



Tactical Talk

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August 2014

Rangemaster's Student Incidents Written Up in *The American Handgunner*

The American Handgunner is the largest circulation shooting magazine in the US. The August issue includes an article about the circumstances involved in over 60 self-defense incidents involving our students. The type of crime involved, the distances, and other factors related to the shootings are examined and some conclusions are drawn about what we need to be teaching private citizens to prepare them to use a firearm in self-defense. If you don't subscribe to The American Handgunner you can read the article for free online at <http://americanhandgunner.com/when-citizens-fight-back/>.

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A Partial Farewell . . .

Rangemaster was founded in September 1996 and has operated continuously at our current address since then. Starting in the year 2000, our cash register is actually a PC and it assigns a unique number to each new customer. As that customer returns for future visits his transactions are recorded under his unique number. We just entered customer number 79,641 so that is how many separate individuals have been in here to do business with us just since the year 2000. Almost 45,000 of those customers have taken at least the handgun carry permit course here and about 40% of those have gone on to take additional training. To all of you who have been here over the years we sincerely thank you.

All good things must come to an end. We will be closing the Memphis location on August 4, 2014. After that date all of our training will be conducted off-site at various ranges around the country. **This only affects the Memphis indoor range location. We will still be quite active on the training circuit, doing more writing, and continuing to serve as an expert witness in court cases.**

The building itself is now over 50 years old and is costing too much to keep in operation. Over the past couple of years roofing, plumbing, electrical issues, and heating/air conditioning issues have cost us a fortune and that will only get worse as time goes on. Also, our business is based almost entirely on training, particularly handgun carry permit training, and the local market has reached a saturation level at this point. Nationwide between about 2.5% to 3% of the population has a handgun carry permit. Here in Shelby County about 7% of the population has a carry permit, and we trained the majority of them. In Collierville, where I live, 10% of the population has a carry permit.

Internet retail sales are also killing off small businesses all over the US, and that has hurt us as well. Today, customers tend to buy their ammunition, holsters, and even targets online, which has killed our retail business. I really can't complain about that as I almost never buy anything in a store. I buy online and have UPS bring it to my door. Unfortunately our customer base does the same thing.

We will continue to update our website, put out our newsletters, and post information on Facebook. As I said, Lynn and I will be traveling all over the US conducting courses and we will conduct a few each year here locally on other people's ranges.

To those of you who have supported us over the years I want to thank you sincerely and wish you all the best in the future.

Off-Site Rangemaster Courses

Aug 29-31 Firearms Instructor Development Ft Lauderdale, FL (indoors)

Contact Richard Smith, rascgc@aol.com

Sept 6 One Day Pistol Skills Eustace, TX

Contact Steve Moses, steve_moses@msn.com

Sept 7 Defensive Shotgun ETRPC, Longview, TX

Contact [Steve Moses@msn.com](mailto:Steve_Moses@msn.com)

Sept 13-14 Combative Pistol 1 Americus, Georgia

Contact Dennis Raines, seacapn2005@yahoo.com

Sept 19-21 Firearms Instructor Development Course Chandler, OK

Contact Spencer Keepers, spencerkeepers@yahoo.com

Oct 3-5 Firearms Instructor Development Course DPC Dallas, Texas

Contact Wayne Dobbs, detwd114@yahoo.com

Oct 18-19 Combative Pistol II KR Training Austin, TX

Contact Karl Rehn, rehn@krtraining.com

Nov 1-2 Combative Pistol 1, CCFSA Wilmington, Ohio

Contact Eric Daniels, handkp30@gmail.com



We have shotgun courses coming up in Texas and Georgia.



Rangemaster has always been blessed with a large cadre of talented, enthusiastic, hard-working instructors. The efforts of these committed men and women have saved over 5 dozen lives and have enriched the lives of countless others. The by-product of skill-at-arms is peace of mind, and no one teaches skill-at-arms better than this group.

BUILDING SEARCH TACTICAL TIPS

- 1) Move with your weapon at the ready! Do not dangle your sidearm. Be prepared every moment to actually find an adversary! Expect to find an enemy in every place you look for one. If there's nothing to it, don't bother to look.
- 2) Stay out of doorways! "Doorways are the picture frame of your death. Stay out of the picture!" Always check beyond a doorway carefully.
- 3) Stay away from corners! Corners are death traps. Stay as far back from a corner as possible and "cut the pie", playing the angles.
- 4) Search in rays, not bands! Vision band searching has a strong tendency to become fixed at one particular distance. If a potential attacker hides at any other distance and simply remains still, searching in bands will often cause you to miss seeing him. Shift your visual focus in and out, moving the rays laterally at a gradual pace as you search. Remember to look up and down, not just side to side.
- 5) Control noise! Move carefully to avoid bumping into things. Do not let equipment jangle. Do not drag your feet. Do not drag your back against the wall.
- 6) Maintain your balance! Do not cross legs while moving. Maintain a balanced, poised fighting posture at all times. Don't walk the beam.
- 7) Maintain light discipline! If you use a flashlight, use it sparingly. While your flashlight is on, it is a lead magnet – drawing fire from any direction.
- 8) Use all of your senses! Particularly in low light environments, use your senses of hearing, smell, and touch. People have distinct odors, especially under stress. Be alert for odors, colognes, gasoline or grease, body odor, and even the smell of waste. Listen for heavy breathing or any noise that is alien to the environment.
- 9) In tight places, use a weapon retention position to avoid being disarmed! Keep your weapon in high and tight. Be conscious of the likelihood of a close contact encounter. Do not lead with your weapon around corners, doorways, etc.
- 10) Take your time! The natural tendency is to rush. This is not a race. Search carefully and thoroughly. Never turn your back on any area you have not checked. Do not pass by doorways without checking them.



U.S. Handgun Production, 2012

The ATF recently released the production figures for US handgun manufacturers. Here is how they compared.

Here is how

Company	Semiauto pistols	Revolvers
Ruger	865,671	251,940
Smith & Wesson	606,082	216,150
SIG	532,575	
Beretta	140,670	
Glock	131,550 (US production, not including Austrian made guns)	
Kimber	120,152	
Taurus	92,074	
FN	56,158	
Colt	52,180	1,553
Remington	51,633	
Springfield Armory	49,525	
Wilson Combat	3,130	
Nighthawk Custom	2,650	
Les Baer	2,880	

My friend Tony Mayer is the head honcho at JM Custom Kydex in Reno, Nevada. Recently, Tony has been working with me to perfect one of his IWB designs. I am currently wearing the latest version of that holster and it is probably the most comfortable IWB rig I have worn and it is quite fast. It has all of the features I really like on an IWB rig for a full-size pistol.

The holster features a fixed belt loop that the belt passes through, pulling the rig in tight against the body for maximum concealment. Tony also uses no more material than is necessary, making this one of the trimmest IWB holsters I have found. This reduces the amount of bulk that has to be stuffed inside your pants and results in a holster that is both more concealable and more comfortable. The fixed belt loop keeps the gun at a constant angle throughout a long workday and prevents shifting of the rig back and forth on the belt. The 25° forward cant keeps the butt of the gun from pushing into a car seat and keeps it from thumping against the back of the restaurant booth when you sit down. The pictures below show the excellent detail work that Tony puts into his holsters. Highly recommended!



Here is JM Custom Kydex's newest IWB holster. Note the lack of excess material, making a trim, compact holster.

JM Custom Kydex,
www.jmcustomkydex.com, 775-686-8431.

Here is a side view of the IWB rig.



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	DVD: "Defensive Shotgun"	\$ 22.95	
	DVD: "Cooper's Color Codes" (1 hr.+)	\$ 22.95	
	DVD: "Introduction to Self Defense Handguns" (30 min.)	\$ 14.95	
Subtotal			
Shipping (\$3.00 per DVD)			
ORDER TOTAL			

Billing Information	Shipping Information (if different)
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Address:	Address:
City, State:	City, State:
Zip Code:	Zip Code:
E-mail:	

CREDIT CARD INFORMATION	
Number:	Type: Visa Mastercard AmEx Discover <i>(circle one)</i>
Expiration:	Signature:

TEN RULES FOR WINNING A GUNFIGHT

Gang Detective Jared Reston knows something about winning gunfights. In a dozen years with the Jacksonville (Fla.) Sheriff's Office, he has killed three suspects who tried to murder him. Eight other times, he's been part of a SWAT team that ended life-threatening encounters with deadly force.

In one battle with a teenage shoplifting suspect, which he vividly describes in a PoliceOne BLUtube interview, Reston was shot seven times before he was able to deliver three fatal contact rounds to his assailant's head.

One of Reston's wounds came from a .45-cal. round that blasted through his jaw and out of his neck, blowing out teeth and bone in its transit. It took 14 surgeries to reconstruct his mouth and face, yet he fought to a remarkable recovery that saw him back on full duty is just six months. At the recent 25th annual conference of the Illinois Tactical Officers Association, Reston shared with fellow operators his open secrets for staying alive against staggering odds. Whether you work with a team or patrol the streets alone, these are the 10 fundamentals he believes will help you win any armed encounter, just as they've helped him repeatedly.

1.) Be Ready to Inflict 'Unspeakable Violence'

"Some officers die because they didn't use the appropriate amount of force early on," says Reston, the lead firearms instructor for his agency's SWAT team. "Know what your state statutes and department policy say about when you can use deadly force so you can act with confidence without hesitation. You shouldn't have to consciously think about what's permissible or whether you'll get sued. That just puts you farther behind the curve. "Be prepared to go in an instant from being calm to inflicting unspeakable violence on those who would take your life...and then back to calm again. Commit mentally and physically to doing whatever is necessary — with hyper intensity — to prevail. You won't have time to think or warm up. You have to have that subconscious willingness to hurt dangerous people right there, and turn it on like a switch — like you would if someone was trying to snatch your child or someone else you love from you. "You can condition yourself for that through stress-inoculation scenario training. The more you train under stress, the less stress you'll feel when it's real. "Don't depend on adrenaline to energize you and get you through a crisis. It may drain your strength instead. When gunfire starts, I've known officers who just shut down. They couldn't even talk to the dispatcher. They thought they were ready for a gunfight, but they weren't."

2.) Mentally Rehearse

Reston is a strong believer in integrating hours of mental imagery into your training regimen. "Guys ask me, 'Did it bother you to shoot the suspect with contact shots to his head?' And I say, "No, because I'd already done it in my mind thousands of times." "Your mindset to win has to be constantly honed or you'll lose it. Mental rehearsal is one way to hone it. Imagine yourself confronting and defeating every kind of challenge you can conjure up. Imagine yourself getting shot and how you'll react. And don't just imagine the stereotype bad guys. The assailant you have to kill may look a lot like you. They're not always gangbangers or hardened felons. Anybody at any time may try to hurt you." Just be certain, Reston cautions, that in real life you can employ the skills you imagine yourself using to win in your mental scenarios. If candidly you have doubts, then that should identify your training challenge(s), because "in a crisis you won't surpass your level of preparation."

3.) Armor Up

Yes, body armor is hot, it's bulky, "it sucks," Reston concedes. "But it's a tool that will help you survive a physical fight or a car crash as well as a gunfight. If you don't wear it, you're lazy, inconsiderate of your family, and ignorant about your own safety." Three of the rounds fired on him by the shoplifter impacted across his chest, one in the dead-center of his vest plate. "Body armor helped keep me in the fight. The shot that hit the plate would have been a show-stopper for sure without my vest."

4.) Watch for Opportunities of Advantage

"In most encounters, moments arise when you can gain the upper hand, but these windows of opportunity open and close quickly," Reston says. "For instance, a subject who's threatening you in a combat stance may drop his hands enough for just an instant that you could smash him in the face. Or a suspect's manner at a certain point may suggest he's willing to give up, but if he's allowed more time to think without being quickly controlled, he might not. "Be watchful and be ready. Act decisively. You may not get another chance."

5.) Don't be Equipment-Dependent

"Be prepared for any weapon to fail — not to work or not get the results you want," Reston says. His Taser once malfunctioned at a critical moment. "It didn't spark, it didn't shoot, it didn't do anything except count down on the screen," he recalls, necessitating a fast transition to empty-hand tactics and eventually to his Glock 22 to control a hostile subject who was determined to attack him. "A failure may surprise you, but it shouldn't shut you down. Know the immediate

action that may fix the problem. Drill that over and over and over, so your hands can go through the manipulations subconsciously while your eyes and mind are concentrating on the threat. “Always have a Plan B, so you don’t get stuck in a Plan A that isn’t working. Be your own weapon. If you’re well trained in multiple skills, what won’t fail you is you.”

6.) Target Your Weaknesses

When it comes to prevailing against deadly threats, Reston thinks like Bear Bryant, the legendary 'Bama football coach: “It’s not the will to win but the willingness to prepare to win that makes the difference.”

Training for “that day,” Reston believes, is everything. “Work on the things you’re not good at,” he says, “because you never know which tool or combination from your toolbox your life will depend on. Set aside time to go to the range regularly, to work out with a balanced program to build up your strength and endurance, to practice your DT. Seek out additional training outside your agency. Spend your own money. Invest in yourself.

“We need to be better than we were 20 years ago, given today’s criminal gun culture. All the motivation you need should be the realization that there are people out there who want to kill you just because of what you are and what you represent — and you never know when you will meet one of them.”

7.) Stay Fit

In the foot pursuit that preceded the shootout with the shoplifter, Reston’s partner fell behind — not because he was wholly out of shape but because he’d concentrated only on strength building in his workouts, with scant attention to cardio fitness. “He couldn’t run more than 40 yards,” Reston says. He was out of sight and out of shooting range when Reston took the suspect’s seven rounds. “Having two of us there might have made a difference,” Reston says. “He didn’t eat or sleep for two days, worrying about what I’d think of him. Then he got serious and changed his workout program. “Staying fit so you can do the job the way it needs to be done isn’t just for yourself. It’s for your partner, your family, other officers, and for the community you’ve sworn to protect.”

8.) Fight 'til the Lights Go Out

When your life is on the line, Reston stresses, “FIGHT! You can’t just lay there and hope the situation will go away. You can fight through getting shot. You may not feel pain for two or three minutes, and in that time you can win. Mentally rehearse doing it.” Your adversary may have a will to win that’s nearly as great as yours. In the shoplifter shooting, Reston had hit his assailant with so many .40-cal. rounds that “he was a walking dead man, but he still kept coming and shooting.” Though critically wounded, Reston’s resolve was to “keep firing until the lights went out.” When he had the opportunity to grab the suspect and pull him close enough for three contact shots to the head, he took it and finished the fight. “My last words will never be screaming into the radio for help,” he declares.

“If I go out, I’ll go out fighting.”

9.) Practice Self Aid / Buddy Aid

“Make your own wound-treatment kit if you’re not issued one,” Reston advises, “— or be willing to watch someone die in front of you because you didn’t.” Include four-inch square gauze pads, a tourniquet, QuickClot or similar hemostatics, and a seal for covering a sucking chest wound. “These items can stop a lot of bleeding and can be kept in a packet small enough to carry with you,” he says. Practice using them on yourself and others so you can do so automatically under stress. And watch what you say around a wounded colleague. When Reston was bleeding from several wounds inflicted by the homicidal shoplifter, a fellow officer knelt beside him, held his hand, and reassured him, “You’re gonna be ok.” But then he turned to another officer and said loudly, “Where’s rescue? He’s gonna die!” “Don’t ‘comfort’ anyone ‘into the Light,’” Reston remarks.

10.) Don’t Let the Suspect “Win from the Grave”

The determination to win may need to continue beyond the initial victory. Reston has drawn on his warrior mindset to carry him through a torturous recovery from the shoplifter shooting, including months of surgeries and rehabilitation, with 14 operations to repair his damaged face alone. “It still hurts,” he says. But even as he rode to the hospital in the rescue wagon, he vowed to come roaring back. “I wanted to be out of bed and able to stand by the time of the suspect’s funeral,” he recalls. He consciously stretched the time between pain medications. Within two weeks, he’d designed a workout routine. In six months, he was back on full duty. “I wasn’t going to let the shooting define me or ruin the rest of my life. I wasn’t going to let that son-of-a-bitch win from the grave. “You may have scars,” Reston says. “I’m still not able to do all the same workouts I used to do. But every day that I push on and accomplish something is another kick in his balls. The way you win on the street and in life is to set goals, stretch yourself. When you reach one goal, set another.” Whatever personal improvements Reston may have on his goal list, his ability to prevail in a crisis clearly remains undiminished. The shoplifter incident was the second confrontation in which Reston shot and killed a gunman. Since then, he’s had a third. He and another officer were approaching a man wanted for multiple murders when the fugitive suddenly went for a gun. The officers hit him — mortally — with six rounds. The suspect never got off a shot.



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First Responders?

According to the Bureau of Justice Statistics, US Department of Justice, in 2006 there were:

- ◇ 5,685,620 violent crimes in the US
- ◇ 645,950 Robberies (232,380 with injury to the victim)
- ◇ 1,209,730 Aggravated Assaults (Attempted Murders)
- ◇ 255,630 Forcible Rapes

In 2011, the total rose to 5,800,000 violent crimes.

That is one for every 30 adults in the US.

According to a study done by the Atlanta Constitution newspaper:

Response Time by City, High Priority 911 calls

Atlanta, GA	11 min/12 secs
El Paso, TX	11 min/11 secs
Denver, CO	11 min/ 0 secs
Tucson, AZ	10 min/11 secs
Kansas City, MO	9 min/30 secs
Oklahoma City, OK	9 min/30 secs

According to the US Department of Justice, the average length of interaction between a violent criminal and his victim= 90 seconds

So, you can expect a police response approximately 8 ½ to 9 minutes **AFTER** your encounter with the violent criminal is over. You are on your own.

YOU ARE THE FIRST RESPONDER! You must be capable and willing to protect yourself from violent criminals. First steps:

- Accept that violent crime does not happen only to “someone else”. To everyone else on the planet, **YOU** are “someone else”.
- Be alert and aware. Accept that anywhere people are present, there is a potential for violent crime. Get your head up, stop texting or yakking on the cell phone in public, and be aware of your surroundings.
- Refuse to be a victim. You can be chosen without your consent. You cannot be victimized without your consent.

Carry your defensive firearm. When you are on the K-Mart parking lot the gun at home in the sock drawer will do you no good whatsoever!