without ever running into an armed citizen on the street. Only about 4% of the US population has some kind of carry permit, and I'd bet less than 1% of them actually carry on a routine, daily basis. So, when a BG confronts a citizen who is actually armed and produces his weapon, the resulting mental lag time for the BG allows even an untrained or minimally trained defender a golden opportunity. The one who starts the fight has an enormous advantage. In this context, the BG started the incident, but the student starts the fight.

This is not to say that more advanced training is not desirable. Several of my students have been in rather difficult extreme cases and still won. Fortunately, they had training beyond a permit course.

## Tactical Conference 2014 Updates

Our annual Tactical Conference will be conducted over three days, Feb. 21-23, 2014, Friday through Sunday, 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. each day. In 2014 the usual cast of trainers (John Farnam, Massad Ayoob, Southnarc, Todd Green, Marty Hayes, Tom Givens, Chuck Haggard, Wayne Dobbs, Darryl Bolke, etc, over 20 in all) will be presenting blocks of instruction, plus we have several new additions. Attorney and reserve police officer Mark Loreto will discuss the ramifications of traveling armed under LEOSA regulations; Cecil Burch will be teaching some of his innovative hand to hand concepts; and Kathy Jackson will be offering a segment on teaching firearms skills to females. As always, there will be classroom blocks, live action hands-on blocks, and the realistic tactical match in the range.

Cost is only \$299, the best bargain in the training industry. In 2013 we turned away about 20 applicants who waited too late to register. Space is limited, so the cut-off is strictly enforced. Sign up soon to avoid disappointment. The registration form and waiver can be downloaded at [www.rangemaster.com](http://www.rangemaster.com).



**We have a One Day Defensive Shotgun Course in Americus, Georgia, on Sunday, October 20, 2013. Contact our local host, Dennis Raines, at [seacapn2005@yahoo.com](mailto:seacapn2005@yahoo.com).**



*Students work from kneeling positions on the 25 yard line in an Instructor Development Course in South Carolina.*

## We're Number One!

The newest metropolitan area crime rankings were recently reported by the Christian Science Monitor. Once again, Memphis has regained it's Number One position as the most violent among the 50 largest metropolitan areas in the United States.

Here is how Memphis stacks up against the US national average. The numbers shown here reflect the number of offenses per 100,000 population.

<b>Category</b>	<b>Memphis</b>	<b>National Average</b>
<b>Violent Crime</b>	<b>980.4</b>	<b>386.3</b>
<b>Murder</b>	<b>10.6</b>	<b>4.7</b>
<b>Property Crime</b>	<b>4,562.8</b>	<b>2,908.7</b>

For statistical purposes, Violent Crime consists of Murder, Aggravated Assault, Forcible Rape, and Robbery. As you can see, the per capita rate for these violent crimes in Memphis is 2.5 times the national average.

A few other interesting tidbits:

In 2011 in the US, Robbery locations were broken down thus:

<b>Commercial businesses.....</b>	<b>13%</b>
<b>Convenience stores.....</b>	<b>5%</b>
<b>Banks.....</b>	<b>2%</b>
<b>Residences.....</b>	<b>17%</b>
<b>Gas stations.....</b>	<b>2.4%</b>
<b>Miscellaneous.....</b>	<b>16.8%</b>
<b>On the street.....</b>	<b>43.8%.</b>

Note that robberies at home only accounted for 17% of the total, while the vast majority occurred away from home. Carry your gun. Armed robbers used a gun in the perpetration of the robbery in 41.3% of the cases, a knife in 7.8%.



# Becoming a Firearms Instructor

*by Tom Givens*

There is an enormous need in this country for education about firearms and their use. Entertainment such as television and movies, along with anti-gun press and politicians leave the average American with no clue about the real use of firearms, either for recreation or more serious functions. Now, all fifty States in the US have some form of a civilian handgun carry permit system, and in Tennessee 5% of the population has a permit to carry a handgun in public. Add to that millions and millions of citizens who have guns in their homes. In the past several years gun sales have sky-rocketed, and most of the buyers are first time gun owners according to NSSF research. All of this creates a real need for local, grass roots training opportunities accessible to the average person.

For the purposes of this article, I'm going to divide the target population into two groups. One group are what I call "serious students". These are people who recognize the enormous responsibilities attached to carrying a firearm. They seek to become truly competent, and to become capable of defending themselves and their loved ones against armed sociopaths. They seek knowledge and skill, and practice to hone their craft. These people will make the commitment in time, money and resources to attend major fixed facility schools like Gunsite or Thunder Ranch, and/or to seek out traveling instructors like John Farnam, Dave Spaulding, Southnarc or us. These "serious students" comprise a tiny fraction of gun owners, unfortunately. I travel all over the country teaching and attending various training events, and I see a lot of the same faces everywhere I go. The pool of truly serious students is depressingly small.

The other group I'll call "casual students". These are the typical carry permit holder, or the person who owns a gun to defend the home, or the shooter who goes to the range once or twice a year as a form of recreation. These folks make up the vast majority of gun owners in this country, and they have a desperate need for basic firearms training, for their own safety and that of those around them. This is the group that needs easy local access to competent basic instruction. That's where you come in.

To prepare yourself to help these folks become responsible gun owners, there are a number of steps you can take to ensure your success. The first is something aspiring trainers often overlook, which is to learn about public speaking. Join Toastmasters, or some local civic organization, and learn to comfortably deliver a speech on some topic in front of an audience. Communication skills are critical. As a trainer, it doesn't matter how much you know about a subject if you cannot effectively transfer that knowledge to a student.

Some training in teaching methodology, the theory of adult learning, and class preparation would be of great benefit. For this, there are several sources. The oldest and the most widely recognized source is the NRA. Frankly, the Basic Pistol Shooting Instructor certification is very weak, and I do not consider it adequate preparation to teach anything beyond a Boy Scout Camp familiarization outing. The newer instructor courses for Personal Protection in the Home, and Personal Protection Outside the Home are great improvements, and would go a long way toward getting you ready to deliver instruction. If you are in law enforcement, the LE side of the NRA house offers detailed five day courses that can put you much further down the path toward competency as a trainer.



In addition to the NRA, some of the better known private training organizations offer instructor development courses. The Firearms Academy of Seattle, Paul Howe's CSAT school, and Rangemaster all offer three to five day programs to prepare shooters to teach other shooters according to that particular school's doctrines.

In addition to training geared specifically toward instructor development, take as many shooting courses as you can from a variety of trainers. There are enough well respected and highly competent traveling trainers now that regardless of where you live, there are solid training opportunities available to you. It is important to be exposed to different training styles. As a trainer, you may explain something to a new shooter three or four ways, and he still doesn't get it. Then, when explained one more way, the light bulb comes on and learning takes place. The best way to have several ways to explain technique is to see how different trainers put forth the information. I have been teaching firearms use for over thirty-five years, and I still make a point of attending at least one course taught by someone else every year so I can steal, err... research their methods.

Once you have had a solid foundation in shooting technique, competitive shooting can go a long way toward helping you find out what works well and what doesn't under a bit of pressure. Shooting for score in front of peers let's you develop the ability to function under some stress and provides a great way to see how a gun, holster or carry method works under more realistic conditions than a static range session. Shooting in IDPA or USPSA matches will boost both your gunhandling and shooting skills and your confidence in those skills.

Finally, attend some training conferences to network with other trainers, pick their brains, and generally broaden your training horizons. The discontinued National Tactical Invitational (NTI) was a great example of this, but there are still events like the NE Shooters Summit in New Hampshire, the Warrior's Conference (formerly the 1" to 1,000 Yards Conference) in Nevada, the Tactical Conference in Memphis, the annual ILEETA convention near Chicago and others.

For years, the Latin motto of the American Society of Law Enforcement Trainers was "Qui docet, discet". In English, "Who teaches, learns." The very best way to master a subject is to learn to teach it. Become a trainer and you will become a better shooter, all the while performing a vital public service.

NRA Law Enforcement Instructor Training [www.nrahq.org/law/](http://www.nrahq.org/law/)

NRA Civilian Firearms Instructor training  
[www.nrahq.org/education/training/instructor.asp](http://www.nrahq.org/education/training/instructor.asp)

Toastmasters [www.toastmasters.org](http://www.toastmasters.org)

Paul Howe [www.combatshootingandtactics.com](http://www.combatshootingandtactics.com)

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

Firearms Academy of Seattle [www.firearmsacademy.com](http://www.firearmsacademy.com)

# Rangemaster Firearms Instructor Development Courses

*One of our specialties is developing skills in new firearms trainers and refreshing and updating the skills of already working instructors. In 2013 we have taught six instructor development courses in Tucson, Arizona; Florence, South Carolina; Austin, Texas; Culpeper, Virginia; Memphis, Tennessee; and McLoud, Oklahoma. We still have one to go in October, in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania. In 2014 we will be teaching instructor courses in West Elkton, Ohio; Dallas, Texas; and Memphis, Tennessee, plus some venues not ready to be announced yet. Here is a class review by a student from New Mexico who took the class in Oklahoma in September.*

## **Rangemaster Instructor's Course Sept. 6-8 2013, McLoud, OK AAR**

Kirk Clark, Albuquerque, New Mexico

“I would like to start by saying thank you to Tom Givens, our assistant instructors Spencer and Gabe, our host Wes of Practical Shooting LLC, my brother for accompanying me to yet another training adventure in a far away place and all 19 of my fellow students who came together to make this a great long weekend of training.

Link to course description: <http://www.rangemaster.com/classes/h...on-course.html>

The Rangemaster Instructor's Course serves several purposes. It teaches students critical information, tactics, techniques, mindset and statistics. The class also teaches shooting methodology, proper shooting coaching and tests student's skill level on the range. Lastly, students are tested on their ability to retain knowledge taught over the course of the weekend and available in the workbook and to present knowledge to fellow classmates in a 5 minute presentation assigned to the student by Tom Givens.

This was my fourth instructor's course, the first three being through Sig Academy, the NRA and Tactical Response. The Tactical Response Instructor's class comes close, but in the end I believe that if you could pick only one of the above classes, you should pick the Rangemaster course. The Rangemaster course is the only one of the above that goes into detail about how to properly coach a shooter on the firing line. It also forces students to give informative, properly delivered coaching and to receive and implement the same.

The Course is a nearly even split between class time and range time. At first this might seem a bit range heavy for an instructor's course, but the split worked just right because of the way range time is used in the course. When you are not shooting you are observing and coaching. When you are shooting you are implementing the coaching given by your

*(Continued on page 11)*

*(Continued from page 10)*

training partner. Whether in the classroom or on the range you are in turn learning and teaching, developing vital skills as an instructor.

Speaking to our class specifically, there were 20 students, with a pleasantly and surprisingly high 5 female shooters. Law Enforcement was also healthily represented. This class was notable for being a "that guy" free zone with all the students being safe, attentive and well adjusted. Skill levels ranged from very new to very experienced. I managed to win the Casino shoot, but finished in second place overall after being bested by the very talented Officer Haggard.

I would strongly recommend this course to any shooter. Whether or not you plan on instructing full time or part time, you will (hopefully) eventually be given the responsibility and opportunity of teaching a friend, family member, child or spouse the basics of shooting, firearms safety, firearms storage, and or the realities and legalities of the use of firearms in self defense. This class will help you with all of the above, maximizing the learning experience of your loved ones, your customers and yourself. As usual Tom Givens offers an amazing training experience that is presented in proper context and executed successfully. Two Thumbs way up."



*The McLoud, OK Instructor Course had a good mix of law enforcement and private citizen instructors.*



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*Rangemaster staff taught all over the country this year.  
Here is a group of students in Ft. Meade, Florida.*