

FEATURE ARTICLE!

JULY 2016

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Volume 20 • Issue 07

# RANGEMASTER

DEFENSIVE TACTICS FOR THE REAL WORLD

*Firearms Training Services*

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER



By Tom Givens

**F**or many years I have carried a Back-Up Gun (BUG) in addition to my primary sidearm. My main reason for doing so is insurance against a broken sidearm, not for minor malfunctions or an empty pistol.

In every Combative Pistol or Instructor Development Course, we urge students to bring a spare handgun just like their primary gun, in case some part actually breaks on their main pistol. In almost every class, at least one student winds up having to switch to that second pistol because of a parts failure. I see this happen so often that it has become, as I said, the driving reason that I carry a BUG daily.

Naysayers then ask, "How many 800 round gunfights do you plan to be in?" That completely misses the point. To gain and maintain any skill, you have to practice. Let's say you have a weak part in your sidearm, and it is going to break on round number 2,467. (You won't know that until it happens!)

Unfortunately, you have already fired 2,466 rounds through that gun in training and practice. That means your next shot is the one that gun is going to break down on. That could be the first shot in your next class, or it could be the first shot in your next defensive gun use for real! The remedy? A BUG.

For several years, I have been carrying a 1960's vintage Colt Cobra .38 Special revolver as a BUG, usually in an ankle holster. I prefer the Colt over a J-frame Smith & Wesson for a couple of reasons. The Colt holds six shots, instead of five, and it has much better sights. And I admit there is also a bit of nostalgia involved.

Last September, I decided to make a change. A combination of increased terror activity, increased gang violence, the BLM movement, and a rising violent crime rate in general caused me to switch to a slightly more capable BUG. I now

carry a Kahr P9 as my BUG, still in the excellent Renegade ankle holster.

I chose the Kahr P9 for several reasons. First, it is very compact. At only .9" thick, it works well on ankle or in a pocket. It has excellent sights for a small handgun, and the double-action only trigger on mine is smooth and fairly light, making it easy to shoot well. It holds eight shots, which to me is a big step up from five or six rounds. I load mine with 9mm ammo using the Barnes all copper hollow point, either Barnes brand ammo or ASYM.



"I admit there is also a bit of nostalgia involved."

Continued next page...

# CHANGE

Continued from Page 1

Recently, I had worn this rig through several outdoor classes, and the gun was dusty and a bit dry. The ammo had been in the gun for about five months, and was due for replacement. So, at a practice session, I fired the old carry ammo up without doing anything to the gun but draw it and shoot. Despite being dusty and dry, the little Kahr fired all 8 rounds flawlessly. I fired these eight rounds in four fast pairs, at 15 yards. As you can see (below), the P9 put all eight rounds in a decent group in the center of the chest box of a Rangemaster Q target. Good enough for a BUG.



In case you are wondering, I chose a 9mm BUG because I believe a gun worn on the ankle should not exceed about one pound in weight, to avoid hip and back problems. In guns that small and light, .40 and .45 ammo tends to be harder to control, the little gun's ammo capacity is reduced, and wear and tear on the gun is accelerated. The Barnes all-copper hollow points leave the 3.5" barrel of the P9 at about 1,100 feet per second, giving me adequate penetration and expansion in a very compact package. Using +P 9mm ammunition gives the slide a bit of extra velocity, making it more likely to function properly if dirty or dry. Mine has been 100% reliable with the Barnes or ASYM load, or the excellent Speer 124 grain +P Gold Dot, which would be my second choice in ammo. ■

This excellent column is from our friend and student, Dr. Sherman House. His blog, "Revolver Science," is highly recommended as a source for knowledgeable, insightful commentary on all things related to self defense.

- Tom

FEATURE ARTICLE!

## BECOMING THE CIVILIAN DEFENDER

BY DR. SHERMAN A. HOUSE

(edited for space)

**T**his is a weird time we live in. You cannot turn on the TV without seeing horrible events of human atrocity occurring twenty-four hours a day, worldwide. It seems that everything, everywhere, is in some type of disarray. Preparing for emergencies that are commonplace in the world is a good thing. It is empowering. It makes you feel like you are not simply at the will of whatever danger or force is at work. And, it is fun! As a lifelong student (I spent ten years in college/professional school/residency), I enjoy learning something new, everyday! With preparation for emergencies, you can develop a graduate school level of education on something that very few people are truly prepared for.

Years ago, Massad Ayoob — police officer, expert witness, and author — penned a list of survival priorities, and at the time he probably had no idea how influential they would be in shaping the training doctrines of so many capable thinkers. People have taken his list and chopped it up or added to it to suit their particular end, but the original form is still the best. It reads as follows:

### AYOOB'S SURVIVAL PRIORITIES

- ◆ **Mental Awareness and Mental Preparedness**
- ◆ **Tactics**
- ◆ **Skill**
- ◆ **Equipment**

What I take from Ayoob's list is that, at the top, the mental awareness and preparedness priorities are most important. With enough mental power applied to an equation, nothing is insurmountable! In context, this would explain why so many people have emerged victorious in the face of massive technological adversity, greater firepower, or superior numbers. Thus, sharpening our mental prowess is the absolute most important action we can take to prepare ourselves to survive an emergency of any kind.

Ayoob's list is in order of priority, identifying the areas where people need to focus their intensity when it comes to training to be "the Civilian Defender." Some people call this role different things... Pat McNamara called it "The Sentinel," and I like that. But out of respect for Pat, I'm not going to steal his idea. He wrote a great book aptly called "The Sentinel" that covers a great deal of important information, and I recommend that. Others use the "sheepdog" analogy, and I don't care for it, as a sheepdog is a proactive animal and role. Some people call this role the "Watchman," but I don't really think that is appropriate either, as a "Watchman" in the traditional sense (or in the Alan Moore sense) was up, awake, proactively guarding an empty building or a section of a town from the criminal element. What we are talking about is regular folks, like doctors, lawyers, I.T. professionals, pharmacists, secretaries, etc. — people on the reactive end of the equation. We live our daily lives, care for our

families, earn money, maintain our lifestyles, and enjoy life. I'm NOT advocating that the Civilian Defender learn any of these skills to replace the kind of help that our standing army, fire departments, police departments, or emergency medical staff provide to our society... quite the contrary. I'm advocating that Civilian Defenders educate themselves to the end of being able to survive situations they may encounter when the aforementioned public servants won't or can't be there to swoop down and save them. The Civilian Defender's job is to...PROTECT! They protect themselves from bodily harm, protect their family from bodily harm, and protect their livelihood and quality of life from the forces of evil, gravity, accidents, or whatever pitfalls life throws in the way. Being the Civilian Defender is a lifestyle adaptation that simply adds to the quality of the Defender's life.

There is a fundamental knowledge base that makes up the education necessary to enable the Civilian Defender to better handle the most common perils. I know what you're thinking, and since you are reading this, you are probably a "gun person." You might be surprised that there are no helicopter rescue courses or carbine urban assault courses recommended here. I like to think of the those classes as "electives." Just like in college, there are courses you *need* in order to earn your degree, and there are courses you take simply because you have an interest or because your friends are doing it! I took bowling as an elective in college, and I loved it. I ended up taking beginning bowling, intermediate bowling, advanced bowling, bowling independent study, and I was a bowling teaching assistant. So, just like my foray into the weird world of bowling (this predates the Big Lebowski by about five years) occurred because of an initial interest that just happened to fit my schedule, you may decide at some point to take up an entirely new skill. But, keep in mind the context of what you're trying to accomplish! Hit the subjects most relevant to your vocation first. Since you're a regular guy/gal, your vocation is Civilian Defender... and here is what I believe should constitute the undergraduate education of the Civilian Defender:

1. Criminology/Street Smarts
2. Defensive Driving
3. Emergency Medical
4. Legal Preparation, Aftermath, and Rules of Engagement
5. Less Lethal Skills
6. Handgun Carry Course
7. Handgun Skills and Tactics Course
8. Defensive Tactics

You might be wondering why I listed the fundamental areas of study in this order. It'll be clearer by the end of the essay. I have two models of course selection, and you can pick the one that works best for you. In the above list, I've ranked

# 2016 Rangemaster Instructor Courses

We've already conducted several very successful Firearms Instructor Development Courses this year in South Carolina, Georgia and Virginia. Below are the remaining instructor courses for 2016. Click any of the dates for more info.



## July 8-10

Firearms Instructor Development Course  
Ottawa, KS

## Sept. 16-17

Advanced Firearms Instructor Course  
Austin, TX

## Oct. 21-23

Defensive Shotgun Instructor Course  
Atlanta, GA

## Sept. 13-15

Firearms Instructor Development Course  
Austin, TX

## Sept. 18-19

Advanced Firearms Instructor Course  
Austin, TX

## Oct. 28-30

Firearms Instructor Development Course  
Phoenix, AZ



I have had the pleasure of working with Kydex-bender extraordinaire Spencer Keepers for seven or eight years now. He is one of the best designers/makers of Kydex concealment holsters out there, and one who can really shoot.

Spencer makes the very popular "Keeper" holster for those who wear their sidearm in the appendix IWB location. I see a lot of these in classes, and they work very well. Some of us, including me, still wear our handgun behind the hip, at the 3:30 to 4:00 position on the belt.

Spencer just sent me a new holster dubbed "The Mentor." This is a design for wear behind the hip. The workmanship is excellent, as on all of his gear. I'll be working with this holster more over the next few weeks and will keep everyone posted. To see more of Spencer's holster designs, please visit [www.KeepersConcealment.com](http://www.KeepersConcealment.com).

- Tom



the fields of study in the areas that I feel are most commonly needed by regular people. For people in “higher risk” categories (like shopkeepers, doctors, lawyers, jewelers, real estate agents, stalking victims, etc.), the list can be chopped up and rearranged to better suit their most omnipresent threat(s). If someone comes to me and says, “Sherman, I know nothing about self-defense and I don’t know where to start,” the list I gave above is what I would recommend. Along the same line of thinking, I have a ten-year old boy, and I’ve already started him out on this path as well. It could be equated to an “Eagle Scout Curriculum for Adults.” This path of study aims to make students better people, with more utility to themselves and their environments than the average civilian.

### Criminology / Street Smarts

The best way to sum up this category is “Defining the Threat” (to steal a phrase from Tom Givens). Most people come from law-abiding, peaceful areas, and they’ve never faced the criminal threat, belly to belly. So how can you possibly react thoughtfully and effectively in the face of extreme danger if you are stunned into inaction by the presentation of a weapon, extreme physical aggression, intimidation, or violence? As GI Joe used to say, “Knowing is half the battle!” If you have defined the threat (and this can vary geographically), then you can at least have a blueprint into the kind of criminal (or terror) threat you may face. Under this same category are the skills of avoiding criminal threats and

not being a victim, as well as the now beaten-to-death concept of situational awareness. The prototypical courses for this area of training are Southnarc’s (ShivWorks) “Managing Unknown Conflicts” or MUC and Dr. William Aprill’s “Violent Criminal Actors” lecture series, as well as his other work regarding sociopathy and psychopathy. Tom Givens also teaches many lectures on criminology/street smarts/criminal psychology.

Once students have developed an understanding of the kinds of threats they’ll face, they will also understand the who, what, and why of criminal operation. Students will have also begun the process to sharpening their spidey senses, so that they can lessen their chances of facing criminal threats in the first place, through avoidance, deterrence and de-escalation (in the words of John Farnam).

Another area of study I would include into this category as electives are skills like “Defeating Common Restraints” by Greg Ellifritz or the lock-picking courses offered by Mindset Laboratories. Soft skills like verbal judo and persuasion are also useful to the Civilian Defender. Simple “life hacks” should be included here too, such as operating a dry chemical fire extinguisher or understanding how to use public transportation. Even ordinary tasks like these can create bedlam if they are unfamiliar, so they should be practiced. Being in the middle of a grease fire in your kitchen isn’t the time to realize that you haven’t unboxed or read your fire extinguisher’s instruction manual.

### Defensive Driving

I’m not talking about dodging carjackers and flash-mob rioters with your car here (although that *would* be a useful driving “elective”). Instead, I’m just talking about simple, effective techniques for the everyday commute. It is darned near impossible to drive anywhere these days without seeing a legion of hapless fools behind the wheel of their car, completely oblivious to the thousands of pounds of moving metal and plastic around them, because they are so involved in talking on their phone, or (even worse) texting someone on their phone! If you spend any degree of time in a motor vehicle, you could stand to learn more about being a better driver. As I’ve said in past articles, your state’s driver testing doesn’t give you any of the knowledge you need to be a good driver. It just gives you enough information to be the least skilled and knowledgeable driver allowed by law. You are literally at the command of a 2,500- to 10,000-pound cannonball when you are behind the wheel of a motor vehicle, but many of the folks in the concealed carry crowd are far more concerned about the outcomes and intricacies of directing a 115 grain bullet.

After you have a good command on defensive driving skills, then the more specialized skills of vehicle defense make more sense. Having been in a vehicular defense situation, I can tell you that instead of fighting, it is far easier to simply drive out of an ambush, carjacking, or aggressive driver (road rage) scenario. I was

fortunate in that I learned a great deal of defensive driving training (also EVOC and EVAP) from my time in the fire service as well as while working as an armored car crewman. If you can drive a 20-ton fire truck, defensively, at speed with lights and sirens, you can most certainly negotiate rush hour in a Toyota Camry. There are many places where regular folks can learn how to drive defensively, and just last week I noticed that the local Subaru dealership has a program where they teach people to drive their products more efficiently and carefully. Well done Subaru! There are local driving schools that also offer additional training to drivers, regardless of skill level. Not many of these schools will seem very “tactical” or teach you how to drive like Jason Bourne. But really, how often would you need *those* skills? I’d be far more concerned about learning how to drive actively, alertly, and with a great deal of respect for the physics at work in my own car and the other cars on the road. Most people don’t understand the danger that they face in their cars. The number one cause of motor vehicle collisions is people not looking in the direction that they are traveling in. Training can correct these errors in judgement and technique and prepare you to handle the modern roadway. VIP Driver or Executive Protection Driver courses could be thought of as elective skills in this category, to give students an even broader range of expertise.

## Emergency Medical Skills

If I could add anything to the national modern High School educational standards, it would be to teach every student the current “First Responder” curriculum. When I was in Junior High, I was required to take a very gory Practical First Aid class (complete with reel-to-reel films laden with 1970s-style special effects). The course included CPR, which I used to great effect on several occasions prior

to getting more training in emergency medical skills. Unfortunately, not many schools offer these kinds of opportunities for students any more.

While not everyone has the need to drive (like people who live in big cities and rely on mass transit), everyone who has blood running through his/her body needs emergency medical skills.



Whether for self-rescue or for helping others, emergency medical skills are vital. Have you ever watched someone die at your feet because you didn’t have the knowledge, skill, or ability to help? The regret and self-doubt that would come from such an incident would be a terrible burden to bear.

Furthermore, if you plan on spending any amount of time on the shooting range, you need to have emergency medical skills. As much as it eats me up, there are ignorant, careless people that are free to practice unmitigated idiocy on the shooting ranges of America, simply because they’ve paid their \$20 and want to shoot. I try to go to ranges during the slow hours so that I can work in relative peace and not have neighbors of dubious skill levels bracketing me and muzzling me with loaded guns. Although it doesn’t happen frequently, these boobs will often shoot themselves or others via a negligent discharge. Of course, as a citizen you have no duty to render aid to strangers, although you could if you wanted to. However, if they inadvertently shot someone that you

brought to the range, then you would definitely want to be prepared.

It goes without saying that everyone should know how to perform single-rescuer CPR, two-person CPR, and the Heimlich Maneuver, as well as run an AED (automated external defibrillator). Also, knowing how to use a tourniquet, pack a wound, or apply a pressure bandage can be the difference between being useful, and being a shocked onlooker. I’ll always pick the option of being useful. Elective areas of study in emergency medical skills are vast, including emergency wound closure, rescue techniques, emergency veterinary skills (for our furry family members), handling environmental emergencies (like heatstroke, hypothermia and animal/insect bites and stings), and a myriad of other topics. There is literally an entire industry

dedicated to providing medical training, and nearly all of it is open source. I even know a guy who will teach the prepared Civilian Defender about addressing common dental emergencies! If you can think of it, you can find a course on it.

## Legal Factors

Attend any gun-centric self-defense course, and there will be “that guy” who asks about every conceivable hypothetical under the sun. Some of them are ridiculous and fantastical. Some are plausible. Unless you’ve thought through these problems and applied a rigorous interpretation of the laws of your state, you will find yourself horribly behind the eight-ball once you’re in a life-or-death situation. When you are shocked, scared, and not able to think clearly, that isn’t the time to negotiate complex, multi-faceted problems! There are a few training courses that can walk you through the legal pre-planning considerations, the rules of engagement for a violent encounter, and the legal aftermath of a justified self-defense event.



A  
WORD  
ON

# ORLANDO

by Tom Givens

The cowardly and despicable act of terrorist perpetrated mass murder in Orlando is the wholly predictable outcome of decades of progressive/liberal conditioning, which has turned much of the population into so many sheep, waiting patiently to be slaughtered. You are terminally naïve if you still believe that:

1. There are not actually people who not only WILL, but actually WANT TO kill you and your family, preferably in as hideous a fashion as possible.
2. That you can “have a dialog with” or reason with such people. They are not the least bit interested in talking it out.
3. That a gun free zone is actually gun free. No terrorist, murderous career criminal, gang banger, or nutcase is going to pay the least bit of attention to gun free zones, except to pick them as hunting grounds.
4. That someone in law enforcement or any other part of government cares more about, or has a larger stake in your personal safety and security than you do.

Of course, the liberal/progressive reaction to the horror in Orlando was to immediately renew calls to disarm the American public. That makes about as much sense as thinking the way to reduce deaths from drunk drivers is to make it harder for non-drinkers to buy cars. ■



Three people who help prepare students for the legal battle are the Massad Ayoob (the Masaad Ayoob Group), Andrew Branca (The Law of Self-Defense), and Marty Hayes (Armed Citizens Legal Defense Network). This is an often overlooked area of Civilian Defender preparedness training, but think about it...if you DO need to defend yourself, you will most definitely be placed under close legal scrutiny in both the criminal and civil legal system. In our current day and age, there is no “free pass,” regardless of the righteousness or clear cut nature of your particular self-defense case. In order to survive the legal battle with your finances, reputation, and sanity intact, you have to make specific preparations, mentally, to be able to defend yourself within the bounds of your state law. Your carry permit class doesn't count. That information is so basic in scope that it cannot possibly cover the myriad of legal nuances that you will be expected to navigate in the wake of a defensive force situation. Knowing that information long before you need it – and having a legally verifiable record of training along these lines – will prove invaluable when you have to defend yourself.

## Less Lethal Skills

Not all self-defense problems are lethal force situations. Sometimes, while defensive force might be justified, you may be limited to using your bare hands or some other means. Having a less lethal option, like pepper spray, a club of some sort (baton, sap, or blackjack), or an electronic control device like a Taser, could be a viable option. Not everyone has the stature or the physical prowess to mount an adequate physical defense, so a less lethal option is a MUST for these people. Even for the physically able, a simple canister of pepper spray on the keychain can allow an escape from a situation that might otherwise require an eyeball-to-eyeball slug match with an attacker. Options are good things to have in violent encounters. Any adjunct that enables the user to simply get away unscathed is a really good alternative to have at one's command. Chuck Haggard, a retired Topeka, KS police officer, is an outstanding national-level trainer who teaches a very thorough and useful pepper spray course. Many shooting ranges also offer pepper spray training courses, as well.

## Basic Handgun Carry Permit Course

You thought we'd never get here, didn't you? For astute students, the carry permit class shouldn't be thought of as anything more than a “check in the box.” What training value does the permit class hold? None. What practice benefit does the carry permit class give you (meaning skills that you can take home and practice on your own)? None. The only reason you take the class is so that you can get the permit (unless you live in a Constitutional Carry state, in which case you don't need a carry permit). So treat the permit requirement for what it is: a government regulation hoop that you must jump through. Don't look at it as preparation of any kind for a defensive emergency.

## Handgun Skills & Tactics Course

You will need to find a handgun skills and tactics class that teaches you more than just blazing away at a piece of paper on the range. Take a class that will teach you the skills you need to run the gun in the broadest range of common circumstances. Notice, I said *common*. That means you DO need to learn how safely and quickly draw the

pistol, fire it with both hands (or one hand), reload the pistol, and fix malfunctions that the pistol may incur. All of this doesn't exist in a vacuum, and although the skills can be learned singularly, they need to be practiced in context. So a class that requires students to think through problems with a gun in their hand is best. There are several classes and instructors that teach this type of integrated curriculum (some which include force-on-force classes), but here are a few:

- ◆ Greg Ellifritz (Active Response Training)
- ◆ Chris Fry (MDTS)
- ◆ Dave Spaulding (Handgun Combatives)
- ◆ John Farnam (DTI)
- ◆ Craig Douglas (Shivworks)
- ◆ Marty Hayes (Firearms Academy of Seattle)
- ◆ Darryl Bolke and Wayne Dobbs (Hardwired Tactical Shooting)
- ◆ Chuck Haggard (Agile Training and Consulting)
- ◆ Massad Ayoob (Massad Ayoob Group)
- ◆ Paul Sharp (Sharp Defense)
- ◆ Claude Werner (The Tactical Professor)
- ◆ Tom Givens (Rangemaster)

Whichever class you chose, make sure it prepares you for the threats you are likely to face. This is where context is important. You are a regular person – you aren't a law enforcement officer or a direct action military operative. You are just an average Joe or average Jane trying to get home from work. Find a course that fits your demographic. I'm not saying skip the precision rifle class or the urban carbine course; I'm just saying put a sound, solid pistol class in front of it. Besides, when the day comes you will need a gun to defend yourself, what are the chances that you'll have your carbine handy? If you are one of those people who believes that you will use your pistol to fight your way to a rifle/shotgun, then you are probably mistaken. If you have to run from danger to get to your rifle, why stop? KEEP RUNNING. Remember, as the Civilian Defender, we aren't looking for a fight; we are just reacting to the fight that has been brought to us. There is no shame in escaping without a shot fired, and if that is a workable solution, it should be attempted! However, if you are faced with the scenario of having to defend yourself, the statistics reflect that it will most likely be outside of your home, and it will be in a street crime scenario like a robbery or carjacking. You may truly have no avenue of

escape, and you might have to shoot your attacker. As much as we'd all like to have the rifle or shotgun in hand (since it stops fights much more decisively), chances are, we'll only have our lowly pistol. So plan accordingly, train appropriately, and pack accordingly!

## Defensive Tactics

This final category of training prepares the Civilian Defender to do a few things. First, students learn to defend their gun from being taken away from them. This is not as easy as it sounds! Second, students prepare for situations where their gun isn't available (like on an airplane) or where the gun isn't appropriate due to the totality of the circumstances. This category also includes fixed or folding blade knifework (for those who choose to carry knives where lawfully allowed). There are several combatives trainers who are proponents of the multi-disciplinary approach, including Michael Janich (Martial Blade Concepts), Craig Douglas (Shivworks), Paul Sharp (Sharp Defense), Greg Ellifritz (Active Response Training), Cecil Burch (Immediate Action Combatives), and Larry Lindenman (Point-Driven Training).



Thanks for reading this far. I know it's a big pill to swallow, but I really feel that this core curriculum, or "Undergraduate Degree," makes up the basis for the well-prepared and capable Civilian Defender. I listed the eight areas of study and ranked them as I did based on the relative probability that each of these skills will be needed or used. Sure, some of them could be argued to be of equal importance, but I think that you get my point. We are FAR more likely to need to avoid an inattentive driver or an aggressive driver than we are to shoot a carjacker. And many of these skill sets are prophylactic medicine against facing the shooting problem. For example, simple street smarts can help you recognize that the three youths across the street in front of your bank are in fact gang members from a local set of the Latin Kings. Thus, rather than end up in a gun battle with these folks, you will choose instead to find a different bank branch, or at least wait until they abate the area. What are they doing there? Who are they there to meet/rob/murder/ambush/have lunch with? Let the police worry about them, and you go elsewhere. Get in your car and drive attentively and alertly to an area where the threat profile is lower.

Also, if someone moves through the skill areas as I have described, they may decide at any point along the curriculum that they don't want to go any further. For example, someone might attend a "Violent Criminal Actor" course from Dr. William Aprill and decide that he is going to move to a privately policed, gated community that is 25 miles from the nearest urban housing project. There, he can live a life of relative security (at least in his mind). Likewise, someone might take the permit class and then decide that there is no way he can fire a gun at another living human being. In that case, at least he has a modicum of awareness training, improved driving skills and medical skills, and possibly even a good command of pepper spray skills for his own self-defense. He may skip the firearms sections and go straight to defensive tactics to round out his "degree." In situations where people are facing a higher threat profile, they may have to obtain their core skills in any order possible, starting with the gun skills and then branching out to the other areas, since they may be more likely to need a gun to defend themselves.

I hope this clarifies the directions people can take into the skills we all should prioritize for common emergencies. Others I know have already acquired these skills, but might have done so in an erratic, spontaneous, "willy-nilly" way (looking at myself here). For people in that category, I hope that now when others ask about the best ways to educate themselves on personal defense and preparedness, you'll have a better framework to give to them. It doesn't have to be exactly like what I am recommending, but remember that a good Civilian Defender education will prepare students for the things they are most likely to encounter. These days, you are more likely to encounter a violent criminal attack than you are a snake bite, shark attack or lightning strike. However, you are far more likely to encounter an aggressive or inattentive driver, or someone choking in the food court or having a heart attack at the gym, than you are to have to shoot someone trying to rob you.

Thank you for reading.

- Dr. House

You can read more from  
Dr. Sherman House at  
[RevolverScience.com](http://RevolverScience.com).



**KNOWING**  
IS HALF THE BATTLE

This is from our good friend and fellow trainer, John Murphy. John heads up FPF Training in Northern Virginia, and I highly recommend him as a trainer.

- Tom



FPF  
TRAINING



# THE DEFENDER'S CREED

- I understand and accept that human predators exist. Some are called criminals, others terrorists. They all prey upon the weak and unsuspecting, and take advantage of the civilized society our forefathers created. They are evil and must be confronted and defeated wherever they exist.
- I believe that self-defense is a moral imperative, and that force and violence must be met with righteous indignation and superior violence.
- I will not cede my security to others.
- I will do what it takes to defend myself, my family, my community and my country from those that would perpetrate violence upon them.
- I will practice avoidance, deterrence and de-escalation where I can. I will disrupt and destroy criminal assaults in circumstances where I cannot.
- I openly declare that I run with a like-minded pack, and do not amble through life with the mind-numbed herd.
- I will accept the consequences of my actions.
- I will train with my chosen weapons, maintain them and carry them in a condition of readiness at all times.
- I will be mentally prepared and physically equipped to respond to any attack.
- I will not be cowed into inaction by threat of violence.
- I will constantly test myself against realistic standards to discover my strengths and weaknesses. I will turn weakness into strength.
- I will seek to learn new skills and techniques, and then teach what I have learned to other members of the pack.
- Be it with firearm or blade, empty hand or blunt object, I will hit my enemies hard, fast and true.
- I will live a quiet and unobtrusive life, but I will develop and retain the capacity for sudden and decisive violence.
- I recognize that I am the modern equivalent of the Minuteman, and that I may be called to service at any time against heavily armed and suicidal terrorists. I will respond effectively.
- I accept that I am a pariah among some of my countrymen and an anachronism to others. I will not hold their ignorance against them.
  - I will win, or die trying.
  - I swear this creed before God, my family, and my fellow citizens. ■



John Browning is famous for inventing the 1911 pistol and the .45 ACP cartridge, but his initial attempts at creating a military service pistol for the US Army were actually in what caliber?

- A. .32 ACP
- B. .38 Special
- C. .38 ACP
- D. .380 ACP
- E. 9mm Luger

The first person to post the correct answer on the Rangemaster Facebook page will be crowned this month's

**WINNER!!!**

