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RANGE • MASTER

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# RANGEMASTER

DEFENSIVE TACTICS  
FOR THE **REAL** WORLD

## *Firearms Training Services*

**MONTHLY NEWSLETTER**

**T**raining resources consist of time, ammunition and money. For most of us, these are finite quantities, so we need to make the most of our training opportunities. I designed the Casino Drill to allow a shooter to practice and evaluate a number of skills in a single exercise and get the most benefit from a small amount of ammo. This one drill tests a rapid presentation from concealment; fast multiple shots on a demanding target; rapid target acquisition on multiple targets at odd angles; target identification; two forced reloads under time pressure; and keeping up with what's going on, all while shooting. This is far more beneficial practice than just standing there firing pairs at a silhouette target.

## THE CASINO DRILL

The drill requires a DT-2A target, which is available from Action Target ([www.actiontarget.com](http://www.actiontarget.com)). The numbered shapes are the same size as the truly vital area in a grown man's chest, so a hit inside the shapes would be an anatomically valuable hit on a human attacker.

The shooter begins with seven rounds loaded in the pistol and two seven-round spare magazines (7/7/7, hence the name, Casino Drill). The pistol is holstered and concealed. The distance is five yards. On signal, the shooter will draw and shoot #1 one time, #2 two times, #3 three times, #4 four times, #5 five times, and #6 six times. Each time the gun runs dry, the shooter reloads and continues. The shooter must shoot the targets in numerical sequence, and shoot the correct number of shots on each target. When reloading, the shooter must remember to finish the target he was on when the gun ran empty. 100% hits are required. The time limit is 21 seconds.

We use this drill in classes to inject stress and to introduce the shooter to running the motor program (shooting, reloading) while processing

by  
Tom Givens

information (target sequence, finishing a target after a reload), all while under time pressure. After a few runs, we culminate the exercise with having each shooter perform the drill solo, in front of the entire class. This is a great way to check the shooter's ability under stress and see how well automated his skills really are. Recently, Captain James Hale of the Oconee County Sheriff's Office (Georgia) set a new record with a clean run in 10.33 seconds. I consider anything under 15 or 16 seconds to be really good performance. By the way, the time only counts if done in class, in front of all your peers, so don't start

sending me reports of your 10 second runs!

There are numerous variations of this drill, and changing it up is very useful. Here are some variations I like:

- Load the magazines with 6, 7, and 8 rounds, then shuffle them. This randomizes the reloads.
- Shoot it backwards, starting at #6 and working down to #1.
- Shoot all the odd numbers, then all the even numbers.

**(Continued...)**

- Put a dummy cartridge in one of the magazines, then shuffle them. This causes a sudden, unexpected malfunction during the drill.
- Have a training partner shout out a number. Your task is to shoot all the targets, except that one. This is harder than it sounds.

If I only had one DT-2A target and 50 rounds for a practice session, here is what I would do to maximize the benefit of that ammo and range time:

- Casino Drill, cold (21 rounds)
- 5 yards, target #1 (4 rounds), dominant hand only, two times
- 5 yards, target #6 (4 rounds), non-dominant hand only, two times
- 5 yards, target #4 (1 round from the holster), ten times
- 15 yards, target #5 (3 rounds)

That's 50 rounds, covering most of the things you need to be able to do on demand with a handgun. Your goal would be 100% hits, always working to get those hits reliably,

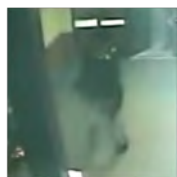
faster. A focused regimen like this one will do a lot more for skill development than 200 rounds just shooting a silhouette target without a specific goal. ■



# PERFORMANCE UNDER DURESS



See the video: <http://tiny.cc/robbery-attempt>



I am often told that people “cannot” do certain things under the stress of a real-life threat. Usually, this is just an excuse not to train and to be content with having no real skills. The video linked above shows a surprise gunfight, with three armed robbers initiating a sudden robbery against a single armed security guard. There are three different surveillance cameras, so we get a good idea of what transpired. Please watch a few times: [tiny.cc/robbery-attempt](http://tiny.cc/robbery-attempt).

First, the robbers run into the building. Two have guns already in hand, plus one has a bag for the loot they anticipate getting. As they burst through the inner door, they have the advantage of already having their guns out, plus surprise.

The security officer does NOT exhibit any so-called “startle response,” such as throwing his hands up. His hands go directly to his holstered pistol, which he presents immediately. The officer goes to two hands at eye level and shoots carefully, getting hits. Oops, I forgot... we can't teach people to do that.

The two armed robbers are thoroughly disconcerted by the guard's immediate, violent, and resolute response. They are rendered completely ineffective and flee clumsily. One drops his gun on the way out the door as he frantically tries to escape. I'd say their OODA cycle was disrupted a bit.

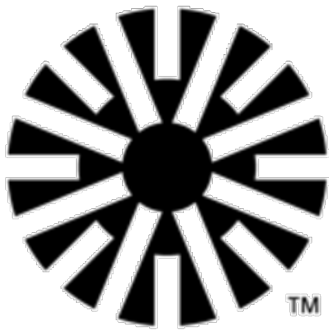
The security officer used simple lateral movement (side-steps) to accomplish several things:

- He used his security station as a visual barrier, allowing him to engage one offender at a time while blocking the other's view.
- He kept moving, further confusing and confounding the bad guys.
- By moving, he was able to keep the offenders in his sight.

As soon as he was able, he moved to a corridor opening, giving him a somewhat concealed position as he covered the door, in case they came back in. This shows he kept his wits about him and continued to think tactically, despite having been attacked completely by surprise.

This is how it's done. ■





# Pew Research

# Pew Life

by Tom Givens



Come train with us!

## UPCOMING COURSES

from Rangemaster

**Sep 8**

Defensive Shotgun  
New Orleans, LA

**Sep 9-10**

Combative Pistol  
New Orleans, LA

**Sep 29-30**

Firearms Instructor  
Development  
Course  
Franklin, TN

**Oct 13**

Defensive Shotgun  
Terre Haute, IN

**Oct 14-15**

Dynamic  
Marksmanship  
Terre Haute, IN

**Oct 20-22**

Firearms Instructor  
Development  
Course  
Carrollton, TX

**Nov 25-26**

Intensive Pistol  
Phoenix, AZ

Eventbrite

The Pew Research Center is a think tank that generates research on wide variety of social issues. They recently conducted a fairly large survey on gun ownership, and found some interesting information.

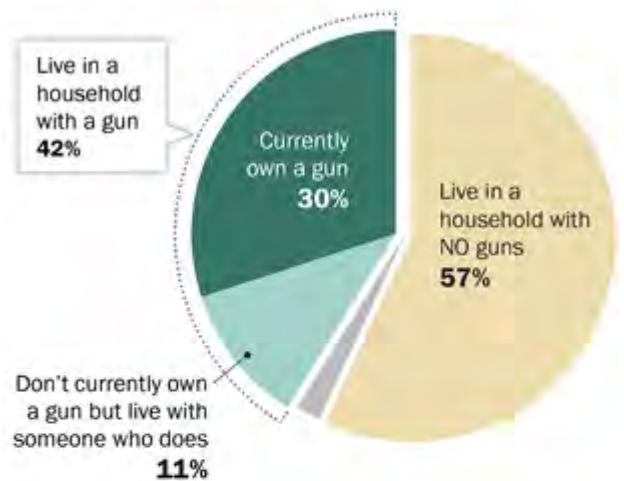
One quick take-away from this survey: the reasons Americans own guns have shifted considerably since

1999. Now, instead of sporting applications, the majority of gun owners cite protection as their primary reason for owning a gun. Those citing "protection" as their reason for owning a gun went from 26% in 1999, to 48% in 2013, to 67% in 2017. This is quite a shift in thinking for many people.

Here are a few of the charts and graphs from the Pew study. The full report is posted on the Pew Research Center's website at [www.pewsocialtrends.org/2017/06/22/americas-complex-relationship-with-guns/](http://www.pewsocialtrends.org/2017/06/22/americas-complex-relationship-with-guns/). ■

### About four-in-ten U.S. adults say they live in a gun-owning household

% of all adults saying they ...

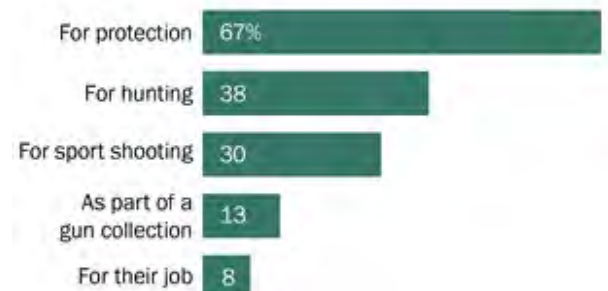


### Why Do You Own a Gun?

	Aug 1999	Feb 2013	Change
Among gun owners	%	%	
Protection	26	48	+22
Hunting	49	32	-17
Target/sport shooting	8	7	-1
Constitutional right/ 2 <sup>nd</sup> amendment	4	2	-2
Collect guns/Hobby	4	2	-2
Other	10	7	-3
Don't know	--	1	
	100	100	

### Most gun owners cite protection as a major reason for owning a gun

% of gun owners saying each is a major reason why they own a gun



PEW RESEARCH CENTER Feb. 13-18, 2013. Based on those who personally own a gun. August 1999 data from ABC News/Washington Post. Figures may not add to 100% because of rounding.

Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted March 13-27 and April 4-18, 2017.

"America's Complex Relationship With Guns"

PEW RESEARCH CENTER

# United States by Tom Givens **Firearms Production and Sales**

never touched a gun before. Each year the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (BATFE) puts out a report on gun production and sales. Here are a few tidbits from their latest report (July 2017).

In 2016, FFLs conducted 15,700,471 NICS background checks for gun purchases. Yes, that's almost 16 million gun purchases in a single year. In 2014 the total was 13,090,383; and in 2015 the total was 14,244,240. That's a grand total of 43,035,094 in just three years! Of those 43 million gun purchases, an awful lot were made by first time buyers. Note that this number only includes sales at licensed FFL dealers, not private individual sales.

## Top U.S. gun manufacturers of 2015:

<b>#1 Ruger</b> .....	<b>1,667,820</b>	<b>firearms made</b>
<b>#2 Smith &amp; Wesson</b> ....	<b>1,473,352</b>	<b>firearms made</b>
<b>#3 Remington</b> .....	<b>1,143,671</b>	<b>firearms made</b>
<b>#4 Mossberg</b> .....	<b>504,497</b>	<b>firearms made</b>
<b>#5 SIG</b> .....	<b>497,218</b>	<b>firearms made</b>

Those numbers include all firearms. Here are the recent production numbers for handguns alone:

<b>2013</b> ...	<b>5,167,008</b>	<b>handguns</b>
<b>2014</b> ...	<b>4,377,501</b>	<b>handguns</b>
<b>2015</b> ...	<b>4,442,458</b>	<b>handguns</b>

See the full report at [www.shootingindustry.com/u-s-firearms-industry-2017/](http://www.shootingindustry.com/u-s-firearms-industry-2017/). ■

by Tom Givens

# MEMPHIS HOMICIDES

**I** just went through a detailed report on the homicides reported in my old stomping grounds in Memphis. From January 1, 2017, until August 9, 2017, there were a total of 122 homicides in the city. None of these involved police action, but 2 were ruled justifiable homicides by private citizens.

In these cases, the weapons used were guns in 98 cases; knives in 9 cases; and other or unknown in 12 cases. Arrests were only made in 42 of the cases, a clearance rate of 34%. Arrests were most common when the motive listed was "domestic" or "argument". When the motive was "robbery" or "unknown" there was rarely an arrest made. This reflects the difficulty in solving "stranger" murders, in which

the victim and the offender are not known to each other. These are most often street robberies and car-jacking incidents.

The break-down of motives listed was as follows:

- **Unknown: 91** cases (usually a robbery or attempted robbery)
- **Argument: 11** cases
- **Robbery: 10** cases (in these the motive was evident)
- **Domestic: 8** cases
- **Gang related: 1** case

Thus, "Robbery" and "Unknown" accounted for 83% of the homicides.

Note that only 1 case was determined to be gang related. This shows that by far the greatest threat is from a robbery or unknown (usually turns out to be a robbery or attempted robbery in some form). These are crimes that are committed in public places, such as convenience stores, shopping centers, and office parking lots. Be vigilant, and carry your gear. ■





# TAC CON HEADS WEST



Introducing... The Very First

## NORTHWEST REGIONAL TACTICAL CONFERENCE

We try to keep the Tactical Conference centrally located in the US, so that as many practitioners as possible may attend. That's why it is usually in Memphis or Little Rock or other central location. There are a number of committed students of The Art in the Pacific Northwest, which is still a really long way from Tennessee or Arkansas. To accommodate them, we will be holding a regional conference at The Firearms Academy of Seattle (FAS) in July 2018. FAS is located between Seattle, Washington and Portland, Oregon, and is a very nice training facility with numerous ranges and a modern classroom.

The dates are July 27-29, 2018, Friday through Sunday. This will be a smaller event than the national conference, with about 100 attendees, plus staff and trainers. We have an impressive array of trainers presenting two hour and four hour blocks of instruction, including live fire with handgun, shotgun and carbine; classroom instruction; and hands-on training in empty hands skills and immediate trauma care. The trainers include Tom and Lynn Givens, Marty Hayes, Belle McCormack, John Murphy, Tiffany Johnson, John Holschen, Lee Weems, John Hearne, Gabe White, Mas Ayoob, Karl Rehn, Cecil Burch, Caleb Causey, Lori Bigley, and William Aprill. There

will also be a defensive pistol match concurrent with the training events. Advance registration is required. ■



Be the first to post the correct answer on the Rangemaster Facebook page, and you'll be this month's winner! Don't forget—you must [reply](#) to Tom's newsletter post on the Rangemaster FB page to win. And ... go!

According to the Pew Research Center study referenced in the opening article, what percentage of U.S. gun owners believes people should be able to carry concealed handguns with no permit?

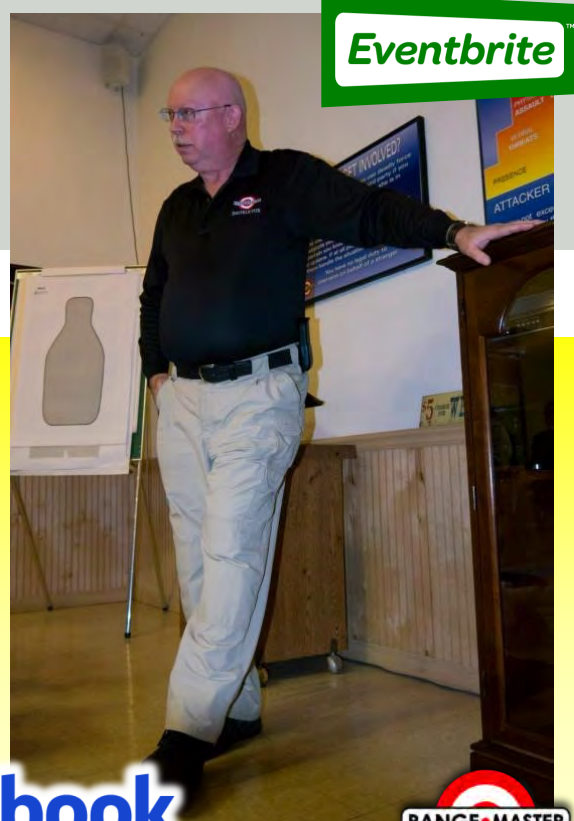
- |        |        |
|--------|--------|
| A. 33% | C. 62% |
| B. 46% | D. 71% |

**When:** July 27-29, 2018

**Where:** Firearms Academy of Seattle  
Onalaska, Washington

**Fee:** \$389.00 for three full days

**Sign-Up:** [www.eventbrite.com/e/nw-pacific-regional-tactical-conference-tickets-36248988701](http://www.eventbrite.com/e/nw-pacific-regional-tactical-conference-tickets-36248988701)



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