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JULY 2019

RANGE • MASTER

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# RANGEMASTER

DEFENSIVE TACTICS  
FOR THE **REAL** WORLD

*Firearms Training Services*  
**MONTHLY NEWSLETTER**

Several years ago, I attended the NRA Law-Enforcement Tactical Shooting Instructor School. This was a week-long school that covered a lot of material intended for those who teach firearms skills to law-enforcement officers. During the course of that week, we were supposed wear two holsters, one on

A lot of firearms instructors have their students do at least some shooting with their non-dominant hand. However, this was the first formal class I attended in which we were required to draw, shoot, reload, fix malfunctions and do all other operations from either side. I picked up several valuable tidbits during the

battle; two bad guys and seven FBI agents. During the course of the furious gun battle, five of those nine persons were struck by gunfire in their hand or forearm. That's over half the people involved. So, obviously the need to be able to shoot the gun with your non-dominant hand is a useful skill.

## ā•m•bi•dēx•ter•i•ty

the right side and one on the left side. We only had to wear one pistol, but for certain courses of fire the class instructors would announce that all the shooters would be right-handed or left-handed for that particular course. That was why we needed a holster on each side.

five days of this class but one of my major takeaways was the wisdom of having everyone work with those two holsters. Many instructors require their students to do at least some shooting with their non-dominant hand. The most commonly cited reason for this practice is the fact that people get hit in the hands and forearms so commonly during exchanges of gunfire. The famous FBI shootout in Miami in 1986 is a classic example. There was a total of nine people actively involved in that gun

What about having to draw from the holster on the non-dominant side? Reloading and malfunction fixes while using the non-dominant hand as the primary? Well, there are actually two really good reasons for that. First, the vast majority of firearms instructors are right-handed, as is most of the population. About 15% of the student base is left-handed, however. Having to actually work the gun over an extended

by  
Tom Givens

period of time with the non-dominant hand gives the instructor a much better understanding of how his left-handed students will have to function. Most handgun designs are set up for use by right-handed people and may require some adjustment in technique to operate them efficiently with the left hand under combat conditions. The instructor should be familiar and comfortable with these operations so he can teach them to his left-handed students.

The other reason is that as we go through life Stuff happens. I am right-handed. In 2014 I had surgery on my right hand, and it was in a cast and then a brace for four months. During that period, I would not be operating at 100%. I could not use my right hand to draw, shoot, or perform any other task requiring any manual dexterity. Fortunately, I had Tony at JM Custom Kydex make me a left-handed version of his excellent IWB holster that I wear every day. I ordered it well in advance so that I would have it in my possession when my hand surgery took place. For the period that I was left-handed, I wore my gun and other equipment in a mirror image to my normal set up. Having already spent time learning to draw, shoot, reload, etc. with my left hand, and having proper left-hand equipment I could then just carry on my normal routine without interruption. Since I had the same gun I normally carry, the only adjustment I had to make was drawing and operating it with my left hand, something I had prior training and practice doing.

Whether you have a problem with your dominant hand right now or not, I would urge you to acquire a holster made to wear on your support side. Then if you need to have hand surgery, you sprain your wrist badly, or you break your arm, you'll have on hand the gear you need to continue to be adequately armed. Once you get your non-dominant side holster do some practice with it, including some dry work to clean up and speed up your presentation and some live fire practice including shooting, reloading and fixing malfunctions. One day you may be glad you did. ■

# TAC CON

2020



[www.TacCon.info](http://www.TacCon.info)

The 22nd Annual

## Rangemaster Tactical Conference

March 27-29, 2020  
Dallas Pistol Club  
Carrollton, TX

Register soon, before time runs out!



Bolke  
Ayoob  
Burch  
Cerino  
Dobbs  
Douglas  
Farnam  
Givens  
Hearne  
Jedlinski  
Sharp  
White  
And more!



## UPCOMING CLASSES

**July 19-21**  
Shotgun Instructor  
Ripon, WI

**July 27-28**  
Intensive Pistol  
Racine, WI

**Aug 9**  
Defensive Shotgun  
Martinsville, IN

**Aug 10-11**  
Combative Pistol  
Martinsville, IN

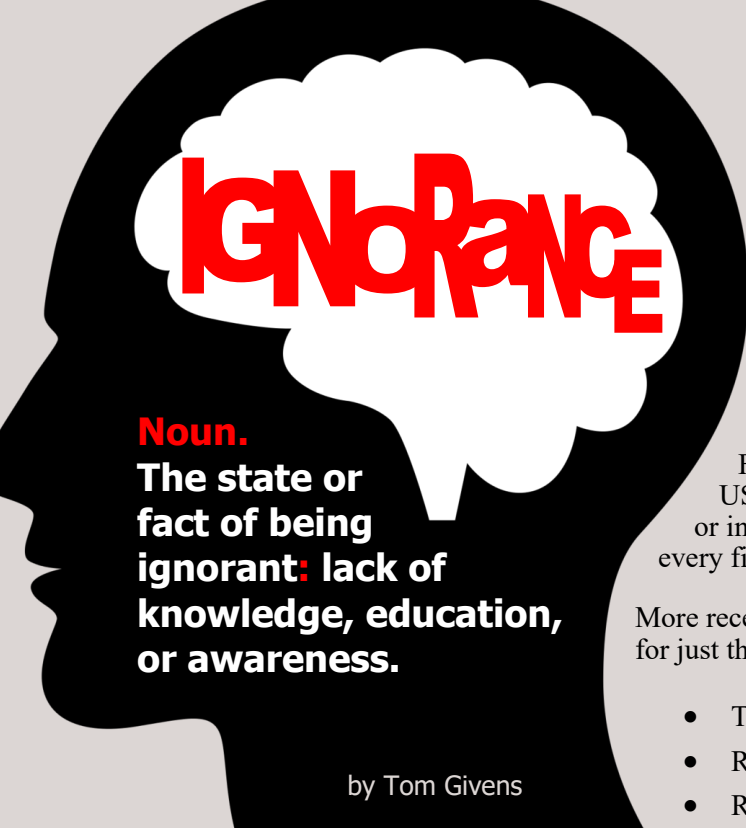
**Aug 23-25**  
LEO Instructor (Closed)  
South Dakota

**Sep 7-8**  
Combative Pistol  
White Hall, AR

**Sep 13-15**  
Instructor Development  
Course (Pistol)  
Hot Springs, AR

**Sep 27**  
Intensive Pistol  
Franklin, TN





**A**s you can see, saying someone is “ignorant” is not an insult. It is a statement of fact. Lots of people are ignorant of many subjects, but when it comes to violent crime, many people are what I call “willfully ignorant”. They don’t know, and they don’t want to know.

You will often read comments on social media that it is unreasonable, or paranoid, or silly to carry a concealed handgun on a routine, daily basis, because your need for that gun is “a one in a million chance”. Wrong. Here are some facts from the US Bureau of Justice Statistics, part of the Justice Department.

First, the BJS completed a study in 1987 that concluded that among US citizens who were 12 years old in 1987, 83% would be the victim or intended victim of a violent crime in their lifetime. That’s four out of every five people.

More recently, the annual BJS report for 2017 showed the following numbers, for just that one year:

- Total Violent Crimes: **5,612,670**
- Rapes (Female Victim): **393,980**
- Robbery: **613,840**
- Aggravated Assault- **993,170**
- Violent Crime with Injury to the Victim: **643,760**
- Stranger Violence (victim and offender unknown to each other): **2,034,100**

According to the BJS, you have a 1 in 49 chance of being the victim of a violent crime in a single year, not your lifetime.

So, the odds are not “one in a million.” They are one in a few dozen. If we only consider aggravated assault and no other crimes, there were 2,721 aggravated assaults per day (on average) in 2017. The FBI’s definition of aggravated assault is “an unlawful attack involving serious bodily injury to the victim, or the use of a deadly weapon or other means likely to cause death or serious injury.” In other words, that’s almost 3,000 times each day someone tries to kill someone else in this country. Taking sensible precautions against something that common is not being paranoid. It’s being smart. ■

We will cover a wide range of topics during these three days of training. This course will include (among other topics and takeaways):

- Historical Development of Modern Defensive Shooting Training;
- Teaching double-action revolver skills;
- Low Light training (in the classroom);
- Extensive training on designing courses of fire and range drills;
- A detailed student manual;
- Plus much more.

There will be three iterations of this course, geographically located so that one should be accessible to all who qualify to attend. The first class sold out in five hours. If interested, don’t delay. There will probably not be another iteration until late 2021, as the pool of qualified students is small. ■

**T**he Master Instructor course is strictly limited to those who have graduated from a Rangemaster Three-Day Firearms Instructor Development Course and our Advanced Firearms Instructor Development Course. If you passed both of those, you are eligible to attend this intensive three day class. Class size is limited.



## Master Instructor Course

Nov 15-17, 2019  
Shawnee, OK  
(OKC Area)  
**SOLD OUT**

Jan 24-26, 2020  
Homestead, FL  
(Miami area)

May 29-31, 2020  
Jackson, MS

**Eventbrite**

# Drill of the Month:

## The FBI Pistol Qual



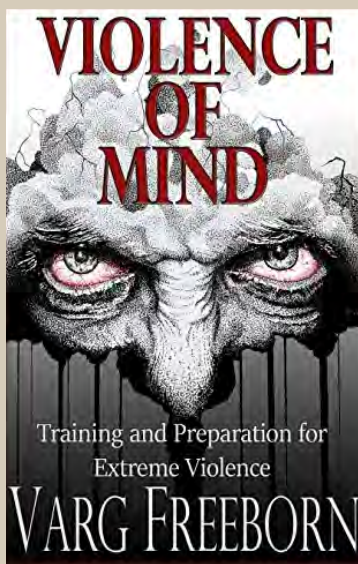
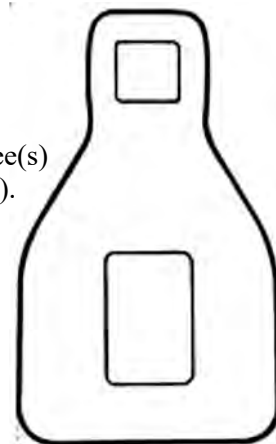
In 2019, we will be running a Drill of the Month in each edition of the newsletter. The goal is motivate folks to get to the range and actually shoot their defensive weapons, and to have some fun in the process. We encourage you to go to the range, shoot the drill, and then post your thoughts and a photo of your target on the Rangemaster Facebook page.

### FBI Pistol Qualification Course (as revised Jan. 2019)

This is the FBI's new qualification course, the result of a lot of research into what agents are actually facing on the street. It is also pretty relevant to the needs of the armed citizen. Use a QIT Silhouette target, scored at 2 points per hit.

- 3 yds** Draw and fire 3 rounds strong hand only; switch hands and fire 3 rounds support hand only (6 seconds)  
All firing is done with two hands from here on.
- 5 yds** Draw and fire 3 rounds (3 seconds)  
From the Ready, fire 3 rounds (2 seconds)  
From the Ready, fire 6 rounds (4 seconds)
- 7 yds** Draw and fire 5 rounds (5 seconds)  
From the Ready, start with 4 rounds only in the gun, fire 4 rounds, conduct an empty-gun reload, and fire 4 more rounds, (8 seconds)  
From the Ready, fire 5 rounds (4 seconds)
- 15 yds** Draw and fire 3 rounds in 6 seconds  
From the Ready, fire 3 rounds in 5 seconds
- 25 yds** Draw and fire 4 rounds standing, drop to knee(s) and fire 4 more rounds kneeling (20 seconds).

The FBI QIT target is pictured to the right. Any hit inside the target's outline counts as 2 points (ignore the chest box and head box). The whole course is 50 rounds for a total of possible 100. Instructors should be able to score 90% or above. Good luck! ■



I'm a little late to the party, since this book came out in 2018. I finally got a chance to sit down and read it, and I recommend it to serious students of the defensive arts. Here is what the Amazon listing for the book says:

*"A book covering the topic of self-defense from a shocking, first-hand perspective. The subjects of criminal violence, self-defense, lethal force, mindset, firearms training and concealment have never been introduced so comprehensively in one place. Having successfully sold world-wide in its independently published and distributed paperback form, it is now available on Kindle."*

Cost is a very modest \$16.72 in paperback form, and only \$9.99 in Kindle format. This is a mid-size book, at 223 pages, but all pages are full of good information. I especially liked Freeborn's take on avoidance, orientation, and training. This is not a book about the best holster, or the "ultimate carry gun." This is about getting your mind right to deal with sudden anti-social violence and its aftermath. Good stuff. ■

- Tom

facebook

