



CONCEALED CARRY

MAGAZINE®

INFORMATION & SUPPORT FOR THOSE WHO CARRY CONCEALED

COVER STORY

COMPLACENCY

BY: BENJAMIN M. SHEPHERD

GUN REVIEW

HECKLER & KOCH P2000

TACTICS & TRAINING

THE CASE FOR INTEGRATED TRAINING

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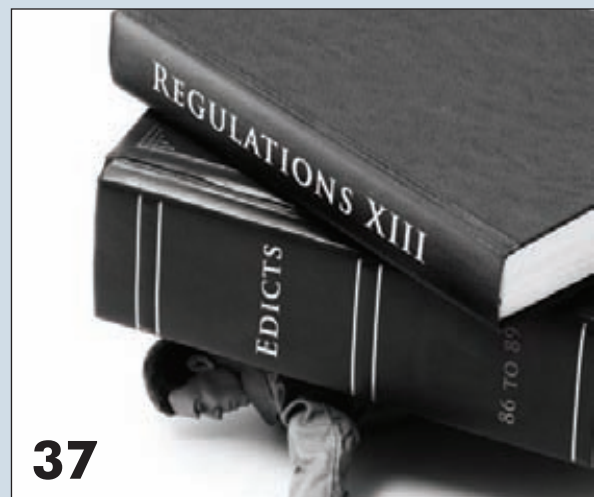
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CONCEALED CARRY MAGAZINE

Publisher & Editor

Timothy J. Schmidt

Managing Editor

Maria M. Harris

Art Director

Tonnie M. Lund

Circulation Manager

Charlotte Hohner

Copy Editor

Kathleen Ellis

Technical Editors

Sten Jackson

Fred W. Black

Hank J. O'Meara

Column Editors

Robert H. Boatman

Robert Childers

Duane A. Daiker

Bruce N. Eimer, Ph.D

Gabriel Suarez

Mark A. Walters

Contributing Editors

Phil Elmore

George Hill

Boris Karpa

Guest Editors

Gabriela Cox

Tom Givens

Steve Krystek

Michael Potter

Michael T. Rayburn

Benjamin M. Shepherd

Advertising Sales

Bob Cole

360-665-0542

e-mail: bobcole@centurytel.net

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TIM'S THOUGHTS

Congratulations to our three winners from the North American Arms Gun Give-Away Drawing.

**Warren Curling - Texas
Winner NAA .380 ACP Guardian**

**Robert Cobb - Ohio
Winner NAA .380 ACP Guardian**

**Steve Roberts - Florida
Winner NAA .380 ACP Guardian**

Looks like all the winners chose the .380 ACP Guardian! I guess that is the exact gun from NAA that I would have picked. Congratulations guys! I hope you're enjoying your new guns.

New Website Alert!

The brand new "content-rich," "members-only" US Concealed Carry website will be launching soon. The best news is that ALL current members of the USCCA will be automatically "grandfathered" in as "full-access" website members until their current membership expires!

Be safe and God Bless,



**Tim Schmidt
Publisher/Editor**



Concealed Carry Magazine Cover - May/June 2006 Issue

Cory Steiner, of Bucks County, PA, shooting his trusty Ruger SP101. Cory and family recently moved to Pennsylvania from New Jersey where he was quite the RKBA crusader. "After getting involved in politics, I rapidly learned that restricted Constitutional Rights are just the tip of the iceberg. It's no accident that there's a direct correlation between oppressive gun laws, widespread apathy among citizens and extremely corrupt governments. The choices were to continue the intense frustration or move to where I could live as I wish."

Cory carries his Ruger SP101, NAA Guardian, Kahr PM9 or Glock 19. His favorite holsters come from Andrews Leather, HBE Leatherworks and Hedley Holsters.

April 2006 Issue Correction

Sherry Dickson's Profile (Pages 6 & 7)

We would like to make two corrections to Sherry Dickson's article, unfortunately these slipped passed our editors.

1) She spoke of the song "Big John," and stated that it was sung by Ernie Ford. It was actually sung by Jimmy Dean.

2) Sherry spoke of Sandy Froman telling the "story of her parents' death", when in truth, it was Suzanna Gratia Hupp's parents and Suzanna's story.

**We apologize to all for the errors,
Sincerely, CCM Staff**

to the editor

Letters

Dear Editor,

I just wanted to say thank you for a well written, informative magazine. The best feature of your magazine is the fact that the articles are in order; there's no page flipping.

I've been carrying for almost two years now after retiring from the Army. Although not a stranger to weapons, carrying on a daily basis is something you have to get used to. I have used a weapon in the defense of myself and others, although in a slightly different environment (Iraq). Carrying concealed requires a different mindset altogether. I have gained a new understanding of certain legal aspects and have become more aware of how our rights are deteriorating right before our eyes. I support the NRA in their effort to educate people (liberals) in order to secure our rights as gun owners.

On a daily basis, I watch the struggle for some states to gain or maintain rights that are already theirs. When the Constitution gets molested beyond recognition, who will protect our rights then? Thanks again for an outstanding magazine.

Rick Johnson
OPFOR Commander
Ft. Polk, LA

Dear Editor,

In response to the Charles Ellis' April 7, 2006 "Folding Knife Review" article:

My knife instructors at Firearms Academy of Hawaii (a very non-CCW state) taught me to buy knives that don't say "ultra killer" in either looks or name. My knives are Benchmade and Mel Pardue with non-serrated blades—light blue and light yellow with 3 inch blades. I carry one on each side. I carry them most of the time and nobody has commented on how scary they look.

God forbid, should I ever need to use them, and should I ever appear before a jury, the prosecutor would be hard-pressed to impress the jury with "the dangerous killing blades" he shows them. They are downright cute and look as dangerous as a Swiss Army Knife - they even have a butterfly etched into the blade.

Of course, the macho side of me, wants to carry a bigger, badder knife, but these will do the trick.

I now live in PA and have a CCW license, but the knives remain my staple defensive system.

Kua Apple
Ambridge, PA

Dear Kua Apple,

I appreciate the points that you have brought up. None of the knives in my article are uncommon or say "killer, ninja, etc." on them. A good quality knife will not have such silliness on them. As far as impressing a jury, I am not as concerned as I used to be. In reading many court examples and discussing this with several respected experts, I have come to the conclusion that as long as your knife was legal and your intent was self-defense, than you have done all you can do.

Worrying about color of handles or serrations can limit your choices to the point where you may not choose the best tool. A jury can do all kinds of stupid things and trying to second guess them in preparation for the rare chance of being forced to cut your way out of a situation, can be futile. If you ever have to defend yourself with a knife, chances are you will be talking to your lawyer while you are recovering in the ICU....if you are lucky.

Thank you for reading my article and for your excellent feedback.

Charles J. Ellis
Contributing CCM Editor

Dear Editor,

I really appreciate what you are doing and the courage it has taken for you to be "just a regular guy" who cares enough to do something worth doing!

Too often, too many people do too little while they complain too much.

That attitude results in "victim" mentality. That mentality results in the opposite of LIFE—emotionally, mentally, spiritually and—unfortunately, all too often—physically.

You have demonstrated that you are not willing to be defeated by conventional thinking or by the "odds" offered by the "educated" and so-called, "experienced" grassroots organizers and magazine publishers.

You are to be congratulated for your commitment and your convictions. Both have motivated me to do all I can to "spread the word" and to "protect our rights."

Though I have neither the shooting experience, nor the knowledge of gunnery or self-defense that you and your advisors have, I share the objective of protecting our rights to protect ourselves and our loved ones.

Needless to say, if I can ever be of assistance, never hesitate to let me know what I can do for you, for your efforts, or for the causes that are important to both of us.

Rev. Dr. Richard J. Wagner,
Ph.D., M.Div., MCTC
Canal Winchester, OH

Dear Editor,

As a new member of USCCA and subscriber to Concealed Carry Magazine, I want to take this opportunity to thank you for your continuing efforts in fighting for our Second Amendment rights. I also like the idea of receiving the magazine in an envelope. This, not to hide the identity, but I hate seeing the 1 in. X 3 in. address label which always seems to cover something and ruin an otherwise, good-looking cover.

Bob Honeck
Milwaukee, WI

Dear Editor,

I really enjoy the magazine and the association. The magazine is top notch and is one of the few that I keep.

I like the format of the articles and hope you keep it as you grow. I really like that I can read an article from beginning to end without turning to page 68, and then to page 96. I read your magazine cover to cover, a couple of times, and have enjoyed each issue to date.

John Rost
Arlington, TX

Dear Editor,

The magazine articles that I read were outstanding. The research was unbelievable. It made me remember how the minutemen in the Northeast, where I am from, stood up for their rights not only to bear arms, but to have the freedom of protecting their friends and family. I will pass the USCCA on to all I know that are law-abiding like we are. Thank you for starting a new chapter of our freedom.

Bill Langlois
Contoocook, NH

Send your letters to:

Concealed Carry Magazine, Attn: Editor,
4466 Hwy P - Suite 204 - Jackson, WI 53037.
Or e-mail: editor@concealedcarrymag.com

*Due to volume received, not all letters can be answered.
Letters may be edited for space and clarity.*



Gabriella Cox

The most difficult thing I have had to give up since becoming pregnant wasn't the chocolate or soft drinks (and I still crave both every day). It was giving up my twice-weekly visits to the tactical range. Oh, how I miss the feel of my Glock 26 in my hand, as I practiced my quick-drawing from my concealed holster, unloading a dozen rounds into my target! Oh, how I long to fire it just once... But I know I won't stop after one round. (Does an alcoholic stop after one sip of beer?) And I promised my husband that I would cease all recreational shooting until our baby was born.

So I diligently practice my speed and stance by dry-firing at home. As important as it is to do that on a regular basis, it sometimes feels as though I'm trying to satisfy a sugar craving by drinking water. I have to keep reminding myself that although the practice itself might not yield any discernible results, when the day comes to perform, all this preparation will make a mighty big difference in my success.

To pass the time, I prepare for my future as a gun-toting mama. The postman finally brought by the Coronado tote bag I had ordered four months ago. It's larger than the Coronado shoulder bag I carry now, and it can double as a concealment holster and a diaper bag.

I've only had my CHL for twelve months, and it's only been 18 months since the first time I picked up a handgun and fired it at a target. I'm one of those people who fell immediately in love with the activity, and I quickly signed up for every defensive training class I could find. My first trip to the range wasn't prompted by anything

dramatic, and I really had no compelling reason to learn to shoot. I'd actually been quite intimidated by guns, and having been raised in Canada, I had never even laid eyes on a semi-automatic before that first trip to the range.

I think it was my growing intimidation of handguns that finally pushed me to fire one. I like to conquer my fears head-on, which in this case, meant that I'd have to actually handle and fire a pistol. I never expected that I would enjoy it so much! My life changed after that first trip to the range, and I spent a great deal of time (and money) investing in my new hobby.

My husband wasn't exactly thrilled with my newly discovered passion for firearms, and although he went with me to the range on several occasions, I could never convince him to take any defensive shooting courses or try out the tactical range with me.

Although it was proving to be a rather expensive activity, I think he was more concerned about my safety than he was about the cost. We had yet to have any discussions about starting a family, and therefore had no reason to discuss gun safety issues or costs.

I can only hope that now, just over a year later, I've proven to be a responsible and safety-conscious gun owner. More likely though, my husband is going to wait until we actually have our baby before he points out that this sweet little "baby in mother's arms" scenario doesn't look so sweet once you shove a deadly firearm into mother's belt. Doesn't anyone realize that the addition of a concealed weapon transforms this image from a fluffy,

idealized fantasy into a bittersweet and real image of a mother who passionately adores her child and will go to any lengths to protect her baby?

Being halfway through my second trimester, with a rapidly developing child inside of me, I operate as though I already have that baby in my arms. By protecting myself, I am protecting that baby inside.

I bring my Glock with me everywhere I go, and if I'm out alone in a dark or unpopulated area, I casually keep my hand near my holster in the "ready" position. It takes me less than a second to draw, aim, and fire.

Just as importantly, my mind and body are in a constant state of alert, so that if the situation ever does occur in which I need to protect myself, I won't sabotage myself with a slow reaction time. Nobody's going to sneak up on ME from any direction. (Sometimes I wonder what they'd think of me [those strangers who share the sidewalk I'm on] if they knew that the pregnant lady walking by was packing heat. Well, odds are they will never have to know...)

So what will change in five months when I strap on the baby carrier for my walks? Does the handgun stay at home? How about when I venture farther away from home into unknown territories? Do I have to choose between leaving the baby or the firearm behind? The answer, to me, is a resounding "NO!"

In fact, I would say that the necessity of my carrying a firearm quadrupled as soon as I found out I was pregnant. I will be damned if I allow myself to willingly make myself vulnerable in a dangerous situation, when I have a baby inside me

who is depending on me to provide a safe and secure home to grow in! And I'll be a thousand times more damned if I allow a bad situation to happen once I've got that baby in my arms instead of in my belly!

Go ahead, try to argue with me. Give me the "safety" argument, "What if the baby gets hurt by accident?" That will not happen. Because of hundreds of hours of practice, I've ruled out the possibility of ever hurting myself by accident, and I've significantly reduced the odds of doing something equally idiotic—I'd say "eliminated" but I haven't experienced these situations to say I know for certain—like revealing my gun without the intention to use it or shooting an innocent bystander.

I'll just have to tailor my practices for the new situations I'll be in once I become a mother. At the range, I'll load up the baby carrier with a life-size doll and learn a modified, quick-draw technique that doesn't put the baby in harm's way. It's not like I'm looking for the opportunity to shoot someone while I'm holding my baby, but the best way to ensure my family's safety is to be prepared for all situations and to not be caught off guard.

That's what those defensive handgun classes are all about. We learn to shoot while running, while backing up, and while lying down. We learn to shoot at arm's length from our attacker, to shoot at multiple targets, to shoot in open spaces and in closed spaces. We even learn how to respond to hijacking situations—not just theoretically. The instructor brings a real car onto the range with scenarios that we cannot predict, including ones in which the "bad guy" is surrounded by innocent bystanders whom we must avoid accidentally shooting.

I'll just add a few scenarios of my own, such as, Mommy strapping baby into car seat with her back to the parking lot, Mommy loading groceries into car (a favorite scenario for carjackers), or

Mommy wiping spit-up off baby's face, plus a whole lot more of Mommy is distracted by baby and not paying attention to her surroundings scenarios. Can I be on the alert while attending to my baby? I don't even know yet. Can I physically ready myself to pull a handgun out of a hidden holster while I'm in the process of moving my baby from Point A to Point B? Who knows? But I intend to find out, and to work out a technique that will allow me to be an attentive mother who is ready to protect her family when necessary.

No, that handgun will NOT stay at home when I'm out with baby. Even though the concealed handgun community is generally extremely impassioned in protecting our Second Amendment, there must be some individuals within this group who have mixed feelings about the combination of a firearm and a small baby.

Would you believe me if I told you it would be physically impossible for my baby to get a hold of my firearm when it's in its holster? Would you trust that my baby is 100 percent safe from getting hurt by this firearm, even though most of the time it will be less than two feet from her? Perhaps not.

I feel as though I need to provide a disclaimer now, in case I've blurred the concepts of carrying a concealed firearm, compared to general ownership of a deadly weapon. I'm not speaking in generalities of firearm ownership and storage; I'm speaking specifically of concealing a handgun on my person that will be drawn only in the event that my baby's life or well-being (or mine) are in jeopardy.

I'm not planning to be a vigilante against any crime I happen across. I am speaking only of protecting my baby and myself when we are alone, and of protecting our home against intruders who cross the premises. And if you think it's safer for us to venture out alone without any means of

protection just because the statistical odds of being attacked are unlikely, then I'm not sure any amount of logic would change your views.

As for how firearm safety is handled in our home, I most certainly will be moving the two thousand rounds of ammo out of the study and into a locked safe in the garage, out of reach and inaccessible to even the most determined child.

My husband will probably also have me unload the handgun and use a chain lock to render it physically useless anytime that it's not holstered to me.

...And I'll probably try to argue with him on that one, telling him that if an intruder enters the house while we are sleeping, we will need the gun to be ready for immediate use. (Once the adrenaline starts flowing, there's no way I'll be able to unlock it and load it without fumbling with it several times and wasting precious time.)

...To which he'll counter-argue by saying that we spent a thousand dollars on our alarm system to provide early warning against an intruder and that we'll never be in a situation in which an intruder makes it as far into the house as our bed without our being awakened first.

...And I'll counter his counter-argument by saying that the intruder could cut the phone lines, rendering the alarm system useless.

...To which he'll inform me that the alarm will still go off, it just won't communicate with the alarm company.

...And I'll be stumped momentarily, disliking the idea of having to dismantle my firearm every night so that I cannot use it.

But this time, I won't ignore his protests by insisting that it's perfectly safe to have a loaded firearm within arm's reach while we sleep.

...This time, I'll be thinking of unpredictable little kids exploring every square inch of the house and examining every item they come across. And I'll unload and lock up that firearm as predictably as we lock each door and set the house alarm each night.

And perhaps a time will even come when it seems like too much trouble to remove the lock and load the gun every single time I get ready to leave the house.

But for now, this gun serves as a tool to provide protection in a world that doesn't exempt women and babies from violence, and until the day comes when I feel differently, I will fight to defend my right to protect my baby and myself. And as surely as I will pack extra diapers and formula for our outings, I will also be packing heat.

Continued on page 6



CCM INTERVIEW

CCM: Was there a specific incident that caused you to carry a gun?

GABRIELA: Not at all. I was born in the U.S., but raised in Canada and had no exposure to firearm threats until moving to Texas several years ago. I met a lot of gun hobbyists here, but the people I knew just liked to go the range to blow off steam, or they were shotgun owners who went hunting on weekends. I had never been exposed to situations in which guns were used in a protective capacity.

Because they were illegal in Canada and only carried by law enforcement, I never had the chance to see a semi-automatic up close, let alone handle one. Perhaps this is why I always had a fascination with them, but was extremely intimidated by the idea of handling one, even after coming to Texas. Several times, I turned down invitations to go to the range to shoot without ever really understanding why I was so hesitant to go.

Then one day, it just happened that a good friend and I ended up talking about handguns, and I learned that she too was curious to handle one but had been too intimidated to venture out on her own to a gun range. We decided to join forces to conquer our fears, and learn how to shoot together.

It turned out that the range we selected was owned and run by a very friendly police officer who gave us an impromptu (and free) lesson on gun handling and safety, and then let us try out several of his firearms (both semi-automatics and revolvers) to see which we liked best. I still remember firing my first shot, and the exhilaration I felt as the gun went off when I pulled the trigger. I fell in love with shooting immediately. I also turned out to be rather good at it, and at one point, the officer actually called a cease-fire just to point out my little cluster of bull's-eyes and announce that I'd never shot a gun before in my life. (I think he took personal pride in my shooting ability, since all my skills at that point were based entirely on what he taught me.) When he asked me which gun I preferred, I couldn't decide; I loved them all! I may have been partial to his Glock 23C just because it was the first one I ever fired and the first to shoot the bullet right in the middle of the bull's-eye.

This little story has a bittersweet ending though. My friend turned out not to enjoy the experience as much as I did, and although she went to practice with me at the range several times and even ended up buying a firearm for herself, she quit practicing shortly after and it's now been over a year since she's fired her Glock 20. She never gave herself enough time to build up her confidence, and now her lonely firearm is gathering dust in a closet, where it will continue to sit until the day

comes that my friend is ready to give it another try.

My own passion for shooting ended up growing and I eventually took all of the defensive shooting courses available at the local range. I split my time practicing at two different ranges (one near my work, and one near home) and I used the tactical range near my house on a regular basis. I also applied for and received my CHL and took additional classes, such as Shooting from Cover and Concealment. Being pregnant has kept me off of the range for far too long, and I plan to take some review classes and resume practicing on a regular basis as soon as the baby is born.

So, while there was no incident that occurred to prompt me to pick up my first handgun, I did discover a hidden passion and talent that will ensure that if such an incident should ever take place, I will be more than equipped to handle it.

CCM: Have you ever had to use your firearm in a defensive situation?

GABRIELA: No, but being able to carry a concealed weapon has given me the confidence to go places that I would otherwise avoid. I'm not speaking of places that are dangerous and should normally be avoided either, but of everyday places where women have every right to be. For example, there is a nature trail that runs through a forest, near a public park, in my neighborhood. The trail is right in the middle of civilization, with only a few trees



to conceal it, and every time I've walked it, I've only run into young couples or mothers with kids. I really have no reason to expect a dangerous encounter, but the fact that it is isolated from its surroundings and has the potential to be unsafe is reason enough for me to want to exercise caution when I go there.

I'd be too worried about being attacked to enjoy the experience. When I have my gun with me, I can walk the nature trail with high spirits and allow myself to get lost in the beauty of the experience of being near nature. I still do a visual sweep of my surroundings every few seconds, but I don't feel the apprehension or vulnerability that I would feel if I didn't have a weapon to protect myself.

I always have my hands positioned on my purse so that I can draw and fire within one second of identifying a threat. It's become second nature for me to be "at the ready" when I'm out alone like this, so that I don't have to constantly focus my energy on being alert to potential dangers. Because I can trust that my body will react if a reaction is necessary, my mind is free to enjoy the surroundings without the burden of fear.

CCM: What training methods do you employ? Do you have any recommendations?

GABRIELA: In order to have the confidence and comfort required to carry a firearm and use it if it should ever be necessary, a person needs to do two things: get appropriate defensive shooting training, and then devote regular time to practicing what one has learned. Both are equally important. Training should be provided by a qualified instructor and include all aspects of firearm handling and defensive shooting, starting with breathing, stance, grip, sighting, aim, etc. Practice comes next and must be done several thousand times, until it becomes an automatic response.

My instructors frequently talk about "motor muscle memory" and how one needs to practice the same motion about 4,000 times before it becomes an automatic response that occurs outside of the cerebral cortex (such as drawing one's gun in self-defense).

In addition to training and practicing different techniques or scenarios in which one must draw from the holster, it's good to practice what might be considered unexpected events, like unjamming a

gun, changing magazines while in the midst of a threatening situation, shooting from the weaker hand or from the hip, shooting while moving, shooting multiple targets, shooting while retreating or behind cover, etc.

One of the most important things we as responsible gun-wielding individuals must do is find a range (or other appropriate place) that will allow us to practice these tactical techniques and work through real world scenarios that involve more than pointing and shooting at a single, stationary target.

It is more important than all else though, to make sure we practice on a regular basis, even if we're just practicing drawing and dry-firing at home, or we're more likely to have a slow reaction time when it's critical. My own, personal mantra (which acts as a reminder to practice) goes something like this: I carry this gun for a reason... I carry this gun for a reason...

CCM: How long have you carried a concealed weapon?

GABRIELA: Since April of 2005. I only recently became involved in guns, about

Continued on page 8

Concealed Weapon 9mm:

The Kahr CW9 has the combination of features which make it the best Concealed Carry Weapon (CCW) in the market. It has the ideal combination of stopping power and shooting comfort, and is smaller, slimmer and lighter than competitive brands. Its smooth double action trigger reduces flinch, improving shot placement, and is safer. In stressful situations, fine motor control is impaired contributing to the possibility of accidental discharges with traditional single action triggers found on many autos and revolvers. The CW9's natural point of aim and low felt recoil make it an ideal gun to shoot and carry.

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five months before I got my CHL. Getting a license to carry a concealed weapon wasn't my initial goal when I started shooting, but it seemed like the next logical step for me. If I was planning to own a handgun and become thoroughly trained and experienced in defensive shooting to protect my home and family, why would I stop there? It would only be logical that I'd want to be able to protect myself and my loved ones outside of the home as well.

CCM: What weapons do you carry?

GABRIELA: I currently own and carry only one firearm, a Glock 26. I'm not a gun hobbyist; I own a gun and practice using it for defensive purposes only. I get more pleasure from learning new shooting techniques and practicing my speed and accuracy using my one handgun than I do trying out different types of weapons.

With that being said, I also believe it's best to stick to owning only one handgun, or a maximum of two if you have enough time to practice both equally or if you carry both at the same time. I always thought it would be cool to carry two, but my Walther P99 40 caliber was too big to carry concealed, and I ended up doing all my practice with what I had originally intended to be my "backup" gun (my Glock).

As I spent less and less time practicing with my Walther, I eventually decided to sell it because I also don't believe guns are

meant to sit in a locked closet. Guns are meant to be used, just like music is meant to be heard. (Who ever heard of having a CD collection but never playing any of it?) I'm definitely not a collector. I wanted my Walther to go to a good home whose owner would give it a good workout on a regular basis. Then I could devote all my practice time to my Glock.

I do carry other weapons, however, including a can of FOX five point three (5.3 million SHU) Cone Law Enforcement Formula pepper spray along with a couple of Sudecon decontamination wipes (just in case), a Spyderco Native III (3 inch blade), and as a last resort, a ballpoint pen that conceals a narrow, 4 inch blade. I haven't been practicing enough with the knives lately though, so I have been leaving them at home where they will stay until I feel they will be of more advantage to me than to a potential attacker.

CCM: What type of ammunition do you carry?

GABRIELA: 9mm, luger, 135 grain, Federal Hydra-Shok, jacketed hollow points and 9mm, luger, 115 grain, Cor-Bon, jacketed hollow points. I've practiced with both types on the range and I feel comfortable firing them. Since I've yet to use my firearm in a defensive situation, I'll just have to have faith that they will work as intended when off of the range!

CCM: What concealment holsters do you use?

GABRIELA: I'm not really into using holsters. A scenario was described to me in which a law enforcement officer had grown accustomed to using a shoulder holster, but then one day switched to an SOB holster to accommodate his undercover attire. That day he got into a situation requiring fast action, but he couldn't get to his gun in time because he had automatically reached for his shoulder firearm that was no longer there. He suffered several shots and was down before he remembered where his firearm was.

I took a Carrying in Concealment course that gave us the opportunity to try out various types of concealment holsters and it only confirmed that my first choice, a purse holster, was the best choice. Not only am I able to have my gun at the ready without anyone knowing it by resting one hand inside the concealed compartment where the gun is, but I could shoot right through the purse if I had to. Fortunately, I won't have to worry about destroying my holster if I ever do have to fire quickly because with the help of my instructor, I mastered a technique in which I can properly draw, aim, and fire very efficiently: My purse is strapped diagonally across my chest with the holster side pointing to my right. As I put my right hand into the concealed holster to grip the gun, my left hand yanks the

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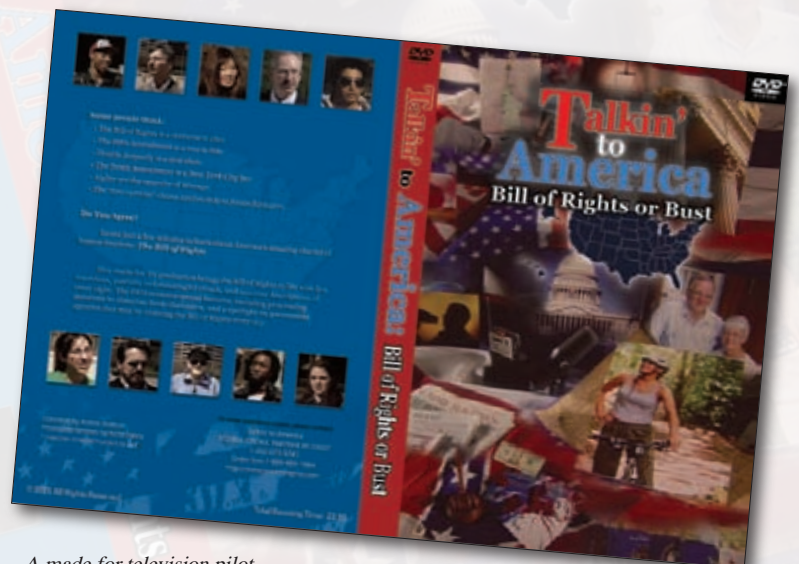
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purse strap to pull the purse out of the way. As the left hand moves the purse away, I am extending my firing arm and aiming in the direction of the threat.

The total time it takes from reaching toward the holster to getting the firearm free and in position to fire the gun is one second. A hip holster takes me longer to draw from unless I'm planning to start firing from the hip before I raise my gun to eye level. Because the purse holster naturally rests at a higher level, I can get into a point and shoot position more quickly than I can when using other types of holsters.

It's unfortunate that some reviews of different concealment holsters have rated the purse holster as one of the slowest draws because it's the most reliable holster I can imagine. It's a natural extension of a woman's daily wardrobe.

Perhaps the people who rate the different holsters aren't taking the time required to fairly judge the purse holster on its own merit. This type of holster may initially require a greater time commitment to master, as it is very awkward at first to try to reach into a tight compartment and pull a weapon out with any speed or coordination at all, but with sufficient practice, I would say that it is ultimately faster and more reliable than many of the other options available to women.

The one thing I am sure to carry with me on a consistent basis, regardless of weather and location, is my purse. Using the purse to carry my gun gives me a level of freedom that other holsters cannot offer, such as being able to maintain a diverse wardrobe and being comfortable in any climate. (I don't have to wear a blazer every day to hide my hip holster and I can wear a breezy skirt in the summer instead

of belted pants.) And with the zipper lock, I feel better knowing that I can bring my purse into other people's homes without inadvertently presenting new risks.

My current holster is a Coronado Aspen Classic, but I recently purchased a Coronado Classic Carry All because it's larger and will be more practical as a dual purpose handbag and diaper bag. The Carry All has shorter straps that will require me to carry it on my left shoulder if I want to draw with my right hand, so I do have a bit of a learning curve to face before I will feel really comfortable using this purse.

My newest holster (pictured):
Coronado Classic Carry All
(www.coronadoleather.com)

CCM: What do you do for a living?

GABRIELA: Until I took my latest career move toward motherhood and ended my stint in corporate America, I was a network and internet security specialist for several large corporations. Most of my work involved developing tactical and strategic solutions to address security issues that would then be implemented by the companies' various operating teams. My specific area of interest and expertise put me in the position of "expert on call," performing all investigations that involved employees or external threats, and I frequently acted as the technical liaison between law enforcement officials and the companies' internal legal departments.

I love performing investigations and tracking down unauthorized or illicit activities, as the process not only requires me to utilize many different technical skills, but it demands creative thinking or putting myself into the mindset of the person whom I am investigating. There's great satisfaction in the final outcome as well. One investigation earned me a commendation from the FBI for tracking down the identity and source of an individual who called in a bomb threat to an FBI office and then later tried to impersonate the judge trying her case. Another investigation resulted in my turning over the identities of two individuals who were actively engaged in collecting and disseminating child pornography.

The work can be extremely stressful at times when I am up against the clock and must drop everything else to get the job done, and it can be very intellectually and emotionally draining, but when I successfully close a case, showing proof beyond a doubt of an individual's culpability (via computer forensics), I feel a deep level of satisfaction that is like nothing else I've experienced. It's a far cry from police

work, but it gives me the chance to use my technical skills to help score some points for the good guys. In fact, I'm seriously considering working as an FBI consultant in the area of internet exploitation when I decide it's time to re-enter the workforce.

CCM: Do you have any advice for our readers?

GABRIELA: My advice is specifically to new parents who are debating what to do with their concealed handguns once they begin carting a newborn or small child with them everywhere they go... Do not stop carrying! Remember the reason you got your CHL in the first place: to protect yourself and those you care about from harm. Having a baby gives you more reason than ever to be vigilant in protecting yourself and those close to you. Make sure that regular visits to the range to keep up your training and skills remain a high priority, and plan to educate and train your children in gun safety and handling once they are old enough to understand that guns are not toys.

Plan how you will protect your children from your firearms when you are out with them and carrying, as well as when you are at home. You will need to devise a strategy that will protect your children from harm, while still giving you reasonable access to your gun if the situation demands it.

If you are a new mother, consider bringing props (like baby-size dolls and baby gear) to the range and working with the defensive shooting instructors to help you develop new defensive strategies that will work when you are in real world situations with your baby. Once I have my baby and am able to get back to the range, I plan to work through several scenarios that I might find myself in one day. I particularly want to practice how I will draw and fire under the following circumstances: when I am carrying my baby against me in a sling (and have less freedom of movement to reach my holster), when I am pushing my baby in a stroller (and don't have both hands free), and when I am physically engaged in an activity like feeding or diapering my baby. What steps do I take in each of these situations if a threat presents itself? I need to be able to envision it, learn how to respond to it, and then practice my response over and over so that it becomes automatic.

One of the most important aspects of being a responsible gun owner and protector is to be familiar with and well practiced in responding to threatening scenarios that apply specifically to you.





HOMEOWNER SHOOTS INTRUDER

HOUSTON, Texas — A southeast Houston man shot and killed one of two armed intruders who forced their way into his home Friday night. Homeowner, Sergio Quintanilla, 26, told officers he was in a rear room of his house in the 1200 block of Flushing Meadow shortly before 9 p.m. when he heard his mother and children scream for help. When he entered the living room, he saw the two intruders holding assault rifles. Quintanilla retrieved his weapon, the men exchanged gunfire and one of the intruders was killed.

Officials did not release the deceased intruder's name. The second intruder, who may have been injured, fled in a gray or black Chevrolet. Police said there may have been three other suspects outside during the shooting.

Houston Chronicle
March 26, 2006

STORE OWNER SHOOTS ROBBER

ROSELAWN, Ohio — A Roselawn store owner turned the tables on a would-be robber late Monday night.

Cincinnati police said the owner of the Shop-Rite on Reading Road told them a man walked into the store shortly after 9:30 p.m. and attempted to rob him.

The owner said he pulled out a gun and shot at the robber. He told officers that he thought he hit the man in the leg.

Just before 11 p.m., a man came to the emergency room at University Hospital with a gunshot wound to the leg. Officers responded to the hospital and determined that the victim may be the robber. The shooting is still under investigation.

ChannelCincinnati.com
April 4, 2006

CHARGES FILED IN SHOOTING

GARY, Indiana — George Lebron faces a lengthy recovery from the broken bones and internal injuries he suffered when he crashed his car Tuesday night.

He also faces a lengthy jail term if convicted of firing shots into a convenience store while the security guard, owner and her two young children were inside.

Compiled by Sten Jackson

Lebron, 44, of Gary was charged Monday in Lake Superior Court in Crown Point with attempted murder, aggravated battery and four counts of criminal recklessness stemming from an incident at One Stop Food Mart at 45th Avenue and Harrison Street, Detective Sgt. William Fazekas said.

No one in the store was wounded when the man started shooting because the store was closing and he couldn't go inside, Fazekas said. As the guard returned fire, a Merrillville woman driving by was shot in the chest, police said.

Judith Winfield, 40, of Merrillville "has undergone extensive surgery and is scheduled to undergo further extensive reconstructive surgery," the probable cause affidavit states.

The man fled from the scene and crashed his car at 57th Avenue and Broadway in Merrillville minutes later, police said. When Merrillville police arrived, they found Lebron behind the wheel "highly intoxicated and seriously injured," the affidavit states.

Lebron remains hospitalized with numerous injuries.

Fazekas said when a ballistics report is completed; police will know who shot Winfield. The security guard will not be charged because prosecutors determined he was firing in self-defense.

Merrillville Post-Tribune
April 11, 2006

ROBBERY SUSPECT SHOT

MURFREESBORO, Tennessee — Convenience store owner Karim Barakat feared for his life when an armed robber demanded money and cocked his handgun about 7:45 p.m. Tuesday at J.D.'s Market in downtown Murfreesboro, a police spokesman said.

Instead of giving up any money, Barakat reached for his own handgun and shot suspected robber Edward Christopher Evans, 24, in the arm, said Murfreesboro Police Lt. Alvin Baird.

Evans, who is expected to be charged in connection with the robbery, was treated at Middle Tennessee Medical Center's emergency room.

Barakat's wife and daughter were inside the Maney Avenue store at the corner

of Vine Street during the robbery and shooting. They were not injured.

Murfreesboro Daily News Journal
April 12, 2006

ARREST IN HOME INVASION

BUXTON, Maine — One man is under arrest and authorities are looking for another in connection with a violent home invasion late Wednesday night in Buxton.

Police say they received a call from Mark Luxton around 11:00 P.M.. He reported that two men had come to his home on Parker Farm Road, kicked in the door and fired shots into his bedroom. Luxton says he fired back, and during the exchange of gunfire his dog was shot in the chest.

A couple of hours later police tracked down David Nanos of Portland at Southern Maine Medical Center in Biddeford where he had apparently gone to get treatment for a gunshot wound to the hand.

Nanos is charged with attempted murder, burglary and criminal threatening with a firearm. The other suspect is still on the loose.

The dog is being treated at a veterinary hospital and is expected to survive.

Portland's WCSH6.com
April 27, 2006

FATAL SHOOTING WAS SELF-DEFENSE

ARLINGTON HEIGHTS, Illinois — No charges are likely as a result of a shooting last week in which one man was killed and another wounded, Arlington Heights police said Monday.

Police believe a 32-year-old male resident of an apartment in the 700 block of East Golf Road, found holding an AK-47 rifle, may have been trying to protect himself after being threatened by three men. "After that, there was a struggle over the gun and we don't believe [the resident] intentionally shot anyone," Police Capt. Jerry Lambert said.

Justin Damion, 23, of Chicago was killed, authorities said. An unidentified 22-year-old Chicago man remained hospitalized Monday, Lambert said.

Damion arrived at the home with two friends and began quarreling with the 32-year-old about money Damion thought the man owed an acquaintance, Lambert said. "The resident was attacked ... and got out the weapon to hold off the attackers," Lambert said. "We're confident it was self-defense." The man was a registered gun owner and the AK-47 was a legal weapon, Lambert said.

Chicago Tribune
May 2, 2006

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NATO Commercial and
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Benjamin M. Shepherd Complacency.

Simple, it goes like this: Joe Average decides to go through the steps necessary to obtain his CCW permit. He goes through the required class, and he submits the paperwork to the proper law enforcement agency. He does his homework and buys a suitable gun. He buys premium ammo, and he buys a high quality belt and holster. He even goes to the range for practice every week. No once a month stuff for him; he is serious about his skill maintenance. So far, so good, right? Right. Our boy Joe is the poster child of correct CCW in every way: He trains regularly, he has high quality equipment, and he has the proper mindset. He has taken a high-end training course at a nationally recognized school (which he passed with flying colors). Yes friends, Joe has this CCW stuff DOWN. He's had his permit for a couple years, and he's living the CCW lifestyle.

Now let's look down the road six months. Here we find Joe, after a long day at work, sitting in the den watching that new episode of his favorite TV show, when his wife hollers from the other room, "Honey, I forgot to get milk at the store. Would you

please run down to the Mini-Mart on the corner and grab a gallon?" Now friends, at this point, Joe has "shut 'er down" for the day. It's Friday, he's just finished a 50 hour work week and he is enjoying a show that he's been looking forward to all week. But being the loving husband he is, he says, "Sure, be back in a few minutes." And he heads out to the local stop-n-rob, which is only three bocks away, so his kids can have cereal for breakfast.

At this point, nothing out of whack, right? Wrong!!! You see, part of Joe's routine is to always put the gun in the little mini-vault in the master bedroom as soon as he gets home. It's a good spot, tactically speaking. It's out of the reach of his children, but the way his house is laid out, he can get to it before anyone on the outside can get to the area that his family is usually found in. And today, our boy Joe has followed his routine to the letter.

But he's in a hurry. His show is on, and he wasn't planning on going out again tonight. If he hurries, he will only miss a little bit of his show. And the gun is in the opposite direction of the front door. So, instead of going in and taking

ONE ACTUAL MINUTE to thread his holster back on and put the gun in it, he heads out...

Now friends, there is ONE good outcome to this: Joe does the down-n-back in record time, while following all applicable traffic laws, and he is back in his chair before the commercial break even ends!

Does anyone reading this care to guess how many bad outcomes there are for the above situation? We could very easily fill this entire magazine several times over with bad outcomes, so I'll just hit a couple.

1. Joe walks into a holdup in progress, startling the crack-head holding the clerk at gunpoint. Said paranoid crack-head panics and shoots Joe, thinking he is a plain-clothes policeman responding to a silent alarm.

2. Joe comes back from the store just in time to see someone loading his stereo in their car. His wife and kids are tied up and being held at gunpoint by said someone's accomplice. Either way, Joe misses the entire last half of his show instead of just a minute of it.

These scenarios may seem far fetched, but that doesn't change the fact that they are perfectly plausible.

There is a big difference between complacency and paranoia. If you have a back-up gun for your back-up gun's back-up, and two reloads for each, and you have Kevlar bed sheets, me thinks you are over the line. This, friends, is officially paranoia territory.

The other extreme? You carry a derringer in 22 short because you know for a fact that 22 rimfires kill more people in the U.S. per year than any other caliber, and you have also learned that only 2 to 3 shots are fired in the average civilian gunfight (if there is such a thing). So you are covered. He'll only get one shot off before your highly trained, super-ninja, tactical mind takes over and you shoot him twice, once through each eye. There, see, three shots. And your little 22 is easy on your ears as well.

It is my sincere hope that readers of this magazine fall somewhere in between these 2 extremes. I may be having a little fun with it here, but to me, complacency is one of our worst enemies as CCW holders. Be flat-out honest with yourself right here, right now. How many of us could fit in Joe's shoes? I think more of us than will comfortably admit to it, especially the veteran CCW'ers here.

The person new to CCW still thinks it's a little cool, with maybe a little tactical edge to it. This person is fresh out of class and rightfully proud of obtaining his/her



permit. They are now legal to carry a concealed weapon, and they ARE going to exercise that right. They look forward to the range trip once a week, even though it's 45 minutes each way. They look forward to cleaning their gun when they get home because they want to see how all the little pieces fit together again. This individual, as taught in class, is always in a light condition yellow. (For anyone new here, this is the level of alertness you need when driving a car, a sort of relaxed attentiveness.) This person is good to go.

But our veteran guy has grown weary of the gun's weight, even though by now he has downsized from the full-size, all steel 1911 to an ultra-light, titanium snubby. He no longer carries 24/7 where legal. He has a busy schedule, so range trips are now every other month or so. Besides, cleaning the darn thing once a week is a pain in the rump. And another thing, friends have noticed that compared to the average person, he is always looking around, and they are starting to tease him about being paranoid. Heck, he has carried

long enough, he has renewed his permit twice, and he hasn't once needed his gun. So now he only carries in the bad part of town, after dark.

Friends, this is not where we want to find ourselves, is it? I confess to being a little complacent here and there. We all do it occasionally. But when occasion turns into habit, we are just asking for it! Remember, there is a difference between being prepared and being paranoid. As for specifics on where that line between the two lie? You have instincts; use them.

But as far as carrying goes, it's like wearing your seat belt; there is no good excuse not to! You can justify not carrying all you want. But just as with wearing your seat belt, you may not get a second chance!

Author Info: I am an NRA instructor in 3 disciplines. I also assist with CCW instruction at my part-time job and I teach hunter education as well. I chair a "friends of the NRA" committee. I live in Utah with my wife. If you need additional info call me @ 1-801-563-4067.



Grassroots:

IN THE SPOTLIGHT

Written by: Michael T. Rayburn

Photography by: Mark Conway of the NSW Police

I grew up in a small town, in upstate New York. Living in a small community doesn't afford you a lot of employment opportunities, so in 1977, I joined the U.S. Army as a Military Policeman. After my training in Alabama, I was stationed in West Germany. I worked as a patrolman, a patrol supervisor, a desk sergeant and a traffic accident investigator. I also worked undercover a number of times investigating black market and narcotics activity. In 1979, I was temporarily reassigned to S.H.A.P.E. (Supreme Headquarters Allied Powers Europe) in Belgium as part of a reactionary force sent to secure the airfield

in the wake of the terrorist bombing attack against the Allied Supreme Commander at the time, General Alexander Haig.

After receiving an honorable discharge from the military in 1980, I went to work for a number of private security companies, mostly in the retail security field. My specialty was detecting employee theft and I would travel around the Northeast conducting internal theft investigations into dishonest employees.

In 1985, I went to work for the U.S. Justice Department Federal Bureau of Prisons as a Corrections Officer. After graduating from the academy in Glynco, Georgia, I went to work at a federal prison in Upstate New York. It didn't take me long to figure out that corrections was not for me, so in 1986, I went to work for the Saratoga Springs New York Police Department.

Basically, in 1986, crack cocaine came to Saratoga Springs. It was an epidemic. I had some experience working undercover, so I was hired as a patrolman, but in an undercover capacity. I drove a taxicab for a couple of months, and then hung out in the local bars buying narcotics. I'm probably the only Irish/Scottish guy you'll ever meet that can't drink, so hanging out in the bar scene was tough for me, but it was a very successful investigation.

After working undercover investigations for six months, I attended the police academy and have been assigned to the patrol division ever since. I'm a patrolman and I'm also a training officer/firearms

instructor for the department. I have numerous letters of commendation and two "Police Officer of the Year" awards.

I've always firmly believed that if you're going to do a job, you should do it right. For this reason, I've always been interested in and sought out additional training, usually at my own expense. It's paid off in the long run because my desire to know as much as I can about my job has allowed me to share my knowledge with other officers and now with civilian gun owners.

I do this through my training company, Rayburn Law Enforcement Training, through my articles and books, and as an adjunct instructor for the Smith & Wesson Academy in Springfield, MA, where I teach both law enforcement and civilian classes. I've written a number of articles for several magazines, and I currently have two books out. My third and newest book, "Basic Gunfighting 101," is a civilian guide to combat shooting, which is filled with common sense tactics.

I'm teaching more and more in the civilian sector, and I find it very rewarding to teach firearms classes to non-law enforcement people. As with anything I do, I wanted to learn as much as I could, so I took the unusual step of becoming a Certified NRA Firearms Instructor, on top of all of my other certifications. The unusual part is that I had a civilian teach me how to be a firearms instructor from his perspective, as if I hadn't taught or written



about firearms tactics/training in the past. Believe it or not, it gave me a different perspective on firearms training, and made me realize that I needed to change some of my “cop talk” terminology.

I’m a firm believer in the Second Amendment and your right as a law-abiding citizen to keep and bear arms. I also believe that if you have a desire to carry a concealed firearm, you should be allowed to do so. As a police officer, I’ve seen what can happen to people when they are not equipped to defend themselves. Your safety and the safety of your family ultimately falls into your hands. The police can’t be there to protect you 24/7.

With those rights comes a certain degree of responsibility. One is to know the laws regarding the carrying of a firearm, especially a concealed firearm. Secondly, if you’re going to carry a firearm for personal defense, you should know the laws in your jurisdiction regarding the use of force and you should be properly trained in its use.

Far too many of us (both law enforcement and civilians alike) think that punching holes in the center of a bull’s-eye target will prepare you for a gunfight. Gunfights are up close and personal events that most often times involve both parties shooting on the move. Through years of research, I’ve found that the traditional

method of firearms training that is taught to most police officers and to civilians falls very short of what really happens in a gunfight.

I’ve talked to well over 100 police officers (usually informally) that have been involved in shootings, and in some cases, multiple shooting incidents, and I have discovered that there is a lot of B.S. being taught out there, especially in the private sector. Sometimes it’s hard to wade through all of it, so do your homework before attending a training class. Find out what the instructor’s credentials are, and verify them. Just because someone has been a police officer for the past twenty years or has won a couple of competitions, it doesn’t automatically make them an expert. Contact the instructor prior to signing up for the class, and ask questions.

If an instructor proclaims to know everything there is to know about firearms training, don’t bother signing up. I have two goals for every class I teach. One is for the students to learn something new and useful. The other is for me to learn at least one new thing in class because this is a never-ending, learning process, and you’ll never know everything there is to know about firearms training.

I’ve recently returned from a trip to Australia, where I taught two Instructor classes to the New South Wales Police in

Sydney. If you’re concerned with losing your gun rights, you need to look up the gun laws in Australia. They’ve gone so far to the extreme left that they don’t even allow their police officers to carry a firearm off-duty, which leaves them, their families and the people around them open to attack from any criminal seeking revenge.

Please feel free to contact me anytime at my website:

www.pointshooting.org



Left Page: Left: That’s my dog Nick. He’s a miniature Doberman, but he thinks he’s a full size one. He chases dogs ten times his size out of the yard. Thankfully he hasn’t caught one yet!

Bottom: Drawing my .38 S&W Airlite PD from an inside-the-pants “Pager Pal” holster. My American Ironhorse motorcycle in the background. Right: Me taking a break on one of the 95 degree days. Coming from Springtime in upstate NY and going to the beginning of Fall in Australia, the 60 degree change made it a little hot on the range.

Right Page: Bottom: Group photo of my second class of NSW and Australian Federal Police. Top Right: Next to the Harbor Bridge, probably the most well known landmark in Sydney is the Opera House. This is a picture of it from the air. Middle Right: Teaching one-handed point shooting skills to an Australian Federal Police Officer. Bottom Right: Teaching one-handed point shooting while moving laterally.





PHOTOGRAPHY BY THE AUTHOR

THE COWBOY DEFENSE

“The single-action revolver is a lousy weapon to defend yourself with,” says the Tactical Operational Expert all decked out in his camo outfit that makes him look like he was just spewed up by an over-fertilized tree.

“But,” you say, “that’s exactly what it was invented for well over a century ago and that’s mainly what it’s been used for ever since.”

“Maybe back in the days of open carry,” the TOE reluctantly admits. “But how do you think you’re going to conceal a big-bore six-shooter?”

“Start by cutting the barrel down,” you answer, “just like they do double-action revolvers meant for concealed carry.”

“And speaking of six-shooters,” he interrupts, “how are you going to fight off 40 mercenaries armed with automatic weapons with only six shots?”

You think of the old Texas Ranger adage, “One Riot, One Ranger,” but you say, “I don’t figure that’s a self-defense situation I’ll ever find myself in.” You wonder how often the TOE fights off 40 mercenaries armed with automatic weapons.

“And cocking the hammer for every shot?” he carries on incredulously. “That’s so *slow*.”

Yeah, like Bat Masterson and John Wayne and Billy The Kid. You don’t bother to tell him, because you’ve seen him shoot and you’ve seen his scores, that with a two-hand hold and left-thumb cocking you can shoot your single-action revolver about as fast as he can shoot his semi-automatic pistol and with considerably more accuracy. So you just shrug.

“Haven’t you noticed this is the 21st century?” he asks.

You look at your watch.

“You need to keep up with the times,” he advises without much patience.

You think back to Billy The Kid and wonder just how far criminal psychopaths have actually advanced since the century before last.

“And just show me where you mount a laser beam and blinding white headlights and battery packs on that cowboy gun. Not many gunfights are choreographed on

Main Street at high noon these days,” he concludes decisively.

“I feel pretty safe with my cowboy gun,” you say as he sucks on a rubber tube connected to what looks like a camo-clad hot water bottle attached to his back, turns on the heel of his tactical basketball shoes and jangles noisily away toward the next firing station.

You gently pat the custom Ruger .45 snug in its holster on your hip with all chambers loaded with big lead bullets and smile. You figure you can take care of yourself alright, even if you should run up against the TOE’s evil twin brother in a dark alley some night.

Exquisite workmanship by Gary Reeder transforms factory Rugers into full custom guns.



MAKING PEACE

Sam Colt patented his idea for the revolver in 1835-36, but it wasn't until 1873 that he started producing the legendary Peacemaker—the .45 Colt Single Action Army. Introduced with a long 7½-inch barrel, it was soon followed by more concealable shorter-barreled versions, including the classic 4¾-inch Sheriff's model.

The plow-handled grip of a single-action lends itself to a fast and secure draw. Starting from an open or concealed position, individuals who spend some time

practicing with a single-action can easily draw, fire and hit their target in ¼ second or considerably less in many cases. This is plenty fast enough when you consider that the average reaction time of the bad guy will be about ½ second or longer.

As for dependability under stress, it might be noted that when Texas Ranger Frank Hamer, who always carried two guns, was closing in on Bonnie and Clyde, he chose as his primary handgun a .45 Colt Single Action Army, with a semi-auto 1911 relegated to the position of backup gun.

Continued on page 18

Shapely single-actions are naturally suited to casual carry and a fast draw.



A two-hand hold and speed-cocking with the left thumb keeps single-action revolvers on an equal footing with semi-autos.



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George Patton went to war with a brace of Colt single-actions on his hips. And Elmer Keith, who invented the .44 Magnum cartridge and was responsible for the double-action Smith & Wesson Model 29 that first chambered it, kept a single-action .45 Colt within reach for personal protection.

Bill Ruger introduced his Colt-look-alike version of the single-action in 1953

and found immediate success. The New Model Ruger introduced in 1973 featured a transfer-bar safety that allowed six-shooters to be safely loaded with six rounds for the first time—on every Ruger manufactured since then, there is no longer a need for the traditional practice of leaving an empty chamber under the firing pin.


Today, single-action revolvers are made in a wide enough range of calibers

to encompass rimfire plinking on the one hand and elephant hunting on the other. Somewhere in the middle are models best suited for self-defense and concealed carry. The original chambering of .45 Long Colt in the old short-barreled Sheriff's configuration is still pretty much the standard, though the traditional .44 Special and modern .357, .41 and .44 Magnum loadings are highly effective as well.

The single-action revolver, with its flowing lines and sensuous steel surfaces, has always been a darling of proud owners, firearms engravers and custom gunsmiths, and certainly one of the leading makers of fancy single-actions is Gary Reeder of Flagstaff, Arizona (www.reedercustomguns.com). Reeder works primarily with new Rugers, but by the time he's finished with a gun about the only thing left from the Ruger factory is the part with the serial number on it. Reeder makes his own cylinders, barrels and most internal parts, reshapes grip contours and performs any number of other precision operations that make his single-actions shoot better, handle better and look better than just about any six-shooter you might imagine.

You don't need a Reeder gun to feel safe with your single-action, but there's nothing wrong with complementing the elegance of Sam Colt's original design with the enhanced beauty and functionality you get from a talented modern gunmaker like Gary Reeder. I've always thought the gun you carry day in and day out should be a source of pride even if nobody else ever sees it.

Getting back to the original premise, a single-action revolver, aka Cowboy Gun, works just as well for carry and defense as a cop gun, military gun, TOE pistol-du-jour, criminals' current weapon-of-choice according to mass media's halfwit theorists, or any other handgun with which the owner has made himself deadly familiar. Knowing the level of training attained by most bad guys, and the number of shots that will likely be needed to conclude any impromptu meeting with one, I'd be more than happy to take a single-action 45-caliber six-shooter up against an 18-round 9mm anytime.

It's as true today as it was in the 19th century when they first said it: "God made Men, Sam Colt made them equal." 

Robert H. Boatman is the author of Paladin Press books *Living With Glocks*, *Living With The Big .50*, *Living With The 1911*, and soon to be released *Living With The AR-15*. He can be reached at: interboat@aol.com.

A few fancy short-barreled sixguns appropriate for concealed carry.



Gary Reeder also makes a line of holsters for both open and concealed carry of his custom guns.



Massad Ayoob's Lethal Force Institute I and II Teaches the Skills, Responsibilities and Psychology of Armed Self-Defense

By Bruce N. Eimer, Ph.D.

When is it right to kill another human? That is just one of the questions that are studied at the Lethal Force Institute (LFI). To my knowledge, LFI is the only defensive shooting school that spends as much time addressing the judicious use of lethal force (the legally armed citizen's responsibilities) as it does concentrating on combat shooting skills and tactics. When you carry a gun, you must subscribe to a higher standard of care in exercising your rights of self-defense. This is because with greater power, comes greater responsibility, and a person with a gun holds the power of life and death. I had the opportunity to attend LFI-I and LFI-II in Florida, taught by Master Trainer, Massad ("Mas") Ayoob, for nine consecutive days in December, 2005, and this is my review.



LFI instructor, Herman Gunter, supervising the line.

SAFETY FIRST!

Safety is emphasized first and foremost throughout any LFI training course. Having a gun is like having a pet rattle snake. You may love it, but it will never love you back. It's a lethal weapon. Each class begins with a safety lecture and video. The rules of gun handling on the range (which is a "cold range") and in the classroom were explained, and Ayoob and his instructors mean business. Supervision is excellent and no safety violations are tolerated. The consequence of one safety violation is that the violator must sit out the day without shooting. A second safety violation on any subsequent day results in expulsion from the class. It's no surprise that there were no safety violations in either of the classes I attended.

THE JUDICIOUS USE OF LETHAL FORCE

Lethal or deadly force is the degree of force that a reasonable and prudent person would consider capable of causing death or grave bodily harm. Depending on the circumstance, a crippling injury can be



Mas coaching a student.

considered grave bodily harm. For example, if an attacker causes you an injury that would render you incapable of defending yourself, so that they can continue their attack unhindered, that would justify the use of lethal/deadly force.

Deadly force is only warranted to protect innocent life from immediate and otherwise unavoidable death or grave bodily harm. You are not justified in pointing a gun at anyone unless the following three circumstances apply right then and there: (1) the person you are pointing a gun at possesses the *ability* (e.g., a gun, a knife, or is known at the time to have lethal killing skills), (2) immediate *opportunity* of causing your death or grave bodily harm, and (3) is acting in such a manner that a reasonable and prudent person would assume he was using those powers to place innocent life in *jeopardy*. Note that ability can also refer to a notable *disparity of force* in favor of the attacker (e.g., size, force of numbers, etc.).

The legal system will judge you on the basis of what it judges that a "reasonable and prudent person" would have done in the same situation, knowing what you (the defendant) knew at the time, taking the totality of the circumstances into account. If the prosecutor decides to prosecute, he has to show malicious intent on the part of the defendant (i.e., "Mens Rea," the guilty mind), or that the defendant acted with such gross negligence that the act of killing can be considered culpable negligence. Ayoob repeatedly emphasized that if right and truth are on your side, the truth will set you free; that is if you can articulate and authenticate that truth to the triers of fact.

LFI helps you understand and anticipate the patterns of criminal threats and attacks you are likely to encounter, and teaches you how to counter them. However, LFI does not teach threat management for dummies. The K.I.S.S. principle does not apply in the management of violent threats

because unfortunately, it's not simple, and if you graduate from LFI, you're not stupid.

POST SHOOTING TRAUMA

LFI-I not only teaches you how and when to defend yourself against a violent criminal attack, but also how to defend yourself legally and cope psychologically in its aftermath. After killing an attacker in self-defense, you will be flooded with conflicting emotions such as "survival euphoria" and guilt. You will suffer sleep disturbance and other symptoms of Post Traumatic Stress Disorder. Post Shooting Trauma (PST) is to be expected and it has to be dealt with. Moreover, after surviving a lethal force incident, you will encounter psychologically and financially draining legal trials and tribulations. In the end, your final examination will be on a witness stand and it, just like the lethal force incident, will be pass/fail.

LFI-I

LFI-I consisted of well over 50 hours of immersion training. The course thoroughly covered when a citizen can and cannot use a firearm in self defense, ways to avoid a lethal force incident, managing one that cannot be avoided, and coping with the aftermath. The following topics were covered: tactics for home defense and gun fighting,

Continued on page 20



Mas shooting handgun under the watchful eye of LFI instructor, Herman Gunter.



Don Hume's "IWB Strike" was manufactured to meet the specifications of the Dept. of Homeland Security's Armed Flight Deck Officer program, which also selected the HK P2000 LEM as their duty pistol. The "IWB Strike" provides an all day comfortable, deeply concealed carry with excellent weapon retention, given its thumb break retention strap; Kydex belt clip; wet molded, hand boned, leather holster; and its ability to be tucked beneath the wearer's shirt to make the gun completely disappear.



The author shooting in a "cover crouch."



Author with one of his law enforcement training targets in LFI-II.



Author on the line, shooting 12 gauge, Mossberg, 590 pump shotgun.

interacting with a suspect at gunpoint and with witnesses, how to contact the police while holding a suspect at bay, interacting with responding officers and investigating officers, and how to contact and retain an attorney.

Intensive marksmanship training and combat shooting comprised approximately 40% of the course. The 60% majority consisted of lectures by Massad Ayoob, video presentations, group discussion and student interaction. The curriculum also included training in "shoot—don't shoot" judgment scenarios and equipment selection (i.e., defensive calibers, choice of handguns, types of ammunition, holsters and carry gear).

Marksmanship and combat shooting skills:

"Shooting straight with your .38 beats the bad guy's jive with his 45." We were thoroughly immersed in learning Ayoob's StressFire system of combat shooting with a handgun. This system utilizes our natural, physio-psychological reactions to violent threats; that is, the "body alarm reaction" (BAR) and the "fight or flight" response, to remain in control and accurately hit our target. The basic premise is that StressFire techniques hold up under body alarm stress when one's strength goes through the roof and fine motor skills are degraded. Through a combination of lectures, demonstrations, dry fire practice, live fire drills at half speed and then at full speed, the full repertoire of StressFire gun handling and shooting skills with the handgun were taught.

The basic StressFire marksmanship "pre-flight checklist" includes the power stance; high hand grasp; crush grip; front sight lock; and smooth, straight back roll of the trigger. As a foundation, we learned the proper way to shoot from the three "classic" shooting stances: Weaver, Chapman and Isosceles. Then, Mas taught the basic StressFire cover positions: (a) the "cover crouch" for when you need an immediate barricade (such as behind a car engine block) or when drawing from an ankle rig, (b) high kneeling, and (c) low kneeling.

We also learned Ayoob's "Stress Point Index," which is for close quarter combat and the middle ground between point and sighted shooting. We learned one-handed shooting, both weak and strong hand, switching shooting hands, keeping the gun running, administrative handling, speed reloads, stoppage reduction and malfunction clearances.

Reality drill:

We performed and documented each student's performance in the famous "Tueller Drill." This demonstrated first-hand that even the most physically challenged members of our class could cover 21 feet

in under two seconds! Never again think that a guy aggressively brandishing a knife or baseball bat 20 feet away is not a lethal threat!

LFI-I qualification:

In order to pass LFI-I, we had to pass the qualification course of fire at standard speed, and also a written examination. The timed qualification course of fire required 60 rounds fired at a standard IPSC target. The course included shooting at various distances: (1) with the weak hand; (2) with the strong hand; (3) with both hands; (4) drawing and shooting from the holster; (5) shooting to slide-lock; reloading and shooting to slide-lock; (6) shooting from the cover crouch, high kneeling and low kneeling positions; and (7) shooting from the Weaver, Chapman and Isosceles stances. I was pleased with my qualifier score of 298 out of 300.

LFI-II

Picking up where LFI-I left off, this intensive, 5 day, 50 hour course further developed and refined our combat shooting skills to increase our "survivability" in violent encounters. Approximately 70% of LFI-II was spent on the range or practicing hand-to-hand skills (weapon retention), and the remainder was spent in the classroom.

Instruction covered: review of firearm and range safety rules and LFI StressFire handgun basics; judicious use of lethal force at a more advanced level; weak hand (or "mirror image") shooting; and advanced handgun shooting and manipulation drills, such as return fire techniques when wounded, shooting while moving (both forward and laterally), shooting around barricades, and prone shooting positions.

We then addressed: mastering the combat shotgun; handgun retention and disarming (e.g., maintaining control of your weapon in a struggle for the gun); armed self-defense inside a motor vehicle; building search tactics; using cover and concealment; and much more (e.g., night shooting). Classroom lectures covered the physio-psychological aspects of violent encounters, and information on how an expert witness can assist an attorney in preparing an effective defense of a self-defense shooting.

Physio-psychological aspects of violent encounters:

During a violent encounter, the "survival reflex," or "Body Alarm Reaction" (BAR), is physiologically tripped. The resulting psychological manifestations include tunneling in on the threat visually and auditorily, as one's cerebral cortex screens out everything extraneous to survival. This can lead to various cognitive

distortions, such as the distortion of perceived time; threat magnification; and selective attention, perception, and memory.

After a deadly force encounter, such as a shooting, the horrendousness of it all can overwhelm, leading to an unconscious denial reaction as an involuntary, psychological defense mechanism. It is normal for the survivor's mind to jumble its recollection of the sequence of events (honing in on certain aspects and unconsciously blocking others). Therefore, the victim of a violent assault who used lethal force to terminate the lethal threat is advised not to make any specific statements about the details of the event in its immediate aftermath. In fact, the survivor should not make any statements before first conferring with his or her attorney.

Another very valuable aspect of the LFI-II training was Ayooob's clarification of many defensive handgun and shotgun myths.

Myth clarification:

Myth or truth? Don't draw your gun unless you intend to shoot.

Truth: Wrong. This is a myth! Don't draw your firearm unless you are prepared to shoot. Most felons are cowards and will run away, so you may not have to shoot. In thirteen out of fourteen cases, you won't have to shoot at gunpoint. So, if the preponderance of evidence tells you the aggressor is a danger to you here and now, you should draw, but you should not pull that trigger until the immediate threat to your life is beyond a reasonable doubt. The point is that you cannot wait to draw until you need to shoot, because you'll be behind the action-reaction curve.

Myth or truth? You will be looked at as a gun nut, or worse, a killer, if you spend extra money to make your defensive firearm more accurate.

Truth: This is a falsehood. If a guy pays extra to retrofit a passenger side airbag in his car, he is not reckless, but extraordinarily responsible! Similarly, if a guy pays extra to make his gun more accurate, he is doing so in order to make sure it works more efficiently as a tool to accomplish its purpose. For example, night sights will help you acquire an accurate sight picture in low light, so you can shoot with precision. If you have to shoot, the consequences of missing are unthinkable.

Myth or truth? Precognition of danger (intuition) is real.

Truth: Absolutely! The more you know, the more your intuition (your hunches, your sixth sense) should be trusted. To a trained defensive shooter, the subconscious will say without the words, "that person has a gun!" You are trained to recognize the clues.

Myth or truth? If somebody is trying

to get your gun, you may have to shoot them off.

Truth: Correct! If you cannot get an attacker off of your gun, you are likely to have to shoot him off! The point is that when a gun is taken out of your hand by an offender, you can expect to be shot with your own gun. His going for your gun is like him going for his. So, you'd better do something ASAP. If you have to shoot, that may be the only thing you are able to do to save yourself from being fatally shot. Thus, shooting the gun grabber would be justifiable. It may be your only chance to stop him from stopping you permanently! It takes virtually no time at all to be disarmed. Mas showed us how a 220 pound, 34-year-old man was disarmed in 1.92 seconds by Mas' 15-year-old daughter.

Anyone crazy enough to grab for your gun is really desperate and dangerous. If an individual grabs for your gun in the first place, that constitutes a deadly threat because he has either some kind of special training, or he's crazy! If you perform a retention technique, and he goes after the gun again, it had better tell you that he's a really bad threat. He didn't learn a lesson, which is to leave it alone! Now you will probably have to shoot him in order to survive!

With these premises, Mas and his co-instructors introduced the Lindell system of weapon retention. Techniques for different situations were explained, demonstrated and practiced man-on-man, using dummy guns and work gloves to protect our hands and wrists. The weapon retention situations studied broke down into: (a) protecting against and countering various grabs at one's drawn gun, (b) protecting against and countering various grabs at one's holstered gun, and (c) disarming an attacker.

Myth or truth? The shotgun is the best first line of home defense firearm.

Truth: It's not! It is a special purpose, last line of armed defense (the "artillery"), for when you are barricaded and under attack. The handgun is your primary "infantry" defensive weapon because it allows you mobility and better weapon retention.

Pump shotguns were made available to those who needed them. Some who brought their own shotgun had auto-loaders. Others had pumps. I was issued a Mossberg 590 pump shotgun with ghost ring sights, which worked fine.

Combat shotgun drills included: safe administrative shotgun handling; loading, unloading and reloading; speed loading; weapon clearing; weapon retention; various ready positions; upright and low shooting positions; pain-free, StressFire combat shotgun shooting stances (e.g., front snap

technique, arm tuck, shoulder pocket, pectoral anchor using StressPoint Index while wearing body armor); shooting around and over barricades, alternate side shooting, and rapid fire.

Most of us shot approximately 90 rounds of rifled slugs and 10 rounds of 00 buckshot. Shotgun work was mostly done rapid-fire. The different grip and mounting techniques we learned made it possible to shoot heavy shotgun loads quickly and accurately because felt recoil was minimized and there was no recoil related bruising!

LFI-II qualification:

The LFI-II Qualification was the same, 60-round, handgun course of fire as was shot in LFI-I, but at twice the speed! I shot 294 out of 300.

Conclusion:

Studying with a world-class master is a rare and valuable opportunity to begin your training and/or further advance your knowledge, skills and experience. Pistolcraft is a martial art. I had nine days to study with Mas Ayooob in the martial art of combat shooting. For this, I am grateful.

Essential Massad Ayooob Readings:

Massad F. Ayooob (1980). In the Gravest Extreme: The Role of the Firearm in Personal Protection. Concord, NH: Police Bookshelf. www.ayooob.com 800-624-9049.

Massad F. Ayooob (1983). The Truth About Self Protection. New York: Bantam Books.

Massad F. Ayooob (1984). Stressfire: Volume I of Gunfighting for Police: Advanced Tactics and Techniques. Concord, NH: Police Bookshelf.

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Massad Ayooob (2002). The Gun Digest Book of Combat Handgunnery (5th Ed.). Iola, WI: Krause Publications.

Sources:

Don Hume Leathergoods. Miami, OK. www.DonHume.com 800-331-2686.

Heckler and Koch Firearms. Trussville, AL. www.HecklerKoch-usa.com 205-655-8299.

Lethal Force Institute. Concord, NH: www.Ayooob.com 603-224-6814 or 800-624-9049.

Bruce N. Eimer, Ph.D. is a board certified, licensed, clinical and forensic psychologist, NRA Certified Firearms Instructor, NRA Life Member, Glock Certified Armorer, a Utah Dept. of Public Safety Concealed Firearms Instructor and an Author in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. As the co-owner of Personal Defense Solutions, LLC, Bruce teaches concealed carry classes and NRA Basic Pistol and Personal Protection courses, as well as offering individual shooting instruction. He also teaches CCW classes that prepare people to apply for a Florida Non-Resident Concealed Carry Weapons Permit which is honored by 28 states. For more information, he can be reached by phone at 215-938-7283 (938-SAVE) and by e-mail at Dr.Bruce@PersonalDefenseSolutions.net or CCWInstructor@PersonalDefenseSolutions.net. For a schedule of upcoming classes, you can log on to the PDS website: www.PersonalDefenseSolutions.net. Bruce is also the co-author, with Stephen Rementer of the Pennsylvania Lethal Weapons Institute, of the *Essential Guide to Handguns: Firearm Instruction for Personal Defense and Protection*, which is published by: Looseleaf Law Publications - www.LooseLeafLaw.com 800-647-5347



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the Ordinary guy

Column by Mark A. Walters
VOL. 11

THE MIDTERM ELECTIONS AND THE BIASED, NATIONAL MEDIA

How important are the midterm elections, and for that matter, how important are any elections to gun owners? Look no further than what happened to the fine folks up in Wisconsin a few months ago. Political shenanigans, played by two simple-minded state legislators, derailed the will of the people when the two rats decided not to vote to overturn Gov. Doyle's veto of Wisconsin's CCW bill. These turncoats, traitors of the people who put them in office, were democrats, Terry Van Akkeren of Sheboygan and John Steinbrink of Pleasant Prairie. Call them, e-mail them and show them your displeasure with their political games. Doyle? Don't even get me started on this guy. Will you fine folks up there please send these people back where they belong? Send them packing and take back your rights. Only you can do it.

What we have witnessed in Wisconsin can unfortunately happen on a national level if the democrats regain control of the house and senate this year. As you may have witnessed, the national, liberal, mainstream press machine is working overtime to convince the masses of sheeple (people who act like herds of sheep) out there that the republicans are hurting and that the democrats have a chance to overtake both houses of Congress. They are touting their polls, showing that more people now identify themselves as democrats than identify themselves as republicans and they are negatively spinning President Bush and the war in Iraq in a concerted effort to get you to vote "their" way. It happens every election cycle and it is disgusting.

Have you seen one of the latest PEW polls where 1000 people were asked whether they were democrat or republican and the dems had it 43% vs. 42% over folks who identified themselves as republicans? I believe this represented a shift (according to PEW) of two percentage points. Let's see, 200 million voters and 1000 folks polled??? Boy, that's believable. (Insert sarcasm here...) You know what that poll tells me? It tells me that they interviewed 1000 people

and 43% of them said they were democrats and 42% said they were republicans.

The liberal spin machine and their willing accomplices in the elite media are trying to alter your vote. It's a form of brainwashing, like telling you repeatedly that your car exhaust is causing the extinction of some goofy lizard somewhere, and the melting of the polar ice caps is somehow related to the extra heat generated by your wife's blow dryer (or yours). Pretty soon, they will have some moron out there believing that humans were responsible for the extinction of the dinosaurs. Oops, that's a different rag session for a different magazine! It's kind of like this, and this kills me: I was watching FOX News today and I saw the following headline: "Midwest and South devastated by spring storms," and I guarantee you that there are people out there somewhere who think that the Midwest and Southern United States are in utter ruins. We're still here!

The mainstream press believes that if the sheeple have the same misinformation drilled into their heads and read the same garbage day after day, that they will somehow become zombie-like creatures and begin believing all the hogwash being shoved down their throats, day in and day out. They couldn't be any more mistaken. It amazes me every night on the news and every day in the print media that these big city elitists simply can't see what happens beyond their respective concrete jungles. NYC mayor, Michael Bloomberg, the epitome of RINO (republican in name only), is doing his damndest to shove his gun grabbing agenda down the digestive cavity of every American... As if his privileged, elitist buttocks (otherwise known as an ASS for all of us rednecks who live in those red states, like me), know what's best for all of us.

Here's the real danger: There are some folks out there who shift their opinions like blowing leaves and do believe what they are spoon-fed by the liberal spin machine and the supposed mainstream press. I believe they call them swing voters. You know, those idiots that show up to every town hall meeting hosted by Saddam Hussein's good buddy, Bernard Shaw, two days before an election, who claim that they still haven't made up their minds about who they want to vote for.

Yup, those idiots that should be pulling any lever other than a voting machine lever.

We have a tough enemy with tremendous financial resources and the power of the press. I think it was Jefferson who once said, "The power of the press belongs to those who own one." He was right. So what can we do? We can vote. That's what we can do, and I can't wait to see the results of the midterm elections, when the enemies of freedom *do not* take the 435 seats up for grabs that big media is pushing for, and when the fine folks up in Wisconsin finally rid themselves of their current governor and a few political deadbeats. Wisconsin, you are next. Be patient and don't let the voters forget what these traitors did to you, and you will prevail just like Kansas did.

During these midterm elections, pick the candidate who supports our positions and your freedoms. Don't forget to look hard at the records of the men and women running for office and the records of the ancient, career politicians who need to go. Pull the lever for your freedoms.

Correction: Regular readers will remember a couple of past columns pertaining to my wait for my GA firearm license. I had mistakenly referred to the GA license as a "concealed carry permit" or "CCW." It is neither. In fact, it is a "firearm license." I stand corrected. By the way, it came on March 30th and it felt great to have my constitutional rights restored.

Congratulations to the citizens of Kansas for the passage of their CCW bill. Welcome to the real world. Wisconsin, you are next!

Contact: Feel free to e-mail The Ordinary Guy at theordinaryguy@alltel.net with any comments, complaints or suggestions. I look forward to hearing from all of you!

Mark A. Walters is the Director of Gun Safety Education and an NRA Certified Instructor in 3 disciplines. He is also the owner of 45 Caliber Transfer, LLC and a local firearms/2nd Amendment activist in his hometown.



The use of the light and gun in close range gunfighting applications, as are likely for private citizens, demands weapon retention and alternative force issues as much as shooting applications.



The Suarez/Harries modification allows much better use in dynamic moving situations and eliminates the inherent tension and immobility of the traditional Modern Technique Harries Position.



Most traditional flashlight positions work fine for static work on a shooting range, but are lacking in reactive close range gunfighting where movement and use of improvised cover may be necessary.

Street Tactics:

reality-based
gun & knife fighting **gabriel suarez**

LOW LIGHT GUNFIGHTING FOR CCW

A small handheld flashlight, like this Pentagon Light, proved best suited to low light gunfighting by the private citizen CCW.



We conducted the maiden voyage, so to speak, of our new, Low Light Gunfighting Course while in Costa Rica. Although this course will normally be a two day affair, we compressed the curriculum into a one day/evening event. Those of you who have trained with us in the past, think of the Force-on-Force Gunfighting Class with the lights off.

We spent some time working on the true dynamics of low light gunfighting. In short, if there is enough light for you to discern the attack at its inception, then simply deal with it without a flashlight. If the environment is truly dark, meaning that you need an additional light source, then you will probably have the light in hand. Otherwise, you will not.

Moreover, although there may be a general apprehension about being in a certain area in reduced light (i.e., traveling on foot through a bad neighborhood at night), the fight is still generally unexpected, otherwise you would be using a bigger weapon, not be there, have friends with you, etc.

I prepared my lesson plans for the lone citizen who finds himself in such situations and not for a fully-equipped SWAT team sneaking up on a crack lab at zero dark thirty. The dynamics of these fights are vastly different than what Joe stock broker will face in a dark garage. The vast majority of the existing low light research and material is specifically designed for the Police/Spec-Ops folks and it almost totally ignores

the CCW Private Citizen. This is unfortunate, and we are seeking to fill that wide gap.

The dynamics of confrontation don't change when the lights go out. Close, unexpected, fast...and likely multiple adversaries. You do not need a portable lighthouse or a solar flare for this. Instead, you need something small, handy and bright that is convenient to grab and take with you, so it's likely you will have it in the first place. Avoid tactical lights that are too big and clumsy for anything other than police uniform use, as you will probably leave them at home. Additionally, anything that must be proactively engaged, such as special buttons, knobs or anything that must be pre-set will be of little use in these unexpected, reactive events. Monkey-simple operation and fail-safe procedures will win out every time.

Knowing how to incorporate the flashlight into the shooting equation is important. There are very simple integration methods that can be used quickly, reflexively, and on the move. Most students favor a neck index technique taught by Tom Givens, and our own Modified Harries. The small light can also be used for what some call "less than lethal" uses, such as a palm stick or a kubotan. An added benefit of the use of the small light for such tactics is that the illuminative qualities of the light can precede your own physical attack. Think "flash and smash."

A word must be said about flashlight positions. Almost all of them are designed for either stationary, square range shooting



Student in the Costa Rican Low Light Gunfighting Class train light and gun integration structures as the light fades.

(i.e., The Harries and Chapman), or for a stalking-based, spec-ops application. None that I have seen have been purpose-designed for quick, reactive applications (beginning with light in support hand and gun concealed in holster). I encouraged everyone to use what they wanted to use, but to test it in force-on-force and give a fair analysis afterwards.

Our first drill using force-on-force was a standard, face-to-face shootout at 4 meters. For those who came in late, we dispense with the pre-fight incident management and shoot-no-shoot decisions here. We do this, not to minimize the need for pre-fight management, but rather to learn the dynamics of what to do when such things fail. We begin at the engagement phase.

Both good guy and bad guy were armed with Airsoft pistols in holsters, concealed. (Open carry training beyond the basic level makes little sense when one normally carries concealed.) The premise was that the good guy has some sort of indication or clue of threat and illuminated the bad guy. At this point, the bad guy was free to draw and shoot the good guy holding the light. That was the only instruction given.

We had 22 of these bouts (22 students going once each against each other as good guy and as bad guy). Here are some findings:

The initial blast of light is extremely disorienting to the bad guy. The level of light is irrelevant, as long as it is bright enough. "Bright enough" seemed to be provided by a light with two lithium batteries. LEDs seemed to have more of an effect than the incandescent bulb lights. At the close ranges we were working at, bigger and brighter lights didn't seem to have much more effect than standard lights.

If the good guy used this momentary "light blindness" to move off the X, he avoided getting hit initially by the bad guy's "gunfire." If he stood still in place, he was hit by the reflexive shots from the

bad guy who was now blinded. Similarly, if he backpedaled, he was hit. If he shuffled stepped (as one US government employee shooter tried to do), he got hit. The only way to avoid being hit was to move laterally or diagonally, very quickly.

This mirrored what we have found during daylight drills, except that the evasion by the good guy was more pronounced because the bad guy could not see him for a few seconds. There were two common methods used. One was to flash the light (quick on and off in the bad guy's face) and move. This gave the good guy a view of what he had and allowed him to get out of the way. A second burst of light allowed him to get on target and shoot the other guy down. The second method used was to flash him with the light and keep it on as you moved off line. This allowed the good guy to keep the bad guy in sight and begin firing at an illuminated target sooner.

Both were successful, but I saw the most dramatic results with the first method. Keeping the light on allowed the good guy to see the bad guy as he moved, but it also allowed the bad guy to orient his gun towards the light. In essence, it gave the bad guy a reference point on which to get his gun.

In one instance, the good guy flashed the bad guy and moved in at a 1:00. The bad guy dropped to his knee and began firing at the last known position of the light. As the good guy closed in, he re-illuminated him and shot him from the side as he moved in at close range. The bad guy had been totally disoriented and had no idea where the good guy went. This very spectacular and unscripted resolution drew hoots of approval from the students watching.

Everyone used some sort of light and gun on the same angle method. Generally, they used the Givens cheek index when moving to the support side, or the Suarez/Harries when moving to the dominant side. We did not see any FBI positions or twisted tension methods, as they simply did not allow for sufficient speed or flexibility of movement.

Oh, something else. I occasionally interjected a strobe equipped light into the mix, trading it to students preparing for the drill. No one, and I mean no one, liked the strobe for this purpose. It certainly disoriented the bad guy, but it disoriented both the bad guy and the good guy. All preferred a simple, bright LED without a strobe function. I have my theories on the strobe, specifically that it is at its best use in pro-active police activities and it is not so useful for individual defense.

The statistics of conflict indicate that the probability of having to fight in low light environments is high for private citizens. I think that all CCW folks should have some training in this aspect of the science. And that does not mean one session shooting paper targets on the range. They should test it in force-on-force sessions.

Gabriel Suarez is an internationally recognized trainer and lecturer in the field of civilian personal defense. He has written over a dozen books and taught courses in several countries.

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Real World CARRY GEAR

COLUMN BY: DUANE A. DAIKER

Armalaser, CCW Shirt, Liger Gun Belt, SureFire U2 Ultra



ARMALASER

Lasers definitely have their place in the concealed carry arena. However, until recently, there were very few compact guns that could be equipped with a laser, and even fewer pocket-size guns. Lasers available for pocket guns were often bulky, or they completely changed the method of carry for the gun, often preventing the use of a holster. A new company, Armalaser, has changed that with their new laser system that mounts compactly under the dust cover of small autos and attaches securely to the trigger guard.

The Armalaser unit is easily user installed and takes about 10 minutes. Once in place, this rugged little unit is strongly attached, and seems like a part of the gun. The added weight is minimal and the gun handling characteristics are unchanged.

The laser is activated by a touch sensitive area on the rear of the unit, just in front of the trigger area. The laser stays on with continued contact, and shuts off automatically 12 seconds after the last contact with the switch area. If you want to deactivate the laser temporarily, there is a

The market for concealed carry related gear has exploded in the last few years with the proliferation of concealed carry legislation across the United States. Some of the gear works and some doesn't. This regular feature in CCM offers my perspective on products I have actually used and tested in everyday life. This month features a variety of useful products.

kill switch on the underside of the unit. The laser projects a large, bright red, easily visible dot that is steady-on, with no flashing or pulsing. The laser's point of aim is adjustable (for windage only, not elevation), using the provided allen wrench.

I found the Armalaser unit to be very intuitive to use and easy to see at reasonable combat distances and beyond. Adding a laser to my Kel-Tec P-3AT was particularly effective, since the factory sights on this small gun leave something to be desired. My only real criticism of this product is that the space inside the trigger guard is slightly reduced, which crowds my large trigger finger a bit. All in all, however, it seems to be a small price to pay for the increased tactical advantage of a laser.

The Armalaser is available for the Kel-Tec P-32 and P-3AT, the Kahr PM-9 and PM-40, and for Glock models. Prices at press time were \$159 or less for any of the units, which makes this product very competitive in the laser market. I carry my Armalaser P-3AT on a regular basis, and find it to be a quality product made by an up-and-coming new company. You can find more information at:

www.armalaser.com - 954-937-6054

Of course, you will also need some custom leather for your Armalaser equipped gun. K&D Holsters is leading the charge in providing such holsters. The holster pictured above is my K&D Holsters Pocket Defender, a great choice for pocket carry. The additional weight and bulk of the laser is almost unnoticeable for pocket carry in this rig. You can obtain additional information at:

www.kdholsters.com - 813-601-0504

THE CCW SHIRT

Finding the right holster can be a struggle. Those who carry concealed in non-permissive environments have a special need for deep concealment, giving rise to a variety of tuckable holsters, below the waistband holsters, and belly band type holsters. The CCW Shirt, made by The BuilderTech Company, is a great example of a new approach to deep cover holsters.

The CCW Shirt is, in essence, a holster shirt. The holster is integrated into a very high quality, mesh undershirt. The effect is very similar to that of a shoulder holster. Now, I have to say that I have never liked shoulder holsters very much. It is amazing how much more comfortable the CCW Shirt makes this type of carry. The weight is well distributed over the entire shoulder and chest area, as opposed to thin straps cutting into your shoulder. I was frankly amazed at just how comfortably a full-size handgun could be carried in this rig. While under the arm carry takes some time to get used to, it is actually quite comfortable, so long as your gun isn't too thick and doesn't have any sharp edges.

One of the things that impress me about the CCW Shirt and The BuilderTech Company is the level of service and customizing ability. Each shirt is hand made for a particular customer, to fit





the customer's exact measurements and handgun application. As a result, the shirts take about two weeks to arrive, but you have a custom fit, as opposed to trying to fit yourself into a particular size. Proper sizing is critical to proper comfort and support in a shirt holster.

I found my holster shirt to fit a variety of handguns because of the elastic nature of the holster and the adjustable Velcro retaining strap. The side opposite the handgun holster is designed to carry two extra magazines, or other gear of your choice. The CCW Shirts are available for left- or right-handed carry and in full- or low-neck style cuts. The construction of the shirt is top notch, and should last for a long time. Given the quality and versatility of the product, the \$54 price tag seems reasonable. I apologize for the photo, which could show the product better, but I found it is very difficult to photograph a shirt like this if you are unwilling to model it for the world!

Obviously, this is not a fast-draw holster, and by definition, it requires some type of cover garment. However, the CCW shirt could be an excellent way to carry under a uniform, in a dress shirt, or in other environments where more traditional carry methods just don't work. I use mine to carry a compact semi-auto (or the S&W Model 60 shown) when I can't carry IWB, due to clothing restrictions. If you think this method of carry might work for your lifestyle, you won't go wrong with the CCW Shirt. For more information, visit The BuilderTech Company at: <http://members.sti.net/thebrsfamily/buildertech>.

THE LIGER GUN BELT

Experienced gun toters know that a good belt is essential to comfortable carry in a belt holster. Even a great holster is no better than the belt that supports it. You should never skimp on your carry belt.

The key to a good belt is sufficient stiffness to properly support a holster and other heavy gear. If you use a leather belt, that usually requires a "double thick" construction to resist rolling and twisting under the load. While leather is a great material for a belt, leather has its issues too, including maintenance issues.

The Liger Gun Belt is fashioned from man-made synthetics, a proprietary material called Ligerthane. I don't pretend to know what this stuff is, but it is *tough*. The Liger belt is very strong and stiff, while retaining enough flexibility for comfort and a relatively thin profile. Also important, however, is that the Ligerthane material is abrasion resistant, and nearly impervious to water, mildew, rot, solvents and other chemicals. The belt buckle is securely riveted to the belt, and is machined from a solid billet of aircraft aluminum that is treated with a mil-spec hard anodizing process. It's hard to believe that this belt won't last forever. Not surprisingly then, the belts come with a lifetime warranty.

While some may find the look of these belts a little unusual, I find them quite attractive. The Ligerthane is fashioned with a LigerDerm texture, to simulate the appearance of leather. The belts and buckles come in a variety of colors, including some non-tactical looking combinations of brown and tan. I have worn this belt for months and no one has commented on the unusual buckle. I am also happy to report that the belt sails through metal detectors without creating any undue alarm, so it is well suited for travel.

My Liger Gun Belt has become my favorite belt for casual wear and business-



casual attire. Some of the other synthetic material belts on the market just don't fit the current trends and they stand out in the crowd. This one doesn't.

Liger Gun Belts are priced at \$59.99, and should last for a long, long time. If you like the belt as much as I do, you will probably develop a collection of different colors! For more information, visit:

www.ligerproducts.com - 877-629-5556

SUREFIRE U2 ULTRA

If you are like me, you have as many flashlights as guns. The advancements in flashlight technology in the past few years have been amazing. Each new product is better than the next, and SureFire is always blazing new trails.

The latest high tech lights use LED technology to capitalize on its benefits over incandescent bulbs, which are more efficient battery use, bright white light, and a light source that is virtually indestructible. However, many LED flashlights force you to choose between a lower output, long lasting, utility light, and a high output, tactical light. LED lights can serve either purpose very well. SureFire, however, has managed to produce a light that serves both functions well. The U2 Ultra is adjustable to six different light output levels, from 2 to 80 lumens!

At low output levels, battery power is conserved, while very useable light is generated. This type of output is perfect for reading maps, finding lost items, or maneuvering in dark areas without blinding yourself with the reflected light. At the lowest level, this light will run for more than 40 hours on its two 123A lithium batteries! At the highest level, this light cranks out 80 lumens, which is more than enough for a bright, tactical light to light up a room or temporarily blind an aggressor.

The U2 has the familiar SureFire click-on tail cap arrangement with momentary and constant-on capability,

as well as a lock-out. However, the genius of this light's controls is in the simplicity of the twist ring that adjusts the output to six distinct levels. The controls are very intuitive and easy to use. I really like that this light has a very wide, flood-like beam that is perfect for lighting up a room or lighting up your whole field of view.

Continued on page 28



Some tactical lights have a beam that is too narrow for good tactical use.

This light is a bit larger than your standard, 2 cell, personal light, largely because of the over-size head unit. This light also includes a pocket clip that is much better than some of the previous SureFire pocket clips. The flashlight body is aerospace grade aluminum with mil-spec hard anodization. In other words, this is a typical “built like a tank” SureFire product. The U2 Ultra’s \$279 price tag translates into a street price of around \$200. The light also comes with

SureFire’s bullet-proof customer service and lifetime guarantee, which adds considerable value to this product.

My SureFire U2 stays in my car and goes in my pocket when necessary. It is well suited to changing a tire or defending my life. Few products can do it all well, but this one does. Don’t compromise on a tool as important as a flashlight. I highly recommend the U2 Ultra. Check out SureFire’s newly re-designed website at:

www.surefire.com - 800-828-8809

Duane A. Daiker is a Contributing Editor for CCM, but is otherwise a regular guy – not much different from you. Duane has been a life-long shooter and goes about his life as an armed, responsible, and somewhat opinionated citizen. Duane can be reached at Daiker@RealWorldCarryGear.com. Additional RWCG columns can be viewed at www.RealWorldCarryGear.com.



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BOB CHILDERS

...ON THE FRONT LINES

THE TRUTH ABOUT GUNS

Try this experiment with a group of strangers or casual acquaintances: Mention that you own a gun. You may receive a few approving smiles, but you'll more likely be greeted with looks of horror.

For several decades, much of America's news media and many "progressive" politicians have blatantly displayed a strong anti-gun bias. How many times have you heard that guns are only used to kill and how guns no longer serve a useful purpose in modern, civilized culture. How about this: Guns are the real cause of crime, not the socially deprived people who misuse them. We're bombarded with stories of people needlessly injured by reckless gun owners and warned that modern firearms have become too dangerous for average citizens to own. Paid "experts" berate guns as a bane on American society, while politicians blame increasingly violent crimes not on gangs or drugs, but misunderstood youths with easy access to high powered weapons. It should be obvious to everyone how this constant deluge of negative and frequently false information impacts the public's perception of firearms.

Misguided do-gooders who pander to the whims of small, but vocal, minorities are behind many of the problems we face in America today. Because of this, it's our obligation as gun owners to educate the public concerning the truth about guns.

Even gun control hard liners won't dispute the fact that over 98% of America's gun owners are trustworthy, honest individuals. Yet, while acknowledging this, they continue to push for more restrictive gun laws. They say stricter measures are needed to protect us from the other 2% and it wouldn't affect law abiding citizens. However, we need only point to Washington, DC and Chicago as cities where stricter gun control did nothing but remove guns from the hands of honest citizens. It's all but impossible for law

abiding residents to legally buy a gun in either city, yet they continue to have some of the highest crime rates in the country. As for guns being dangerous, automobiles are also dangerous when mishandled. During the month of January alone, more Americans will die at the hands of drunk and careless drivers than will be killed by guns during the entire remainder of the year. Despite this, I hear no shouts to ban motor vehicles or restrict their use.

Honesty and truth are often viewed as relics of another time in our modern, politically correct world. Despite this, there are still times when honesty is needed and the truth must be spoken. For over 700 years guns have been used as more than simply weapons of war. They've provided meat for our families and protected us from predators... both animal and human. As for serving no useful purpose in modern society, well, not everyone is a respectable member of that modern society! I can only guess how many lives are saved and crimes prevented every day because someone used a gun to impose the threat of grievous harm or death upon a criminal, a criminal who probably wouldn't think twice about killing you if it served his purpose!

Nobody is forced to own a gun if he doesn't want one; that's our right as Americans. It's also an *individual* decision and yours may not agree with mine. As with religion or politics, I don't impose my personal beliefs about guns on others and I demand the same consideration in return. Gun owners must point out to those less familiar with guns that a firearm is only a tool. Like a chainsaw or knife, it's no more dangerous than the

person using it. While guns can take lives, they also save and protect lives. They put food on the table for hundreds of thousands of families in our country yearly and are a source of recreation for legions of hunters and target shooters.

If you don't want to own a gun, that's your prerogative. However, don't tell me that I can't just because *you* don't feel comfortable around them. A gun is neither good nor bad, since guns are inanimate objects. The truth is: it's the person using it who determines whether a gun will be used for good or evil. As gun owners, we shouldn't be afraid to acknowledge who we are. Rather than making ourselves and our guns into something we're not, the time may have arrived when we must shout, "I'm a gun owner, not a criminal, and I'm tired of being treated like one. I'm mad as hell and I'm not going to take it anymore!"

Bob Childers has a Degree in Theology and retired from the United States Navy in 1994. He's a member of the NRA, Texas State Rifle Association, the East Texas Rifle and Pistol Club and holds a Texas CCL. You can find out more about him at his website,

<http://vchilder.home.netcom.com>

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VISUALIZATION, OR MENTAL IMAGERY

Tom Givens



The next question is, “All right, I was stupid and got myself into this mess; how do I get myself out of it?” Make yourself think up a solution to the tactical situation. In this manner, you are getting practice every single day in making tactical decisions. If you make tactical decisions every day of your life, they will come easily to you if you find yourself in dangerous circumstances. If you have never practiced this decision making process, how do you expect to do it well under extreme stress?

The last technique in imagery we will discuss has to do with mentally rehearsing confrontations, to prepare beforehand for a confrontation. In your mind, as a normal, healthy person, there is a very fine line between reality and fantasy. A psychopath no longer has this distinction in his mind, and his fantasies become his reality. A normal mind blurs this distinction under several circumstances. If you are an avid reader, for instance, you “see” the action of a good novel or historical account unfolding in your mind as you read. You form mental images of the characters and events as if you had seen them yourself. How many times have you awakened from a vivid dream and took a few seconds to orient yourself? These are examples of that blurred distinction between reality and fantasy.

Airline pilots periodically receive training in a flight simulator, which is an

Visualization, or imagery, is one of the most effective tools available to you for mental conditioning. This is vital to success in a fight. Under stress, your subconscious mind will immediately take over and direct your body to do whatever the subconscious has been programmed to do. If you have been programmed through training to respond correctly, you will. Panic is simply the lack of a pre-programmed response. Since your subconscious doesn't know what to do, it does nothing. (When in danger, or in doubt, run in circles, scream and shout!) Obviously, your odds of surviving improve drastically if you have pre-programmed the correct tactical responses before a crisis.

How do we program these correct responses until they become automated? There are three ways. First, you could engage in about a dozen gunfights. You would then be adept at making rapid, sound, tactical decisions, if you are still alive! We don't recommend this method because the test comes first, the lesson afterward. This is a painful and expensive way to learn.

Bismarck said, “A smart man learns from his own mistakes, a wise man learns from the mistakes of others.” This is especially true in this business, where mistakes can be fatal. The easiest way to learn from the mistakes of others is to read

a big city newspaper each day as you eat your breakfast. Look in the local news and select two instances reporting the criminal victimization of some unfortunate person. Take five or ten minutes to read these two accounts and actually analyze them. Ask yourself two questions, and make yourself come up with an answer.

The first question is, “What did the victim do to put himself in this situation?” Once you learn a bit about criminal behavior, you realize that above all, criminals are opportunists. They capitalize on circumstances created by inattentive, complacent, lazy, and unobservant victims. Very soon you will learn to recognize the behavior or activity on the part of the victim that facilitated or even precipitated the crime. This will hold true in probably 95% of the cases you study. Once you have identified the specific victim behavior that caused the attack, you are reinforcing in your subconscious that this is negative or harmful behavior. Day after day, by doing this, you are programming your subconscious to avoid that type of behavior. If you don't present the opportunity, the criminal cannot take advantage of it.



enclosed box mounted on hydraulic jacks. Upon entering the simulator, the pilot is seated in a cockpit seat, a control panel is arrayed before him, and the "windshield" has a back projected image on it, just like the view from a plane. As the pilot applies control movements to the stick and so forth, the "plane" responds with motion. Within a few moments, the pilot's brain is fully convinced that he is flying a plane, although intellectually he knows he is bolted to the floor of the training building. At some point, the control panel will advise him of an emergency, and the "plane" will simulate the movement involved, as in a sudden dive. The pilot must immediately take corrective action to keep from "crashing." Although they are in no real danger, these guys come out of the simulator white knuckled and sweating because the mind blurred the distinction between reality and fantasy. If, at some future date, the pilot is confronted with that actual emergency in a real aircraft, he will automatically respond, quickly and correctly, because his brain has learned that the correct action will save its life.

You can do the same thing with your mind in a self-defense context by using visualization exercises. Go to a quiet

room and sit in an easy chair. Relax, and clear your mind of all thought (easy for some of us!). Now, in your mind, vividly imagine a tactical scenario. Think of it as a daydream if you like, but get into it and project yourself into the action. For every imagined action by the bad guy, direct yourself through a proper reaction. "If he does this, I'll do that." Always direct the action to a successful outcome.

Let me give you a couple of examples. If you work in a retail environment, ask yourself, "What am I going to do when they stick this place up?" Visualize your work station and the surroundings. Where is cover? What direction could you fire in without endangering co-workers? Is there an escape route available? Don't wait until a hold-up man is standing across the counter from you to think about this. If you are a boss, ask yourself, "What am I going to do if a disgruntled employee comes plodding down the hall with a shotgun?" Is there any other way out of your office? Is there any real cover available? Where is the secretary? You might find that you want to rearrange your office. Find out now, not while under fire!

There are really only a dozen or so ways for a thug to criminally victimize

you. White collar crime has endless opportunities for innovation, but street crime is pretty straightforward. Over a period of time, you can visualize your way through just about all of the likely forms of street crime, and you can have pre-programmed responses filed away in the back of your mind (the subconscious) ready for deployment if faced with a similar circumstance.

If you are faced with a life threatening crisis in a form you have never seriously considered or given any thought to, you will likely hesitate just long enough to lose. If, on the other hand, you take a little time to practice these "simulations," you can program ready responses and be able to retain control of yourself and your actions. Your mind needs to know that there is a way out, and that you know what it is. This avoids panic, and allows you to act decisively, which is your salvation.

Tom Givens is a full-time trainer, with over twenty five years of experience. He has had about 85 articles published over the years in SWAT Magazine, Combat handguns, Petersen Handguns, Soldier of Fortune and other publications. He is certified as an expert witness on firearms training in both state and federal courts, and he has a firearms training school, Rangemaster, in Memphis.

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THE CASE FOR INTEGRATED TRAINING

By MICHAEL POTTER AND STEVE KRYSOTEK

— There is an old saying about practical problem solving: If the only tool you have in your toolbox is a hammer, almost every problem begins to look like a nail. In the same way, limiting one's defensive preparedness training to only one type of personal defense tool makes it much more likely that you will rely on that tool alone when under the severe stress and adrenaline dump associated with most personal combat situations.

In reality, your sudden thrust into personal combat may come not only as a surprise, but in many cases it may not require an immediate and direct lethal response. If that's the case, many armed citizens are woefully unprepared for less radical tactical options. After all, they have trained, practiced and rehearsed for a deadly encounter, one in which they or another innocent party were in imminent danger of grievous bodily harm or death at the hands of a perpetrator who has the means and capability of inflicting it.

WHAT THE NUMBERS SAY

The FBI reports that a forcible rape occurs in the United States every

6 minutes, a burglary every 6 seconds, a robbery every 46 seconds, an aggravated (armed) assault every 29 seconds, and a murder every 23 minutes. These statistics are daunting and they are the kinds of numbers that motivate many law-abiding citizens to arm themselves and undertake training in preparation for a potentially deadly encounter.

While these numbers are certainly alarming, it should be just as concerning that every second of every day, 365 days a year, many more people are intimidated, threatened, bullied, verbally abused or even physically assaulted. Road rage incidents, parking lot confrontations, and unprovoked random attacks or fights started by strangers can be frightening and unsettling, especially if you're *only* prepared for a life-or-death struggle. A recent report by the National Association of Safety Professionals indicated that as many as 7,560,000 assaults are reported annually, but it is estimated that there may be as many as 37,800,000 **un**reported assaults. Without more well-rounded training in a variety of combat tools, the firearm might be used as the first resort rather than the last resort.



WHAT ARMED CITIZENS NEED TO KNOW

Armed citizens tend to share several common traits. They are law-abiding citizens who take their responsibility for safety seriously. They have taken the steps necessary to obtain a state or county concealed carry weapons permit. They tend to be self-reliant. Finally, they tend to be pro-active about being prepared.

The police simply can't be everywhere at once. As dedicated and responsive to our needs as they are, given the sheer number of competing demands for their time and attention, law enforcement often arrives after a crime has already been completed. By then, the danger has already been realized and victims have likely already suffered harm visited upon them by the criminal or terrorist. As a result, today's





law-abiding, armed citizen needs to have a more flexible view of personal combat and a better variety of tools at his or her command. Ideally, these should include skills in pistolcraft and long gun employment, empty-hand combatives, folding knife tactics, and possibly the deployment of non-lethal devices, such as OC Spray or "Conducted Energy Weapons."

PISTOLCRAFT

Tactical pistolcraft starts with standard marksmanship and moves beyond it to a new level. Serious training exposes the student to close-quarter combat and multiple response techniques using the daily, concealed carry sidearm. This includes intelligent use of cover, concealment, shooting on the move, the combat mindset, correcting firearm malfunctions, low-light or no-light techniques, using distance, lateral movement and force-on-force training to provide realism and flexibility under the stress of combat. In the end, it is about engaging an armed adversary effectively to prevail and ultimately win the fight.

PHYSICAL DEFENSE SKILLS

Combatives training involves preparation to deal with armed and unarmed, single and multiple aggressors using empty-handed strikes; kicks; chokes; takedowns; hair grabs; grappling; ground escape and domination; and a variety of effective, joint-locking techniques that use pain to ensure compliance. The best trainers also provide for practice in weapon retention and takeaway techniques.

The more straightforward the combatives training, the less focus it has on showmanship. The most effective and useful techniques are not necessarily the high flying, spinning kicks and fancy moves

one sees in martial arts demonstrations or in the movies where opponents and defenders are often choreographed. The problem with using only pre-arranged counter attacks is that in the street they may be limited in their effectiveness. Better to practice techniques that are effective and easily recalled in the sudden adrenal flush of personal combat. Combatives training that blends the best of close-quarter and ground fighting will prove eminently practical in real life.

FOLDING KNIVES

Many armed citizens also carry folding knives clipped to their pockets, either on their strong side or on their support side. The question is: Do they really know how to use it against a terrorist or a career criminal who learned how to fight with knives in prison? The best folding knife techniques involve readiness for those situations in which you may face a lethal adversary, but not have your firearm available and at the ready. For example, the folding knife is an extremely close-quarter weapon, and insufficient skill in deploying it can result in your death or permanent injury. Proper



training will blend defensive skills as well as offensive and counter-attack techniques. Training in the deployment of the folding knife should cover handgrips, fighting stances, and quick, effective movements, such as slashes, cuts, thrusts, parries, and more.

EVASIVE DRIVING

Beyond these self-defense skills, the well prepared individual should take an evasive driving course if possible. At a minimum, the topics covered should include the principles of vehicle dynamics and handling; surrounding situational awareness; high-speed driving techniques; braking options; evasive movements for night emergencies; forward-motion bootleg turns; rear movement J-turns; forward, 90-degree slide stops; reverse ramming; and techniques to avoid being run off of the road by a determined opponent.

FORCE-ON-FORCE TRAINING

The pinnacle of one's personal defensive training program must include supervised, force-on-force combat simulation training. It's decidedly different than

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squaring off with paper or steel targets that are passive receptors of the rounds you launch. Properly designed, executed and controlled use of force simulations provide unsurpassed realism and unparalleled training benefits. During force-on-force training segments, winning and losing take a backseat to learning and skill improvement. The adrenal stress of the exercise is part and parcel of the training itself. Mindset, skill-at-arms, tactical options, and decision making are all put to the ultimate test when facing adversaries that think, move and shoot back.

During force-on-force training, students partake in multiple exercises and scenarios against live role players using specially designed marking cartridges or non-lethal projectiles, safely converted weapons and individual protective gear. Through proper staging and instruction, students are allowed to experience real world, high stress situations firsthand, while applying necessary and appropriate actions to resolve a variety of tactical problems. This methodology is the number one way of introducing and inoculating participants to the negative effects of survival stress during a life threatening encounter.

In tactics programs conducted by Progressive Force Concepts in Las Vegas, force-on-force training evolutions meant to teach and test are conducted in a systematic and progressive manner. Taking this approach dramatically enhances individual performance and it ensures that students are familiar with proper force responses prior to participation in high level simulations. Most importantly, those exposed to force-on-force experience an extremely steep learning curve. This advantage maximizes training time and the student's readiness, effectiveness and capabilities for prevailing in a physically violent confrontation.



WHAT YOU NEED TO REMEMBER

Any citizen choosing to arm themselves carries an enormous liability for their conduct and their ability to resolve hostile confrontations in a safe, prudent and legal manner. Understanding the Force Continuum is the first step towards responsible and effective conflict resolution. A Force Continuum is a structured hierarchy of use of force options to be considered when commensurate threat levels are perceived. Different organizations and circles observe slightly different use of Force Continuums. The specific model you follow will most likely be dictated by rules of engagement, or personal conviction based on education, training and experience. It is *highly* recommended that you seek professional instruction in the use of force from a qualified training provider to familiarize yourself with the components of the Force Continuum, terminology, definitions, major case law, and post-incident reporting.

Remember that lethal or non-lethal force must later be determined to have been "reasonable" and "necessary" based on the surrounding circumstances at the moment that force was used. What is "reasonable" and "necessary" will *always* be a deciding

and critical factor in every single self-defense action. Arm yourself with the knowledge crucial to survival in the aftermath of battle, not just the hardware crucial to survival in the midst of it.

CONCLUSION

Integrated training provides you with improved tactical options and combat flexibility. The key to being a capable, ready firearms owner is to have a well rounded set of skills that can be applied effectively when and where needed.

MICHAEL POTTER is an attorney, author, martial arts enthusiast, trainer and multi-state CCW permit holder. He is certified by the National Rifle Association as a firearms instructor and range officer. Michael is a tactical shooter who participates in both the International Defensive Pistol Association and the United States Practical Shooting Association as well as military shooting competitions. With 30 years of both active duty and reserve military experience, he is a retired Navy Captain and former senior member of the Navy Marksmanship Team.

EagleFiveZero@gmail.com

STEVE KRISTEK served as the senior team leader and trainer of an Air Force special weapons and tactics team and later in U.S. Department of Energy nuclear protective force operations. He has trained thousands in tactical shooting, combatives, and special operations both in the U.S. and overseas. Steve is currently a full-time police officer for the Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department, a use of force consultant for the U.S. Government, and Director of the Las Vegas-based Progressive F.O.R.C.E. Progressive Force Concepts.

www.pfctraining.com

HECKLER AND KOCH P2000

George Hill



"TO THE "MALL NINJAS" AND "GUN SHOP COMMANDOS" ANYTHING WITH THE HK LOGO ON IT IS IMBUED WITH MYSTICAL FORCES THAT GIVE IT +1 POWERS AGAINST THE FORCES OF EVIL."

I've owned several HK handguns in the past. One of them was the USP, which was an incredible handgun when it first came out. It was big and rugged, and it sported frame rails for those who wanted to mount lights or lasers. I might be wrong, but the USP was the first handgun to have these rails built into the frame. The one I had was a full-size .40 caliber unit. It was reliable, it was accurate, and it was a pussycat, even shooting the sharp .40 rounds that I liked, typically 135 grain Cor-Bons. I tell you this to impress upon you that I have always appreciated

HK handguns. I'm not alone in liking HK guns; lots of shooters like them too. Some people like them a bit too much. To the "mall ninjas" and "gun shop commandos" anything with the HK logo on it is imbued with mystical forces that give it +1 powers against the forces of evil. It's the gun of choice for those who play Rogue Spear or Counter Strike. The reality is a little different from the fanboy hype.

The P2000 may have ridden in on the crest of that hype wave. Germany's state police wanted a new gun, but they didn't want a USP. So HK took the USP, put some bevels on it, remolded the grip frame, copied Walther and included user-changeable backstraps. Then they called it the P2000, and it's supposedly a completely different gun now. Maybe it is. The new grip frame feels smaller in my hand than the USP did, but not really any better. For some reason, the alternate backstrap choices seem to make the gun feel just a bit wrong in my hand, regardless of which one I tried. Instead of 3 choices, maybe they should try 5 or 6.

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HECKLER AND KOCH P2000 SPECS

Caliber	9 mm
Width	1.34 in.
Barrel Length	3.6 in.
Length	7 in.
Sight Radius	5.59 in.
Height	5 in.
Weight	1.37 lbs.
Magazine Capacity	13
Price as Tested	\$711.99





I dislike HK's mag release on these guns (and with the USPs actually) because for some reason they always accidentally let the magazine slip. My USP did it and the P2000 did it too. I've never really had this problem with any other magazine release. This could also have been because I was using a generic belt slide holster with the P2000 and not a form fitted rig made specifically for it. The mag release also irritated the middle finger on my firing hand. Perhaps there was a burr or something that could have been remedied with a touch of a nail file, but I didn't see anything. It just felt uncomfortable while shooting with a firm firing grip.

The sights are typical HK, which is to say that they are large and generally quite good, with big white dots. I would have been more impressed

had HK included night sights on this gun. One would think that any serious handgun company bold enough to put "No Compromises" out as their motto would not compromise on a handgun purportedly for serious use and would naturally include night sights as a standard feature. Evidently, this is an upgrade option, so HK does have some compromises.

The one thing that I found interesting was the location of the decocker lever. It was at the back of the gun, right next to the hammer. Maybe "interesting" isn't the right word for it. I hate this thing to a level that surprised even me. I can't stand having the decocker on the back of the gun. I would rather have all of my shirts hanging in my closet some shade of pink than own a gun where the decocker is on the back of it, by



the hammer. Maybe this is something I'm just not used to, but I don't make that statement lightly, as having done my own laundry in college, I have had on more than one occasion accidentally turned all of my light colored shirts pink. I don't really know why I hate it so much, but I do. The only thing that I know I hate as much as this is okra. I can't stand the stuff. Some people love okra, but I don't know any of those people. I'm only guessing that someone out there likes it because I see it on the store shelves. Since HK is still offering this decocker, I'm guessing that some people must like it too. I don't know any of those people either.

The trigger pull on this gun is something special. Now, this gun I'm testing is traditional double-action/single-action. There is another version that has something called an "LEM" trigger system. Get the LEM trigger. If there is no LEM version of a P2000 available, then put your name on a waiting list for it because you do not want the DA/SA version. The double-action pull is truly and amazingly horrible. The pull weight is up there in the realm of "crossbow draw weight." If it was just heavy, it wouldn't have been so bad. But it was heavy and gritty. Maybe gritty isn't the right word for it. It's more like... rocky. If this was a road, you would need a trail-rated Jeep with a winch and a lift kit. This has to be the worst-double action trigger pull I've felt in a good long time. The only thing worse was probably... no... my mistake... there was nothing worse. The upside was that the single-action trigger pull was just fine. Nothing special, nothing too bad...a completely average pull.

So what does the P2000 have going for it? Well, it's a rugged little beast. Feels good and solid. And the recoil from firing even the hottest +P+ ammunition was not unpleasant. Most of my shooting with the P2000 was done with typical standard or +P ammunition in the 115 to 124 grain range. Accuracy was very average, acceptable by most standards for a service pistol, but I was disappointed. I suspect that it could have been much better had I either found ammo that the gun liked better or if the trigger had been less horrific. I fired all the rounds double-action in the target photo, decocking after every shot. With some more practice, better ammo, and using single action, this group should tighten. Range was 15 yards, standing, unsupported, using a modified Weaver stance (as in all my evaluation shooting). I found this P2000 to be a completely adequate handgun, and if I was to be issued one for whatever reason, I'm sure I would be just fine with it. Should I be in the market for a new handgun, I don't think I would go out of my way to look for a P2000 as my gun of choice. If I came across one with the LEM trigger, I would consider it for a moment if it had night sights. If not, I'd most likely pass it up for something else.

For more information:
www.HKPRO.com

George Hill is an NRA Certified Pistol and Personal Protection instructor and the writer and publisher of MadOgre.com. Visit his website for more information on Mad Ogre.
<http://www.madogre.com>
Photography by the Author and Deveni.



The EUROPEAN EXPERIMENT

By: Boris Karpa

Photograph courtesy of Oleg Volk
www.olegvolk.net
www.a-human-right.com

For over a century, the term "the American experiment" has been widely used to describe what occurred on the North American continent. It has so happened that the United States of America was the first nation to establish a system of government mainly on the principle of individual liberty. When the Founding Fathers announced the Declaration of Independence, the message that "certain inalienable rights" exist was nigh unimaginable in Europe.

A typical chronicle from the 15th century—equally true in the 18th—in essence, if not in detail, states, "...of the size of mercenary forces in the city and their order or battle, the doling out of positions to the friends and relatives of the ruler, the listing of all arms in private possession, and the disarming of all suspicious persons." This kind of corruption was very much the order of the day in most of Europe, and at the time, it was naturally a matter of guessing whether a state based on individual liberty could survive.

America did. And eventually the Europeans followed suit with their own liberal republics. However, Europe made a fatal mistake. The republics of Europe were democracies styled after the First Republic of France. That created a kind of state that was essentially different from the Republic created by Jefferson and Adams. In the United States, democracy is subservient to the idea of individual freedom, and voting was intended by the founders to serve to elect the officials of a highly-limited, near-libertarian state whose duties and powers would be few, and who would not

be re-elected if they committed an offense against the public liberty.

The French and the Europeans had something different in mind. For them, the purpose of democracy was to create a ruling government that was based on the opinion of the people, and rights such as free speech existed to secure the honest process of securing this opinion, and then bowing to it once it was created.

Nobody really noticed, but since the beginning of the 20th century, the experiment was not on the Americans anymore. After all, the American experiment had already proven itself. The European experiment had yet to do it.

In 1934, new, sweeping gun laws were enacted in various countries in the world: Canada, America, France and Britain were among them. And while America's NFA was a list of relatively limited [though still illegal] infringements on the right to bear arms, Europe's countries enacted Draconian schemes of total gun registration, upon which all future European gun control would rest, including the infamous Schengen agreement. And the European democracy still hasn't run its full course.

Today, while Europe still is relatively free (compared to Third World tyrannies), the experiment has evolved to a point where only the blind can fail to spot the failures of the European paradigm when it comes to individual freedom. Not only are guns almost entirely illegal today, but anybody suggesting anything remotely similar to the [working] American system is viewed as a near-lunatic. The very same British Parliament that gave the world habeas corpus is now debating whether police should be allowed to

imprison people for three months without charges—or is one month enough? The streets of London are dotted with TV cameras that track the movements of the locals, the Germans enact overt religious discrimination against new religions, such as Jehovah's Witnesses and Scientologists, and the Dutch are pondering how they should regulate the wearing of religious headdresses, while Americans are arguing whether it's a violation of privacy for one branch of government [public libraries] to reveal information to another.

This year, the European Experiment has brought itself to a form where it not only has shown how "free" it really is, but also demonstrated—in Technicolor and HDTV—how "safe" it is.

The Europeans have destroyed freedom of religion and they have gotten themselves extremist terror. They have destroyed equality and they have gotten ghettos where, in the words of Israel's Ha'aretz newspaper, "native citizens are afraid to walk." They have destroyed gun rights and they have gotten the Paris riots.

The events in France, Denmark and Germany are not simply isolated incidents. They are the marks of a society in crisis, perhaps one that is disintegrating. They are the symbols of a culture that has brought itself to its full, logical conclusion. And if ever there was doubt about whether Americans should adopt the European model in regard to gun rights and other civil rights, the Paris riots ended it.

If anything, the humanitarian thing would be to send them some JPFO booklets.

Boris Karpa is a columnist and political activist from Israel. He can be contacted at: microbalrog@gmail.com

SIX DEFENSIVE, EMERGENCY RESCUE TOOLS THAT COULD SAVE YOUR LIFE

Spare keys, smoke alarms, carbon monoxide detectors, fire extinguishers, electronic security systems, flood lights, cellular phones, first aid kits, flashlights, safety matches, butane lighters, candles, knives, hammers, and axes are emergency rescue equipment. All these tools go together as part of an emergency rescue system, and no well equipped home should be without any of them. Defensive firearms are also emergency rescue equipment. However, many folks who choose to own a defensive firearm do not realize the necessity of coupling it with other essential defensive tools as part of their defensive, emergency rescue system.

SCOPE OF THE PROBLEM

The problem is that a firearm is a tool of last resort, to be used only in the gravest extreme, to protect innocent life from immediate and otherwise unavoidable death or grave bodily harm. If you aim a gun at a person, you had better be certain that he possesses both the *ability* and the immediate *opportunity* to cause your death or grave bodily harm, and that he is acting in such a manner that a reasonable and prudent person would assume he was using those powers to place your innocent life in *jeopardy*. (See Massad Ayoob's books under References.)

The gun is the ultimate, long range force multiplier. In any situation where force is indicated, a sane person uses only the amount of force necessary to solve the problem at hand. If you locked yourself out of a room in your house, you wouldn't use an axe to break down the door if you had a spare key or a tool to jimmy the lock. Hopefully, you wouldn't use a hammer to push a thumb tack into a cork board, or this discussion is going nowhere! Similarly, only a crazy person would use a firearm to repel a low level threat when less-than-lethal force (e.g., a verbal warning, pepper spray, a hand strike, a knee to the groin, a big stick) is all that may be necessary to take care of it.

The well prepared person is equipped with a range of less-than-lethal force options (e.g., fast feet, a loud voice, a good palm-heel strike, a well aimed kick, pepper spray, a reliable impact weapon, a blinding

illumination tool) to deal with social threats of the two-legged variety when the ultimate in force is not called for.

Unfortunately, if the only tool you have is a hammer, every problem may look like a nail! If you own a gun, this is not an option. However, if you need a hammer, a hammer alone may not enable you to drive that nail in where you need it. You had better have the right nail for the job, a pencil to mark the precise spot where the nail needs to be driven, adequate lighting to hammer the nail precisely, and a first aid kit in case you hammer your thumb! Similarly, a gun alone will not adequately solve your social problems of the threatening kind.

SOLUTIONS TO THE PROBLEM

If you choose to own a handgun for home defense, or if you carry a concealed handgun for self-defense, there are six essential, defensive, emergency rescue tools that you should always have at the ready and carry with your handgun as components of a total defensive, emergency rescue system: (1) a reliable, tactical flashlight, (2) reliable spare magazines for your semi-automatic pistol (or speed loaders for your revolver), (3) pepper spray, (4) a tactical folding knife, (5) a cellular phone, and (6) the Ayoob Dejammer. Let's discuss each category of defensive, emergency rescue equipment in order of priority. (Note: the order is debatable.)

1. A reliable, tactical flashlight:

Criminals, like roaches, come out at night. That's why more violent criminal attacks and gunfights occur at night or in low light. So, if you carry a gun, you should be prepared to light up the night. In order to do so, you must carry a reliable and powerful illumination tool. In my honest opinion, a personal, tactical flashlight is an essential companion to your carry gun and home defense gun. The defensive flashlight partnered with the defensive handgun serves several purposes.

A. Locate the threat: In order to deal with a threat, you have to first locate it. Ergo, the flashlight.

B. Identify the threat: We do not want to shoot at shadows, nor can we ever condone



Surefire 6P and G-2 Nitrolon flashlights and Smith & Wesson 990L, 9mm, Compact Pistol

shooting at anything that we are not 100% sure is what we think it is. Recall universal firearm safety rule #4: *Be sure of your target and what's around it.* Ergo, the flashlight.

C. Safe direction: We must never point a gun at anything we are not willing to destroy (firearm safety rule #2). A separate, hand-held flashlight permits you to identify a threat without pointing a gun at it until you confirm that it's warranted to do so.

D. Disorient the threat: A super-bright flashlight beam in a confirmed goblin's eye holes is sure to temporarily blind and disorient him. This can buy you, the defender, valuable time to either escape, or establish dominance in the confrontation.

E. Locate the target: Once you have a confirmed target, you need to establish its exact location in order to get a good sight picture—ergo, the flashlight.

F. First or last-ditch impact tool: If you are surprised by an attacker close in, a solid flashlight can serve as a less-than-lethal impact weapon. This could possibly make the use of deadly force unnecessary if your response is delivered with enough impact and Goofy gets the message.

Surefire (www.Surefire.com 714-545-9444) makes the best tactical illumination tools on the planet. With the most choices of any flashlight company, you are certain

to find one among their line-up that serves your needs and budget. Even their lowest priced G-2 Nitrolon and Original 6P models beat the competition, in my opinion, by miles. These two affordable lights give off 60 lumens of blinding white light, which is more than adequate to fulfill criteria 1 through 5 above. The rugged construction of all of their hand-held and weapon-mounted models realizes criterion 6.

2. Reliable, spare magazines:

The term is *magazine* and not *clip*. If you carry a semi-automatic pistol, you should consider carrying at least one tried and tested, reliable, spare magazine. You just might need it. However, as noted tactical trainer, Clint Smith, is fond of repeating, "One is none and two is one." So, perhaps you ought to consider two or three.

The "heart" of the auto-loader: Many stoppages are attributable to faulty magazines. As the magazine is the heart of the semi-automatic pistol, when it comes to auto-loading guns, two hearts are better than one, and three are better than two. Accordingly, if you're carrying a pre-owned pistol loaded with an older magazine that may have seen a lot of use or abuse, you had better have several reliable back-up hearts (uh, magazines). However, even if your pistol is brand new, factory magazines can fail too.

In addition to reducing a stoppage, a spare magazine can also get you out of a jam if you run out of ammo! "More shots are generally better than fewer shots." This follows the theory of the gun itself, to wit: "It is better to have it and not need it than to need it and not have it." (Ayooob, 1992, p. 67.) So, if you need to perform an emergency reload (i.e., replace an empty magazine with a fully charged one), you had better have a spare magazine, or your *derriere* could be toast.

Mec-Gar: Emergency rescue equipment is no place to compromise on quality, especially when you are talking about the heart of your pistol. There are numerous aftermarket "bargain" magazine manufacturers, but only one company stands out when it comes to quality and reliability, and their name is Mec-Gar. This Italian firm, with U.S. headquarters in Connecticut (www.Mec-Gar.com 203-262-1525), once was, and still may be, the original magazine supplier for many of the world's leading firearms manufacturers (e.g., Beretta, Browning, Kel-Tec, Para-Ordnance, Sigarms, Smith & Wesson, Taurus, Walther). Mec-Gars are the only after-market magazines I



Mec-Gar silver-nickel, high capacity, 15 and 17 round magazines for Ruger Models P89 and P95.



Mec-Gar blued, high capacity magazines for Sig 228 and 226.

would bet my life on. In many cases, I have found Mec-Gar's aftermarket magazines to function more reliably in a gun than the original, factory magazines. They are, in my opinion, the best magazine manufacturer on the planet. In short, they work!

3. Pepper spray:

If you carry a gun, you should also carry pepper spray. Obviously, a gun is a deadly weapon. Pepper spray is not. A defensive firearm is a rescue tool of last resort to be used to definitively stop an agent of imminent and unavoidable death or serious bodily harm from destroying you. Pepper spray is a tool of first resort to be used after a verbal warning is given if that warning does not deter a physical aggressor. Pepper spray is asshole repellent. A firearm is a goblin killer.

Pepper spray, to be effective, must be sprayed at the face to inflame and close up an attacker's mucous membranes (eyes, nose and mouth). This and the burning will temporarily shut down Goofy's sensory capabilities and give Goofy

something else to think about, hopefully giving you a chance to escape.

Up close and personal: Pepper spray should only be deployed in an up close and personal situation (bad breath range) to give you a chance to get away. If it stops your attacker, great; you have just avoided employing deadly force! If it slows down your attacker, it will give you a tactical advantage. Now, the goblin has to react to your actions, propelling you ahead on the reaction curve. Remember, *action is faster than reaction!* If it does not work, then you have a good reason to up your level of defensive force.

Pepper spray won't work if someone is pointing a gun at you! However, if you are accosted with non-lethal force, both morally and legally, it is judicious to attempt to employ non-lethal force options as tools of first resort if you can safely do so. In self-defense homicide prosecutions, the Law looks more sympathetically at defendants who tried to use non-lethal force options first, if they could do so safely, before resorting to lethal force. Therefore, if you choose to carry a gun, you should also carry pepper spray.

The problem is that most pepper spray dispensers are inconvenient to carry all the time. Some are bulky. Some can unintentionally deploy in the pocket or pocketbook. Most dispenser designs require your wrist to be cocked in an unnatural position to deploy. In my experience, there are two unique pepper spray products that solve these problems.

Spitfire (www.Spitfire.US): The Spitfire pepper spray dispenser can be pointed with the thumb at the attacker in any

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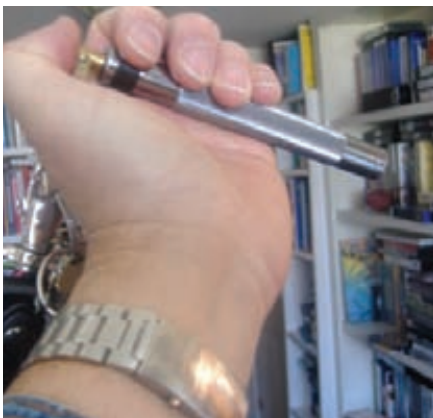


Spitfire pepper spray can be deployed by pointing your thumb.

direction or angle within 360 degrees. The dispenser is refillable, and it has a spring-assisted safety trigger to prevent unintentional discharges. Spitfire can be purchased in small or bulk quantities from Personal Defense Solutions.

www.PersonalDefenseSolutions.net
215-938-7283

ASP OC Defender (www.ASP-NET.com): This lightweight, high strength, aluminum mini-baton is actually a pepper spray dispenser that attaches to your key chain with a quick release option. It has a positive and secure safety to prevent an unintentional discharge. Intentional discharge of its devastatingly effective aerosol contents requires two distinct movements: (1) Release of its positive safety ring and (2) pressing the spring-loaded button attached to the key ring, releasing a cone-shaped spray of 2,000,000 Scoville heat units of oleoresin capsicum protection on target. The ASP Defender can also serve double duty as a defensive flail or thrasher, and as a contact-distance, impact and pain compliance tool, such as a Kubotan or Persuader.



ASP Defender OC Baton on key chain

4. A tactical folding knife:

The term “defensive tactics” refers to lines or strategies of counterattack, the “how, when, where, and what” in the employment of defensive rescue tools. To counter a gun grab, it makes tactical

sense to carry a defensive folding knife on the side of your body opposite the side where your gun rides. With appropriate training, such carry can enable you to cut off an attacker who is attempting to disarm or otherwise harm you. As noted tactical firearms trainer, John Farnam, deftly points out (Farnam, 2005), you can cut someone a little but you can’t shoot them a little. Shooting to wound makes no sense. Cutting to deter further aggressive action does.

The Emerson Wave™: The key is a concealable folding knife that can be quickly deployed. Emerson Knives (www.Emersonknives.com) makes a line of defensive folders with their patented “Wave” feature, which with a bit of practice, enables you to open the knife as you draw it from your pocket. These knives are faster to deploy than an automatic knife or switchblade, and they are legal in most jurisdictions where automatic knives are not. Not to worry, the pocket clip can also be switched for right- or left-sided carry.

Cold Steel (www.ColdSteel.com) also manufactures a wide variety of quality, reliable, versatile, affordable and innovative, defensive folding knives. My favorite is Cold Steel’s pocket “Ti-Lite.” Like the Emerson Wave, it can be deployed with lightning speed as you draw the knife from your pocket, thanks to the blade guard located where base of the blade meets the



Emerson “Mini-Commander” with “Wave” feature and Cold Steel “Ti-Lite” next to Smith & Wesson, .40 caliber SW990L.



This Cold Steel 5-inch serrated Vaquero defensive folding Knife gives new meaning to the term “Super-Sized.”



Cold Steel “City Stick” defensive cane and “Stun, Stagger and Stop” instructional DVD.

knife’s Zytel handle. These knives are razor sharp! Don’t cut yourself.

Training tapes: Both companies were founded by knife martial arts masters, Emerson’s—Ernie Emerson, and Cold Steel’s—Lynn Thompson. These teachers know the value of training, and as such, they have also produced videotapes that clearly demonstrate how to artfully employ their practical self-defense products. For example, you can purchase from Emerson a series of helpful training tapes on how to deploy their “Wave” equipped knives and their Karambit folders.

Recently, I had the opportunity to view Lynn Thompson’s instructional DVD on the use of Cold Steel’s defensive cane, the “Stainless Head City Stick” (“Stun, Stagger and Stop: Walking Stick and Cane Defense”). I never knew there were so many things I could do with a cane in addition to assisting my gait. Old geezers like me have more defensive tools at our disposal than I once thought!

5. A cellular phone:

Nowadays, there is no good reason not to carry a cellular phone. In an emergency, you can dial 9-1-1 from wherever you are, as long as there is service. Were you aware that your old, deactivated cell phones (when charged) will still dial 9-1-1?

6. The Ayoob “D-Jammer”:

This handy device, designed by Massad Ayoob, conveniently attaches to your keys along with your pepper spray. It can serve a number of useful functions. It was primarily designed as an emergency tool for removing an obstruction from the barrel of your handgun, dislodging jammed shells in a revolver or autoloader, de-jamming stuck mechanical parts in a pistol or revolver, and also to serve as an emergency cleaning rod in the field. However, secondarily, it can enable you



Ayoob Dejammer and Spitfire pepper spray on key chain

to use your keys as a defensive flail or thrasher. Thirdly, it can also be used as a close-up impact and compliance tool, such as a Kubotan or Persuader. The D-Jammer is available from Armor of New Hampshire (www.ayoob.com 800-624-9049).

CONCLUSION

Does all of the above seem like too much to think about and carry? If it does, then ask yourself the question: How much effort is your life worth?

It is just a matter of developing an at-the-ready, defensive, emergency rescue system, and integrating it into your lifestyle. This type of integration and habit formation comes naturally. We do it all the time in other areas of our lives. For example, those of us who are smart carry a spare tire in our vehicles, a spare gas can, spare cans of engine oil, jumper cables, a flashlight, a tire lug wrench, a cell phone, and water. If we are smart, we change the batteries in our home smoke alarms annually, we install anti-virus software on our computers, and we purchase life insurance, disability insurance, home owner's insurance, property insurance, car insurance, and so forth. Be smart with your personal defense solutions and survive.

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Bruce N. Eimer, Ph.D. is a board certified, licensed, clinical and forensic psychologist, NRA Certified Firearms Instructor, NRA Life Member, Glock Certified Armorer, a Utah Dept. of Public Safety Concealed Firearms Instructor and an Author in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. As the co-owner of Personal Defense Solutions, LLC, Bruce teaches concealed carry classes and NRA Basic Pistol and Personal Protection courses, as well as offering individual shooting instruction. He also teaches CCW classes that prepare people to apply for a Florida Non-Resident Concealed Carry Weapons Permit which is honored by 28 states. For more information, he can be reached by phone at 215-938-7283 (938-SAVE) and by e-mail at DrBruce@PersonalDefenseSolutions.net or CCWInstructor@PersonalDefenseSolutions.net. For a schedule of upcoming classes, you can log on to the PDS website: www.PersonalDefenseSolutions.net. Bruce is also the co-author, with Stephen Rementer of the Pennsylvania Lethal Weapons Institute, of the *Essential Guide to Handguns: Firearm Instruction for Personal Defense and Protection*, which is published by: Looseleaf Law Publications - www.LooseLeafLaw.com 800-647-5347



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Every gun owner eventually accumulates a box of not-quite-perfect holsters.

By Phil Elmore

THE BOX OF HOLSTERS

If you've carried a concealed weapon for any length of time, you've got one. It doesn't matter if it's a drawer, a cardboard box, a suitcase, or a trunk. Regardless of what it looks like on the outside, the inside is full of holsters.

You know what's in there. The holsters in your box are pretty much the holsters in my box. There's that expensive, leather shoulder holster rig that you bought because it looked so cool and so comfortable, but that

you can't wear properly concealed unless you're bundled into a winter parka. There's that ballistic-fabric, inside-the-pants job with the spare pouch for the extra magazine that's just too big to be comfortable. Oh, and let's not forget the low-ride, thigh tie-down, tactical model that looks right at home on the range while the local SWAT team is target shooting, but that you can't wear out on the town unless you're sporting an ankle-length duster.



That's not to mention the various holsters that just never quite fit the guns for which they were intended, or that never quite fit *you*. Your box of holsters also includes holsters for guns you've since retired or sold; multiple-mode rigs that perform several different functions poorly; a Kydex, fast-draw model that scratched the finish off of your favorite pistol; and at least half of a dozen one-size-fits-all, nylon IWB sleeves with plastic clips.

Don't be ashamed. We all do it and it's almost inevitable to accumulate a bunch of holsters we never use. Just as so many of us spend our lives buying new knives and new handguns in search of the perfect, every-day carry, we buy holsters in our constant quest to find the perfect, most concealable, and most comfortable fit for toting our weapons.

The problem, of course, is that you can become swamped in gear if you don't do something about it. Periodically, it is necessary to purge your holster accumulation. Just as you sometimes sell handguns and knives—I have *sold* more of these than I currently *own*—you must go through your box of holsters and eliminate what is unnecessary. This, too, can be difficult. What follows is a simple set of guidelines for paring down your box of holsters without impairing your ability to conceal your daily carry tools.

If you don't own it, ditch its holster. The first rule is the easiest with which to comply. If you can't figure out which gun the holster fits, you don't need the holster anymore. Maybe you sold the gun, or maybe you use the holster so infrequently that you don't remember which one it fits. Either way, you can do without it.

"One-size-fits-all" rarely does. There are plenty of holsters on the market that fit many guns, or that are *meant* to fit many guns. I have an Uncle Mike's IWB holster that "fits most small automatics" that happens to fit my Dad's Colt Mustang .380 perfectly. It would not necessarily fit another weapon as well. If you're hanging on to a bunch of holsters in the hopes that they'll fulfill multiple carry modes for multiple guns, don't. Somewhere in there, something won't fit quite right. Take the time to fit individual holsters properly and, in so doing, ditch the multi-carry pouches.

Unless you're Don Johnson, shrug off the shoulder rig. Some people have to use a shoulder rig for specific reasons. I have a friend who has back trouble. He cannot carry at his waistline and must use a shoulder rig. Unless you're him or you're working *Miami Vice*, give up on these elaborate rigs. There's just no way to conceal a shoulder holster unless you're practically wearing a medieval cloak over a trench coat. In normal wear, you'll spend

all your time tugging at your shirt or jacket, hoping you're not flashing the sheeple with your shoulder straps or the gun itself.

If the holster magnifies the size of the gun, lose it. Some holsters are so gigantic that it's hard to believe someone thought they were good ideas. If the holster material adds so much size to the gun that it makes the weapon harder to conceal, you might want to consider something else, and therefore you can do without that monstrous holster. I once owned a molded leather, pancake holster for the Beretta 92F—already a very large gun—that felt like an entire leather jacket wadded up and strapped to my belt. It just didn't work for me.

If it depends on a nylon strap, dump it. There are a lot of holsters on the market that only retain the handguns in them because they include a big, adjustable, nylon strap with a large, metal snap on the end. That's fine as long as the snap stays on, but what if it gets released accidentally or (Heaven forbid) you'd actually like to make a reasonably fast draw from concealment? You don't want to carry a holster that dumps its contents on the pavement the second a single snap pops free. A *vertical*, nylon rig with such a strap might be okay, but a *horizontal* one is definitely looking

Continued on page 44

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The average gun store stocks an endless supply of holsters in every size and mode of carry.

for trouble. Such adjustable straps are just not dependable when compared to more purpose-built, retaining thumb-breaks and snap closures.

If it points the muzzle up your armpit, throw it away. As a young, ignorant, and only recently licensed concealed carry permit holder, I once owned a leather shoulder rig (for an old Smith and Wesson .38 Special) that was just like one I saw in the movies. It was a minimalist affair in which the revolver rode upside-down, under my left arm, *with the barrel pointed directly into my armpit*. This was monstrously dangerous, but I did not know it at the time. I was reading a gun magazine and saw an account of a police officer whose fellow officers had to surround him and slowly take away his revolver. "Don't move," they told him, as he stood there dumbfounded because the hammer of the gun, riding in his inverted holster, had been cocked accidentally. He was walking around with a live round under a cocked hammer and the barrel of the gun pointed *into his body*. Merely drawing a pistol whose barrel is pointing at your body is similarly dangerous. After considering the risks of such a holster, I never wore an inverted rig again.

Toss the novelty holsters. Have you ever tried to carry a gun on your belt buckle? There are a lot of "novelty holsters" lurking out there that are better left in the bottom of a box of holsters than ever used for daily carry. If you have any of these in your accumulation, do yourself a favor and sell them on eBay. You and I both know you're not seriously going to carry a pocket pistol in a hollowed-out book, or stash a 1911 .45 in a hinged and suspiciously thick picture frame on the wall of your den.

If you just don't use it, why keep it? This is the same rule that applies to cleaning out your attic and your garage. You might own the perfect holster, or several of them, but if you just never wear them, why keep them around? The holsters in your collection should be those on which you rely, those that you use regularly. There's no reason to maintain a box of mint condition wrappers for your safe queens. Any holster you have not used at least once in the last year is one you can likely do without.

When selecting the holsters you do keep on hand, make sure they all meet certain criteria. Each holster must fit the gun for which it is intended. It must be comfortable to wear. It must make the weapon easier to carry *and* easier to conceal. It must securely retain the weapon, even if it is an open-top design. (If you can't slip and fall on a patch of ice without losing your handgun, the holster is inadequate.) Finally, it must be

something you can and do use regularly with your carry piece of choice. A holster that cannot fulfill these requirements is a holster that does not belong in your box, drawer, or suitcase.

Phil Elmore is the publisher of *The Martialist: The Magazine for Those Who Fight Unfairly*. He is a martial artist and professional technical writer who has published countless articles on self-defense, preparedness, politics, and philosophy. Visit him online at: www.philelmore.com.

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