

JUST THE LAW

DEFCON 1

BALLISTIC BASICS

WHAT'S THE PLAN? | FORCE DECISIONS | THE FITTING ROOM

# CONCEALED CARRY

MAGAZINE

THE ULTIMATE RESOURCE FOR RESPONSIBLY ARMED AMERICANS

FEBRUARY/MARCH 2015  
VOLUME 12 ISSUE 2

THE FIRST  
48 HOURS

DIRE DECISIONS

DEFENSIVE  
SHOTGUNS

KING OF THE HILL?

DATE NIGHT

SHOOTING IS FOR LOVERS

TAURUS  
CURVE

A NEW BREED

# HOUSE CALLS

KEEP YOUR FAMILY SAFE







# CCP

## EMPOWER YOURSELF

The Walther CCP™ houses our breakthrough SoftCoil™ technology. This translates into less felt recoil and consistent shot placement. We give you the assurance, that you can rely on Walther, no matter the situation. Something you should expect from the oldest name in personal protection.



WALTHERARMS.COM



BUILT IN GERMANY



*Conceived for Men, but **Women** Love it Too!*  
**MINI SCABBARD®**



- Premium cowhide • Detailed molding • Adjustable tension device



**NEMESIS®**

- Sticks almost like fly paper!
- Stays put when gun is drawn
- Available for most pocket guns
- Special polymer insert prevents molding

MSRP  
**\$25.99**  
 Style N38



*We didn't invent concealment,  
 we just perfected it!*

**800-GUNHIDE 631-841-6300**

**Dept #CC25**

**431 Bayview Avenue  
 Amityville, NY 11701**

**[www.desantisholster.com](http://www.desantisholster.com)**





## «52»

### SCATTERGUN SHOOTOUT

Big-League  
Home Defense

## DEPARTMENTS | FEATURES

- 6» PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE
- 8» EDITOR'S SHOT
- 10» ABOUT THE COVER
- 12» ASK THE USCCA
- 14» TRUE STORIES
- 18» LETTERS TO THE EDITOR
- 22» BATTLE BLADES
- 24» LEGISLATIVE UPDATE
- 26» GEAR WE LOVE
- 31» DRILL OF THE MONTH
- 108» MEMBER PROFILE
- 110» CLEAR IMPACT
- 112» INSTRUCTOR'S CORNER
- 118» ONE TO THE HEAD

**52» SCATTERGUN SHOOTOUT**  
Big-League Home Defense

**58» DANGER NOW**  
The First 48 Hours

**62» JUST ASK**  
New to Home-Defense Firearms

**66» THE FIRST FIVE SECONDS**  
Your Actions Affect the Outcome

**70» DATE NIGHT AT THE GUN RANGE**  
Trade in Movie Tickets for Ammo

**74» THE REVOLVER SPEED-LOAD AND JOX POUCHES**  
High Noon Meets High Tech

**78» ARM YOURSELF**  
Are You a Victim of Domestic Violence?

**80» THE VERBAL CHALLENGE**  
You Are Not in a Duel of Honor

**84» KEEPING YOUR CC PISTOL CLEAN & HEALTHY**  
Caring for Your Gun

**88» LASER SHOW**  
Crimson Trace at Gunsite

**96» PPA DEMYSTIFIED**  
Personal Protection Ammo

**100» WEAK-HANDED SHOOTING & MANIPULATION**  
After You're Shot in a Gunfight

**104» TAURUS CURVE**  
A Different Direction





## COLUMNS

- 34»** Ballistic Basics **FIT TO FIGHT**  
**36»** Legally Armed Citizen **SINK OR SWIM**  
**42»** It's Just the Law **THE PLAN**  
**46»** After the Shot **DIAL 911 AND FRY?**  
**48»** Defcon 1 **DEADLY FORCE AT HOME**







# YOU CAN TEACH AN OLD DOG NEW TRICKS

»Here's something you may or may not already know about me:

I'm the type of guy who gets really excited about learning new things. The type of guy who believes that continued learning is the key to unlocking all kinds of doors in life.

I guess you could even say that I agree with the often overused (but totally true) clichés that tell us “knowledge is power” and “practice makes (almost) perfect.”

The combination of the two — knowledge and practice — might also be described as education and training. If these two things sound familiar, it's no coincidence. They're two of the three pillars of USCCA's mission.

Because I believe so strongly in the power of learning and also believe that the best way to really learn something is to practice it, I recently implemented “lightning talks” at our weekly company meetings. These are short, 10-20 minute presentations where employees are invited to share their own interests and insights with the rest of the company.

I've heard lots of different things — from how to find my “unique ability” or give back to my community to overcoming a fear of public speaking. I'm always so proud when someone puts themselves out on the line to share a little bit of themselves with me — and that's really what these talks are all about.

A few months ago, in order to “practice what I preach” (another great cliché), I gave a short “lightning talk” on how important learning is to our overall happiness and our lifelong personal and professional development.

I talked about learning as a way of challenging our ways of thinking, of surrounding ourselves with people we trust who know more than we do. And, of course, I talked about the importance of practice, of applying what we know in a practical sense to round out our understanding of something.

Now, you're probably wondering how the heck these “lightning talks” at the USCCA headquarters have anything to do with you or your role as a responsibly armed American.

Well, I know you care just as much as I do about having access to the absolute best information and training to help you protect the ones you love. And I also know that if you're anything like me, you don't trust just anyone to give you that information.

But I'm asking you to continue to trust me.

I pride myself on the fact that I'm always looking for new, exciting and — most importantly — lifesaving information to help people like you keep your family safe. And I'm always pushing myself harder and further to show that commitment.

So, again, I'm asking you to trust me.

I promise to provide these opportunities for education and training that you can use to become the absolute best protector you can be.

What I ask in return is your commitment to lifelong learning and continued training for that moment when the ones you love will need you most.





# CONCEAL AND CARRY THE CROSS



**SUPERTUCK®**



HANDCRAFTED  
IN THE 

PATENTS- US 8,672,201 B2 AND US 8,479,331 B2

[WWW.CROSSBREEDHOLSTERS.COM](http://WWW.CROSSBREEDHOLSTERS.COM)

FIND US ON







» No one likes to think about something as terrifying as a home invasion, but we really don't have a choice. The first step in preventing something is admitting that it could happen.

# What's Your Plan?

» **BAD THINGS HAPPEN.** Bad things can happen anywhere . . . even in your own home.

Each of us needs to be prepared to take action to defend ourselves no matter where we are or what we are doing. When danger comes your way, the attacker does not care where you are standing. The attacker does not care if you feel safe in your own home.

Preparedness is the key to our effective reactions to danger. Proper training and equipment will help you, but proper mindset will be your best tool. Understanding that it can happen to you and it can happen in your home will save you valuable seconds; it might even save your life.

Don't waste time thinking, "What's going on here? I'm in my own house." Accept that a violent attack can occur in your home and react immediately. You have a personal protection plan for staying alive on the streets. Why would you not have a similar plan for staying alive in your home?

The same basic elements apply: Embrace situational awareness. Focus on deterrence, which leads to conflict avoidance. Train for various situations. Fight with everything you have. Don't quit until the threat stops.

The only difference is that you are handling these situations within the boundaries of your own home. That can be good or it can be bad, depending on what you do and what your attacker does.

You might want to wait at the top of the stairs or at the end of the hall and order the intruder out of your home. You might want to create a safe room and establish a plan that will allow you to get your family to safety in the event of an attack. You might wish to create an evacuation plan and a rally point. You might want to train with other family members in the elements of teamwork and close-quarters battle. All of this is up to you.

We cannot, in the pages of this magazine, create a plan for you. Every situation is different. The dynamics of a violent altercation do not allow for a one-size-fits-all approach. You need to come up with your own plan based on your knowledge of your local laws, the individual elements present within your family and the level of preparedness you are willing to maintain.

I don't care whether you use a pistol, rifle or shotgun for home defense. I don't care whether you decide to clear your house room-by-room or sit and wait for police to do that. All I care about is that you develop a plan and train for a series of contingencies.

Home defense is just like self-defense on the street. You need to ask yourself a series of questions that begins with "What if ..." Then you need to have a list of answers for all those questions.

Only you can decide how, when and where you will protect your family. We can give you options, advice and a few simple ideas. The rest will be up to you.

Stay safe. Train hard.

*Kevin Michalowski*  
Executive Editor





ENGINEERED TO

# DEFEND



FNH USA

NEW FOR 2015

## THE FNS™ COMPACT

AVAILABLE IN 9 MM & .40 CAL

- SNAG-FREE CONTROLS AND FRONT SIGHT ALLOW FOR EASY CONCEALMENT AND QUICK DRAW
- FITS ALL HAND SIZES AND IS TRULY AMBIDEXTROUS
- COLD HAMMER-FORGED, STAINLESS STEEL BARREL ENSURES EXCEPTIONAL LIFE, ACCURACY AND DURABILITY

FEEL THE DIFFERENCE OF THE FNS™ COMPACT.  
GET ONE AT YOUR LOCAL DEALER TODAY.



MADE IN THE U.S.A.



[FNHUSA.COM/FNS-SERIES](http://FNHUSA.COM/FNS-SERIES)

DISTINCT ADVANTAGE™





» **THE FNS-40 COMPACT**

is a relative newcomer to concealed carry and offers multiple options for carry size. With the standard 10-round, it makes for a very concealable package, but with the included 14-round, it handles and shoots like a full-size pistol. Watch for upcoming reviews here in *Concealed Carry Magazine*, and head to [fnhusa.com](http://fnhusa.com) for additional information.



— HANDCRAFTED IN THE USA —

# *Amerihide*<sup>TM</sup>

COMBINING HIGH QUALITY AND DURABILITY  
SINGLE AND DUAL LAYER LEATHER GUN BELTS

Custom • Stable • Comfortable



## FEATURES

- High Quality Leather for Greater Support and Durability
- Removable Stainless Steel or Brass Buckle
- Attractive Nylon Accent Stitching
- Seven Holes for Greater Adjustability

**UPGRADE YOUR GUN BELT TODAY**

**1-888-854-5605 • [www.AMERIHIDE.com](http://www.AMERIHIDE.com)**

(Amerihide is a TM of Disse Outdoor Gear, LLC)



# 7 O'CLOCK APPOINTMENT

» **I AM TRYING TO IMPROVE** my marksmanship with my new Glock 19. At 24 feet, I am able to put most rounds within the 8-ring. However, out of 25 rounds, I will have approximately five to six rounds hit the target at 7 o'clock in the outer rings. I remember reading some articles that describe the usual cause for this but seem unable to find the articles. Can you tell me what I might be doing wrong and also where I might find the articles that describe the usual cause for hitting left, right, high or low on the target? Thanks for helping,

*John, via email*

*John,*

First of all, I would like to congratulate you on your performance. Your ability to deliver the majority of your rounds to the 8-ring puts you well out ahead of the vast majority of humans on this planet. I am also happy to tell you that you are far from alone and that what you're experiencing is encountered very far down the road in the quest for good pistol marksmanship.

The two usual suspects for these fliers are jerking the trigger — pulling it abruptly and not necessarily straight to the rear — and over-tightening your fingers on the grip of the sidearm as you prepare to press the trigger. Most commonly, in your situation of only a few 7 o'clock deposits, you're likely doing them both at the same time during an otherwise well-executed string of fire.

Both of these are so common because they seem logical at some level in our minds, and that can be very difficult to counteract. We feel that we should pull that trigger as quickly as possible once we have our front sight aligned on our target, as we know that we'll only be able to keep it there for so long before we're off-target again. We tighten our grip because we understand that limp-wristing an autoloader is one of the fastest ways to induce a malfunction and that we had better hold on tight as a small explosion is about to be set off between our knuckles.

Best intentions aside, both of these habits must be broken. As for your trigger press, practice in dry-fire training until you can feel that there aren't multiple steps happening, meaning that at no point are you pressing faster or slower than at any other point. Then the next time you're at the range, consciously do the same while shooting slower than normal, slowly adding speed until you're back up where you were.

With regard to your grip, the next time you're shooting, stop every few rounds and just look at your hands; chances are you'll literally be white-knuckling your gun. The old adage was to grip a sidearm so tightly that your hands started to shake and then back off until they stopped. I would say that rather than go to that extreme, you should run a few magazines or cylinders erring on the side of a softer hold than you normally employ. I think you'll quickly find that the ol' G.I. Joe Kung-Fu grip isn't as necessary as it initially feels and that a little more finesse will go a long way.

Stay safe, and as my boss says, start slow for form and build speed. Slow is smooth. Smooth is fast.

**Ed Combs**

*Associate Editor*

**Concealed Carry Magazine**

TO SUBMIT A QUESTION TO ASK THE USCCA,  
VISIT US ON FACEBOOK AT FACEBOOK.COM/USCCA

# CONCEALED CARRY MAGAZINE

**President & CEO**

Tim Schmidt

**Executive Editor**

Kevin Michalowski

**Managing Editor**

Jared Blohm

**Associate Editor**

Ed Combs

**Creative Director**

Ken Wangler

**Art Director**

Dusty Reid

**Copy Editor**

Carla Dickmann

**Photographers**

Ken Wangler • Dusty Reid

**Columnists**

John Caile • K.L. Jamison, ESQ.  
Tamara Keel • Alan Korwin • Duncan Mackie  
Tim Schmidt • Mark Walters

**Contributing Writers**

Beth Alcazar • Jorge Amselle  
Bob Campbell • Robert H. Carp • George Harris  
M.D. Johnson • Amber Kunau • Dave Morelli  
Kevin Muramatsa • Dr. John O'Connor  
Kirsten Schuder, M.S. • C.R. Williams

Published for USCCA by:

**DELTA**  
DEFENSE LLC

300 S. 6th Ave.

West Bend, WI 53095

**Member Services**

(877) 677-1919

support@uscca.com

**National Advertising Director**

Bruce Wolberg

(715) 445-8722

(715) 281-4075

ads@deltamediallc.com

bruce@uscca.com

Concealed Carry Magazine (USPS: 022-302,  
ISSN: 1550-7866), Volume 12, Issue 2,  
February/March, 2015 Issue. Published 8 times  
a year, monthly, except combined issues:  
Feb/Mar; May/June; Aug/Sept; and Nov/Dec.

By Delta Defense, LLC,

300 S. 6th Ave., West Bend, WI 53095.

Periodicals postage paid at Jackson,  
WI and additional mailing offices.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to:

Concealed Carry Magazine,

300 S. 6th Ave., West Bend, WI 53095



Signed articles in Concealed Carry Magazine reflect the views of the author, and are not necessarily the views of the editors at Delta Defense, LLC. Concealed Carry Magazine and the U.S. Concealed Carry Association are registered trademarks of Delta Defense, LLC. All Rights Reserved. Copyright 2004-2013 by Delta Defense, LLC. Reproduction, copying, or distribution of Concealed Carry Magazine is prohibited without written permission.



## » Washington State Woman Defends Family Against Home Invasion

When an Edmonds woman responded to a 3 a.m. pounding on her door, she cracked the door to see who it was. That's when a drunken intruder pushed past her and into the home she shared with her sleeping husband and four children. The man resisted when she tried to push him back out the door, and fearing for her life, the mother shot the intruder in the abdomen. Responding police apprehended the suspect and transported him to an area hospital for treatment of his wound. The homeowner will not be charged for acting in defense of herself and her family.

*Seattle Post-Intelligencer, WA*

## » Kansas Man Stops Home Invasion

Hearing his home alarm go off, followed by sounds of glass breaking, a Sedgewick County man took up a pistol when he went to investigate the suspicious noises. Seeing someone attempting to enter his home, the resident fired a single shot at the burglar, grazing his head and putting him to flight. Responding police apprehended the intruder when they saw him walking along a road not far from the scene of his crime. The home's residents — three children and two adults — were unharmed in the incident.

*KWCH-12, Wichita, KS*

## » Indiana Man Shoots Home Invader, Saves Brother and Elderly Mother

When investigating a noise one night in the home they shared with their elderly mother, two Orange County brothers found their front door had been jimmied open. On going to the basement to retrieve tools to secure the front door, one of the brothers encountered a masked intruder armed with a knife, who immediately attacked him. Hearing the commotion, the other brother rushed downstairs to find the intruder on top of his sibling and beating him furiously. Three shots from the responding sibling's handgun killed the attacker and ended the incident. Orange County prosecutors reviewed the case and determined the homeowner was within his rights, and no charges will be filed against him.

*The Elkhart Truth, IN*

## » Illinois Bakery Owner Foils Armed Robbery

Two men, one armed, robbed a Calumet City bakery of its money. Then they marched the store clerk and owner down a hall at gunpoint toward a back room. At that point, fearing an execution-style slaying, the bakery owner drew his legally possessed pistol and shot the gun-wielding robber seven times, putting both robbers to flight. The robber's gun turned out to be a realistic-looking toy. The local police chief praised the owner's actions, saying he was lawfully defending himself.

*Chicago Tribune, IL*

## » Alabama Woman Defends Against Domestic Violence

A Tuscaloosa man phoned a woman he knew and threatened to come and kill her. Since the same man had previously stalked her and tried to set her house afire, the woman took no chances and armed herself with a shotgun. When the man came to her house to make good on his threat, she fired on him twice, hitting him once in the neck. The stalker and would-be murderer was arrested at a local hospital when he sought medical treatment.

*AL.com*

## » 74-Year-Old California Man Saves Stalked Woman from Attack

Hearing a female neighbor screaming, a 74-year-old Rosedale man took his legally owned pistol with him when he went to investigate. He found his neighbor with a man he knew had previously stalked her. When he accosted him, the stalker threatened the 74-year-old and told him he had a knife, then kicked him in the chest. The neighbor then fired a single shot at his attacker, hitting him in the foot and putting him to flight. Responding police arrested the man when he had a traffic accident a short distance away.

*The Bakersfield Californian, CA*



**N8<sup>2</sup>**  
**TACTICAL**™

Engineered for Comfort



**COMFORT WHEN YOU NEED IT.**

Designed for Protection. Engineered for Comfort.

[n82tactical.com](http://n82tactical.com)





## » Washington State Man Defends Against Invading Gang Members

A Lakewood couple were the victims of a home invasion ordeal that ended poorly for their attackers. When the husband answered a knock at their door, three men pushed past him in a home invasion. Pulling the wife from a bathtub, the intruders tied up the couple while they ransacked the home. When the invaders went outside the home for some reason, the husband locked the front door, untied his wife, retrieved a pistol from a lockbox and retreated to the couple's bedroom. The burglars forced their way back into the home and attempted to force their way into the bedroom, whereupon the husband fired on the attackers, fatally injuring one and putting all to flight. The surviving criminals were later arrested following a police investigation. The defending homeowner will not face charges.

*Bonney Lake Courier-Herald, WA*

## » Armed Off-Duty Nat'l Guardsman Talks Down Knife-Wielding Man in Wal-Mart

An off-duty National Guardsman was shopping with his wife and children in a Del Rio, Texas, Wal-Mart when he heard a woman screaming nearby. Sending his family out of danger to the front of the store, the armed concealed-carrier went to the sound of the screams and found a large man holding a knife to the abdomen of a woman. Telling the assailant he was armed, the Guardsman ordered the man to drop his weapon, which he eventually did, and talked him into remaining in the store for responding police. It turned out the woman being threatened was the assailant's mother, and the man was angry with her for refusing to buy a gun for him. Responding police praised the Guardsman for his coolness in dealing with the situation without needing to resort to the legally carried pistol he had on him.

*TheBlaze.com*

## » Armed Ohio Woman Surprises Knife-Wielding Armed Robber

A masked man entered a Lancaster convenience store, brandished a steak knife and demanded money. The quick-thinking store clerk backed up to a counter and drew a pistol stashed in the store for just such emergencies and fired at the robber, missing him but driving him from the premises and ending the robbery with no one hurt.

*Lancaster Eagle-Gazette, OH*

## » Alabama Husband Defends Against Multiple Armed Threats

A Hartford couple was returning home when they were approached by a group of armed men. Fearing for his and his wife's safety, the husband drew his legally carried pistol and fired on the group, striking one man and putting the rest to flight. Geneva County prosecutors have ruled the shooting justifiable self-defense.

*WTVY.com, Dothan, AL*

## » Louisiana Wife Defends Against Husband's Attempt to Run Down Family

A New Orleans couple was at home arguing when the wife wanted to leave the encounter and attempted to go to her car with her children to leave the scene. The husband then attempted to run her and the children down with his truck. The wife fired several shots at the husband, stopping the attack. The husband later died of his wounds at a local hospital. Police are investigating the incident.

*New Orleans Times-Picayune, LA*

## » Mississippi Teenage Girl Uses Gun to Stop Home Robbery

A Vicksburg mother and her 17-year-old daughter were rudely awakened early one morning, then bound and robbed of their wallets by a home invader. After the robber fled, the women managed to free themselves from their bonds, with the daughter going to retrieve a handgun and the mother moving to lock the door. Before the mother could do so, the robber returned and chased her through the home and fired at the two women. The daughter returned fire, causing the robber to flee the home for good. No one was injured in the exchange of gunfire, and police are actively seeking the robber.

*WDBD Fox 40, Jackson, MS*



**TCM**  
TAC ULTRA FS HC

22TCM/9mm  
Combo

ITS COUSIN  
IS A

FLAMETHROWER



**AMAZINGLY POWERFUL. SURPRISINGLY SMOOTH.**

The Rock Island TCM line is more than just powerful and smooth. It's also a great value with a 9mm conversion barrel for versatility and a lifetime warranty for peace of mind. And now, get a free box of Armcor TCM ammo with the purchase of any TCM gun as part of Armcor's 30-Year Anniversary. Visit us online for details.

[www.RockIslandArmory.com/30years](http://www.RockIslandArmory.com/30years)



## »UNREGISTERED CONCEALED CARRY GUN

I just finished reading the "What Are Your 4 Criteria?" article by Mark Walters. This is an excellent article, but for me, one important criteria was not discussed.

We all know that if involved in a shooting or even drawing the weapon, chances are good that the weapon will be confiscated for a time by the investigating police.

For this reason, my most important criteria is that the weapon I choose to carry must be one that is already registered through an ATF-recorded sale. An unregistered gun in this situation will most likely get registered during this investigative event.

Thanks for a great mag!

Jeff, via email

Jeff,

There seems to be disconnect across much of the country in the use of the term "registered." You are not registering a gun when you fill out a Form 4473 during a purchase from a dealer with a Federal Firearms License (FFL). The Form 4473 facilitates the background check and is a written document on which you declare you are legally allowed to own a firearm. After you fill out the 4473, the dealer makes the call to the National Instant Criminal Background Check System (NICS) for the instant criminal background check (to see if you told the truth on your Form 4473). All of that does happen to give the Federal Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF) a record of the transaction between a gun buyer and a federally licensed gun dealer. The gun dealer keeps those forms, and the forms are not supposed to be given to the ATF unless the ATF is investigating a crime. We can argue all day whether or not the ATF secretly keeps those records. But the point is only a handful of states actually require "registration" of firearms in some way, shape or form. In fact, only seven states — California, Connecticut, Hawaii, Maryland, New Jersey, New York and Washington, D.C. — require some form of registration and eight states prohibit firearms registration of any form.

So, if you are involved in a self-defense shooting with a firearm you bought without filling out a Form 4473, you will be in no trouble unless you live in one of the seven states.

Investigating officers might check the serial

number of your gun and go looking for a 4473 associated with a previous purchase, but unless the gun was reported stolen, you would have no further legal liability just because you didn't fill out the form.

The best thing for you to do if you buy a gun in a private sale is to get a Bill of Sale from the seller that includes his name, address, driver's license number and the serial number of the gun. Store that in a safe place. That way, if you are involved in a self-defense shooting, you have some recourse if the authorities come back and say, "Your gun was reported stolen in 1991." To that you can say, "Here is the guy I bought it from in 2002." My advice is to not buy a gun from someone not willing to give you a complete and accurate bill of sale.

I know this is complicated, but it is not quite as dangerous as you might think.

Stay safe,

Kevin Michalowski

Executive Editor

## »JOB WELL DONE

Due to the information about concealed carry that I have learned from this magazine over the past 12 months, I renewed my subscription!

The October 2014 copy was the best one yet in my opinion. The "Gun Gaffes" article was very helpful and eye-opening for me. I think the law is arbitrary on purpose when federal agencies do not support an activity or freedom granted by the Constitution.

The "What Should I Know?" article had some very good points in it. I never thought about leaving a box in the safe with some of my carry ammo in it in case a ballistic test is needed in the aftermath of a defensive shooting. This one paragraph is worth the annual subscription price when you think about its significance in a defensive trial.

I am trying to begin a career in the firearms industry, and I found the "One to the Head" commentary a valuable resource. If a gun is not comfortable, I doubt an individual would carry it every day (if at all). The order of the priorities was correct in my opinion.

Thank you USCCA for all that you do!

Daniel Chambers, via email

## »TIM ON POINT

Kevin,

Tim's message portrays exactly what a

CCW holder needs in the way of education.

Other programs that try to make CCW carriers into Navy SEALs do more damage to the image of responsible Americans carrying guns than anything else. Keep up the good work.

One can make the best CCW argument in the world, but if it's delivered by someone wearing a bandolier of bullets and camouflage pants, it destroys the whole message of responsible Americans carrying concealed weapons.

Best,

Ken Rhodes

## »BREAKING IN MY GUN?

I am in the process of buying a brand new Glock 29 as my carry gun. I got a really good price on it, and I just couldn't say no. Unfortunately, this will be my first new gun. Up until now, I could only afford used guns.

Since this is my first new gun, I have a question that I have not been able to get a straight answer to. Is there any kind of break-in I need to know about? I have gone online to try to find out but have seen mixed answers. Some people have said just take it out of the box and shoot. Others say it has to be taken apart and thoroughly cleaned to remove all the green grease Glock put into it, and then it has to be completely lubed.

Can you please clear this up? And what about other gun manufacturers? Please shed some light on this.

Thanks,

Rob, via email

Rob,

If you head to [glock.com](http://glock.com), you will be able to peruse the entire Glock safe-action pistol user manual so you can be certain that whatever it is you decide to do, it will be within Glock factory specifications.

As far as I am concerned, however, a new-in-box Glock pistol is range ready. There is gold grease in the pistol, yes, but it is a grease specifically chosen by Glock to put inside their pistols and is safe to leave in for the first few magazines you will be sending downrange in order to get used to the new gun and verify its trustworthiness. My duty gun, a Glock 17, was unboxed and fired in this manner, as was Executive Editor Kevin Michalowski's Model 19. As was every single pistol I saw used in the law

enforcement recruit academy. As is, I would imagine, basically every Glock pistol sold to private citizens in the U.S.

*Some people really enjoy cleaning a firearm. For them, part of the fun of buying a new gun is getting it home, getting it unboxed and immediately stripping it down and cleaning every last surface. That's great, and it's a more useful hobby than most, but it is not essential.*

**Stay safe,  
Ed Combs  
Associate Editor**

## »HANGING IT UP

Mr. Michalowski,

I enjoy reading your articles in *Concealed Carry Magazine* each month and thought you'd be the person to put this question to. When is it time (and who makes the decision) to hang up the "shootin' irons" permanently?

Being in my late 70s, objectively thinking and still realistic, there will come a time when I or someone else will say, "That's it ole boy!" I've asked my youngest son to always be observant of any safety laxity, personality change or trait that could be detrimental to others or myself and take appropriate action, and I would respect it.

Is it possible you could discuss this topic with other age-appropriate persons and write an article on how they are handling the coming inevitability? I enjoy my few firearms and the shooting sport and want to leave it safe and enjoyable for those who follow me. Thank you very much.

**Harry, via email**

*Thank you for the note, Harry. I would say the fact that you are still considering safety and such factors would be good evidence that you have not yet reached the limit. But this is something that is very personal, much like deciding when to stop driving a car. I would suggest that as long as you are mentally alert and physically able to fire a gun, you keep right on doing it. You might not be a match-grade shooter or you might not be a combat competitor, but as long as you can hold your firearm, you have the right to make that decision on your own.*

**Stay safe and keep a good thought.  
Kevin Michalowski  
Executive Editor**

## »WHAT'S IN A NAME?

My wife and I receive and enjoy your magazine each time it is published. I anxiously await the date on the calendar that I know it will be sent.

In the article "...Pass the Ammunition" in the January issue, you recommend the church have a "Head of Security." Although I see the need for this, I strongly caution against the verbiage of such committee or department. In a training class I attended last year, several trainers (with various backgrounds including law enforcement) recommended the terms "Head of Safety" or "Safety Committee." Each state is different, but some require legal specifics when using the title "security," and of course, attorneys could have a field day with such a term after circumstances go bad. "Safety Committees" can accomplish the same task without the attention that "Security Teams" draw.

**Keep up the great work!  
Mark**

Mark,

*I wholeheartedly agree. Though it can sometimes be difficult to swallow our pride (or, in this case, our common sense) and play the name game with paranoid hoplophobes, the important part of the equation is that we ensure the safety of our loved ones: in this case, our parishoners. As long as the result is the same — the flock is protected — I would imagine all responsibly armed Americans would be comfortable with a "Safety Committee" rather than a "Security Director." Unforced errors are the worst kind in armed self-defense, and sometimes something as simple as nomenclature can make a bit of difference when it comes to reducing the legal aftermath of being forced to defend yourself or another with a gun.*

**Stay Safe, Ed Combs  
Associate Editor**



**Send your letters to  
Editor@usconcealedcarry.com**



**CL-43**  
**Flashlight**  
[www.keltecweapons.com](http://www.keltecweapons.com)

**Compact Size  
420 Lumens  
Forward Facing  
Push Button**

**Tactical & Safety Colors**





# What they don't see...

## SNEAKY PETE HOLSTERS

If you've ever had to make the choice between wearing your favorite clothes or your pistol, you'll understand why we designed this holster. With a Sneaky Pete holster you can always wear **WHATEVER** you want, **WHENEVER** you want and still be concealed.

And because we realize that not everyone has the same needs, we offer our holsters in a variety of colors and materials to make sure you get the perfect holster for your needs.

[www.SneakyPete.com](http://www.SneakyPete.com)

A proud American - Small Business -  
protected by patent D609,465



BACK VIEW

### Colors & Materials

- Black Leather
  - Brown Leather
  - Black Alligator
  - Brown Alligator
  - Ballistic Nylon
- Belt Loop or Clip!**



# ...is what's important.

## the **INNERPOCKET**

With everything we expect to fit in our pockets these days it's a miracle we can find anything when we need it. Well, we decided that it was about time to solve that problem so we've designed the innerPocket.

Made using the finest quality leather, the innerPocket is available in a wide variety of colors, materials and stitches. Get the ultimate solution to keep everything right where you need it, when you need it and free from damage in your pocket.

[www.innerPocket.com](http://www.innerPocket.com)



BACK VIEW

### Carry Anything!

- Cell Phone
- Cash
- Credit Cards
- Driver's License
- Extra Ammo
- Pocket Knife
- Lighter
- Multi-Tool
- E-Cigarette
- Spare Key
- Memory Card
- and much, much more!





## RUGGED FOLDER

» **THIS SINGLE-EDGED**, liner-lock folder's design was influenced by the legendary Applegate/Fairbairn dagger and Brent Beshara's original UK-SFK dagger. The crossguard facilitates rapid opening and functions as a double-sided hilt, and it also features an ambidextrous thumb stud and lanyard hole. With extremely sleek lines and equally rugged construction, this is one serious piece of equipment that is available at retailers nationwide and at [www.blackhawk.com](http://www.blackhawk.com).

**MOD SFK FOLDER****BLADE LENGTH:** 3.94 INCHES**OVERALL LENGTH:** 9.06 INCHES**BLADE MATERIAL:** N690CO

STAINLESS STEEL HRC 58-60

**HANDLE MATERIAL:** TEXTURED G-10 SCALES

WITH STAINLESS STEEL AISI 420J2 LINERS

**POCKET CLIP:** BLACK PTFE COATED MULTI-POSITION STAINLESS STEEL**WEIGHT:** 5.92 OUNCES**MSRP:** \$199.99





# Nighthawk Custom

**ONE GUN.  
ONE GUNSMITH.™**



**TOLL FREE: 877-268-4867**  
**WWW.NIGHTHAWKCUSTOM.COM**

**HOME OF THE WORLD'S FINEST 1911 PISTOLS**



## » 21 STATES PUSH TO OVERTURN MARYLAND GUN-CONTROL LAW

Twenty-one states have asked a federal appeals court to overturn Maryland's tough gun-control law, contending that its provisions banning 45 assault weapons and limiting gun magazines to 10 rounds violate the Second Amendment right to keep firearms at home for self-protection.

A coalition led by West Virginia Attorney General Patrick Morrisey filed the friend-of-the-court brief in the 4th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in Richmond, Virginia. The document supports an appeal by groups whose challenge to the law was rejected in August by the U.S. District Court in Baltimore.

Morrisey, a Republican, said in a statement that the Maryland Firearms Safety Act of 2013, if upheld by the courts, would undermine a core part of the Second Amendment by banning popular firearms that can be used for self-defense.

"States must band together at times when they see citizens' rights being diminished or infringed upon," he said.

A spokeswoman for Democratic Maryland Gov. Martin O'Malley criticized the action.

"A federal judge has already affirmed the constitutionality of this law," Nina Smith wrote in an email. "This effort by other states won't do anything to reduce violent crime or save lives."

David Paulson, spokesman for the Maryland attorney general's office, declined to comment on the pending litigation, citing an agency policy. The other states involved are Alabama, Alaska, Arizona, Florida, Idaho, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Michigan, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, New Mexico, North Dakota, Oklahoma, South Carolina, South Dakota, Texas, Utah and Wyoming. The group includes 18 Republicans and three Democrats.

Maryland's Republican Gov.-elect, Larry Hogan, has said he would uphold the laws of both Maryland and the United States, including the Second Amendment.

Maryland lawmakers passed the legislation in response to the December 2012 shootings at Sandy Hook Elementary School in Newtown, Conn.

*From WBALTV.com (Baltimore) – Dec. 5, 2014*

## » OHIO LAWMAKER TO INTRODUCE LEGISLATION REQUIRING BB GUNS/AIR GUNS BE BRIGHTLY COLORED

Ohio State Rep. Alicia Reece announced that she will introduce legislation that would place restrictions on BB guns, air rifles and airsoft guns following the shooting deaths of a 12-year-old Cleveland boy and a 22-year-old Beaver Creek man.

Tamir E. Rice died after a Cleveland officer shot him in the stomach at Cudell Recreation Center. Tamir was holding a BB gun that had its orange safety cap removed when the officer shot him, according to police.

Rice's death happened a little more than three months after Beaver Creek police fatally shot 22-year-old John Crawford III while he was holding an air rifle at a Wal-Mart.

Reece, a Democrat from Cincinnati and the president of the Ohio Legislative Black Caucus, announced that she will introduce legislation requiring all BB guns, air rifles and airsoft guns sold in Ohio to be brightly colored or have prominent fluorescent strips.

"The shooting of John Crawford III devastated many people in our

community and left us looking for answers," Reece said in a news release. "This bill is but one small step in addressing this tragedy and helping to prevent future deadly confrontations with someone who clearly presents little to no immediate threat or danger. With the deadly shooting of a 12-year-old in Cleveland, it is becoming crystal clear that we need this law in Ohio."

In September, a Greene County grand jury opted not to issue any indictments in the Aug. 5 shooting death of Crawford. However, federal officials subsequently said they would investigate the incident.

Reece began working on legislation with Crawford's father, John Crawford Jr., after the grand jury opted not to indict, she said in a phone interview Sunday. Reece plans to introduce legislation sometime in the next few weeks but will reintroduce it when the 131st General Assembly convenes in January, she said.

While other states have passed laws regulating the sale of imitation or toy guns, there are no laws in Ohio that place restrictions on them, according to the *Dayton Daily News*. Federal law requires that toy or imitation firearms be sold with orange tips inserted in the barrels, but those tips can be removed or painted.

While legislation could benefit police, there are issues that need to be addressed, said Jeffrey Follmer, the president of Cleveland's police union.

While a new law could make it easier to recognize imitation firearms, it could also result in criminals painting real guns to make them look less dangerous, Follmer said. Officers would follow the same protocol if a suspect pointed a gun at them, regardless of whether that gun was brightly colored or not, he said.

"Our guys would still need to take the gun seriously until somebody puts it down," Follmer said.

Lawmakers would work to address issues such as the one Follmer raised, Reece said.

"There's always going to be things that need to be addressed," she said. "What we know is that we've seen two shootings that started with a toy gun and ended with a tragedy."

Rep. Bill Patmon, a Democrat from Cleveland, said he believes lawmakers should pass legislation that requires imitation or toy guns to be more distinguishable from real guns.

"Too many of these confrontations end in death," Patmon said. "Too many."

Patmon believes police officers should receive additional training on how to distinguish a real gun from an imitation or toy gun, and that officials should make an effort to educate the community about handling imitation or toy guns. He acknowledged that there could be pushback against putting regulations on imitation or toy guns, especially by the businesses that manufacture them.

"The more it looks like a real gun, the more people will buy it," Patmon said. "The more it looks like a toy, fewer people will buy it. But these are supposed to be toys. I don't know how you push back against regulations."

Rep. Mike Foley, a Democrat from Cleveland, said he supports Reece's decision to introduce legislation.

"[Guns] that aren't real should be made to look like they're not real to the greatest extent possible," Foley said.

However, he is pessimistic about the chances of a new law being passed, saying lawmakers have done little to regulate firearms of any kind. Other states have passed legislation on imitation or toy guns. In September, California passed a law requiring that all replica or toy

guns be brightly colored.

Reece said her bill is modeled after the California bill. That law was a response to the Oct. 22, 2013, shooting death of 13-year-old Andy Lopez. The Santa Rosa boy was shot and killed by a Sonoma County Sheriff's deputy who believed the boy's toy gun was an assault rifle. The toy gun's orange tip had been removed.

Arkansas law prohibits "imitation firearms" or toy guns, which include air guns, replica nonguns and water pistols. However, that law does not prohibit replicas of antique firearms, BB guns, air guns, paintball guns, any device that has an orange tip inserted in the barrel or any device that is brightly colored, transparent or translucent.

Local governments have also addressed the issue. Earlier this year the city council in Atlantic City, N.J. banned the sale of realistic toy guns. The ban does not extend to non-firing antiques, film props or brightly colored toy guns.

Ohio lawmakers could support legislation in the wake of the shooting deaths of Rice and Crawford, Patmon said.

"I suspect there will be a push to make sure that nobody can mistake a toy for a real gun," he said.

*From Cleveland.com – Dec. 5, 2014*

## » GUN RIGHTS SIGNS ALLOWED TO STAND UNDER CITY ORDINANCES

A controversial gun-rights sign that was ordered to be taken down in Hamburg will be allowed to stay up in Niagara Falls.

Code Enforcement Director Dennis Virtuoso, who is also the Democrat minority leader in the Niagara County Legislature, said the anti-NY SAFE Act sign attacking the bill's main supporter Gov. Andrew Cuomo, also a Democrat, is allowable under the city ordinance that covers signs, explicitly stating that political speech on specific candidates and issues is legal.

"We made a decision that it is allowed to stay there," Virtuoso said.

The sign, which reads "N.Y. IS NOT SAFE!!! FIGHT CUOMO PRESERVE YOUR RIGHTS," was ordered to be taken down in Hamburg after town officials there determined it violated an ordinance that does not allow for the painting of words on fences that face outwards.

Hamburg resident Scott Zawierucha agreed last month to remove a near-identical sign following a court battle involving a charge that he violated Hamburg zoning code. Zawierucha had claimed that he was being prosecuted because of the sign's content. He agreed to take it down in exchange for charges against him being dropped.

The New York Secure Ammunition and Firearms Enforcement Act of 2013 is commonly known as the NY SAFE Act. The gun-control measure was passed by the state legislature last January in response

to the Sandy Hook Elementary School shooting in Newtown, Conn. Cuomo signed it the same day it was approved, describing the gun-control law as the "toughest" of its kind in the United States. It expanded firearms regulations across the state.

Advocacy groups that fight for Second Amendment rights across the state, in particular the Shooters Committee on Public Education or S.C.O.P.E., have argued that the law does little to protect the citizenry while infringing on the constitutionally protected right to bear arms.

*From The Niagara Gazette – Nov. 30, 2014*

## » ALABAMA VOTERS RATIFY HUNTING/FISHING AMENDMENT

A constitutional amendment to strengthen hunting and fishing rights in Alabama has been ratified by voters.

The so-called "Sportsperson's Bill of Rights" states that citizens have a right to hunt and fish subject to reasonable regulations. It also says those regulations should promote conservation and management and guarantee the future of fishing and hunting.

The amendment is supported by the National Rifle Association. It's similar to another amendment approved by state voters nearly two decades ago.

*From The Associated Press – Dec. 4, 2014*



# Skinner® Sights LLC

## ANNOUNCING THE SKINNER HTF GARMENT BAG



**Who Steals Clothes?**



FOLDS FOR EASY CARRYING  
WITH WRAP AROUND HANDLES



REMOVABLE HOLSTERS  
WITH MAGAZINE POUCH

- Up to a 40" long gun and two handguns
- Room for three rifle and eight pistol
- Knife, flashlight and accessory pouches
- Cordura construction
- Heavy duty stitching

**HTF  
Garment  
Bag**





**THE SKINNER® SIGHTS "HTF" BAG ALLOWS YOUR  
FIREPOWER TO BE "CONCEALED IN PLAIN SIGHT"  
YET READY IN CASE OF AN EMERGENCY.**

**www.SKINNERSIGHTS.com**

Firearms and accessories shown are for illustrative purposes and are not included with Skinner cases.



### 1» Chamber-View Indicator

These high-visibility blaze orange silicone inserts slip into the chamber of your firearm and instantly identify your gun as unloaded. Available in 9mm/.40 pistol, pump/auto shotgun and AR/AK-pattern rifle. Get to chamber-view.com for information on retailers.

**MSRP: \$7.99-\$9.99**

### 2» Talon Ordnance Eagle Shield CLP

This CLP is specifically designed to keep a firearm running reliably under heavy sustained fire. The compound physically binds to the metal at the molecular level, creating an impenetrable barrier against corrosion, and reduces cleaning time by not allowing carbon to bind itself to treated surfaces. Check it out at talonordnance.com.

**MSRP: \$12.99/2-ounce bottle**

### 3» Kel-Tec CL-42 Flashlight

Extremely compact and thin for its 420-lumen output, this American-made flashlight with tail cap activation and pocket clip takes two standard 123A batteries and slips very comfortably into a pocket or purse. Rugged and reliable like everything from George Kellgren, you can find it at keltecweapons.com.

**MSRP: \$85**

### 4» Well-Dressed Guns Declaration Holster

This outside-the-waistband holster is compatible with any standard belt and is designed specifically for women. Made with a combination of leather and kydex, and available in a variety of colors and with or without Swarovski crystals, this holster is truly customizable. Function meets fashion at welldressedguns.com.

**MSRP: \$68.85-\$84.85**



1

2

3



### 5» FreeHollowBooks.com Stealth Book Case

Handcrafted to your model of gun, these painstakingly manufactured hollow books make excellent gifts for gun owners who do not require highly secure storage for their sidearms. The cases are constructed from actual books and don't bulge or wave like homemade hobbyist book safes. Dozens of different models and designs are available. Visit [freehollowbooks.com](http://freehollowbooks.com) for more information and turnaround times.

**MSRP: \$45-\$95**

### 6» Thompson Tactical Gen-2 CCW Belt

This 1.5-inch medium brown Thompson Tactical Gen-2 gun belt is pictured here with brown stitching but is available with stitching in almost a dozen other colors and is backed by a 25-year warranty. Inspired by the American homesteader, the belts are handcrafted in the USA and are available at [thompson tacticalbelts.com](http://thompson tacticalbelts.com).

**MSRP: \$120**





### 1» Kinetic Concepts Tactical Element II Holster

This extremely robust inside-the-waistband holster can be ordered left- or right-handed and in two dozen different colors and camouflage patterns for 29 different sidearms. Belt loops are a standard 1.75 inches unless otherwise specified in ordering, and all holsters are made in the USA. Get yours at [www.freewebstore.org/kctkydex](http://www.freewebstore.org/kctkydex). **MSRP: \$35**

### 2» Vickers Tactical Glock 42 Upgrades

For those who demand the highest function from their sidearms, Vickers Tactical offers magazine catches, slide stops, magazine floorplates and other essential replacement upgrades for all Glock pistols, including the 42. These and other accessories can be found at [tangodown.com](http://tangodown.com). **MSRP: \$12.75-\$19.95**

### 3» Militec-1 Synthetic Weapons Lubricant

This solution offers dry impregnated lubrication for all types of weapons systems and vehicles and is preferred by everyone from tank crews to infantrymen to concealed carriers for its extremely high reliability even in sandy and dusty environments. Head to [militecusa.com](http://militecusa.com) for the incredible and unique story behind this battle-tested product. **MSRP: \$8.50**

### 4» Packin' Neat Purse Insert

This unit makes any purse a concealed carry purse. Its edge is that it uses other items in your purse as a counterweight to your sidearm, and the draw is executed smoothly and easily from a very discreet in-purse unit. They are available in four sizes for compacts, subcompacts, revolvers and stun gun/pepper spray units. Check them out at [packinneat.com](http://packinneat.com). **MSRP: Varies**





## 5» Elite Survival Systems COBRA Rigger's Belt

Double-layered 1.75-inch mil-spec nylon webbing is stitched around a stabilizing core and secured with a quick-release COBRA buckle manufactured by AustriAlpin. COBRA buckles are the world's safest and strongest load-bearing, quick-release fasteners available and are common in both military and mountaineering applications. The D-ring is rated up to 5,000 pounds straight pull, far exceeding all standards for fall protection. The belts are made in the U.S.A. and available in black, olive drab and coyote at [elitesurvival.com](http://elitesurvival.com).

**MSRP: \$89.95**

## 6» Concealed Carry Holster System

This complete concealed carry system attracts very little attention and holds all of your everyday carry items. Exterior pockets accommodate a phone, flashlight, knife, pens and other gear, and the inner pocket features a pair of canted elastic straps for securing a handgun and extra magazine. The system is available in 11 colors, is made in America, and is available at [ccinplainSite.com](http://ccinplainSite.com).

**MSRP: \$74.95**







THE TRUTH IS NEVER SUBTLE!  
**PULLING THE PIN**  
ON THE FORCES OF IGNORANCE



**ARMED AMERICAN RADIO**  
FIGHTING FOR YOUR GUN RIGHTS FROM COAST TO COAST EVERY SUNDAY NIGHT  
FIND A LOCAL STATION AT [WWW.ARMEDAMERICANRADIO.COM](http://WWW.ARMEDAMERICANRADIO.COM) OR LISTEN LIVE ONLINE!

HOSTED BY MARK WALTERS

## »IN THE LAST EDITION OF "DRILL OF THE MONTH,"

we covered shooting on the move while moving forward and to the rear. That is the foundation of shooting on the move. Using the elements presented in that column, you get a basic understanding of how accurately you can fire your pistol while you are moving.



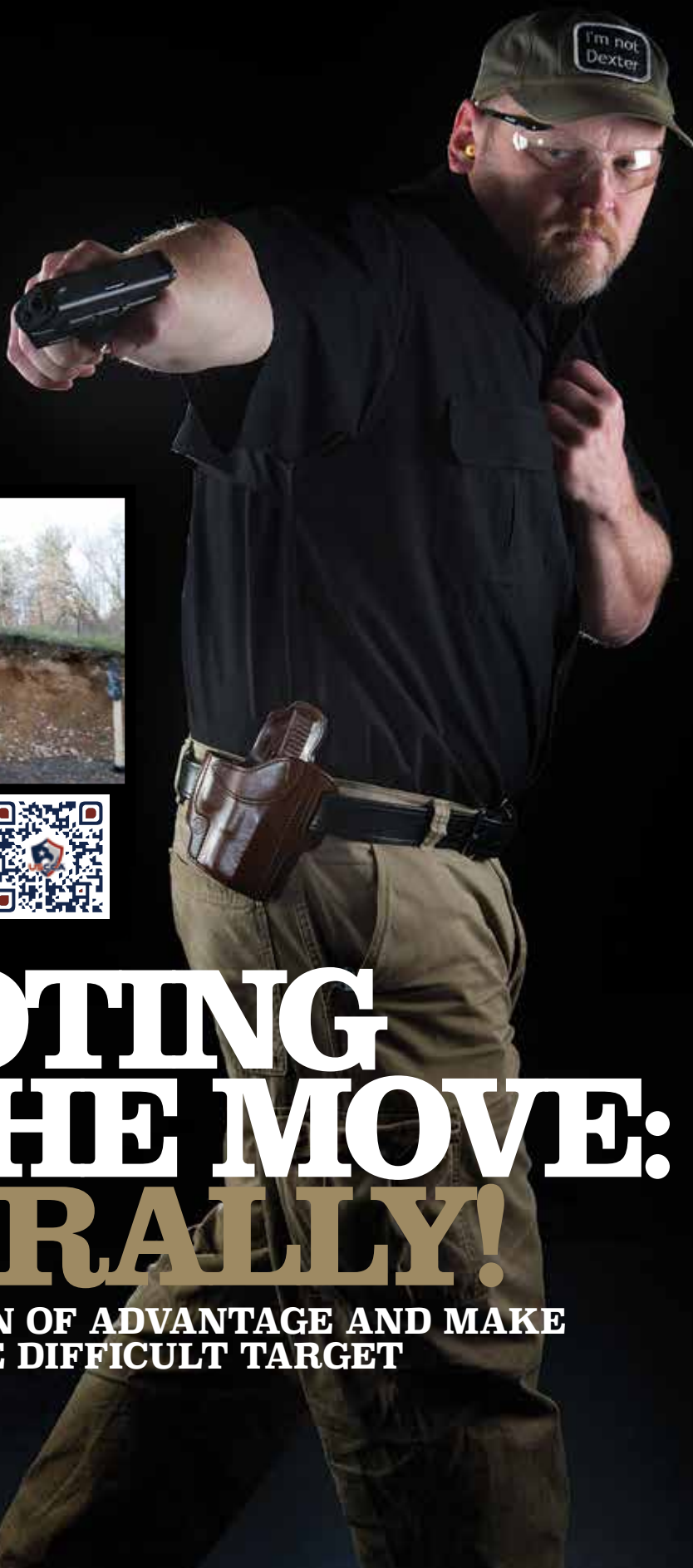
WATCH DRILL OF THE MONTH  
<http://youtu.be/CLfnjNhuXuU>

You Tube



# SHOOTING ON THE MOVE: LATERALLY!

GET TO A POSITION OF ADVANTAGE AND MAKE YOURSELF A MORE DIFFICULT TARGET







» Shooting on the move becomes increasingly difficult when lateral movement is added to the equation. Not only does foot motion change, your grip on the sidearm should change as well. For right-handers, switch to a one-handed grip when moving to the left, and when moving to the right, maintain a two-handed grip. This keeps your shoulders from getting in each others' way.

You should have realized pretty quickly that these movements have limited benefit. Whether you are going directly forward or straight to the rear, you are still in the line of fire. That's a bad thing. Ideally, you want to move laterally. Get off the X while you engage your attacker to make him think about something other than putting his rounds on target.

We taught forward and rearward movement as the foundation for shooting on the move. If you have not mastered those two elements, go back, review and train until you have them mastered. Once that is done, we can start to work on shooting while moving laterally.

First, let's review the twofold goal of shooting on the move. You are shooting on the move so you can get to a position of tactical advantage and to make yourself a more difficult target.

If you are ready, let's jump in.

The overriding concept guiding effective lateral movement is to never cross your feet. Crossing your feet in some sort of

Broadway dance move is a recipe for falling down. If you have fallen down, you can't be moving toward your position of tactical advantage. You might be a more difficult target because you have "gone prone," but if you have gone prone unexpectedly, you run the risk of dropping your gun, hurting yourself or being involved in a negligent discharge — thus sending a round some-

**I SHOOT AND TEACH THE ONE-HANDED TECHNIQUE FOR TWO REASONS. THE FIRST REASON IS THAT IS HOW THE WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE TRAINING AND STANDARDS BUREAU TEACHES IT FOR MY LEO QUALIFICATIONS.**

where you did not intend for it to go. So, never cross your feet.

Instead, point your feet in the general direction you want to travel and walk just like you did when trained to move forward: heel-to-toe steps moving smoothly. Walk in a fairly straight line and move your torso as

though it was a tank turret.

How you grip your firearm is dependent on your direction of travel, yet this is where some trainers differ. Let us assume for the purposes of this drill the target is 10 yards away and directly in front of you and you are a right-handed shooter. If you are moving to your right, you can aim and fire with a standard two-handed pistol grip. To maintain your muzzle discipline (only pointing your gun at something you are willing to destroy), execute the following sequence:

1. Draw and acquire the standard two-handed grip.
2. Keeping your muzzle pointed downrange at your target, pivot on the balls of your feet so both feet are pointed 90 degrees to the right, relative to your target, and begin walking by moving your left foot first.

3. Press the trigger fully to the rear each time the front sight is on the target.

Some trainers have told me I should only fire between steps. Others have told me only to fire when both feet are on the



ground. I have found it does not matter. If the front sight is on the target, I will get suitable combat accuracy while moving.

Now, for the right-handed shooter moving to the left, we get into some differences of opinion. I have trained with instructors who demanded I keep both hands on the pistol, and I have trained with instructors who have told me to fire one-handed with my left hand tight against my body to keep it out of the way. I shoot and teach the one-handed technique for two reasons. The first reason is because that is how the Wisconsin Department of Justice Training and Standards Bureau teaches it for my LEO qualifications. The second reason is that I find it easier to stay on target.

If the first rule of a gunfight is to not get shot, the second rule is to put rounds on target to end the fight quickly. So I suggest that you do what works for you in that area.

So my sequence for moving to the left is as follows:

1. Draw and acquire the standard one-handed grip. Cant the gun about 15 degrees to the left. Put your left hand on your chest.

» **The first step in not getting hit by a train is to stay off the tracks, and the first step in not getting shot by an attacker is to not be the last place they saw you standing. Movement is absolutely essential to surviving a lethal force encounter, and a little will go a long way. As soon as you are not a static target for your attacker, their chances of hitting you with a bullet drop significantly, and the more you train, the more likely you will be able to stop their attack while moving to safety.**

2. Keeping your muzzle pointed downrange at your target, pivot on the balls of your feet so both feet are pointed 90 degrees to the left, relative to your target, and begin walking by moving your right foot first.

3. Press the trigger fully to the rear each time the front sight is on the target.

When training to shoot on the move, it is of utmost importance that you start slowly and establish good form. This is true for your body position and your focus on the front sight. Once you have mastered this drill moving slowly, you can begin to pick up speed. But you have a decision to make.

## THE BIG DECISION

Should you fire while on the move? As we said before, shooting on the move does two things: It allows you to get to a position of tactical advantage and it makes you a more difficult target.

Notice that I didn't say anything about improving your accuracy. Shooting on the move does not improve your accuracy. You are still liable for every round you put downrange. It might be better for you to simply move quickly to cover and start shooting from there.

You might need to shoot on the move, and if you decide that you need to shoot on the move, pay extra attention to your surroundings and what is behind your target. Every decision in a fight is your responsibility. A deadly force incident is dynamic by nature, and this skill should be mastered before it is employed. If you need to use such a skill to save your life, don't hesitate. But if there is a greater danger to bystanders, move and then shoot.

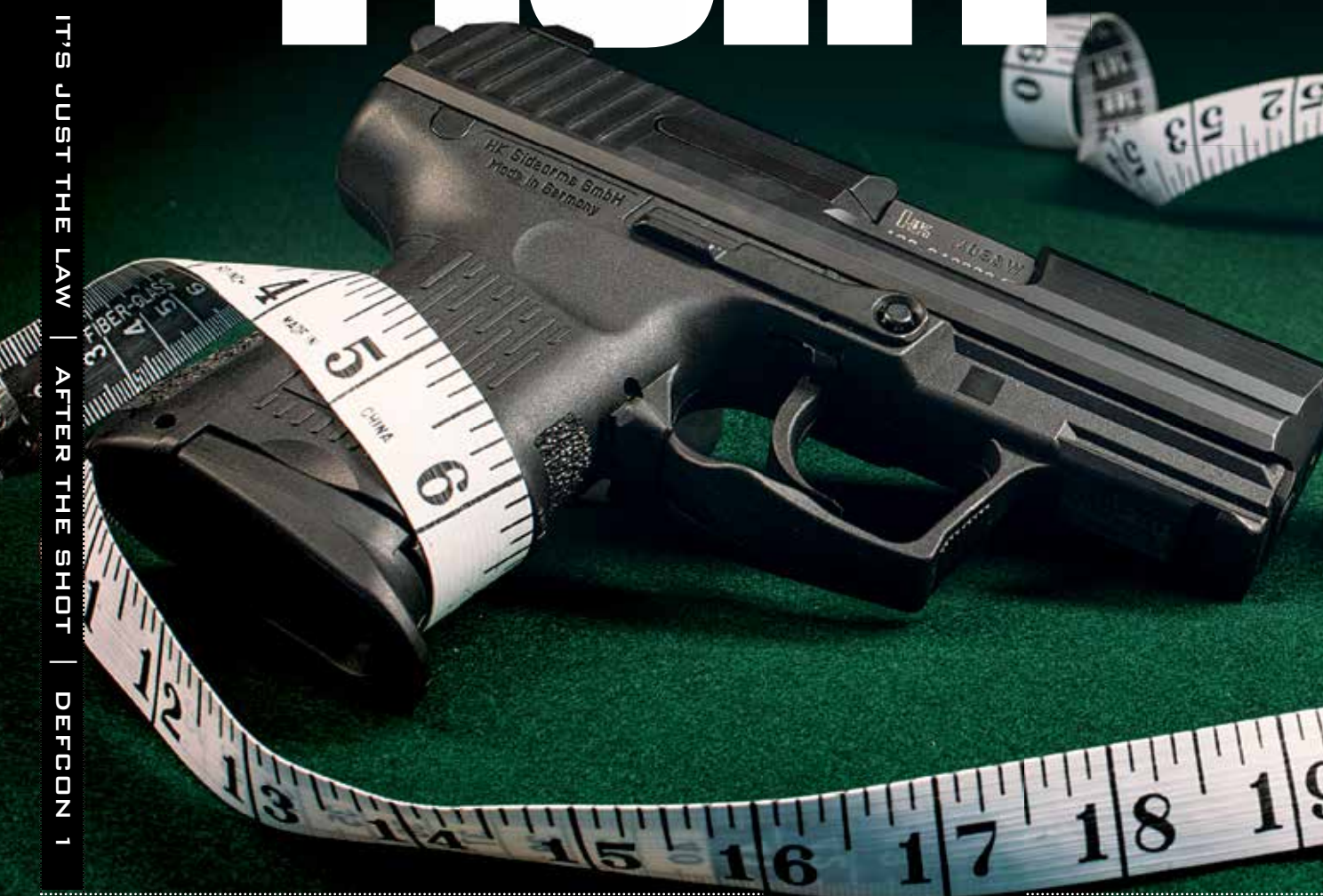




TAMARA KEEL  
BALLISTIC BASICS

LEGALLY ARMED CITIZEN | IT'S JUST THE LAW | AFTER THE SHOT | DEFCON 1

# FIT TO FIGHT



If there's one single factor that is vastly overrated when it comes to handguns, it's "fit." Mind you, I don't mean whether it actually physically fits in the user's hand or not but rather the thing that most people describe as "fit." You've seen it before: A customer will ask to see a handgun from the display case, the clerk hands it over, the customer weighs it in her hand and assumes a firing grip ... and immediately proclaims that this is her Excalibur. "It feels so good in my hand!"

Will the gun shoot well for her? Who knows? Judgments don't come much more subjective than divining a pistol's shootability based on a casual heft at the sales counter.

Test firing a gun is a little better, but not much, at least the way it's most often done. Taking a rental pistol out on the range with a lone magazine, a box of ammunition and no timers or any way of measuring performance other than the scoring rings on a B-27 at 7 yards isn't going to reveal very much about that gun's real performance potential in the shooter's hands.

The only way to really judge a gun is to put a couple thousand rounds through it, spend time in dry practice or maybe shoot a couple matches. But no gun store is going to let you do that with their new guns, so there's really no way to seriously test drive a particular make and model other than buying it and wringing it out yourself.

But test firing can reveal something that's even more important than whether the gun "fits" or not, and that is whether or not the gun doesn't fit. If you are renting a gun with an eye toward buying one like it, there are a few things you can look for to see if you and

the pistol might wind up rubbing each other the wrong way.

For starters, while you can make sure you can reach all the controls without test-firing the gun, taking it out on the range will let you know if you can reach the controls too easily. Sometimes, that slide stop or magazine release that's so easy to reach when you're holding the gun at the display counter is also easy to inadvertently activate when the gun is recoiling in your paws during live fire. Dropping the magazine out of the gun on the first shot is a serious social faux pas when confronted by a bad guy at an ATM in the middle of the night.

If you can, ask if you can get a second magazine and try to do a couple quick reloads from slide lock. A lot of compact variants of service pistols have grips that hold a full four-finger grip for most people but are shortened enough that people with meaty hands can pinch themselves between the grip and magazine floorplate during fast reloads. I've seen guys with big meat hooks give themselves some truly epic blood blisters with the Glock 19, for instance.

In my own experience, recent testing with a small, single-stack pistol I was considering showed that the corner of my trigger finger tip would rub itself raw against the trigger guard after surprisingly little shooting. How much would I train with a pistol if it was physically painful to pull the trigger after 50 rounds?

So, if you get a chance to run some rounds through a rental gun before your next purchase, don't worry as much about whether it "fits good." Instead, concentrate on making sure it doesn't fit poorly.





## LIFE ON THE SHORE

»CONCEALED CARRIERS often find themselves frustrated and impatient with those who seek to stamp out the American right to keep and bear arms. I hear the same lament again and again: "How do they not get this? What's so hard about it?"

In my experience, the most difficult part about concealed carry for some Americans — the root element that upsets them the most and drives them to oppose it with every ounce of their being and against all logic or evidence — is that private citizens carrying sidearms for self-defense is a manifest reminder of the fact that we reside on Planet Earth.

I understand how arrogant and condescending that statement sounds; please allow me to contextualize it.

I was in the fourth grade before I learned that there were Americans who didn't know how to swim. To be perfectly honest, it just hadn't come up.

I understand that this was due to geography and money more than anything else. I was raised in Madison, Wisc., five blocks from a 566-bed hospital and the university through which it operated. I spent a good deal of my summers on water: at a lakeside cottage, canoing at a summer camp or swimming at the pool where I'd been given

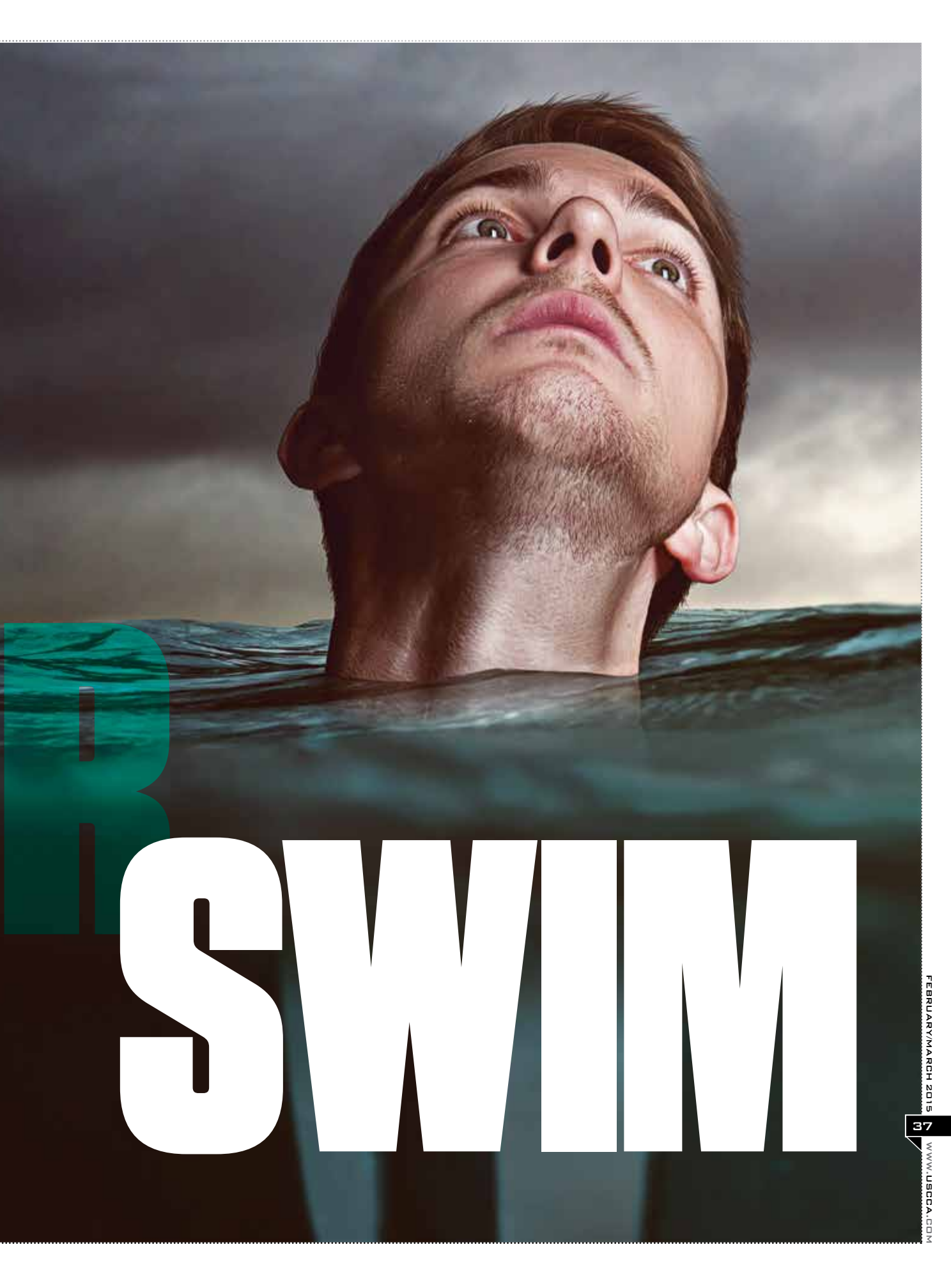
lessons as a 4-year-old who had already been introduced to water.

I understand that many — possibly even a majority — of the people reading this do not swim. In their defense, why would they? There's a solid chance that unless they joined the military, the idea of them ever having to enter a body of water larger than a pretty serious hot tub was unlikely to the point of being ridiculous. They don't swim for the same reason that I didn't really know how to use a paintbrush until I was about 18; I grew up in a house covered in aluminum siding. By necessity, my time was occupied with more important things than acquiring skills I could not foresee being essential.

Sometimes, however, life on Planet Earth intrudes. You help a friend rehab their home after a fire, and thus end up scraping a lot of paint off of any window that had the misfortune of you being near it.

But back to swimming.

# SINK



R

# SWIM



## MAN OVERBOARD

The majority of commercial fishermen on this planet do not know how to swim. If they fall overboard, they have two options: If they can physically reach out and touch the boat, they can grab hold of it and climb back in. If they cannot reach the boat, they can wait for someone to save them before they thrash themselves to death. The most common course of action is for them to simply drown, as in all likelihood, no one else on board their vessel knows how to swim and no one thought to bring a piece of rope that isn't currently occupied as a pipe patch or mooring line.

However, if you teach that commercial fisherman how to swim, his options seem limitless by comparison. Once in the drink, he can swim back to the boat, swim to a nearby island or buoy, tread water until the boat comes back to him or swim to a boat that's closer than the one from which he fell. All of a sudden, he isn't just in a position to either die or live through no action of his own. He actually has choices, and he gets to decide what part he'll play in the equation.

Drowning while conscious is a very violent

death, and I equate falling overboard at sea to becoming involuntarily involved in a lethal force encounter.

What bothers some Americans about the concealed carrying of firearms by private citizens is that it reminds them they live on Planet Earth and might, for lack of a better term, fall overboard and — under such a circumstance — all they can do is wait.

## GOING SLICK

During my aforementioned childhood in Madison, an abortion doctor lived on my block. This was the early 1990s, amid substantial violence directed at abortion providers, and a friend of this doctor presented her with a Kevlar vest. Word on the street was that she wore it once and then just put it away.

Her decision not to wear the vest was not borne of some martyr complex or "when it's my time, that bullet will just have my number" ethos; she simply realized that putting on a Kevlar vest forces an individual to acknowledge how vulnerable they really are.

For those who are unfamiliar, a Kevlar vest of that era (and, for the most part, of this era) resembles a pair of tank-top-shaped panels

of bullet-resistant material connected with a strap on either shoulder and several elastic Velcro straps on each side to secure the vest around the torso. When not augmented with hard armor plates, it reliably stops sidearm rounds at various levels (as in a Level Three will stop up to a .44 Magnum, etc.).

The trick is, the person shooting at you has to be a good sport and make sure they hit you in the vest.

What I was told my neighbor hated about wearing it was the knowledge that though her back and chest were safely wrapped in a hyper-modern bullet-resistant superfabric, her head, arms and legs were left completely exposed. Being a physician, she understood that were she to be shot in the head, there was a good chance she would be either permanently disabled or killed. Were she shot in the pelvis, she would likely either be looking at a long and painful recovery process or a quick bleed-out if she couldn't find two friends to help her do a handstand until she could get to a hospital with a trauma center. Were she shot in the armpit or side — where there was, of course, no material — she would receive what hunters call a "quartering

# CIVIL DEFENSE, WHAT YOU NEED TO PROTECT WHAT'S MOST PRECIOUS.

Liberty Ammunition's personal defense line **Civil Defense**, provides you with the **One & Done** capability you and your family need and deserve!

- ½ Felt Recoil
- 3X Terminal Effect
- Match Grade Accuracy
- Lead Free
- Reduced Over Penetration



[libertyammunition.com](http://libertyammunition.com)

Available in .380 Auto, 9mm +P, 10mm, .40 S&W, .45 ACP +P, .38 Special, .357 Magnum and .45 Long Colt

shot” and would likely die were such a wound received more than a few minutes from a well-stocked ambulance.

Wearing that vest, though what most would consider to be a basic and reasonable defensive measure for a person under a very real threat of violence, reminded her that the only thing stopping a person from shooting her was that person’s disinclination from doing so. A Kevlar vest would only have so much say in the matter.

Individuals who dislike concealed carry understand that there are people who are not the police who carry guns, and in their simple math, those people are therefore bad. The Police — the Good Guys — have guns so they can fight the Bad Guys, who, by their definition, are people with guns who are not The Police. This is a very tidy train of thought, as it requires no analysis or effort beyond the following:

#### IS THIS PERSON WITH A GUN WEARING A BADGE?

**YES:** They are a Good Guy, though they may be a Bad Guy, as sometimes The Police are bad.

**NO:** They are unquestionably a Bad Guy, as they are not The Police.

These individuals now find themselves standing in line at a grocery store behind someone who may well be carrying a gun. Now, that’s always been the case; for all they’ve known, the last person behind whom they stood in a line was an armed robber on his day off, an undercover police officer, a person who had received a phone call the night before from a former partner who explicitly said they were going to kill them or whoever. The number of people carrying guns without private citizen concealed carry permits has always been rather constant — it was just something about which they were always able to never think about.

Once that changed — once law-abiding, responsible Americans forced their state governments to actually acknowledge an American citizen’s natural and Constitutionally-enumerated right to arm themselves — all of a sudden, it was a lot harder to ignore the fact that there was now a non-zero chance that they were the only person in the room who didn’t have a gun with

which to defend themselves or their family. They are forced to confront the fact that though they regularly state they would “do anything” for their children, their personal prejudices and paranoia prevent them from fulfilling a basic and fundamental role to which every parent aspires: protector of their mate and children.

The introduction of that gun into a private citizen’s hands under that circumstance forces our anti-gun friend to the realization that when confronted with deadly force, a responsibly armed American now has far more than the four options of run, hide, die or wait. They can run, hide, do nothing, defend themselves or possibly die while doing any number of those things.

I often hear from anti-gun mothers and fathers that they would “die for their children.” I submit that without a firearm with which to defend those children, they may well be right.



**BORN IN  
ARGENTINA**



RAISED BY SERIOUS SHOOTERS ALL OVER THE WORLD.

SAY **HELLO** TO **BERSA**



AMAZINGLY ACCURATE | PREDICTABLY RELIABLE | AND MORE SAFETY FEATURES THAN YOU CAN SHAKE A STICK AT.



**HAPPY SHOOTING**

**Eagle**  
IMPORTS INC.

BERSA

AMERICAN CLASSIC

MAC

S.P.S.

LLAMA

Comanche

BEYOND MAINSTREAM.

732.493.0333

| eagleimportsinc.com





# Introducing the world's first factory equipped Guide Rod Laser.

The world's most proven Military and Law Enforcement pistol remains the trusted sidearm of the US Military and numerous allied forces. Now combined with a laser capable of upholding those standards, the Beretta 92FS is a formidable guardian for you and your family.

**Defending those who depend on us.**



To locate an authorized Beretta dealer near you, visit [ad.beretta.com/dealer](http://ad.beretta.com/dealer).

**LaserMax**

 **BERETTA**  
500 YEARS. ONE PASSION.



BALLISTIC BASICS | LEGALLY ARMED CITIZEN


IT'S JUST THE LAW

K.L. JAMISON

AFTER THE SHOT | DEFCON 1

# THE PLAN





» **THEY KNEW.** Field Marshal Erwin Rommel was part of the bomb plot against Hitler. He was too famous for the Gestapo to arrest, but it could only end one way. Still, it would not put him off walking with his son who records being told:

*Manfred, it's possible that there are certain people round here who would like to do away with me quietly and without too much fuss — by an ambush in the wood, for instance ... So for the time being, we'll take pistols ... These individuals don't hit anything with their first shots. If shooting does start, the thing to do is to fire blind towards where it's coming from, and they'll almost always go for cover or aim badly.<sup>1</sup>*

It must be Rommel's shortest plan, but it's appropriate to the circumstances.

Rommel's plan for detecting the enemy relied on their poor marksmanship. It cannot be too strongly stated that this is unreliable. Criminals fire with more enthusiasm than marksmanship, but the further away they are detected, the better your chances of survival.

Predators bump their targets like sharks bump fish in the sea, and for the same reason: to see if they are good to eat. The bump can take many forms. Some people report a feeling that they are being stared at. There is no scientific reason for such a feeling, but it is often reported, always means something and is never good. Staring is rude, and it is not done unless the predator is evaluating a meal.

"Bumping" can be more direct — a demand for the time, a match, \$5. The predator does not want these things; he is evaluating a potential meal. If the target responds weakly or submissively, the target is considered vulnerable and the demands escalate. If the response is a firm, unequivocal "NO," the thug will usually go in search of easier prey. There are many sheep. Predators are from a world of casual profanity. They might not believe a statement unless it is accompanied by profanity. Profanity might be taken as a provocation by a predator and certainly will by 12 middle-class persons in a jury box. It is easier and safer to go from no profanity to obscenity than the other way around.

Body language is essential in communication. A lady in Chicago was stalked by a predator who demanded, "Where's Clark Street?" She dropped into a shooter's stance and reached under her jacket. The predator's eyes grew large as he stammered the accusation, "You're a cop!" and ran. If he had really wanted directions to Clark Street, asking a police officer might have worked out. He clearly had other ideas. She was not a cop and did not have a gun but walked away safely.<sup>2</sup>



A predator might speak very rapidly and very insistently, frequently with very intense eye contact. This is a distraction for an attack. Con artists frequently use this tactic to prevent victims from considering the veracity of an unlikely story.

If attacked, you must have a plan of resistance. Submission or cooperation will only lead to more demands. Predators enjoy dominance and attempts to placate them will lead to more trouble. The plan can be as simple as throwing a wallet in one direction while running in another.<sup>3</sup> The wallet need not be the owners "real" wallet; it need only look sufficiently valuable to distract attention. One driver has a set of miscellaneous keys hung on his gearshift. In the event of a carjacking, the car can be abandoned, leaving the carjacker with a futile search for the ignition key. The predator might well threaten to shoot, but faced with a choice between a wallet and a moving, screaming victim, he will hesitate, and every second takes the potential victim further away.

Criminals are notoriously bad shots. Before they fire, they must first reacquire their target — a difficult process with tunnel vision born of combat and surprise born of a loss of control. If they do decide to shoot, their chance of hitting a moving, screaming target is very

low. If they hit a moving, screaming target, the chance of a serious wound is again low. One commentator claims that the Justice Department found the chance of serious injury to be 5 percent.<sup>4</sup> This is not insignificant but much better than staying put and obeying the predator's escalating demands.

The Justice Department's estimate appears to assume that a criminal's gun will actually fire. Poor quality firearms, poor maintenance and often a poor understanding of how guns work make criminal gunmen unreliable. One criminal was captured with a .32 revolver ineffectually loaded with .32 automatic cartridges. Another criminal mastermind was captured with a semi-automatic rifle. The magazine had been inserted upside-down and backwards.<sup>5</sup>

Flight is vastly superior to going with the predator to a second crime scene. Persons who go with the predator to a second crime scene have a low chance of survival and an insignificant chance of escaping unharmed. If flight is completely, totally and physically impossible, some have had success by pretending to faint or have a heart attack. The predator is unlikely to carry 100 or 200 pounds of victim with him. The well-fed Southern comedian "Bubba" Bechtol states that the advantage of being fat is that he is

hard to kidnap. There are tactical disadvantages to being fat, but one uses the weapons available.

Drawing a gun is the ultimate defensive plan. Unbelievers will argue that self-defense is impossible, that "action beats reaction" and the predator will end up with the citizen's gun as well. This ignores the record of citizens who have "drawn against the drop" and prevailed. It is a bad tactical position and resorted to only when there are no other options to avoid injury.

When responding to a robbery, it is the citizen who is acting. The criminal has completed his action and made his demands. He expects compliance, and when the citizen acts unexpectedly, his mind must first process this change, then issue commands to his body to react. When the citizen moves, he must reacquire the target. This happens in nanoseconds, but coupled with distractions, it levels the playing field. One of the Old West gunfighters found himself on the wrong end of a revolver. He sailed his hat at the other gunman, and while his opponent was distracted, he drew his own gun and prevailed.

Some people have drawn their gun and then talked about it rather than used it. Thugs are not intimidated by the sight of a gun unless it is coupled with the body lan-

*"Stay sharp between range sessions...  
...practice things you can't do at the range."*



Special offer:

[www.LASRapp.com/CCW](http://www.LASRapp.com/CCW)



**L.A.S.R.**

**TRAIN SAFE • TRAIN SMART • TRAIN OFTEN**

guage showing intent to use it. Interviews with thugs who have attacked police officers show that officers who treat encounters casually are the most vulnerable. Conversation must be limited to:

- STOP.
- DROP the weapon.
- DOWN on the ground.

Thugs typically flee from adversity. It is seldom legal to shoot a fleeing felon. Unless the thug is carrying off a child, it is not worth the repercussions.

It is rarely necessary to shoot the predator and extremely rare to kill one. When the citizen produces a gun, the criminal surrenders or flees. He is a bully, not a gunfighter. However, the encounter is not over until he is handcuffed in the back of a police car.

Taking prisoners is a very dangerous procedure. It is not advisable without professional help. Until professional help arrives, order the thug to lie face down and spread-eagled. This makes it harder for him to roll over and knock down his captor or to get to his feet. Stay out of his line of sight with your back to something substantial. Even scum has friends.

Any good plan begins with an evaluation of the enemy. The average street thug believes that if he is strong enough to take

something from you, then he deserves to have it and you do not. He does not see anything wrong with this arrangement.<sup>6</sup>

Abraham M. Orr, a 17-year-old carjacker, was convicted of the April 1994 murder of Edward Lees in Leavenworth County, Kan. During the sentencing phase, in mitigation, he told the court that his own car had broken down and he thought he was doing the right thing by getting everyone a ride home. Criminal reports drone with statements blaming victims for their own deaths — victims who fought, victims who resisted, victims who did not surrender fast enough and victims who should have known better than to visit a part of their own city or throw a disrespectful eye on a street criminal.

Criminals who have fried their remaining common sense with drugs might charge an armed citizen. In such a situation, the citizen must have already resolved to kill the criminal. The attacker might well be a minor. In such a case, the citizen must decide if the aggressor is 9 years old or 9mm.

There are times when Rommel's plan is the only plan. It has the advantage of simplicity. Leave complex maneuvers to people who have the time to practice them. Custer's attack at the Little Bighorn was a moderately complex plan that relied on the Indians act-

ing as expected. The plan's failure is legendary. The basics of tactics are shoot, move and communicate. Shooting has the best chance of ending the problem. Movement, especially to cover, makes an ambush less likely to succeed. Communication brings help, and the first person to communicate with 911 is listed as the victim.

A perfect plan is not possible. Fortunately, a perfect plan is not necessary. One of Rommel's contemporaries — General George S. Patton — once said, "A good plan violently executed now is better than a perfect plan next week."<sup>7</sup>

(1) Hart ed. The Rommel Papers. Translated by Paul Findlay. Harcourt, Brace and Co NY 1955 at 497. (2) Author's conversation with the lady. Falsely claiming to be a police officer is a crime. (3) A concentration camp survivor told me that to stay alive was an act of resistance. (4) Bittenbinder Tough Target op cite at 31. (5) Author's client. Yes, alcohol was involved. (6) Earley; Pete The Hot House, Bantam Books NY1992 at180. (7) Various versions of this statement abound: "A good solution applied with vigor now is better than a perfect solution applied ten minutes later." As quoted in "The Unknown Patton" (1983) by Charles M. Province, p. 165. The General spoke a great deal and may have said it differently each time. That would account for the many variations.



# DEFEAT THE DARK

## with Meprolight TRU-DOT® Night Sights

Increase your hit capability by over 85% with the decisive accuracy of our combat-proven, tritium self-illuminated night sights. 20% brighter than any other night sight on the market. Trusted by more professionals and civilians than other brands for enhanced rapid instinctive aiming in low light or no light conditions.

- Hit stationary or moving targets in any light condition
- No batteries or switches
- Fixed or adjustable models in various colors
- Operates under all weather conditions
- Integrated day/night sighting
- Fail safe and maintenance free
- Strongest warranty in the industry

MEPROLIGHT TRU-DOT® night sights are designed to function as an integral, seamless component of your weapon, operating flawlessly in any situation.

Available at your local gun shop or place your order now at  
[www.TheMakoGroup.com](http://www.TheMakoGroup.com)



  
**MEPROLIGHT®**

ANYTHING LESS IS A SHOT IN THE DARK

Distributed by The  
**MAKO**  
GROUP®



# DIAL 911 AND FRY?



» **THIS COLUMN WILL RAISE MORE QUESTIONS** than it answers, but that's a good thing, because although "officials" don't want to admit it, 911 is not necessarily your friend and Officer Friendly might not exist outside Disneyland.

What is the most common advice self-defense attorneys give you when you sit and have your initial consultation? Oh, you haven't done that yet? You need a second gun safe because your first is bursting, you have so much ammo you're not sure the floor can handle the load and your spouse has threatened to leave if you buy one more firearm, but you don't yet have a criminal-defense lawyer on board? Hmm.

I'll answer for you: STFU. That stands for don't say anything. Literally, it means speak the fewest utterances. In legalese, it's what the cops tell you: "Anything you say can and will be used against you." It comes from the Miranda Warning they read you when you're placed in irons after a perfectly clean shoot where the bad guy is down, maybe stone-cold, you're alive and shaking from the adrenaline dump with no idea what to think as your brain races and grasps for what to say. I believe it was USCCA columnist Kevin Jamison who paraphrased the cop's classic line, "Anything you say will be

lied about and used against you."

When asked to speak before a group, I'll ask, "What's the first thing you should do after you shoot an attacker in your home?" It is, of course, the nightmare scenario gun owners have run over and over in their mind's eye. Some have even considered the lines of sight in their homes and the (relatively) safe shots they might have to take, where they have cover or concealment, and the difference between the two. And then, of course, come the inevitable answers (and guffaws):

"Get a shovel!" "Shoot him again!" "Reload!" A rare few have considered the possibility of an accomplice, which I'll bring it up to the stunned astonishment of the unaware. A similar number have considered the simple tactical step of scanning for additional threats or assessing the apparent condition of the perp. (The individual you just shot is not the victim. You're the crime victim and, in fact, the survivor of a violent crime.)



## 911 LIMITED IMMUNITY STATUTE

This gives you the intent of the proposed legislation for states to use as a model. The unjust self-incriminating aspects of 911 calls must be made to comport with Fifth Amendment and Miranda protections. Calls made without benefit of reflection or counsel — and especially unreliable “excited utterances” from people who righteously report self-defense incidents — must be protected, while allowing prosecutors and defense attorneys to use 911 recordings as evidence in legal proceedings. The net effect of the proposed law is to force the state to gain convictions by relying on anything except self-incrimination from a 911 report.

### MODEL LEGISLATION

LIMITED IMMUNITY FOR STATEMENTS MADE WHILE REPORTING THREATENED OR ACTUAL USE OF PHYSICAL OR DEADLY PHYSICAL FORCE IN JUSTIFIABLE SELF-DEFENSE.

a) Any individual who is directly or indirectly involved in an incident involving the threatened or actual use of justifiable physical or deadly physical force shall be granted limited immunity for all statements made in a good-faith effort to promptly

report such incident to appropriate authorities in an effort to obtain emergency medical or law-enforcement assistance.

b) The term “limited immunity” shall mean that no statement(s) made by an individual in such a good-faith effort may be used against that individual in any civil or criminal proceeding. (Other terms defined as necessary.)

c) Notwithstanding paragraph b), any statement(s) made by an individual in such a good-faith effort may be used in a legal proceeding with the consent of the individual after consultation with competent legal counsel.

d) This grant of limited immunity shall not apply to the prosecution of false reporting, obstruction of justice, tampering with evidence or perjury.

(e) The contents of a report made to promptly report an incident involving the threatened or actual use of justifiable physical or deadly physical force in a good-faith effort to obtain emergency medical or law-enforcement assistance shall not be released to the public or the news media prior to its use in a trial involving any such incident. Any such prior release shall be subject to prosecution as obstruction of justice.

Eventually someone says, “Dial 911,” usually a little old lady in the back of the room. At last, the answer I want to work with. Dial 911. The answer that has been drummed into us since childhood, the statist answer of officialdom, the answer that, to everyone’s surprise, is not legally required in any state in the union. That’s not to say you shouldn’t do it — and the judiciary’s response if you don’t is draconian and I would say flaunts justice — but there’s no statute requiring you to do so. In fact, 911 didn’t exist until 1968, 25 percent of America had it by 1979 and it doesn’t exist everywhere now.

If everything you say can and will be used against you in a court of law, does it even make sense to call 911 immediately after surviving mortal combat? Are you in any condition to make coherent statements into a police voice recorder? (You are not.) Aren’t you entitled to some time to breathe and gather your wits, just like a cop, after a shooting? (You certainly ought to be; they’re your servants. You ought to have the same benefits they receive, and more importantly, they’re heavily trained, and you likely are not.) Don’t you have the right to remain silent? (You do legally after you’re charged.) Isn’t that what lawyers tell you to do? (It is.)

Don’t you have the right to have an attorney present prior to and during questioning? (You do — after you’ve been read your

rights.) Don’t you have a Fifth Amendment Constitutional guarantee against self-incrimination? (You do — all the time.) Didn’t I tell you this column would raise more questions than it would answer, and that that would be a good thing?

In my 12th book, *After You Shoot: Your Gun’s Hot. The Perp’s Not. Now What?*, I raised these questions in no uncertain terms and suggested you ought to be able to avoid making 911 recordings and suffer no penalty, as this is a status enjoyed by police. Some lawyers agreed, but a lot more — including officials, trainers and even some columnists for this magazine — took odds with that. Well, which is it? No one knows for sure, and that’s a really bad thing.

In Arizona, we have introduced a 911 Limited Immunity Act designed to address this quagmire, though the legislature hasn’t enacted it. Yet. It is admittedly problematic but not hopelessly so. You should be able to call your lawyer first, the same way cops can call Internal Affairs, with the protection of lawyer-client privilege and without risking convicting yourself. These questions need answers, favoring the innocent, or self-defense ain’t worth squat.

One prominent attorney told me half the convictions in self-defense cases come from 911 tapes. Does that sound right to you? Have I fulfilled my promise to raise more questions than I answered?



# DEADLY FORCE AT HOME

BALLISTIC BASICS | LEGALLY ARMED CITIZEN | IT'S JUST THE LAW | AFTER THE SHOT

JOHN CALE  
DEFCON 1

# NEVER SIMPLE

» **WHENEVER ONE OF MY STUDENTS** asks about “home defense,” I cringe a little bit. Because I know what’s coming. Thanks to TV, the scenario they imagine invariably has some guy, dressed in black with a ski mask, holding a tire iron, who kicks in their door in the middle of the night.

But in reality, home invasions can occur at any time of day, and perpetrators often don’t even have to force their way in. Before he was finally caught, a serial rapist who hunted in upscale Chicago suburbs merely had to knock. Astonishingly, 80 percent of his victims simply opened the door. And he generally struck between 10 a.m. and 2 p.m.

Gun owners also always imagine having their gun right at their fingertips. But one of my own students related an interesting home invasion story. He had taken the day off work to do some home improvement projects. After taking a shower, he heard an unusual noise, so he wrapped a towel around his waist and walked out into the hallway. He was shocked to confront two burglars.

Fortunately, the thugs were as startled as he was, and scrambled out the back door. The lesson here is that it is impossible to predict exactly when or how a break-in will occur, and when it does, you might not have immediate access to your gun.

Other confrontations do not end so benignly. The now-famous incident in Little Falls, Minn. (Thanksgiving 2012) is a perfect example. The homeowner in this case waited in his basement, sitting in an easy chair in the dark, cradling a rifle. When two teenagers broke in and eventually came down the stairs, he shot one, then the other, before finally “finishing them off” as they lay wounded at the bottom of the stairs.

In the wake of the homeowner’s arrest, the Internet raged

with opinions as to whether or not the homeowner would be convicted. I waited for the facts to come out. After they did, I was not surprised when the jury took only three hours to convict him of 1st Degree Murder.

In some cases, good people simply make bad decisions that land them in court. In suburban Connecticut, a 34-year old professional pulled into his driveway after work and noticed four “Latino-looking, gang-banger types” loitering in the street in front of his house, cursing loudly. The homeowner, who happened to be black, had two young children in the house, so he asked them to “please tone it down.” They replied with veiled threats and racial slurs.

He went inside, and after seeing several more young males arrive, he called police, voicing his concerns. Good move. But when he saw other young toughs joining the group, he panicked. Instead of just waiting for police, he went back to his bedroom, grabbed a rifle from the closet, walked out the front door and stood on the front steps, gun pointed skyward, telling the youths, “You’d better leave. The cops are on the way!”

Bad move. When police arrived less than a minute later, they drew their guns, screaming at the homeowner to “get on the ground!” He was arrested and later charged with 2nd degree assault with a deadly weapon, a felony. Had he simply waited inside his house for the cops, the outcome would likely have been much different. And even if prosecutors offer him a plea deal for something like misdemeanor assault, the conviction could haunt him forever, perhaps even destroying his career.

Then there are those whose behaviors are simply too outrageous to comprehend. We previously reported on the Montana man who purposely left his garage door open, hoping to entice thieves. In addition to placing a baby monitor and motion detectors to alert them to the presence of an intruder, he and his live-in girlfriend admitted having left her purse strategically placed near the front of the garage — basically adding bait to the trap.

Upon being alerted, Markus Kaarma grabbed a 12-gauge shotgun, left the house and fired four times into the darkened garage, killing a German exchange student. Even more damning, the indictment details how Kaarma clearly stated to a witness, just days before the incident, that he had been waiting up for several nights, “hoping to get the chance to shoot some f—king kid.”

Now, most of us at the USCCA were not surprised when Kaarma was indicted for felony intentional homicide. Regardless of the outcome of this case, we strongly advise any gun owner to avoid doing anything like what he did.



» We all agree that keeping a defensive firearm in the home is imperative, but the ins and outs of doing so can be challenging. How will the firearm be stored? How quickly will you be able to access it? Who will have access to it? Questions such as these need to be addressed before you are forced to defend yourself or your family in order to avoid making a bad situation worse.



In an earlier case, an Indiana man went on trial for shooting at a young man who the homeowner claims had been in his garage. Just as in the Montana case, the homeowner had wired his garage to notify him of the presence of an intruder. And again, instead of just calling the police, he grabbed his gun and left the safety of his home to investigate, where he claimed that the alleged thief startled him as he ran out of the garage.

The homeowner fired several shots as the young man ran away down the alley, wounding him in the arm. It took the jury only one hour to find the homeowner guilty of criminal recklessness with bodily injury, a Class D felony that carries an 18-month sentence. In reality, the prosecutor might have gone for attempted murder. Luckily for the homeowner, because he had a clean record, his sentence was reduced.

But what bothers me about these two cases is that instead of simply calling the police, the homeowners went out of their way to confront potential criminals when there was no threat to them or any other person in the home. As an attorney and close personal friend of mine said, "What in the hell were they thinking?"

When it comes to actual home invasions, you have probably heard someone simplistically declare that "if a guy's in your house, you can shoot him, no questions asked." But there is no such certainty in legal matters (let alone the moral implications of such a statement), and when someone is shot, there will likely be many questions asked.

Often, such individuals tend to quote some state statute or reference a particular

appellate court decision to "prove" their viewpoint on some currently newsworthy case. But top criminal defense attorneys who specialize in armed self-defense know that statutes are only the tip of the legal iceberg.

They also know that there are no guarantees in a courtroom. A self-defense case is always complex. And regardless of what your state's statutes seem to allow you to do, leaving the safety of your house to place yourself in a dangerous situation just to protect property is almost always a bad idea. We advise against it.

What many people forget is something that my grandfather (a famous Chicago criminal court judge) frequently reminded me: "There are only 12 opinions in a courtroom that count, and yours isn't one of them." He was correct. Whether you or I had a "right" to shoot anyone, even in our own homes, will be determined by a jury, not by Internet pundits.

With very few exceptions, juries tend to view deadly force as reserved for the protection of human life only, not property. Actually setting traps or ambushing potential perpetrators is even worse, and, legally speaking, extremely risky. Even in so-called "cowboy" states like Montana, such tactics are seen as "bushwhacking" — not self-defense.

All that being said, there are some basic steps you can take to protect yourself and your family in your home, long before the unthinkable happens. Having a good, reliable (and available) firearm is a given. But what else can you do?

First, have good locks on all of your doors and windows. Then use them religiously.

Get a burglar alarm. With so many inexpensive wireless alarm systems available, it's almost crazy not to have one. It can provide a warning that allows you to respond promptly in the event of a break-in. It also shows "due diligence" and responsible behavior should you find yourself in court.

Have a dog or at least make it look like you do. A \$6 water dish in the yard is surprisingly effective, especially with a name like "King" or "Duke" painted on it in big letters. An "I Love My Rottweiler" sticker in the window by the front door can have the same effect. Interviews with convicted felons verify this.

Have a plan. Everyone in the household should know what to do in the event of a break-in (or when that seemingly nice guy knocks on the door at noon).

Most importantly, be sure before you pull that trigger. People have shot drunken neighbors or individuals who were simply at the wrong house. Some have even tragically shot their own children.

And finally, have a good criminal defense attorney, and if the worst happens, call 911, then your lawyer and keep your mouth shut until he is at your side.

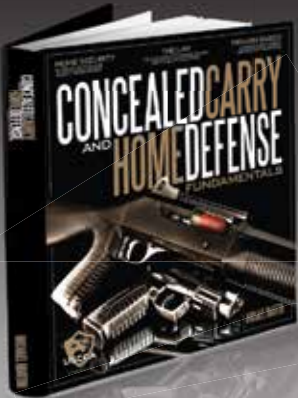
Be smart. Be sure. Be safe.





BY MICHAEL MARTIN

# CONCEALED CARRY AND HOME DEFENSE FUNDAMENTALS



**The Ultimate Resource** for anyone considering owning or carrying a firearm for self-defense.

**Also available** as an interactive iPad book. Visit the iBookstore to download today!

*"Michael Martin is one of the most creative communicators in the firearms industry. This book is a must read for anyone with a defensive firearm!"*

Rob Pincus

**GET YOUR COPY AT**

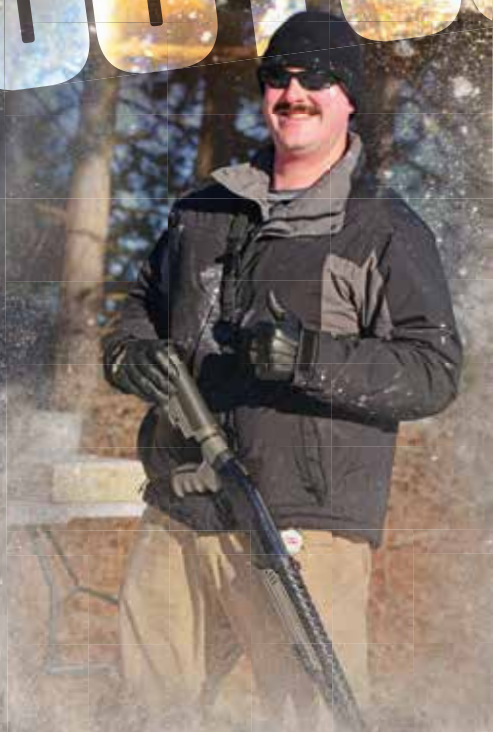
[www.ConcealedCarryFundamentals.com](http://www.ConcealedCarryFundamentals.com)






BIG-LEAGUE HOME DEFENSE BY ED COMBS

# SCATTERGUN SHOOTOUT







» No one questions the power of the 12-gauge shotgun. However, with great power comes greater questions: What, exactly, will happen when you discharge one indoors? What will happen when those pellets hit a wall? (As pictured below, parts of that wall may well integrate themselves onto and into the shooter.) Just how powerful is “double-ought” buckshot, anyway? We here at CCM headed out on a blisteringly cold Wisconsin winter morning for some answers, and a few of them might surprise you.



**» I WOULD POSIT THAT THE HUMBLE SHOTGUN** did as much, if not more, than any other firearm in the settling of this great nation. Be it single- or double-barreled, pump or automatic, .410-bore or 10-gauge, the ability of these firearms to send multiple projectiles at a target made for not only an extremely effective game-getter but also allowed colonial and pioneer Americans to defend themselves and their families from two- and four-legged predators. Shotguns were popular in the Flintlock Era and remain so today. You don't earn a nickname like "The Poor Man's Machine Gun" by choking when it counts.

Alas, though, fame breeds confusion. Spend more than a few minutes discussing the defensive use of arms, and you'll hear some pretty interesting claims regarding the capabilities and shortcomings of different shotgun styles and loads, specifically centering on the use of buckshot. Since we receive no shortage of emails regarding defense of self and home with shotguns, we thought we'd corral a few different loads, a Mossberg 500 and answer a whole boatload of questions all at once. For our assessments, the Mossberg in question was fitted with ghost ring sights and an 18.5-inch barrel.

## DO YOU NEED A GUN BELT?

IF YOU CARRY A GUN YOU DO!



**THE BELTMAN'S** hand made belts are two layers of top quality bull-hide (not cow-hide) for firmness and durability, and will easily support the weight of a full size firearm and accessories. Suitable for concealed carry, competition, or dress wear, options include: Velcro lining, tapering, stiffeners, buckle selection etc. Available in three widths, four colors and edged to perfection from \$69.95. Also offered in Horsehide and genuine elephant.

**WWW.THEBELTMAN.NET**  
**(919) 387-1997**

## PUDDING, MEET PROOF

**What, exactly, will a round of 12-gauge 00 buck do in the ballistic gel?**

Let's get this one out of the way right off the top. You've seen the tests we run on ammunition, sending them into a 16-inch block of Clear Ballistic gel to assess their penetration, uniformity of deformation, mass retention and overall reaction to impact. Let's do the same for America's favorite defensive load — 12-gauge buck.

**THE TEST:** *What kind of penetration and expansion does the 12-gauge provide?*

In order to assess the 12 as we so often assess handgun projectiles, I put a load of Remington Tactical Reduced Recoil 8-pellet 00 into the face of a block at 10

feet and a load of Federal Upland 6s into the face of another at the same distance.

**THE RESULTS:** Now, before anyone gets bent out of shape, yes, I understand that shooting into a block of synthetic gel is not the same as shooting into a mammalian predator. We never claim that our gel tests are perfect representations of what happens when a projectile strikes an attacker; the gel simply gives us a consistent, reliable manner in which to compare loads on a level playing field. Disclaimer delivered, the result of 00 buck meeting an FBI-sized block was none too surprising.

What I found in the face of the block was a nice 2-inch grouping of eight wound channels that spread to less than 8 inches as they neatly cut their way to the other end, and a wad that penetrated almost all the way through as well. You read that correctly: Not only did all of the pellets pass through the block, the plastic wad cup from inside the shell passed through more than 14 inches of ballistic gel at 10 feet, the same ballistic gel that reliably stops most premium defensive handgun loads after a foot or so. There's a reason no one claims 00 buckshot is an inferior defensive cartridge.

## ON TARGET

**Just how accurate is a 12-gauge, anyway?**

As long as I can remember hearing people talk about guns, I remember hearing people talk about how the spread of a shotgun is like an immense plumbous spiderweb: wide-cast and ensnaring all in its way. I remember reading in books about frightened homesteaders who "closed their eyes and pulled the trigger," thus sending a marauding bad man to kingdom come. I also remember a lot of the other information from such sources being wholly inaccurate. Call me a skeptic (or someone who's been shooting shotguns for 20 years, either one) for raining on this parade, but it is my humble belief that even when employing a shotgun, the user must at least point the firearm, if not outright aim it.

**THE TEST:** *What is the spread of a load of 00 buck and No. 8 birdshot at 10 and 25 feet?*

Kneeling and holding at center-mass, I delivered rounds from the Mossberg 500 into four separate Birchwood-Casey Dirty Bird targets.

**THE RESULTS:** Think you don't need to aim with a shotgun? Think again.

At 10 feet — the distance across a standard bedroom — the buckshot pattern only spreads about 2 inches. At 25 feet — about the



» Shotguns offer a bounty of home defense upsides. They're common, many Americans are already trained in their use and they speak in a universal language when experienced from this particular angle. Translation: "GO AWAY."

### BIRDSHOT, BUCKSHOT, BULLSHOT

BEFORE ANYONE'S READY TO SWITCH THEIR "SOCIAL ROUNDS" OVER TO NOTHING BUT 3-INCH MAGNUM RIFLED SLUGS, LET US CONSIDER THIS IMAGE. THIS IS A LOAD OF NO. 6 BIRDSHOT — A COMMON FIELD LOAD USED BY MILLIONS OF BIRD HUNTERS — INTO THE FACE OF AN FBI-SIZED BLOCK OF 10 PERCENT BALLISTIC MEDIUM. THE PATTERN WAS REMARKABLY TIGHT AND THE PENETRATION, WHILE NOT DEEP, WAS A SUBSTANTIAL 4 TO 9 INCHES. THOUGH I WILL NOT CATEGORICALLY ENDORSE BIRDSHOT AS DEFENSIVE CARTRIDGES, I WILL SAY THIS: JUST AS BALL AMMO IS NOT IDEAL (OR EVEN RECOMMENDED) FOR YOUR CARRY GUN, IT'S STILL A HECK OF A LOT BETTER THAN NOTHING WHEN AN EMERGENCY INVITES ITSELF OVER FOR A MIDNIGHT SNACK. ANIMALS OF EVERY DESCRIPTION HATE SHOTGUN BLASTS, AND YOU SHOULD USE THIS SCIENTIFIC FACT TO YOUR ADVANTAGE.

**Kahr**  
ARMS

# PM9

PREMIUM



Caliber: 9MM  
Barrel: 3.1"  
Weight: 15.9 oz

Shipped with  
Three Magazines



MADE IN THE U.S.A.

[www.kahr.com](http://www.kahr.com)





① Buckshot patterned at 10 feet. ② At 25 feet, the buck's pattern is only slightly wider. ③ Birdshot at 10 feet — you do not want to be downrange when that happens. ④ At 25 feet, the bird opened up quite a bit. Though receiving such a blast would probably not be fatal to the recipient, it would likely result in a hurried trip to the emergency room and be tough to explain away.

length of a standard basement — the spread is just more than 6 inches. When I sent loads of 8s, the spread was significantly more dramatic. At 10 feet, there was a ragged hole in the middle of the point of impact, and the widest span of the pellet spread was just more than 6.25 inches. At 25, however, things got a little more interesting. All the way across a basement, the pattern spread to more than 16 inches and likely larger, though the pellets forming said pattern were a lot smaller and packing a lot less punch. That ragged hole at 10 feet, however, is what sells a lot of folks on the use of light birdshot as their

"indoor rounds" for when they do not anticipate long shots.

Regardless of what you choose to employ to defend yourself and your home, pick your shots and follow through just like when you shoot at clays or deer. Closing your eyes and hoping for the best is a recipe for disaster.

## WALL-TO-WALL COUNSELING

***What happens when buck and birdshot pass through an interior wall?***

If you want to start a fight you might not be willing to finish, poke around online asking for advice on what should be loaded in a home-defense shotgun. You'll hear it all: one round of birdshot followed by a tube full of slugs; birdshot, slug, buck, repeat; all buckshot; all slugs; and the list goes on and on. I'm not pulling these from thin air; these are the actual magazine manifests from personal acquaintances: an open-water yacht captain, a retired police officer, a retired Army Ranger and a retired U.S. Marshal, respectively. What these innovators are attempting to find is the "safest" set of shells for their specific circumstances.

Those in favor of buckshot say they intend to hit and stop what's posing a threat, period. Those who like slugs say they want to do the same, but with higher penetrating power and without the chance of an errant pellet missing their target. Those who favor 6s or 8s seem to be betting the safety of their loved ones on a combination of decent pellet spread and a lower likelihood of any wild pellets making their way through the wall.

**THE TEST:** *How much energy do buckshot and birdshot pellets retain after passing through drywall?*

I placed Clear Ballistic FBI-sized 16-inch gel blocks flush against small interior wall analogs consisting of 12-inch squares of drywall screwed to 2x4 wood frames. I fired 00 buck and No. 6 bird into the walls at 10 feet and recorded the damage to the gel behind.

**THE RESULTS:** Not only are threats not safe from pellets when hiding behind a modern residential wall, neither are friendlies. Like with all firearms, you're responsible for every pull of the trigger, and proponents of the lighter pellets might want to pay extra close attention here.

In our interior mock-up, the buck passed through the barrier as if it weren't there, and all but one passed all the way through 16 inches



## Self-Securing IWB, Pocket and Ankle Holsters

- No bulky clips or straps to get in the way.
- Ambidextrous design.
- Deploy and adjust in seconds.
- Body heat and use conforms holster to your gun.
- 17 Sizes to choose from.
- Lifetime Craftsmanship warranty.



Made in the USA!

www.stickyholsters.com • 239-825-7031



of ballistic gelatin. (The lone pellet that hung up in the gel penetrated 14 inches.) That's through two sheets of drywall and more gel than extremely high-quality defensive .45 ACP cartridges sent from full-size sidearms penetrate. So the good news is that 00 buck translates more than enough energy to be useful in the stopping of threats. The bad news is that unless that threat is wearing inexpensive, poorly constructed body armor, the pellets will likely pass through your attacker with enough energy still on-board to cause some serious damage to bystanders.

The bird shell I sent through the wall was a tube of 6s — a common duck load and the kind of ammunition one might press into service as a home-defense cartridge during a dire emergency. What happened when I loosed the round was interesting: I instantly felt my face pelted with drywall dust, I instantly knew I was going to have to wash the jacket I was wearing and I instantly understood that the shell had bounced off of the gel block and struck me under the right eye. Wear your eyes and ears, kids.

Penetration into the block was substantially lower than with the 00 buck (fewer than 6 inches) but would still make for a nasty wound. It was, however, a good reminder to those who are hanging the safety of their loved ones on their smaller pellets stopping before passing through a wall: Lightening the load you use in your defensive arm does not absolve you of accepting responsibility for every pull of the trigger. In fact, it would appear that knowing where your loved ones and close neighbors are physically located during a lethal force encounter could prove to be of significantly greater consequence than the ammunition you select.

It shouldn't be a surprise that a 12-gauge shotgun loaded with 00 buck is an exceptionally capable defensive weapons system.

It has stood the test of time and remains one of the most popular defensive combinations in the United States for private citizens as well as military and police, and it is available to responsibly armed Americans with fewer restrictions than sidearms. It should also be expected that even a light trap load of No. 8 pellets would, at close range, hit hard enough to require immediate medical attention.

What will be the most appropriate for your needs is entirely your call. In a heavily wooded rural area, it might well be worth your while to stick with the heavier pellets and

trust the jackpines surrounding your home to stop any over-penetrating pellets. If you live in an apartment, you might come to the conclusion that within your residence, you won't be facing any threats from enough of a distance to necessitate loading up for bear every night.

Or, you can split the difference and go with 4s, but that's for another set of blocks.



# TACSLIDE

\$46<sup>99</sup> + S&H


Website

Facebook

800.874.2526 • GalcoGunleather.com • facebook.com/galcoGUNLEATHER

Proudly made in the USA since 1969





## THE FIRST 48 HOURS AFTER A SELF-DEFENSE SHOOTING

■ BY ROBERT H. CARP

# DANGER NOW

» **YOU'VE TRAINED FOR THIS DAY.** The crossroads of danger and preparation have intersected, and you've ended the life of someone who threatened yourself, your family or your home. After the shooting stops and the smoke clears, there is a lifeless or injured body lying in front of you. In a split second, you saved a life — your own, your family's or someone in grave danger. Guess what? You're not out of danger yet. This is where the most uncomfortable limbo starts. Will you be charged with involuntary manslaughter, second-degree murder, reckless endangerment or a host of other criminal charges by some crusading district attorney? Or will the matter be closed as a justifiable homicide as a result of self-defense? The first 48 hours after any self-defense shooting will very likely determine whether your home is where your family is or if the state will provide you shelter in the ol' Graybar Hotel. You've mentally scripted and rehearsed every angle of attack for the self-defense action you've taken, but have you prepared for the legal battle that could ensue?



» The two days after you've been involved in a lethal force encounter will be as trying as any you've likely endured. Like all things self-defense, it's better to consider your options now than to wait until it might be too late.

The actions described in this article are simply non-negotiable. Stick to the script or be prepared to spend enough money to put your attorney's children through college. There is no guarantee that the advice given in this article will keep you out of jail, but it should greatly improve your odds and force any hot-shot district attorney to consider whether it's worth the time, money and judicial resources to attempt to get a conviction when your actions can be reasonably justified. The following steps are designed to avoid arrest, an indictment by a grand jury or, the most humiliating of all, a ruinous civil suit by the family of the lowlife perpetrator who'll claim that you used unnecessary and deadly force to stop their kin from making you a crime statistic. Let's work through this chronologically.

### **SHOTS FIRED, MAN DOWN**

Your immediate actions here are some of the most important elements of any judicial action law enforcement might decide to take. According to any number of statistical sampling, the av-

erage response time for the police to appear is between 8 and 11 minutes. During this time, you need to clear your head and take some critical mental notes. First, holster your weapon when police arrive. The last thing you need is a police officer walking onto the scene, seeing you with a drawn weapon and shooting you before you have time to proclaim your innocence. Make sure you can also tell police where the perpetrator's weapon is. The last thing you want is someone picking it up and leaving, thereby making you appear to have shot an unarmed person.

### **SPEAK CAREFULLY**

Hopefully there will be witnesses there, so someone will have called 911. You do not necessarily want a voice record of you calmly calling the police after you've shot someone. Emergency dispatch operators are trained to keep you on the phone and to try to extract as much information as possible. This tape will be played nationally, so don't give a prosecutor the opportunity to tell a jury that you were cold-blooded and clear-headed after the shooting.



Make mental notes of the witnesses and their positions to the shooting and the aftermath. Create a mental grid of where people are standing. My suggestion is to look around you and pretend you're standing on a piece of paper. Mentally divide the paper into four squares, count how many people there are in each square and try to guess how far away from you they are.

The crime scene will be scoured, and the homicide detectives will be taking statements from each witness. You want to make sure someone who was 30 feet away doesn't swear that they heard every syllable of conversation between you and the perpetrator. You want to be able to recall if witnesses were close enough to see the shooting and, if necessary, attempt to impeach their testimony.

### DON'T TOUCH THE CRIME SCENE

This will only aggravate the police and make you look like a suspect, or worst of all, create grounds for arresting you for hiding evidence or tampering with the scene.

### DON'T REACH FOR THAT CARD IN YOUR WALLET YOU PICKED UP AT THE GUN STORE THAT TELLS YOU WHAT TO DO IF YOU SHOOT SOMEONE

Some people think that handing responding officers a pre-printed card with a statement is the best substitute for memorizing your rights. Wrong, wrong, wrong. Some hotshot district attorney might try to prove

that this was premeditated and that you were looking for a victim. Invoke your right to have an attorney present during questioning and wait for his arrival.

### ASK SOMEONE TO CALL FOR AN AMBULANCE

If your attacker is still alive, you want to demonstrate that you're not a stone-cold murderer. Stay still, observe and if anyone asks you if you're OK, tell them you think you might be in shock. Don't have any sort of discussion with bystanders or witnesses. Don't ask if they saw the whole thing, if they will tell the police what happened or anything else. Everything that happens after the bullet left the gun is now evidence.

### WHEN THE POLICE ARRIVE, DON'T ANSWER QUESTIONS WITHOUT YOUR ATTORNEY PRESENT

They will start asking you a battery of questions including how many times you fired, what the other person was doing to provoke your reaction and if you are licensed to carry a concealed weapon. Don't consent to a search (they're going to do it anyway), and if you're with family members, tell them not to answer any questions until they too have spoke with an attorney. Cooperate with the police to the barest minimum — but respectfully. Tell them you need to speak to your lawyer before you make any statements. (Never, ever say, "I think I need to talk to my lawyer." This will allow them to continue questioning

you.) If an ambulance hasn't arrived, ask for one for yourself as well as the perpetrator.

If the police inform you that you're under arrest, politely but unequivocally decline to answer any questions without your lawyer present. You need to give your attorney and yourself time to react to the situation. Going to the hospital and being checked for shock, injury and any other possible reaction will help you clear your head and prepare for the days to come. If the police decide to lock you up, which is a probability, be mentally prepared to stay there until you've had a bail hearing. Don't talk to any inmates if you can possibly avoid it; they would sell you into slavery to reduce their sentence.

### CONTACT YOUR LAWYER WHEN YOU'RE ALONE

You don't need anyone overhearing you tell your lawyer you killed a lowlife and need representation. This is a conversation that should take place face to face without any observers. Before your meeting and at your earliest convenience, write down everything you remember.

### PREPARE A STATEMENT OF WHAT OCCURRED AS SOON AS POSSIBLE

Write down every detail you can remember on paper. What words were spoken? What actions caused you to draw and shoot? How long was the confrontation? How many witnesses were there? Where were you coming from and where were you going? What were you wearing? When did you and the perpetrator draw your weapons?

All of this information is going to be pulled from other witnesses, so you need to have your story straight and logically formatted. If there is a trial, you might need to testify, so your attorney will rehearse with you multiple times to avoid an ambush.

### THE MORNING AFTER

Killing someone in self-defense makes a great news piece. As they say in the press, "If it bleeds, it leads." If you're allowed to go home, you might wake up to find camera crews on your lawn, photographers looking through your windows and other gawkers wondering what happened. This is when rumors begin and the full-bore investigation gets started. Have someone in your family call the police and tell them that there are news crews trespassing on your property. If they're on the sidewalk or the street, leave them alone.

Never speak to the media or have any family members speak to them. Even if they

**MADE IN TEXAS BY TEXANS!**

# HAND CANNON!

**THE SMALLEST, MOST POWERFUL, BEST BUILT PERSONAL PROTECTION YOU CAN CARRY!**

**THINK TWICE**

**BOND ARMS INC.**

**THE ALL NEW BACKUP .45ACP**

2.5 inch  
3 inch  
3.5 inch  
4.25 inch

**20 interchangeable barrels & 25 different caliber combinations available!**

**CALL FOR FREE BROCHURE!**

**www.BONDARMS.com**

**GRANBURY, TEXAS 817.573.4445**

\*Not available in CA or MA

are in your face when you leave your house, do not answer anything no matter how much they provoke you. George Zimmerman gave an interview with Sean Hannity, and the special prosecutor used it as evidence against him.

## MEET WITH YOUR LAWYER THE DAY AFTER

Prepare to tell your story in painful detail. Leave out nothing. Your lawyer is sworn to secrecy, and she can't protect you without knowing absolutely everything that happened. Your lawyer will call the police and ask for any information related to the incident, including witness statements, ballistics testing and whether there is an assistant district attorney now assigned to the investigation. Additionally, your lawyer will contact the police and ask if charges are going to be issued against you, whether a grand jury will be convened and if a list of witnesses is available. Realistically, none of this will be given out until actual charges are initiated, but proactive legal work might help avoid a trial.

Work with your attorney to find out anything and everything about the perpetrator. She will ask for discovery if you're charged, and it will all come out, but a running start might help reinforce the reality that you were assaulted by a repeat offender.

## STAY OUT OF SIGHT

This might sound difficult, but it is not impossible, and time is your friend here. I would recommend avoiding anyone for two weeks if possible. You want this to become old news replaced by the latest incident in order to prevent continued front-page coverage. Don't talk to the media, police or anyone other than your lawyer about what happened.

## CHECK ALL OF YOUR WEAPONS FOR PROPER STORAGE

If the police decide to obtain a search warrant and look through your home for evidence, the last thing they need to see is a gun sitting on the kitchen table without a trigger lock on it. Get on the Internet and double check what the legal requirements are for proper storage of a firearm in your state. You don't want a prosecutor who is unable to prove a case to use your carelessness as evidence of reckless endangerment.

## TWO DAYS AFTER

Within 48 hours of the shooting, the police will have finished with the crime scene, and evidence will be collected. Toxicology

reports will be started on the corpse of your attacker. If you were arrested, bail will likely be arranged by this time. If you haven't been charged, you'll be at home staring at the walls wondering what to do next. The police are investigating, your lawyer is probably speaking to contacts to see if you're going to be charged or indicted and you feel as if your life is in the hands of people who don't understand that only one person was going to walk away from the worst night of your life. Thank God it was you.

Your next move is to begin your own investigation. Any questions, requests for information, freedom of information requests, etc., cannot be seen emanating from you. Have a trusted friend, spouse or relative begin to build a case against the perpetrator. Go online and do a criminal check on him. The Internet has a host of sites where you can find criminal records. Start to put together a matrix based on your search of Facebook or any other social media site of this person's friends and contacts. Did they post a picture of themselves on Facebook pointing a gun? Are people they associate with on the web as well?

Remember, if the district attorney is going to prosecute you, they will be doing the same to you. This effort will save you the mon-

ey you would have to pay your attorney or a private investigator to research. Even if you're charged and found innocent at trial, legal bills will grow very quickly. You can never tell what your attorney might miss, so protect your own interests. Send out freedom of information requests for lab results, the 911 message, police tapes, etc. You might not be a lawyer, but this is all information that will be critical to your defense should you need one. Share the information with your lawyer as soon as you receive it. Your goal is to get this done as soon as possible in order to begin a strong argument against indictment. Once again, don't tell your story to anyone but your lawyer or your spouse. Neither can be forced to testify against you, but anyone else is fair game.

Stay calm, stay focused and gradually ease back into your daily routine. This will be on your mind for months, if not years, to come, but right now, you need to reinforce the narrative that you're the victim.

Keep your head up. You trained for this day, and you successfully defended yourself. Now comes the second phase, where you need to prove it was justified.



CONCEAL CARRY PURSES  
AND CROSS BODY BAGS,  
IWBS AND GUN SLEEVES.

STUNNING  
LUXURIOUS  
TIMELESS

HANDCRAFTED IN THE USA

[WWW.MOONSTRUCKLEATHER.COM](http://WWW.MOONSTRUCKLEATHER.COM)



JUST ASK

## TWO SERIOUS OPTIONS FOR HOME DEFENSE

BY GEORGE HARRIS



» Double-barreled shotguns have a hard-won history in the U.S. as reliable self-defense tools, but like everything else in your home, they've come a long way in the last century.



# NEW TO HOME DEFENSE FIREARMS

» **QUESTION:** My significant other and I live in what used to be a quiet neighborhood on the outskirts of a large city where we both work. We live an alternative lifestyle that drew no attention until we moved to our present location. Recently we have had our cars vandalized and have received threatening phone calls sufficient to cause us to consider buying a firearm to protect ourselves in our home. We at first were going to purchase a double-barreled shotgun as was mentioned by a political figure sometime back as his weapon of choice. But, in doing a little research on personal protection and home defense, a handgun seems like a better option. Could you give us a few reasons why one might be better than the other for our purposes?



» **ANSWER:** It sounds as if you and your significant other might not have a lot of experience with firearms but have come to the startling realization that under certain circumstances, you have to take responsibility for your own personal safety. It is unfortunate that you have to live in fear for now, but being proactive and taking your situation seriously rather than just hoping it will go away is a good start.

My suggestion for both of you is to enroll in a training program that involves situational awareness, some basic personal defense skills and some foundational firearms skills. I would also like to suggest that you become familiar with the law in your locality regarding the ownership and use of firearms as well as any legal concerns that you might have about personal defense. Since you are already aware of the USCCA, contacting the home office for information relevant to your specific location would be a good next step.

To answer your question about having a double-barreled shotgun as opposed to a handgun, I'll give you some upsides and some downsides for each. This should allow you to factor in the specifics of your individual situation and make an informed decision that will give you a little more confidence in taking care of your personal safety and your significant other's safety.

A double-barreled shotgun is one of the most effective weapons that can be owned and used by the responsible citizen for personal defense in close-quarter encounters. It is relatively inexpensive and simple to operate when compared to other types of firearms. Ammunition is plentiful, and for home defense, you have a wide variety of options to meet your needs.

The double-barreled shotgun might sound like a good option and it might fit your needs, but there are a few things to consider that you might not be aware of.

Many people think if a shotgun is pointed in the general direction of an adversary at the distance of a room, the adversary will be swept off his feet and put down for the count with the pull of the trigger. After all, that's the way it works in the movies, doesn't it?

The reality is the shot charge, regardless of its size and lethality, is unlikely to spread

more than four to five inches from one side of the room to the other. There are lots of variables that could be considered, but to keep it simple, I'll give you an example that should make sense to work with.

With any defensive shotgun, the shot pattern starts out less than an inch in diameter at the muzzle end of the barrel. A general rule when defining pattern diameter of the shot charge — from exiting the muzzle to impacting the target — is one inch of increase for every yard traveled between the muzzle and the target. Take into consideration that an average room is 12 feet across, which equates to four yards. In turn, using the above formula means that the diameter of the shot pattern is only four to five inches at best.

What this means to you is that you can't just point the shotgun in the general direction of the target and expect to hit it. You have to aim the shotgun as you would any other firearm at across-the-room distances.

The shotgun requires two hands, a shoulder and a cheek on the stock to shoot accurately, which limits mobility and flexibility in a dynamic or fluid confrontation. Also, you should take into consideration that a double-barreled shotgun

# FRONT LINE

## DESIGNED FOR ISRAELI SECURITY FORCES. AVAILABLE FOR YOU.

### NO MATTER THE MODEL

Beretta, Colt, Glock, Ruger, SIG, S&W, Springfield, Walther  
...and many more

### NO MATTER THE STYLE

Duty, Tactical, Concealment, IWB, OWB, Thigh or Low Ride,  
Pocket, Shoulder, Ankle, Accessory Pouches ...and much more

### NO MATTER THE MATERIAL

Leather, Kydex®, Polymer ...and others

Front Line holsters are designed in cooperation with Israeli Security Forces  
and are used by military, law enforcement and elite forces worldwide.

### ALL HOLSTERS ARE CUSTOM-MOLDED FOR EACH SPECIFIC WEAPON

Find Front Line holsters at [IDFholsters.com](http://IDFholsters.com)  
the holster and accessories superstore, or other fine retailers.



is a two-shot proposition before a reload is necessary. Hopefully there won't be more than two attackers and your marksmanship under stress is straight and true. Of course, where and how you carry the spare ammunition for the reload needs to be addressed as you will likely need it if you have to fire the gun.

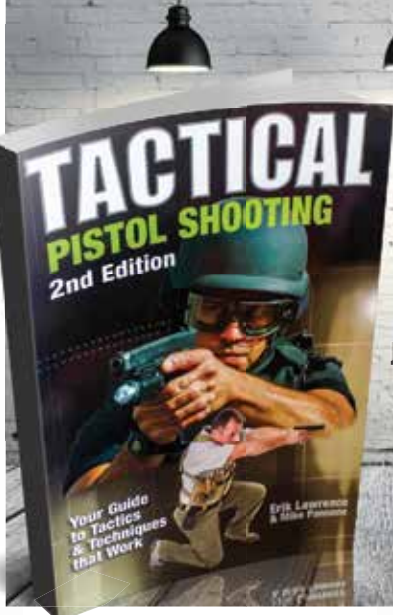
A handgun requires a little more attention to detail in learning how to handle safely and effectively. Revolvers are easier to load and unload than semi-automatics in that they have fewer buttons and levers to contend with in those processes. The average revolver holds six rounds of ammunition where semi-automatics hold 10 rounds or more on average. Semi-automatics and revolvers are similar in accuracy and effectiveness with the right ammunition selections and can be operated with one hand as well as two. Handgun ammunition consists of only one bullet per shot and has only a portion of the power generated by the shotgun ammunition. This in turn might mean that multiple shots are required on the target to stop the aggression.

The trade off for the handgun's size and convenience as opposed to the shotgun

is it is, more often than not, more difficult to hit a target with. This requires training and practice to stay proficient to a greater degree than the shotgun.

In either case, whichever you choose (Why not both? One for you and the other for your partner), training should be a

part of the commitment to take care of yourselves. It will build confidence as well as the willingness to act should you ever have to meet that challenge.

**TACTICAL**  
**PISTOL SHOOTING**

CO-AUTHORED BY  
SPECIAL FORCES INSTRUCTORS  
JEFF COOPER AUTHORED MINDSET CHAPTER  
USED IN MANY ACADEMIES  
AND GOVT AGENCIES

**VIGILANT SECURITY, LLC**  
**www.VIG-SEC.com**  
**304-470-4445**



Read the reviews for yourself 

**THE ORIGINAL**  
**PREDATOR**  
PANCAKE HOLSTER

*"Best holster I have ever owned"*  
*"Just ordered my second Predator"*  
*"Best gun leather I've ever owned"*

  
PROUDLY  
MADE IN USA  
FINE HANDCRAFTED GUN LEATHER

**WWW.WRIGHTLEATHERWORKS.COM**  
**ph: (419)307-6191**






# THE FIRST FIVE SECONDS

**YOUR ACTIONS AFFECT THE OUTCOME**

**■ BY DR. JOHN O'CONNOR AND KIRSTEN SCHUDER, M.S.**



» **WHAT YOU DO IN THE FIRST FIVE SECONDS OF A DEADLY** force incident can save lives or cost them. Think about your reaction plan. About 17 years ago, I was working in the Bronx. School had just let out and kids of all ages were walking home. As I was walking into a store to get a cold drink, I heard gunfire in rapid succession. A girl standing right next to me dropped to the floor as shots rang out around me. It was bedlam as everyone panicked and ran for cover, including a couple of cops who were on the scene. Their reactions were no different than the pedestrians they were sworn to protect, although, I didn't elaborate upon this as the evening news interviewed me after the incident.

I wasn't carrying that day, but the two men who were and could have stopped the sniper hid under a car while I plugged my finger into the bullet hole of the poor girl gunned down by her ex-boyfriend. Paramedics later told me it kept her from bleeding to death.

Bullets zipped past my ears. I looked around to see if I could find where the sniper was. After a few shots, I spotted his location in a building across the street.

The ambulance was quick to be on the scene. The sniper continued to fire, aiming for the ambulance. To call the situation tense would be an understatement.

When the ambulance drove away, I led the officers around to the alleyway of the building where I saw the shots. As we made our way over, the officers saw the gun in the window in an apartment on the third or fourth floor. They sent in a couple of men, and a few minutes later, they had the suspect in custody.

As the news vans rolled in, the officers refused to give an interview and instructed reporters to speak with me, the guy who was responsible for taking down the sniper. Covered in the girl's blood, I told the New York area what happened that day.

### **THE FIVE-SECOND PHENOMENON AND MENTAL GAME**

When I teach people about self-defense, they are often surprised when I approach the subject of self-defense as a mental game. Because of my training as a corrections officer and a psychotherapist, I am well aware of the importance of mental games in the manage-

ment of stress in life-and-death situations, and the five-second phenomenon is a key element in the self-defense mental game.

The five-second rule deals with the first five seconds of a life-or-death situation, and it has to do with the person's initial reaction. Will you run? Will you freeze? Or will you stay calm, observe your surroundings and figure out how to stay alive?

The first two reactions are common physical and mental reactions. They are automatic, almost like reflexes. The last reaction is common of someone who has done the training and the mental game work in order to stay alive through management of the physiological and mental components of over-the-top stress levels.

That first five seconds will affect you for the duration of an emergency situation, and maybe longer. But most certainly what you do at the beginning of an emergency situation will impact how that situation ends.

Your mental game is your plan to effectively manage the stress and/or fear occurring within that first five seconds. You must do the mental work to help prepare for that moment. It's a moment we all hope we never have to live through, but we prepare for the possibility that it could occur.

If you have your weapon by your side, you have the chance to use it appropriately. If you don't have the right mental plan, you won't be very effective, no matter how close your gun is.

Life-or-death situations can be turned around in an instant, and usually, your only chance of turning the tide in your favor is within those first five seconds.



## HOW YOU CAN MASTER THE FIVE-SECOND PHENOMENON

Knowing how to manage your stress in this five-second window is paramount to being the most effective in an emergency situation. If managed efficiently, you could turn the tide and save lives.

Gun owners need to know how they will react to the five-second phenomenon, because there is always the possibility that you will have to use your firearm to protect your life or the lives of people you love. If you can learn to handle the ridiculously high levels of stress compacted into a measly few seconds, you can master your self-defense situation as well as other stressful situations in your life.

People interested in self-defense can do a few things that will help them improve their chances of being ready when an emergency occurs.

### PRACTICE

Know your weapon and practice with it. Handling your weapon is a big part of being able to take advantage of the five-second phenomenon and to respond

to emergency situations. It's all about repetition, rehearsal and practice.

This might seem like an obvious statement, but it's not really. How many people do you know who own a weapon, have it hanging around for self-defense in their home, but never practice with it, never pick it up, never shoot at a target, never think of gun placement in their homes and never practice possible break-in scenarios? I know a few myself.

Everyone always hopes and envisions himself being able to handle an emergency situation. If you never practice with your gun and wear it as people wear jewelry, as the two guys from the Bronx who dove under the car proved, these heroic fantasies will never come to fruition.

Your gun is your weapon, a tool you use to help protect yourself. If you don't know how to use this tool responsibly and properly, it will at the very least be useless and could be dangerous to the people you love. The last thing you want to happen is to be in a situation where you want to save the lives of the people you care about but cannot; or even worse, you harm them instead.

How you handle stress is as important as how you handle your gun. An error in judgment clouded by fear could result in a mistake you will have to live with for the rest of your life.

### ATTEND A COMPETITION AT LEAST ONCE A YEAR

One way to help you overcome knee-jerk reactions is by attending as many competitions as you can and working specifically on your mental game.

Competition helps give you confidence to handle life-and-death situations. Attending International Defensive Pistol Association (IDPA) matches, which are built on life-and-death scenarios, will help increase your training in handling your gun and envisioning these types of scenarios to ensure your success.

Attending shooting competitions also helps you become aware of any emotional issues that come up. How you handle and cope with stress is all going to come out in competitive situations because the competitive shooting situation also contains the five-second rule. If you don't react

**Experience Gel Comfort**

Concealed Carry will *Never* be the same. Our Patent-Pending **Gel** Technology lets you carry your favorite pistol all day long with absolutely no fatigue. The suede outer layer lets your skin breathe and adds "Smart Friction" to help lock your pistol in place. Welcome to the High-Tech Hybrid.

**GEL** →  
**Comfort**

**MADE IN USA**

Facebook.com/ComfortHolster  
@ComfortHolsters  
(479)650-0379

**OWN IT!**  
Patented & Awarded

**COMFORT HOLSTERS**  
ComfortHolsters.com

Three different styles of holsters are shown at the bottom: a black leather holster, a black tactical holster, and a black tactical holster with a magazine holder.

when that buzzer goes off, you lose your chance to do well in competition. It's react or go home. It's a great way to get to know yourself better and the issues that might interfere in a real-life self-defense situation.

Practice brings increased confidence but doesn't guarantee that you will be ready for that emergency situation. This is where improving your mental game comes in.

## WORK ON YOUR MENTAL GAME

As you train for and participate in competition, you have the opportunity to work on your mental game.

With regular competition, you will learn how you handle stress. While this is not at the level of a life-or-death situation, repeatedly placing yourself in a competition atmosphere will present you with opportunities to learn how to handle your stress, which is most apparent when you perform in timed events. The faster and more accurately you shoot through your event, the higher your score.

A few different issues impede competitive performance. These can be translated into the way you handle stress in other life situations.

## YOUR PAST CAN STAND IN YOUR WAY

Your past can haunt you and at the wrong times. What flashes through your mind can block you from becoming successful at anything in life, in competition and when it's time to stand up and take action. As you compete, pay attention to those thoughts.

## GUNS ARE NOT THE ONLY THINGS THAT HAVE TRIGGERS

You have triggers too. As you notice what flashes across your mind five seconds before that buzzer sounds, notice the feelings you get from those thoughts and images. Do they make you angry? Cause you pain? Fear? Sadness? These are issues that need to be worked out. The situation you are in is triggering a memory, and attached to that memory are emotions, which can block you from taking action in that first five seconds.

Build your visualization skills.

The nice thing about IDPA matches is they create scenarios that will help you visualize yourself in various self-defense

scenarios. This helps your mental game because you get to feel what it's like to perform in various real-life places, such as on a school bus, a passenger plane, a train or at a mall — any place they can dream up. With the timed rounds, the competitions do a pretty good job at creating these types of scenarios, which helps your ability to visualize what you should do and how fast you should do it.

## TRAINING TO BE READY

It's every gun owner's responsibility to train with your gun and be ready for a real-life emergency. You could be the next person who gets to save a life or two. However, you have to work through your issues.

At any moment, fear can override any plan. If you continue to practice, learn your gun well and place yourself in competition situations where you have to respond in an instant, it will help you *feel* ready. Managing your mental game, fear and stress will help you *be* ready for that first five seconds.



**ELITE SURVIVAL SYSTEMS**

**CONCEALMENT SOLUTIONS FOR EVERY SCENARIO.**

- ☒ **CONCEALMENT**
- ☐ WEAPON CASES
- ☐ TACTICAL
- ☐ BAGS & LUGGAGE
- ☐ BELTS & ACCESSORIES

POCKET HOLSTER

IWB BELT-CLIP HOLSTER

CONCEALED CARRY POUCH

REQUEST A FREE CATALOG  
TOLL FREE 866.340.2778  
**ELITESURVIVAL.COM**

**VE**



» **MY HUSBAND AND I** walked into a local eatery around 5:30 p.m. one Saturday evening and were instantly welcomed by the friendly staff and the fantastic aroma of Italian fare. We each received a plate loaded with salad, garlic bread and penne pasta baked in an authentic, homemade marinara sauce that was as thick in texture as it was in taste. The food was amazingly good, and I wondered why we hadn't ever eaten at this spot before that night.

Between bites, I looked around at the other couples who were very clearly enjoying their hearty meals and some good conversation. The atmosphere was warm and lively, and as my husband and I devoured our dinners, we watched our fellow patrons clean their plates and grab their range bags. Dessert for tonight, after the delicious meal prepared by Cubby's Corner Deli, was a fresh-served slice of target annihilation at Hoover Tactical Firearms in Hoover, Ala. It was their very popular VIP date night.

## ENJOY SECOND AMENDMENT TOGETHERNESS

I first learned about date night at the gun range when Hoover Tactical Firearms posted the information on their Facebook page. I was instantly intrigued. I would gladly trade in a few movie tickets for a few boxes of ammo. The price for the event was very reasonable and included range fees, gun rental, targets and dinner for two. And it would mean that other couples would be enjoying some 2A togetherness, just like my husband and me.

I immediately contacted the events coordinator at the indoor range and checked out their upcoming calendar for a date and time when we could participate. She mentioned that this particular evening in July would be a bit slower than normal since summer months tend to lure people away to out-of-town relatives, local beaches and favorite vacation spots. So my husband, Sean, and I were able to enjoy an uncrowded indoor firing range and the company of 10 other people, rather than the typical 20 couples or more.

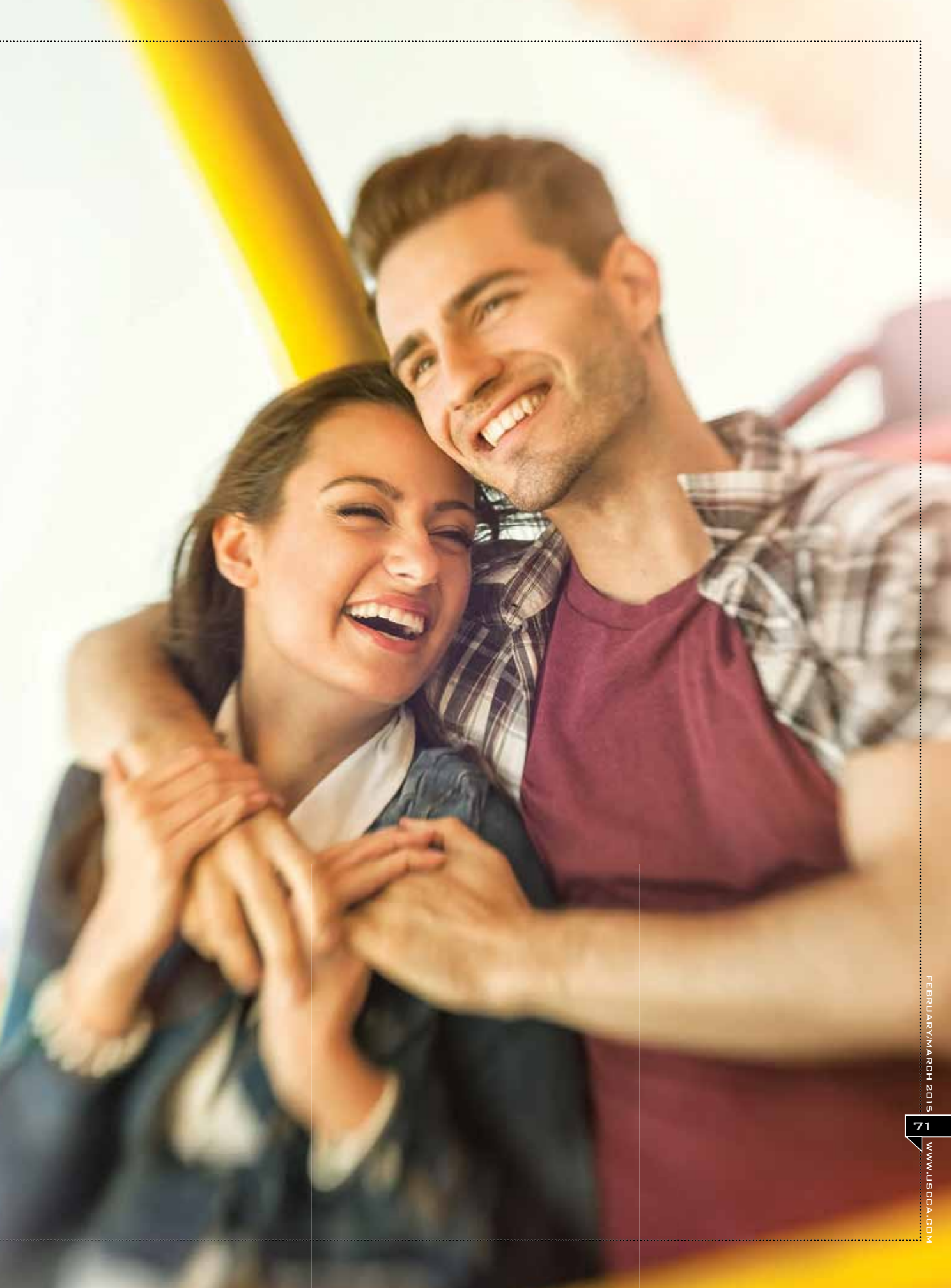
I'm pretty sure that the other participants' ideal definition of a "date night" did not include a barrage of questions from a random chick armed with a gun and a notepad. But curiosity got the best of me, especially regarding the group of four who sat at the table next to my husband and me at dinner. I discovered that these two happy twosomes were at Hoover Tactical to make good on a special Father's Day gift that the wives had purchased and arranged for their husbands.

Betty and her husband, Dave, had varying levels of shooting experience, with Betty happy to share her affinity for her .38 Special revolver. But Kathy and Thomas, on the other hand, were a couple made up of one "newbie" and one "expert." And Kathy was quick to admit that this would be her very first time shooting.

I've seen this kind of scenario before: Wives or girlfriends will often tag along with their significant others, just to give shooting a try. Sometimes it works out well, and the woman leaves with a newfound appreciation for firearms. But other times, it ends poorly, and the woman just leaves. Whether using a firearm that was too big, too uncomfortable, too loud or too jumpy, for some women, that first introduction can also be their last encounter. I wondered if this would be the case tonight for Kathy, and I deeply hoped that it wouldn't.

**TRADE IN A COUPLE  
MOVIE TICKETS FOR A  
FEW BOXES OF AMMO**  
BY BETH ALCAZAR

DATE NIGHT  
AT THE GUN RANGE





## ENTICE NEW SHOOTERS

As the folks at Hoover Tactical have duly noticed, many couples are comprised of one spouse who likes to shoot and another who does not share the same fondness or perhaps who hasn't really had the chance to decide. In most situations, it's the guy who

has done his share of shooting and the gal who has never even held a gun, much less fired one. Since this is often the case, a lot of husbands wonder how they can encourage their wives to learn about guns, shoot guns and even purchase and carry guns. Fortunately, a lot of shooting ranges

are taking notice, and many of them are offering date nights as a perfect way to introduce that special woman in your life to the world of firearms.

Of course, a date night at the range can be effective on many levels, beyond just enticing newcomers. First and foremost, it's an official date, and that's a good thing. From rock concerts or ballet performances to bowling alleys or firing ranges, it's the thought that counts, right? Your spouse will feel important and will appreciate that you've planned a special evening together. And even if your local range doesn't host organized couples' events or have a restaurant conveniently located inside, you can still create your own special night. Pick out a favorite dining locale, something that you both enjoy, and soak up some fun and fellowship before you gear up and go to the range.

And if date night happens to be your better half's first time shooting, beyond going over gun safety rules and shooting basics, be sure to check out the informational and instructional options offered at the range. And while you can certainly bring your own guns, it might also be wise to see what the facility has to offer. Hoover Tactical Firearms, for instance, has a wide selection of firearms to rent, and they are happy to make helpful suggestions. Remember, while you might prefer to shoot your .44 Magnum, someone brand new to guns might greatly appreciate a .22 (at least for that first date or two).

## TAKE AIM AT NEW FUN

My husband and I have been to the shooting range countless times on our own unofficial "date nights" and just whenever we had some time to spare sans kids. And while it's nice to have that candlelight dinner now and then, couples don't always want to do the same thing. People like variety. It's also nice when a man and wife can find a hobby they enjoy doing together.

Of course, this particular date night was not really a trip for the two of us as much as it was a trip for me to observe and to learn. I was very interested to find out more about our fellow shooters and see how their evening of firearms would unfold.

As everyone entered the range to set up, I watched Betty and Dave first. Taking turns aiming for the paper bullseye and shouting conversations over gun blasts, they



**Cowboy Hoisters & Rigs**

★ Made from Hermann Oak Leather  
★ Over 25 Years Experience

**866-383-6761**

★ [www.dmbullardleather.com](http://www.dmbullardleather.com) ★



**CONCEALMENT SOLUTIONS FOR EVERY SCENARIO.**

**ELITE**  
SURVIVAL SYSTEMS

**SMOKESCREEN CONCEALMENT MONOPACK**  
Civilian-style, single-strap backpack with hidden holster compartment

**ELITESURVIVAL.COM**



doubled up next to us in shooting lane No. 10. When Betty took a little break, I pulled her aside to get her thoughts about guns and about her friend Kathy learning how to shoot.

"I love my .38 Special," she said. "I actually looked at a lot of guns before we bought it, but I really felt the most comfortable with this one. I just need to practice more. Of course, nowadays, I strongly believe that all women need to learn how to shoot. It's a necessity. And I'm so glad that Kathy is here tonight to give it a go."

Kathy, in fact, is the one who actually instigated the couples' shooting trip. She spotted the information about the special date night at Hoover Tactical Firearms' booth at a local home and garden show. To her, it seemed to be the perfect gift for her husband. She probably didn't realize at the time that it was an ideal gift for herself as well. And as I watched Thomas guide her to the firing line, ready to take her first shot, I knew that there were more than just two of us holding our breath.

When I finally heard the gun discharge, I peeked over at lane No. 11 to see Kathy's reaction. Her ears might have been ringing and her hands might have been dotted with gunpowder, but she had a huge grin on her face. In fact, probably the only one smiling any bigger that night was Kathy's delighted husband.

When the night was over, Sean and I reminisced with the two couples and shared some of our favorite shooting stories and thoughts. I asked Kathy to tell us the best and worst parts of her first shooting experience. With a slight pause of reflection, she said, "Honestly, the worst part was just not knowing what to expect, what the gun would do or what I would do. And the best part? The best part for me was actually hitting the target."

Kathy said she doesn't necessarily want her own gun, but she's open to just about anything now.

"Shooting is really my husband's thing," she said, "but this was an interesting experience. It's very different from the old dinner-and-a-movie standby, but this was probably the best date we've had in years! And I'd definitely do a date night at the shooting range again."



# NRA



# JOTTO GEAR

An NRA Licensed Product

## Don't Become A Statistic

The Bureau of Justice Statistics reported that 1.4 million guns were stolen in recent years. With the NRA® Handgun Holster by Jotto Gear, you can now lock-up your handgun when you can't carry to avoid becoming a statistic.



- Rugged Steel Frame Holster Design
- Lined Black Gould™ & Goodrich Leather Interior
- Works With Most Tactical Lights & Laser Grips
- Barrel-Lock Keyed Locking Mechanism
- Proudly Made in the USA

## Can't Carry...No Problem



### NRA Handgun Holster

by Jotto Gear

800-979-3375

NRAJOTTOGEAR.COM

All National Rifle Association/NRA images and logos are trademarks of the National Rifle Association of America used under license.



# HIGH NOON MEETS HIGH TECH: MODERN OPTIONS FOR REVOLVER RELOADS

BY BOB CAMPBELL





»SOMETIMES OLD SUBJECTS DEMAND A FRESH LOOK.

One such subject is revolver reloading, a topic that must include speed-loading devices and the pouches and carriers that hold them.

# THE REVOLVER SPEED-LOAD AND JOX POUCHES



The subject is far from dead, as many concealed carry permit holders deploy the revolver. In police service, however, the issue is a dead one as self-loaders have replaced revolvers as duty guns. Only a few diehard cops have retained them, but when they retire, that will be End of Watch for the double-action revolver.

I will not kid you about police proficiency with the once-common speedloader: Very few practiced to a meaningful extent with these devices, and even those carrying a pair of speedloaders did not always practice the proper technique. On the other hand, anyone that has seen a properly executed revolver reload appreciates the rapidity and smoothness with which the drill can be executed. While the rapid revolver reload is an important skill, choosing the proper tools and the means to carry them is equally important.

There is no debate among professionals that it is necessary to pack at least a spare gun load when carrying a handgun for personal defense. A certain amount of range time should be allocated to practicing rapid reloading of the handgun. While the probability of needing to reload during a defensive confrontation is low, the possibilities are endless. Few revolver shooters practice rapid reloading during range work, while the auto shooter almost always does.

It is much easier: Stack the magazines up on the table or on the belt and practice slapping them home. When practicing revolver reloads, the process might actually slow training down, and getting hits with the load in the gun is what counts. It is more difficult to



**THE OLD DAYS OF BARE LEAD AND SNAP-CLOSE DUTY POUCHES ARE LONG GONE. FOR THOSE WHO CARRY A REVOLVER, SPEEDLOADERS CAN RIDE A LOT EASIER IN MODERN CARRIERS SUCH AS THE JOX.**

load cartridges in the speedloader and then practice until you get it right, but if you choose to carry a revolver, you should do so. After you have made the decision to carry the spare gun load, you need to decide how it will be carried.

There are four common means of carrying spare revolver cartridges. (We will not discuss loose in the pocket.) These are drop pouches, belt loops, speed strips and speedloader pouches or carriers. Drop pouches load at the top with loose rounds that are then dropped into the hand when the lower snap is loosed. This is a step above carrying cartridges in the pocket; it doesn't work well and often a number of the cartridges hit the pavement, which is to be avoided.

Belt loops were once common. Harness cops carried six to 36 rounds on the belt. One state patrol once issued a drop holster with a total of 36 cartridge loops right above the holster body. It would have taken some time to pluck these from the loops and fire them off, providing verdigris had not attacked the cartridges that were exposed to the elements. Some taught reloading the revolver by drawing two cartridges at a time from the loops. This might be a neat trick, but it is inadequate and outdated for self-defense.

If you have fired the revolver and feel a need to reload, dump the gun load and reload with a full cylinder of cartridges. The only viable means of rapidly reloading a revolver is to use speedloaders, but a reasonable compromise is the speed strip. Speed strips are rubber strips that are relatively flat and hold the cartridges by getting a grip on the cartridge case rim. Offered by Tuff Products, they are well made and inexpensive. They are carried in the pocket and drawn when needed, upon which time the cartridges are stripped off into the cylinder one at a time. This isn't a fast system, but it is far superior to loose cartridges in a pocket or snugged into a belt loop.

Mechanical circular speedloaders have been in use in America since about 1968 in their present form and offer a considerable advantage. The problem is that carrying the speedloader concealed isn't easy. They bulge badly in a pocket — even a jacket pocket — while the speed strip does not. Speedloader pouches or carriers were designed for uniform wear, and on a duty belt access is every-

# PLANNING TO TRAVEL WITH A FIREARM?

## DO YOU KNOW THE LAW?



SGT  
SAFEGUNTRAVEL  
.com

NEED ASSISTANCE? (844) 899-9SGT

thing, so designing a speedloader pouch for concealed carry has been an elusive goal.

JOX carriers offer a modern concealed carry option for speedloader carry. The JOX pouch utilizes the versatility of modern Kydex to create a well-designed, well-executed unit. They're ordered for a specific speedloader — HKS, Safariland, SL Variant, etc. — and might even be custom ordered for specific loads, as the length of the bullet nose affects the rise in the loader. Just the same, the pouch is supplied with a cushioning element in the base in sections that allows adjustment for bullet length. This is a neat option that stops rattles and offers excellent utility. While I prefer to deploy the Speer Gold Dot 135-grain JHP, like most of you, I sometimes compromise on what is available. As issued, the pouch works well with bullet weights of 110 to 200 grains.

Loading the JOX carrier is simple. The outer edge of the carrier is flexed and the speedloader inserted. The Kydex lips compress and the speedloader is held securely, leaving you with a carry system that is secure and rattle-free. The JOX unit rides above the belt, giving the ideal angle for an extremely rapid draw.

The JOX carrier is clever, secure, sturdy and works well in speed drills. It attaches to the belt by means of a J-hook belt loop that goes under the belt and firmly attaches the pouch to the belt. (Be certain to specify belt size and, as always, use a good gun belt.) The primary advantage is that the J-hook arrangement draws the carrier close to the body, keeping the entire unit as compact as possible. In the past, the problem with such carriers has always been concealment: The speedloader itself is as wide as a revolver cylinder and must be carried on the front of the belt for proper access. The natural drape of a long shirt or light jacket conceals the carrier quite well, though a T-shirt might be another matter. However, the small carrier doesn't look like a gun, and the footprint isn't as large as that of the average cell phone.

If you carry a revolver, you should carry a spare gun load. If that gun is a revolver, then that load should be in a speedloader, and this is an excellent manner in which to do so.



# RELOAD!

**R**eloading has never been more popular.

**When you're ready to reload, you're ready for America's finest brass. At Starline, we're producing at the highest level possible, but we will never sacrifice quality for quantity. Place your order online at [starlinebrass.com](http://starlinebrass.com) and let us prove to you why we're known as the "Makers of the Finest Brass."**

**For over 30 years, our dedicated team of employees has provided reloaders with the highest quality brass at the best price. That's why *A Great Shot Starts with Starline.***



**ORDER FACTORY DIRECT**  
**[starlinebrass.com](http://starlinebrass.com)**  
or call **1-800-280-6660**



1300 W. Henry St. • Sedalia, MO 65301

© 2015 Starline Brass



A woman with long brown hair, wearing a white top, is blurred in the background. In the foreground, a large, clenched fist is visible, suggesting strength or defiance.

# ARM YOURSELF!

## ARE YOU A VICTIM OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE?

■ BY AMBER KUNAU

### »MY NAME IS AMBER, AND I AM A SURVIVOR OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE.

Trust me, that wasn't easy to say, and as difficult as it is for me to write that sentence (it took me more than 10 years just to be able to say it), this is actually the first time I have ever written the words. The cold, hard truth is that I am one of the lucky ones. According to ClickToEmpower.org, domestic violence accounts for more than 2 million injuries and 1,300 deaths each year.

Sobering statistics indeed. In too many cases, many women see their only option as an injunction, better known as a restraining order — a lousy piece of paper saying the bad guy can't come near them.

Call me crazy, but when has a piece of paper ever stopped a bad person intent on harming someone? It hasn't. That protection order, while a necessary step in the legal process, is in reality about as effective as a phony gun-free zone that only keeps the law-abiding citizen disarmed.

# “DON'T BE AFRAID TO TAKE THE NECESSARY STEPS TO LEARN HOW TO PROTECT YOURSELF AND YOUR FAMILY WITH A FIREARM.”

Well ladies, while I recommend the injunction as a first step in the process to end the abuse, there's another piece of paper commonly referred to as a concealed carry permit that should also be considered as another tool in your toolbox. A concealed carry permit — along with a firearm that works for you and some solid training in its proper use — might be all you need to empower yourself.

It worked for me, and while I can only give you my perspective, you must understand that you are ultimately responsible for your own defense. While your injunction and a police officer are necessary tools, the fact is that you will be your own first responder required to defend yourself if the unthinkable happens — and unfortunately, the unthinkable often happens at a time and place of someone else's choosing.

It took me a while to come to that realization, and it wasn't easy. I finally realized that I needed more than an injunction in my purse. I asked myself, what's the better option? A lone piece of paper and a police officer that will be there to clean up (if someone is even able to make the call) or a defensive firearm tucked into a holster on my person, in my purse or sitting in my nightstand, secured and readily available?

It wasn't until I squeezed the trigger on a Springfield XD(M) pistol for the first time that I fully realized and understood the true feeling of security and empowerment that I desperately needed, and it felt amazing. It changed my life forever, for the better, and it can change yours too.

No one knows better than I that the decision to purchase, train with and carry a firearm is one of the most important and personal decisions you will ever make. It was difficult. It was scary. But it gave me my life back. For me, I felt a return of safety and control. My anxiety lifted and my PTSD symptoms disappeared. I regained much of the confidence that had been stolen from me by my abuser. I was alive again.

It is hard for me to believe, but there are other women out there who are ac-

tively fighting to take away our right to defend ourselves with a firearm. While the Internet is full of stories of women and families being murdered by current or ex-partners, there are organizations like "Moms Demand Action" that blame the gun rather than the criminal actions of a stalker or murderer in some misguided attempt to save women and kids from domestic violence. Taking a gun away from a law-abiding citizen, particularly one under constant threat of violence, has never stopped a crime.

We all have the genetic instinct to protect ourselves, and fortunately here in America our constitutional right to bear arms is recognized. Remember that it is up to you to protect and empower yourself against violence. (I often stop and wonder how differently my abuser would view me if he knew I was armed.)

Don't be afraid to take the necessary steps to learn how to protect yourself and your family with a firearm. Stop living in fear and start exercising your right to keep and bear arms. If you know someone who is a victim of domestic violence, I urge you to share this information. Together, as responsible gun owners willing to take our

lives back, we can reduce the dangers of domestic violence and make women safer. It is our fundamental right to feel safe and secure, to pursue life, liberty and happiness, and nothing says freedom and liberty like the right to bear arms.

Some free advice: Just do it. If it's your first time, have someone you love and trust take you to a range. Rent a few guns before making a decision to purchase. Find the tool that works for you. Many ranges even offer firearms training classes just for women. Knowing how to safely and effectively use a firearm for self-defense can literally be the difference between your life and your death. Make the choice to live a life of security and happiness. Stop living in fear. Load your gun and take your life back.

*Amber Kunau is a firearms instructor in Phoenix, AZ where she is also an active member of the Maricopa County Sheriff's posse program. She is a regular guest on the USCCA's Armed American Radio show hosted by Mark Walters.*



**COVER 6 GEAR**

**THE MOST VERSATILE HOLSTERS ON THE PLANET!**

**DEALERS WANTED**

**SINGLE POINT SWIVEL**

**WE MANUFACTURE HOLSTERS FOR OVER 120 DIFFERENT WEAPONS IN 4 DIFFERENT STYLES.**

**877-373-6660**

**WWW.COVER6GEAR.COM**





# THE VERBAL CHALLENGE

THIS IS NOT RENAISSANCE FRANCE,  
AND YOU ARE NOT IN A DUEL OF HONOR.  
REMEMBER THAT.

■ BY C.R. WILLIAMS





» Borne of a sense of fair play and mercy, some Americans feel obliged to give verbal orders or opportunities to surrender to active shooters. It is a terrible decision to have to make, but if that individual is about to commit mass murder, there is often no other responsible course of action but to stop the threat they present before they can begin their rampage.



» **IMAGINE FOR A MOMENT:** You're in a store in a mall with friends and you hear gunshots. "Active shooter" is probably the first thing that comes to mind. You produce your gun and are looking for someone that looks like they need shooting when the gunshots stop. You don't holster your gun yet, but you do tuck it under the jacket you're wearing.

Then a man with a rifle walks into sight. (Just to be clear, you are sure that he is not a good guy.)

In your imagination, what do you do? Do you:

- Get your gun out and up and shoot him.
- Get behind the nearest thing resembling cover (assuming something is there) as you bring the gun out and up and shoot him.

- Make an evasive movement to throw the gunman's aim off as you bring the gun out and up and shoot him.

- Make an evasive movement by way of getting the heck out of Dodge.

- Say to the man with the rifle, "Young man, I think you need to put your weapon down."

Brendan "Dan" McKown chose the last option on Nov. 20, 2005, at the Tacoma Mall in Washington State. He was shot five times and left paralyzed.

Imagine now: You're at the front counter of a Burger King about to order. A young man comes through the door and walks right up to the other register with his gun up and pointed at the clerk and demands money. You're beside him just a few feet away, and his attention is focused on the woman behind the counter and the area of the register in front of him.

Do you:

- Draw your gun and shoot him.
- Wait for him to complete his robbery so you can get your lunch.

- Don't move, but observe and get all the details you can so you can make the best possible report to police.

- Run out of the store.

- Draw your gun and tell him to stop or you'll shoot him.

A Florida man chose the last option a few years ago. He exchanged gunfire with the robber, who was wounded as well, and spent considerable time in the hospital recovering from his wounds.

One more now: You're in the back corner of a convenience store closing the cooler door after selecting a cold drink. As you turn to head for the counter, a man comes through the door, points a pistol at the clerks behind the registers and starts screaming for them to give him the money or he will shoot them. You do your due diligence, look around quickly and don't see accomplices. No one else is near enough to the robber to worry about.

Do you:

- Wait for them to finish the robbery and pay for your drink with a debit card because they don't have cash for change.

- Hide and hope the robber doesn't see you.

- Get to cover or concealment, draw your gun quietly and get aim on the robber in case he sees you and comes after you. (Don't forget to put the drink down.)

- Get to cover or concealment, draw your gun quietly, get on the sights and command the robber to put the weapon down or he will be shot.

- Get to cover or concealment, draw your gun, get on the sights and shoot the robber in the back of the head to prevent him from killing the clerk and maybe you too.

The last one is a hypothetical that gets bandied about in gun forums from time to time, but it is a plausible hypothetical that raises the central question of this discussion: If you have the advantage of superior position, surprise or both, should you issue a challenge to the attacker before you shoot?

Before you answer that question, make sure you can answer this one: Are you able, as you are now, to make a precise shot, without warm up or other preparation, supported, rested or unsupported, within seconds of perceived need? Do you have the skill and the will to shoot someone who is not facing you? Will you be able to see-setup-shoot on demand and without hesitation?

The skills you need include:

- Solid competency with sighted-shooting skills.

- Knowledge of and ability to assume supported shooting positions quickly on demand.

- Ability to recognize and employ field-expedient rests for shooting.

- Knowledge of the "light switch" (the no-reflex point in the head) and the ability to hit it from whatever direction you're shooting from.

- Solid understanding of your limits where "light switch" shots are concerned.

A lot of people already have or can acquire those skill sets. That's not an issue. What might be an issue with some is the idea of shooting someone without warning from behind or the side. When would that be a) a valid and possibly best option and b) as legally defensible as possible?

Here's an acronym to help you decide: IDOL.

IDOL stands for Immediate Defense Of Life. It's a standard that can be used to judge almost any shoot-no-shoot decision you need to make. To make use of the IDOL standard, ask and answer this question: In my best judgment, if I do not shoot right

**THE ORIGINAL MOUNTED HOLSTER SOLUTION**

**GRASSBURR LEATHERWORKS**  
MOUNTABLE HOLSTER SOLUTIONS  
210.687.1717

SO WEAR YOUR PISTOL ON YOUR BELT ... HANG IT UNDER YOUR ARM ...  
WRAP IT AROUND YOUR ANKLE ... OR EVEN STUFF IT IN YOUR PANTS.

JUST THINK ABOUT GRASSBURR FOR THOSE TIMES YOU  
WANT YOUR WEAPON WITH YOU, NOT ON YOU.

**www.GRASSBURR.com**

now, is someone going to die?

That's IDOL in a nutshell.

Make sure you understand that the law does not demand absolute and complete certainty of circumstance before you make a trigger-pull decision. The "reasonable person" standard still applies here. Would a reasonable person, seeing the same thing you are seeing, think that you or another is about to be killed, especially given all that is known thanks to the plethora of reporting and news sources available to everyone about crimes such as mass shootings and armed robberies?

Also, remember that there will be two justifications necessary for you to shoot in defense of another: justification in your mind at the moment that shooting is necessary and justification in the eyes of the law afterward. You must be able to articulate to investigators why you felt it was necessary to shoot anyone, much less when you shoot someone (let's be honest here) from ambush. Normally, if you can justify the trigger pull itself, you should be able to properly explain the shooting afterward. Just be aware that you will have to do that so that you won't be surprised when

you do. (And don't forget to have your attorney present when you make your detailed statement to investigators.)

Now you have the skill. Do you have the will? Can you bring yourself to smoothly and evenly pull that trigger and shoot someone who is not immediately attacking you and who is not even aware of your presence, even with sufficient justification?

Some of you will not be able to. Not yet, at least. Why is that?

Maybe you're reluctant to be the cause of death of another human being. (I suspect this is why some gun-bearers favor the pelvic shot as a default response.) In situations like I write of here, with guns coming on to line or already on-line, stopping the shooter before they kill will require massive, immediate and probably fatal damage or a no-reflex shot that will be fatal. Some people, even those who carry instruments of lethal force projection (i.e. handguns), can't deal with that.

Some of you have yet to give up on the concept of offering a "fair fight" (whatever you think that is) to someone who wouldn't think of giving you one for the merest instant. Or you think it worth the risk to your

life and the lives of others to offer mercy (demanding surrender) to someone who would never offer it to anyone else. Or you think to offer a chance at life to someone who has committed themselves to death — their own and others — such as an active shooter or a jihadist.

If you think you harbor some of these doubts and want help re-setting your priorities, ask yourself what you would rather have when the shooting stops:

- Innocent men, women, even children, dead and dying.

- Yourself dead or dying, your last sight being that of others being killed because you didn't take the action you could have.

- The attacker (probably) dead or dying without knowing you were there, but also without killing anyone or anyone else.

The third option, I believe, is the choice. What is yours?

Think. Consider. Decide. Prepare. Be ready. As best and as much as you can, do it now.

Don't wait until the sights are on before you know what you can and will do.



## INTRODUCING *THE 1911 MAG* WITH LASER- WELDED STRENGTH.

*You won't find a more durable mag on the market.*

- Heavy-gauge steel body
- Precision laser-welded rear seam
- Nickel-coated hardened steel follower
- 8-round with staggered viewing holes
- Quick action spring-loaded feeding
- Reinforced polymer floorplate



**E**  
E-LANDER MAGS

Check out the seam on your current mag. You'll see that it's welded and ground, weakening its structure. E-Lander's innovative 1911 steel mags use state-of-the-art laser technology to seal the seam and ensure greater strength. No grinding needed; the laser welding fuses a neat, elegant, incredibly strong seam.

Distributed by The  
**MAKO**  
GROUP®

Available at [TheMakoGroup.com](http://TheMakoGroup.com),  
other fine online retailers  
or your local gun shop.

To order call: 631.880.3396 Ext. 310

**E-LANDER. Steel Yourself.**






# CLEAN UP YOUR ACT

**KEEP YOUR PISTOL  
RUNNING TIP-TOP**

**BY KEVIN MURAMATSA**

» Though Glock pistols are exceptionally reliable sidearms, they must be properly maintained in order to function at peak efficiency. This means cleaning them regularly, as dirty guns will eventually fail.



» **THOSE OF US WHO** responsibly carry a handgun at all times notice that our carry guns tend to get dirty. They don't really get dirty from shooting them, unless of course we shoot them a bunch. I suppose all of us who carry should practice with them on a regular basis, which will dirty the pistols up considerably, but that isn't what I'm talking about here.





» There's nothing complicated about cleaning gear, though the GTUL (pictured above) is extremely helpful for disassembling and cleaning Glock magazines.

No, what I'm getting at is lint — belly-button lint, denim lint, nylon lint from your carry belt, cotton lint from your shirt, lint, lint, lint. This stuff will get all over your pistol, your magazines and whatever else you are wearing, and pretty soon it gets mighty thick.

You don't really want that stuff there, but it's also pretty easy to remove. First and foremost, you must ensure that your firearm has no ammunition in it or anywhere nearby. This is to prevent the common phenomenon often cited by progressive liberal Democrats of firearms firing all by themselves and shooting the neighbor's dog. It usually occurs when someone swears their gun is unloaded and the cartridges magically reappear in the firearm. The firearm then, in

a mind-blowing state of evil anthropomorphic glee, discharges itself. So let's avoid using the "it just went off" excuse (since people rarely tell the truth in such a case) and widely separate our ammo from our gun.

The lint would have to get really, really thick to cause any real problem in and of itself, but it is more of an indicator. The oil you use to lubricate the gun often runs away from its assigned areas, and other debris that is not as visible as the lint starts collecting anywhere there might be lubrication. That other debris, like a grain of sand or a small piece of the granola bar you snacked on at 3:23 p.m. Tuesday afternoon, is more likely to cause an issue. The problem is likely only going to be a rougher trigger pull, but it could result in a jam, a

failure to extract or reset, or any of a host of incredibly sad and nasty results. So let's just keep the empty gun clean by doing some simple maintenance on a regular basis, say every two weeks.

Start by field stripping the pistol. If you do not know how to do this, consult your owner's manual.

Oh, that's right, you lost the manual and never really read it in the first place anyway. It's rather fortunate then, that all the major manufacturers (and minor, when I think about it) have PDF copies on their websites. You don't have a computer or Internet access? Go to the library. No library? Make friends with someone with Internet access and a printer.

Follow the procedures for field stripping and cleaning your firearm. Generally for a semi-auto pistol this means removing the magazine and slide from the frame. The recoil spring and guide rod, followed by the barrel, would also be removed. It is not necessary to remove the other parts in the slide, such as the firing pin. Lint is easily removed by cheap, simple compressed air. If you have an air compressor, stick the nozzle wherever it will fit and blow away. This will likely get rid of the lint and other particulates (always wear safety glasses).

If the slide is so dirty that compressed air does not clean out the firing pin channel or other little crevices or if there are malfunctions related to those parts, then consider taking the thing to a gunsmith. Immersing the slide in an ultrasonic cleaner or using an aerosol product, like Birchwood Casey's Gun Scrubber, followed by air to evaporate the remaining solvent can also do wonders for getting out the stuff that's stuck in the nooks and crannies. After the slide is clean, it can be re-lubricated, again according to the manufacturer's recommendations. One step that seems to be universal or al-



**EMPERIA  
OUTFITTERS**

Fashion Concealed Carry Handbags

**WHERE DO YOU CARRY YOUR PISTOL?**




statistics from [www.thewellarmedwoman.com](http://www.thewellarmedwoman.com)

At Emperia Outfitters, you will find the most trendy, fashionable, and affordable Concealed Carry handbags. Prices start at \$49!

**SAFTY** A separate concealed carry compartment that securely conceals the handgun in a safe yet accessible manner.

**EASE** Dual zippers for right or left handed access to exterior holster pocket.

**STYLE** Designer inspired handbags, each with a matching gun holster.

**[www.emperiaoutfitters.com](http://www.emperiaoutfitters.com) | 626 575 1819**

most so is to keep the firing pin and firing pin channel clean and unlubricated. Most striker-fired pistols have synthetic firing pin sleeves of some type or other and adding oil to these interfaces is not going to help anything except to attract stuff that shouldn't be there.

Detail stripping the frame is another thing that should be left to trained gunsmiths or armorers. The average gun owner or concealed carry owner would likely not enjoy creating a brown bag special for the local gunsmith; it's kind of embarrassing. Use the compressed air and/or aerosol solvent to clean the frame. For the most part, most of the lubrication will be limited to the slide. The frame rails will likely get a drop of oil, as should the hammer and trigger pins and such, but otherwise, there should be very little to no lubrication in the frame section of the pistol. It is not needed, and it will just get on your pants anyway.

The barrel should be cleaned when the copper fouling is evident by looser groups or by inspecting the bore and seeing a yellow/green sheen to the surface of the bore. Using a bore solvent designed for copper and powder fouling with a brush or jag/patch combination will clean that right up quite quickly. Using cleaner-burning ammo is also recommended for keeping the bore clean, and there are some brands that are really dirty, and a few that are spic and span clean that leave little to no powder residue in the barrel.

Copper residue is unavoidable so that will eventually have to be cleaned up. Just be sure when you clean the barrel to do so with the barrel out of the slide assembly. The cleaning tools should be inserted from the chamber end to avoid damaging the barrel crown. Use the bore brush to clean the chamber area too. Stick to brass-, bronze- or plastic-bristled brushes.

When the pistol has been reassembled, test it for proper function (unloaded, of course). At the range, make sure that your carry ammo continues to cycle and feed properly. Shoot a couple of rounds and go home.

Make sure your sights are tight in the slide. Many sights have socket set screws to lock them in place, and those set screws can loosen. Just check them by inserting the correct driver into the socket and placing light torque on them to see if they are loose. They should not be. Make sure the tritium illumination is still functioning. If

the sights took too big of a jarring impact, the vials could have lost containment. If you have a laser sight on the pistol, check the batteries to ensure they are still working, that there is no corrosion in the housing and that the emitter has not been damaged or smudged.

Wipe down the outside of the pistol to protect it from your butt sweat (consider an alternative finish like Cerakote or DuraCoat to prevent rust). Rotate your ammo every year or so, as the powder contained in the case can break down, especially when subjected to extreme temperature changes.

Taking care of your carry gun also means taking care of your accessories, especially the holster and belt. A lot of people overlook the holster. Clean your holster by compressed air and/or a damp towel to remove the caked-on lint and belly cheese. Check that the holster retention and belt clip retention are adequate and haven't loosened up and that there aren't any unwanted folds, seam separations or tears/gouges in the holster's surface. While it's hard to believe, there have been folks who have left their holsters unserviced (leather ones, particularly) and wound up with "accidental discharges."

Don't neglect your spare magazines. They will get just as dirty as the pistol. Remove the cartridges and blow the mags out. If it's really bad, they might have to be disassembled and detail cleaned, but that might be likely with carry mags that get mucho dust in them. It depends on how you carry your stuff. Pistols and magazines carried in pockets will get dirtier than if they are carried in dedicated holsters.

Check the owner's manual for magazine disassembly instructions, but most will come apart by depressing the bottom button holding the floor plate, sliding the floor plate off and pulling out the spring and follower. Do not lubricate your magazines.

When it's all done, make sure the pistol functions properly with an empty magazine. If you have dummy rounds, it doesn't hurt to ensure the dummies will feed, extract and eject properly. Ensure full compatibility is retained with the holster, and take it to the range for a quick function check with live ammo.

Finally, try not to shoot anything that doesn't need shooting.



Designed and Developed in the USA  
with over 40 years of CCW experience



Carry a handgun IWB without a holster, case or pouch. CovertCarrier is the **GOLD STANDARD** for Total Weapons Concealment!

FOR SALES AND INFORMATION GO TO:  
**www.CovertCarrier.com** or  
Call: **(702)245-6302**



If you carry a concealed handgun for self-defense, or for a living, the CovertCarrier will give you a tactical advantage

©CovertCarrier Inc. 2014



# CRIMSON TRACE AT GUNSITE

■ BY JORGE AMSELLE

ALL PHOTOS COURTESY OF CRIMSON TRACE

# LASER

» Laser sighting systems have improved by leaps and bounds since their introduction three decades ago. No longer bulky novelties, they're now the guiding light of many carriers' defensive sidearms.

# SHOW

## » IT IS CERTAINLY NO SURPRISE THAT PERSONAL PROTECTION

is driving gun sales. With ever-growing interest in concealed carry, a lot of folks are smartly looking to get training that goes beyond load, empty, clean and shoot. There are a lot of courses and instructors that teach defensive pistol techniques, and I have been fortunate enough to receive training from some of the best. Still, I have to admit I am partial to the course offerings at Gunsite Academy in Paulden, Arizona.

Many experienced shooters have heard of Gunsite and with good reason.

This expansive training center was founded by the late Lt. Col. Jeff Cooper, who is considered the father of modern pistol technique. His training methods and ethos still guide the philosophy of his academy. This is not to say that the course offerings and training have not evolved. In fact, there are new courses added all the time to address the changing realities of defensive shooting and concealed carry in particular.

In recent years, Gunsite has added courses on the defensive use of the pocket pistol and courses for women that address their different methods of carry, including purse carry. One

of their newest courses is designed to teach students how to most effectively use weapon-mounted lasers in defensive situations. If you think this is just a matter of point and shoot, you are way off.

Gunsite teamed up with Crimson Trace in formulating the class, and I was invited to attend the Beta version of this course as it was being developed. Full disclosure: Crimson Trace covered ammo, equipment, travel and expenses, and instruction was offered at no charge by Gunsite Academy. In exchange, I, along with a few other gun writers, police officers and NRA instructors, served as guinea pigs offering feedback and advice.

Crimson Trace has been a leader in the realm of weapon-mounted sights for 20 years and remains the world's only grip-integrated laser sights. The best thing about their grip laser sights is that they don't require any changes to your carry method or preferred holster. They just replace the existing grips and place a tiny laser unit at the top on one side. Their first laser grip was for the Glock and attached with a simple replacement pin. Similarly handy, these lasers are grip-activated. Once you establish a good grip, the laser activates automatically. The added bonus is that you don't have to think about it.





“ONCE YOU ESTABLISH A GOOD GRIP, THE LASER  
ACTIVATES AUTOMATICALLY. THE ADDED BONUS IS  
THAT YOU DON'T HAVE TO THINK ABOUT IT.”



EVERYDAY TACTICAL  
GEAR

EVERYDAY STYLES FOR EVERYDAY CARRY!



use code CCNRA15 at  
checkout and receive  
a 20% discount off  
your order

CONCEALED CARRY BAGS FOR MEN AND WOMEN

[WWW.EVERYDAYTACTICALGEAR.COM](http://WWW.EVERYDAYTACTICALGEAR.COM)

Some might question the need for a laser on their defensive handguns at all since most private citizen self-defense encounters occur at fairly close ranges. Many also occur in low-light situations where getting a proper sight picture might not be easy. If you become target-focused and forget to use your sights altogether, which is not uncommon in high-stress situations, especially for the less experienced shooter, this might not matter much, but if you need a precision shot, you will want to see your sights. A bright red, or better still a bright green, laser dot on your target allows you to see exactly where your shot will go.

Gunsite Academy has taken their standard 250 Pistol course and integrated specialized training on the use of weapon-mounted lasers as well as flashlights. The 250 is the original Gunsite class developed by Cooper and originally offered in 1976. It is a comprehensive five-day course with the vast majority of your time spent on the range. This course is also required for students before they can attend some of the more advanced classes offered.

The Beta course I took contained the same amount of instruction but was conducted over three much longer days of training. Dave Starin, a 20-year law enforcement and SWAT officer, is the training director for Gunsite and worked closely with Crimson Trace in developing their course. In fact, the founder of Crimson Trace was one of the students during this first trial run.

This is not an “everyone-gets-a-trophy” class. You are evaluated, graded and must perform well to receive your certificate. Marksmanship and speed are emphasized at various distances with timed targets and from challenging positions. I use a laser on my carry gun, but before I went through this training, I had a limited concept of how to best use it. In bright daylight, the red laser dot has a tendency to wash out against the target, and the further the



» Gunsite is nothing if not a practitioner of real-world defensive tactics. Students are put in realistic self-defense situations and are forced to make decisions in fractions of a second.

» The ability to hit what you shoot at — and to project force as a deterrent — makes laser sighting systems such as those manufactured by Crimson Trace essential components of everyday carry gear for millions of law enforcement officers and private citizens alike. As is so often said, the appearance of a red or green dot on the chest of an attacker will usually have a calming and civilizing effect on his unsporting demeanor, and in low-light conditions, allowing yourself to physically put a dot on what you intend to hit is a major selling point.

distance, the more profound the effect.

Realistically, the red laser gets a lot harder to see beyond 7 yards. Crimson Trace has a new green laser unit for the Glock that is much easier to see. Green laser units have been traditionally hard to produce in miniaturized packages because of the way the lenses need to be designed. They also consume more energy. That problem has now been resolved, and the green light is far more visible to the human eye than red.

In all honesty, I did find one drawback to the use of a weapon-mounted laser: In the beginning, once I saw how visible the laser was against the target, I had a tendency to become overly target-focused. Instead of sticking to proper form, I ended up looking over the gun trying to find the laser dot before engaging. At close range, this isn't problematic, but it is a very bad habit, especially if you get into a situation where you can't see or find the dot.

The first lesson is that the laser is not a replacement for proper technique. Without proper training, it can be easy to develop bad habits. The key is to follow through on your correct draw and presentation, driving the front sight forward toward the target and aligned with your eyes. If you do this correctly, the laser dot will appear on the



## Hybrid Holsters evolved

The **Original**  
Neoprene Backed  
Leather Kydex  
Holster

Kinetic Concealment's patent pending neoprene backed leather Kydex hybrid holster is the product of choice for any conceal carry application. Our inside the waist band holsters come with 9 belt clip cant positions and a high-ride/low-ride Kydex shell cant position. Our holsters use Chicago Style flat head screws so that the cants can be easily adjusted and the Kydex shell can be tightened back down after continued use.

**15%** OFF YOUR ENTIRE ORDER  
Use Code: KC15

[www.KineticConcealment.com](http://www.KineticConcealment.com)



» Night shooting is where the laser sighting system really reveals itself as a boon to the defensive handgunner. Even the brightest of self-illuminating sights have a hard time competing against a projected laser beam.

target and greatly improve your hit probability while keeping both eyes open.

On the range, we practiced drawing and hitting targets at distances out to 15 yards and from different positions, including standing, various kneeling techniques and rollover prone. We practiced identifying and engaging targets from different directions, including the use of combat turns (having to identify a target behind you, turn, draw and accurately engage in a few seconds). Indeed most of the shooting drills are timed, and accurate hits are expected. We also practiced malfunction clearing drills and engaging multiple targets as well as tactical reloads (removing a partial magazine and replacing it with a full magazine during a lull in the fight) and speed re-

loads (shooting until slide lock and then inserting a fresh magazine).

In discussing the use of weapon-mounted lasers, some have brought up the point that they might make you more visible to an assailant. Yes they can, and that is something to consider if you are the assailant. If you are defending yourself, the assailant will have already targeted you and knows exactly where you are. However, there might be times when you do not want the laser to be visible. With the Crimson Trace grip lasers, the easiest solution is to have your trigger finger off the trigger and alongside the frame of the gun. Bringing your finger up into a slightly higher position will block the laser. Left-handed shooters can use a high thumb to accomplish the same objective.

**WORLD LEADER  
IN CONCEALMENT CLOTHING**

**UnderTech**  
**UNDERCOVER**  
ALWAYS READY

SAVE BIG  
**3PAK**

**\$99<sup>99</sup>**

Men's V-Neck  
Concealment Shirt  
Item #T0420

**NOW JUST \$49<sup>95</sup> EACH**



Jackets



Item #T1028

Belly Bands



Item #B0048

Shorts

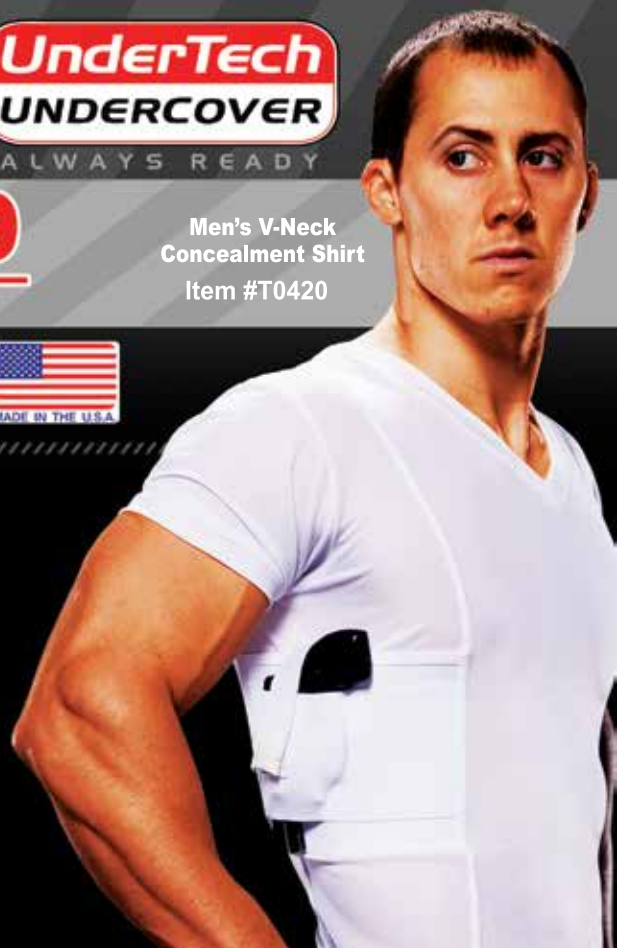


Item #T0546

**800-601-8273**  
UnderTechUndercover.com

/UnderTechUnderCover

/UnderTechUnderCover



Instructors Dave Starin and Chris Weare also guided us one at a time though two on-site shoot houses. Though conducted during the day, the environment inside the enclosed shoot houses provided low-light conditions sufficient for the training. During the initial walk-through, Starin demonstrated proper room-clearing techniques, navigation around corners and addressing closed doors. (It should be noted, however, that house clearing is extremely dangerous even when done in teams with well-trained professionals and should only be attempted by a lone individual in the most extreme of circumstances.)

Indeed, my first go-around was not successful. I completely failed to find one bad-guy target that was waiting in ambush and failed to neutralize another that had a child held hostage. I blame nerves and bad habits, as I experienced significant improvement in the second shoot house exercise. In using the lasers indoors, it was certainly much easier to get faster and more accurate hits, especially considering the use of small iron sights against dark targets while trying to differentiate friend from foe.

The fact that some of the targets were armed and some were not also emphasized the significant importance of proper target identification. The laser won't help you make that distinction, but it will help you engage a bad guy much faster once you ID him.

During the night range session, we focused on the use of the tactical flashlight and the various techniques for identifying your target and engaging. It should go without saying, but just for clarity, if you have a weapon-mounted flashlight, do not use it for searching. Doing so means that you are pointing a loaded gun at a lot of things you probably don't want to shoot, which might include family members. A handheld flashlight is the proper tool for searching and can also be used in conjunction with your handgun.

The Harries Technique involves locking your hands together back to back with the flashlight in one and your pistol in the other. This allows you to engage a target quickly and provides greater support to the shooting hand than a pure one-handed technique. The FBI Hold involves keeping the flashlight hand out and away from the body to prevent an assailant from easily targeting you. Since the light and gun do not have to point in the same direction, this is a better technique for room searching.

At night on the range, we practiced using the lasers in conjunction with flashlights. With the flashlight alone, it was still extremely difficult to line up my sights quickly and engage the targets. With the combined use of the laser, I was able to do so almost as quickly as I did during the day. (The lasers are also much more visible at night.) We also trained in the use of awkward positions and barricades at night with both lights and lasers. Using a barricade at night with a flashlight can be especially challenging since it is easy for the light to bounce off the barricade and reflect back at you, causing a loss of night vision. You have to make sure to place the front of the light ahead of the barricade to avoid this.

Adding accessories to our gun is something most of us like to do, but it's extremely important to train with those accessories and learn their best uses. With weapon-mounted lasers, you want to make sure to sight them in properly and that they are well installed. On my Glock, the laser exhibited a tendency for point-of-impact shift after about 50 rounds. I spoke with Crimson Trace and they immediately

sent me a replacement pin to fix the problem, which they stated is extremely rare but can occur on Glock pistols as a result of the polymer grip frame and an out-of-dimension pin.

The required gear for this class is a quality, reliable semi-auto pistol, a solid strong-side holster, at least three (though preferably six) magazines, a good tactical flashlight and obviously a weapon-mounted laser. You must also bring 1,000 rounds of ammunition for your handgun and an additional 50 rounds of frangible ammo (which is available onsite for purchase). The shop will have anything else you might need but forgot to bring. The cost is the same as the standard 250 class (\$1,585).

To learn more about these and other courses, call (928) 636-4565 or visit [gunsite.com](http://gunsite.com). To learn more about the complete line of red and green lasers and tactical gun-mounted lights from Crimson Trace, visit [crimsontrace.com](http://crimsontrace.com) or call (800) 442-2406.



**INTRODUCING OUR NEW 2015 MODELS**

- ★ **STEP-SYSTEM-DOORS & FRAMES**
- ★ **1 1/2" LOCKING BOLT SYSTEM**
- ★ **SUPERIOR FIRE RESISTANCE**
- ★ **EXCEPTIONAL BURGLARY PROTECTION**
- ★ **ALL SAFES MADE IN USA**

**MADE IN THE USA**

**VAULTPRO USA**

WWW.VAULTPROUSA.COM  
13607 Pumice St. • Santa Fe Springs, CA, 90670 | 800-299-6929 | Email: [pro1@vaultprousa.com](mailto:pro1@vaultprousa.com)

The advertisement features a yellow background with a blue and red border at the bottom. It displays four Vault Pro safes: a white one, a black one, a white one with its door open showing interior shelves, and another black one. The text is in bold, sans-serif fonts, with the main headline in red. The 'MADE IN THE USA' logo is a stylized American flag. The Vault Pro USA logo is a shield with a star and the company name. The contact information is at the bottom in a smaller font.





Concealed Carry Magazine

# **IT'S WHAT'S ON THE INSIDE THAT MATTERS**

The Most In-Depth Publication on Everything Concealed Carry

877-677-1919

[WWW.GETCONCEALEDARRYMAG.COM](http://WWW.GETCONCEALEDARRYMAG.COM)



A photograph of three people at a shooting range. In the center, a woman with blonde hair, wearing a blue t-shirt, safety glasses, and pink earplugs, is aiming a handgun. To her left, another woman with dark hair and safety glasses is also aiming a handgun. To the right, a man is partially visible, also aiming a rifle. The background shows the structure of the shooting range.

**A RESPONSIBLY  
ARMED CITIZEN IS  
EDUCATED, TRAINED  
EQUIPPED AND**

**INSURED**

**WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW IS THIS:**

Every year, the personal and professional reputations of law-abiding Americans are destroyed by criminal charges as a result of a justifiable use of a firearm in self-defense. If you are forced to use your gun in defense of yourself or your family the insurance provided with each USCCA membership will help you find, hire and pay for an expert 2nd Amendment attorney to give you the best chance of victory in court.

USCCA membership provides the education, training and, most importantly, insurance to allow you to carry your gun confidently and without the fear of losing everything if you have to use it.

**THE USCCA IS THE PATH TO BECOMING A RESPONSIBLY ARMED CITIZEN.  
JOIN TODAY AT [www.GetUSCCAMembership.com](http://www.GetUSCCAMembership.com)**







# PERSONAL PROTECTION AMMUNITION CHOICES

■ BY M.D. JOHNSON

# PPA DEMYSTIFIED

» **THERE WAS A TIME**, and not too very long ago, when my definition of personal protection ammunition (PPA) was simple: anything I could get into the chamber prior to engaging the situational threat. My attitude, though, about PPA has changed in recent years, partially due to the inevitability of my own maturation but also due to an admittedly more complete understanding of the “right tool for the job” concept. That, and the fact that ammunition manufacturers have focused intently on the design and betterment of PPA, not only for handgunners but for those who might choose traditional shotguns, centerfire rifles and, perhaps most notably, modern AR-style weapons.

OK, so a now-huge list of PPA is available. Fantastic, yes, but where’s a guy like me — a practitioner of the art of filling the M500 with No. 4 Buck and abiding by the theory of suppression through full coverage — to begin when trying to make a decision as to what type of PPA to purchase? Or better yet, how can I educate myself on the subject? It’s only been recently I added a Canik TP9 9mm and a Ruger Mini-14 to the home defense arsenal, not as replacements for the M500 (which is indeed filled with No. 4 Buck), but as complementary items. My quandary, however, remains what to feed these new acquisitions.

Fortunately, there are men like Mike Stock. Now 35 and a resident of Edwardsville, Ill., Stock currently serves as the centerfire product manager for Winchester Ammunition in East Alton, Ill., focusing

on manufacturing, marketing, product development and sales of the entire Winchester line of pistol and rifle ammunition. A ridiculously busy man, Stock was kind enough to sit for a spell and discuss the role of PPA and how a home defender or personal protector might best choose the ammunition right for their particular weapon and situation.

Stock begins by defining PPA as “a product — ammunition type — designed to stop a threat but not overperform so as to cause excessive liability.” In other words, no collateral damage. Simple enough. However, the decision as to which PPA to employ becomes a bit more involved at this point. Not confusing, mind you, just a bit more in-depth. To help un muddy the waters, *Concealed Carry Magazine* asked Stock a number of questions. His responses are clarifying and quite interesting.



# SIMPLY SERIOUS TRAINING

380  
CALIBER NOW  
AVAILABLE



*Build and maintain  
firearms skills with the  
safest, most versatile  
and cost effective  
training system*



LASER AMMO  
TRAINING TECHNOLOGIES

[www.laser-ammo.com](http://www.laser-ammo.com)

[info@laser-ammo.com](mailto:info@laser-ammo.com)

516.858.1262

**Q:** Can any ammunition be PPA?

**A:** I'd love to live in the middle ground here, but I can't. In a pinch, any ammunition can be used as PPA, but "just any ammunition" shouldn't be used. Just any ammunition might stop the threat but with over-penetration and liability. PPA is designed specifically to terminally perform, without that over-penetration and excessive liability. You want something in PPA that will do the job — and do it well — every time.

**Q:** Is it best to choose the ammunition before the firearm?

**A:** No. I'd suggest choosing a firearm, whether that's for concealed carry or home defense. Something you have confidence in and shoot accurately. Then the ammunition: I will have a product that will do the job and stop the threat, no matter what firearm or caliber you choose.

**Q:** Is the Internet THE authority on matters regarding PPA?

**A:** No. While there is good information on the Internet, there's a lot of misguided information as well. Just like there is in the ammo aisle. One of the key components is FBI protocol — minimum of 12 inches of penetration in eight separate events or situational representations, including ballistic gel, heavy clothing and automotive glass —and how that affects PPA selection. The private individual needs to think about their particular situation, which very few will find identical to that of an FBI agent. While FBI protocol might be great criteria for evaluating ammunition, it might not be great criteria for the general consumer seeking concealed carry or home defense ammunition. Here, it might not be reasonable to consider a round a failure because it doesn't meet the FBI protocol of 12 inches of penetration. In a private situation, 9 to 11 inches might be optimal. It's very important you look at your particular situation.

**Q:** Is it true there is no ideal bullet design for PPA?

**A:** Yes. There are many good designs, any of which can be good in different situations. But again, you need to apply these designs to your particular situation. Is it in a home defense role with children in the next room? Here again, the key is optimum performance without over-penetration. Are you carrying concealed in a vehicle where auto glass might be a con-

sideration? Try to look in different directions, so to speak, in your decision.

**Q:** Is penetration secondary to any other variable when considering PPA?

**A:** You have to look at this two ways. One, penetration is always secondary to accuracy. And bullet expansion is ahead of penetration because no expansion translates into over-penetration. If the bullet expands as intended, then you have the penetration as designed. The choice of PPA involves a combination of expansion and penetration variables.

**Q:** Is the subject of over-penetration with PPA vastly exaggerated?

**A:** This is a matter of the lack of education. Full metal jacket (FMJ) ammunition is not a PPA round. It will over-penetrate, not expand and not deliver energy into the target. Penetration with PPA is very important; however, so is expansion. If a bullet doesn't expand properly, it's not doing its job. It's the trauma caused by expansion that stops the threat and limits penetration. Over-penetration is a concern, but it's linked to several different factors like expansion.

**Q:** Is it true frangible (e.g. Winchester Ranger) ammunition is safer indoors and performs just as well as traditional ammunition?

**A:** For a frangible bullet to break up, it must impact something harder than itself, and there are very few things in your house harder than a bullet. In a personal defense situation, frangible ammunition often acts like FMJ. There are a lot of misconceptions about frangible bullets. It's not a magic bullet that's stopped by drywall or an interior wall. It's a matter of lack of education. They're designed for training situations where ricochets are a concern, not for PPA.

**Q:** Is bigger always better when it comes to PPA and bullets?

**A:** Yes, if you can consistently put it on target. If you can't put it on target, then no. The tissue damage and trauma caused by expansion goes a long way to maximizing your potential. So, if you can put a 9mm on-target, that's your caliber. If you can do the same with a .45, even better. The .45 causes a lot of trauma.

**Q:** Is the .25 as small as should be considered for PPA?

**A:** No, namely because the .22 WM (WinMag) is a viable option. If the situation warrants or fits, a .22 Mag pistol is a viable personal protection option.

**Q:** Is the .45 as large as should be considered for PPA?

**A:** As a company, I would say that's a safe comment. At Winchester, the .45 is our high end as far as PPA is concerned, with the .500 S&W Magnum being a hunting cartridge.

**Q:** Is it better to shoot a small caliber well than a large caliber poorly?

**A:** Yes. In a personal defense situation, our goal — all of us — should be to stop the threat with as few shots as possible. And you should be able to do that with an accurately placed shot with any of the common calibers — 9mm, .40 or .45 — we discussed. If a 9mm is what you can do that with, our products will perform. If we, the shooter, put today's bullets where they belong, those bullets will do the job. Personally, I lean toward not missing as opposed to firepower.

**Q:** Is the .22 LR in a high-velocity format acceptable as PPA?

**A:** That's a tough one, and I honestly don't know if I can answer that. When you get on the topics of bullet weight and bullet design and what you can do to make (the .22 LR) a good terminal performer, the .22 LR, in general, is not the best choice. And I'll leave it at that.

**Q:** True or false? Magazine capacity as it relates to caliber isn't important. It's that first shot that's important.

**A:** This goes back to and is dependent upon your particular situation. With a concealed carry firearm, the heavier it is, the less likely you are to carry it, and in a home defense situation, weight typically isn't an issue. It all goes back to accuracy. Putting that first bullet where it belongs is of supreme importance.

**Q:** For those with 15 rounds of PPA, is the "peace through superior firepower" philosophy still acceptable?

**A:** I just don't hear that often, which could explain the popularity, even today, of .38 revolvers for concealed carry and home defense. And there are plenty of folks who cling to their single-stack 1911s as home-defense firearms. I just don't

hear about increased magazine capacity as it relates to the selection of PPA.

**Q:** Is it OK to practice with range ammunition and save the more expensive PPA for carry and/or home?

**A:** Yes and no. Range ammunition is built for the range. It's meant to be economical so folks will go to the range and practice. My suggested process is this: One, buy range ammunition like Winchester's W Train and become proficient. Two, make sure the ammunition you choose for PPA functions through your firearm of choice and shoots to the same point of impact as your range ammunition. Three, become proficient with that PPA choice.

*Author's note: Winchester's innovative W Train & Defend line of ammunition, available in .38, 9mm, .380 ACP and .40 S&W, ballistically matches training (practice) ammunition to a comparable home/personal defense bullet choice. For more information, go to Winchester.com.*



# SAVE THE DATE!

**For the FIRST EVER expo dedicated to the Concealed Carry Lifestyle!**



## The USCCA Concealed Carry Expo will feature:

- A Live-Fire Range To Test New Pistols
- World-Class Training Opportunities
- A Concealed Carry Fashion Show
- A Convention Center filled with businesses dedicated to Concealed Carry Training, Education and, of course, GUNS and GEAR

**WASHINGTON COUNTY FAIR PARK, WEST BEND, WI • MAY 8-10, 2015**

**[www.ConcealedCarryExpo.com](http://www.ConcealedCarryExpo.com)**

BOOK YOUR SPACE FOR THIS OUTSTANDING EVENT BY CALLING BRUCE WOLBERG AT 715-445-8722, OR [BRUCE@USCCA.COM](mailto:BRUCE@USCCA.COM)









BY DAVE MORELLI

# WEAK-HANDED SHOOTING AND MANIPULATION

» **NO ONE PLANS ON GETTING SHOT** in a gunfight. After all, we carry a gun, train with it and are alert and ready for danger. This might help us keep from getting shot, but we don't write the script; we react to it. One of the rules of gunfights (and I'm not sure if it is the first, second or third rule) is "people can get shot." This is why we avoid gunfights like the plague with evasive tactics and situational awareness. But you could be shot, and if you are shot, you need to know what to do about it.





» **Training to reload your sidearm using only your off-hand is essential. Try more than one technique until you find what works best for you. For many, the above is the easiest to master. Holding the gun between your knees, insert a charged magazine, obtain a firing grip and release the slide catch with your belt or holster.**

The good news is that the majority of people that get shot do not die (at least not right away), and if you are unfortunate enough to catch one, it doesn't have to mean the fight is over. If you are mortally wounded, that sucks, but you could still take out the bad guy and possibly save a family member. Even if it's just a minor flesh wound to one of your biceps, you could still become a fatality if you haven't given some thought and training to operating your sidearm one-handed or weak-handed.

Shooting one-handed is usually part of everybody's curriculum, and that is wise training. Shooting strong-hand-only is easier than weak hand mainly because of sight alignment, as most people have only one strong sighting eye. Learning to line up the sights on the weak side takes some practice. It is not something I spend a bunch of ammo on, but a few shots every training session are devoted to strong and weak one-handed shooting. (It is also conceivable that you might need to make a one-handed shot even if you have not

been wounded. You might have had an unfortunate incident at another time and now your arm is in a cast, you might have to shoot after only barely clearing your holster or some other limiting factor might rear its ugly head.)

So let's start with one-handed strong-side shooting. This is relatively easy. Shooting with the strong hand only is more difficult than two-handed, but it is the strong hand. Manipulation is not too much of a problem because the holster is placed where the strong hand can access it and the controls on the gun are most likely situated for the strong side. For me, my strong side is the right hand. If your weak hand is incapacitated, the strong hand has a good chance to settle the attack.

What if you find yourself in an extended gunfight or your defensive gun only holds six or seven rounds? Reloading will have to be addressed. This will always be a better operation behind cover if it is available, and when the bullets start floating around the room, cover is your friend. Releasing

the magazine will be natural because the button is likely right where your thumb can get to it and gravity will do the rest. Now the simple task of removing a spare magazine from its pouch and inserting it into the mag well will be the challenge. The only hand you have to work with is already busy holding the gun, so the gun will need to be grounded elsewhere in order to access your other magazine and recharge the pistol.

If it is placed down on something like a car seat or the ground, place it so the magazine can be started into the well with the strong hand. It can be pushed in far enough so it won't fall out when picked up. Then slamming the butt of the pistol into your thigh can finish seating it. I would rather put the gun upside down between my legs just above the knees, exposing the empty well out. Another option is to put it into the holster backwards (if it can be easily done). Then the fresh magazine can be inserted and slammed in and the gun regripped. It is in the strong hand, so hitting the slide release can close the slide and allow you to go back to work. Another way to close the slide is to catch the ejection port on your belt, heel, holster or a tabletop and give a sweeping push.

With this scenario, the biggest issue is having the spare magazine somewhere that is accessible with the strong hand. I was carrying my spare on my weak side to the rear of center so my jacket or shirt would cover it, but I discovered I couldn't get to it with my strong hand. Simply moving it forward a bit and altering my cover garment easily fixed this problem, but you need to isolate and solve these issues before they become critical. If you haven't thought about retrieving your magazine with the other hand, now is the time to do so — and use both hands to retrieve it while training. I will use my knees to hold the pistol a few times in practice and charge the pistol using only one hand. I like practicing using my knees to hold the gun because they are always going to be with me in a scrap. A table or car seat might not be there when I need them.

While reloading a sidearm you're holding between your knees, it can be easy to accidentally sweep yourself with the muzzle of your pistol. Be sure the muzzle is pointing out from your legs and downrange, and do not cover your legs at any time. Practice with an unloaded gun and magazine until you have the movements down. Sweeping

## www.RonsHolsters.com



- **A conceal carry holster that is great for driving, riding a motorcycle, ATV or bicycle, etc.**
- **You can move around without any limitations or restrictions.**
- **Holds any semi-automatic pistol and spare magazine or any J-frame revolver.**

**REVIEWED IN  
JANUARY ISSUE 2014**

**MAKE 80% OF THE WEIGHT OF YOUR WEAPON  
DISAPPEAR WITH THE WRAP-AROUND DESIGN**

yourself means letting a valuable part of your body get in front of the muzzle, and every part of you is valuable.

Now for the more difficult situation: when the strong side gets incapacitated. Now the gun is in the weak hand and all the things that make it convenient to operate in the strong hand are gone. The first thing to consider is can you even access and draw your weapon with your weak hand? I carry strong side outside the waistband, so reaching around with my weak hand means pulling the pistol out by the back of the slide and then getting a firing grip after it is out. This might require putting it down or using the knees again. If your holster has retention devices, make sure you can defeat them with your weak hand.

Holding it against your chest to roll the hand around to grab the grip might be OK in practice, but that's difficult to do when your body is pouring blood into other larger muscle groups during a stressful situation. I like using the knee hold because there is less of a chance of dropping the pistol while trying to get a good shooting grip, and I use it in all of my one-handed training, making it natural to go to. Practice this with a safe weapon until it is natural. (One nice thing about practicing these draws and manipulations is they don't burn up ammo.)

Most of us do at least some weak-hand-only shooting in our training. This not only helps you to get the feel of your pistol's recoil in the weak hand, it also gives you a sense of how to sight the gun with the less-dominant eye. What I do is just move the pistol over a bit toward my dominant eye and use it to line up the sights. This works better for me than trying to teach old eyes new tricks, but whatever technique you use, practice it until you can make good hits and dedicate a few rounds to it every training session.

Now we are shooting the pistol but running out of ammo. We are going to let the pistol run to slide lock and have gravity assist in removing the magazine. The difference here is now the magazine release will have to be manipulated with the pointer finger of the weak hand (if your weak hand is the left one). Most defensive guns these days have ambidextrous safeties, but very few have ambidextrous magazine release buttons.

This does not present a major problem, but it should definitely be practiced before it is needed during an emergency. When I

shoot my weak-hand-only drill, I load the pistol so it will come to slide lock, and when it does, I can drop the magazine with the weak hand only. Then I will reload the pistol with the weak hand by again placing it between my knees, retrieving the magazine and pushing it into the well.

Now we have the problem of closing the slide. With the weak hand, the slide release is awkwardly on the wrong side. Contorting the pistol in your hand and ham-fisting it closed can eventually accomplish your goal, but this is too slow in a gunfight and relies on small muscle motor skills. Remember all that has to happen to get the slide to go forward is for it to go back just a little. Catching the ejection port on the edge of a car door or similar edge and pushing forward will release the slide and the pistol will strip a fresh round, putting you back in the fight.

I like using the rear of the ejection port because if it slips off without closing, I will still catch the sight and close. The edge of the Kydex holster is also a good edge, and I like to practice with that because again, it will most likely be with me. This should be practiced with an unloaded gun at first.

The drill is done with the muzzle pointed safely away, thus leaving you no chance to cover yourself.

One other way of closing the slide when the sidearm is held between your legs above the knees to insert a fresh magazine is to pinch your knees against the slide and push the pistol forward, causing the slide to unlock and close. This is a little tougher to get the hang of, but it consolidates the move of bringing the gun up and closing the slide, thus saving some time. It is a good technique to practice and can be part of your dry-fire drills, though it does help to have a few dummy rounds so the slide will close with the magazine in the gun.

I don't spend a lot of training time on these techniques, but they absolutely need to be addressed. Use your carry holster so drawing with the off hand will be natural, and be conscious of where your spare magazine is. I carry strong side just like my duty pistol. If you carry a gun professionally, this one-armed gun manipulation should be part of your training. Carry on.



TRAINING ISN'T SOMETHING  
YOU DO ONCE A YEAR.



WWW.SIRTCW.COM

**SIRT**



## »BEFORE WE CAN SAY VERY MUCH

about the Taurus Curve, we'll have to talk a bit about personal weapons and how we carry them. I can't imagine that it was very long after a Neanderthal acquired his first club that he realized just walking around holding it not only got physically tiresome but often sent the wrong message to any fellow cavemen he might encounter. The quest for a comfortable manner in which to hands-free pack a personal weapon was on.

Holster design progressed immensely with the introduction of repeating revolvers in the mid-19th century, but from then forward was rather stagnant until the mid-20th century. Prior to the invention of inside-the-waistband holsters in the 1960s, holsters did not look dissimilar to the tooled leather models seen in spaghetti Westerns, the flap holsters seen on the hips of Civil-War-era cavalrymen or the humble duty rigs on the belts of patrol officers. Though shoulder harnesses and the occasional gimmicky spring-loaded clamshell or frame-welded pivoting stud were also available, there really weren't any other options apart from just sticking an unsecured gun in your pocket or waistband.

Alternative carry methods emerged with the Drug Wars of the 1970s, '80s and '90s. Law enforcement changed into a significantly less predictable and more dangerous business, and the tools of the trade changed along with it. Individuals and later companies developed frame-mounted spring steel clips that allowed carriers to stick their sidearms into their waistbands without the fear of the gun continuing on down their pant legs, which makes for a situation that is embarrassing at best and disastrous at worst. These clips were originally proven in the

world of extremely high-stakes anti-narcotic undercover police work, where the presence of a holster in anything but the heaviest of professional crime circles was a dead giveaway for a cop.

Despite the latest holster developments, the fact still remains that even the lightest of polymer-framed sidearms are blocky — basically one rectangle set atop another — and must be somehow hung on the human body in order for them to be of any use to the user. For the last two years, Taurus has been working to change that, and I headed to their factory in Miami for the rollout of their newest concealed carry pistol, the .380 ACP Curve.

A player in the concealed carry market for more than two decades now, Taurus' quality control has caught up with their popularity. While touring the factory, I observed that though the gunsmiths in the customer service area were certainly busy, I saw quite a few of the older model pistols and revolvers and not enough of the newly manufactured models to really notice.

The gun itself is about as odd a duck as I've ever encountered: squat and curved, it did not hit my palm the way any other gun had, and in the interest of full disclosure, I'll have to add that there were several

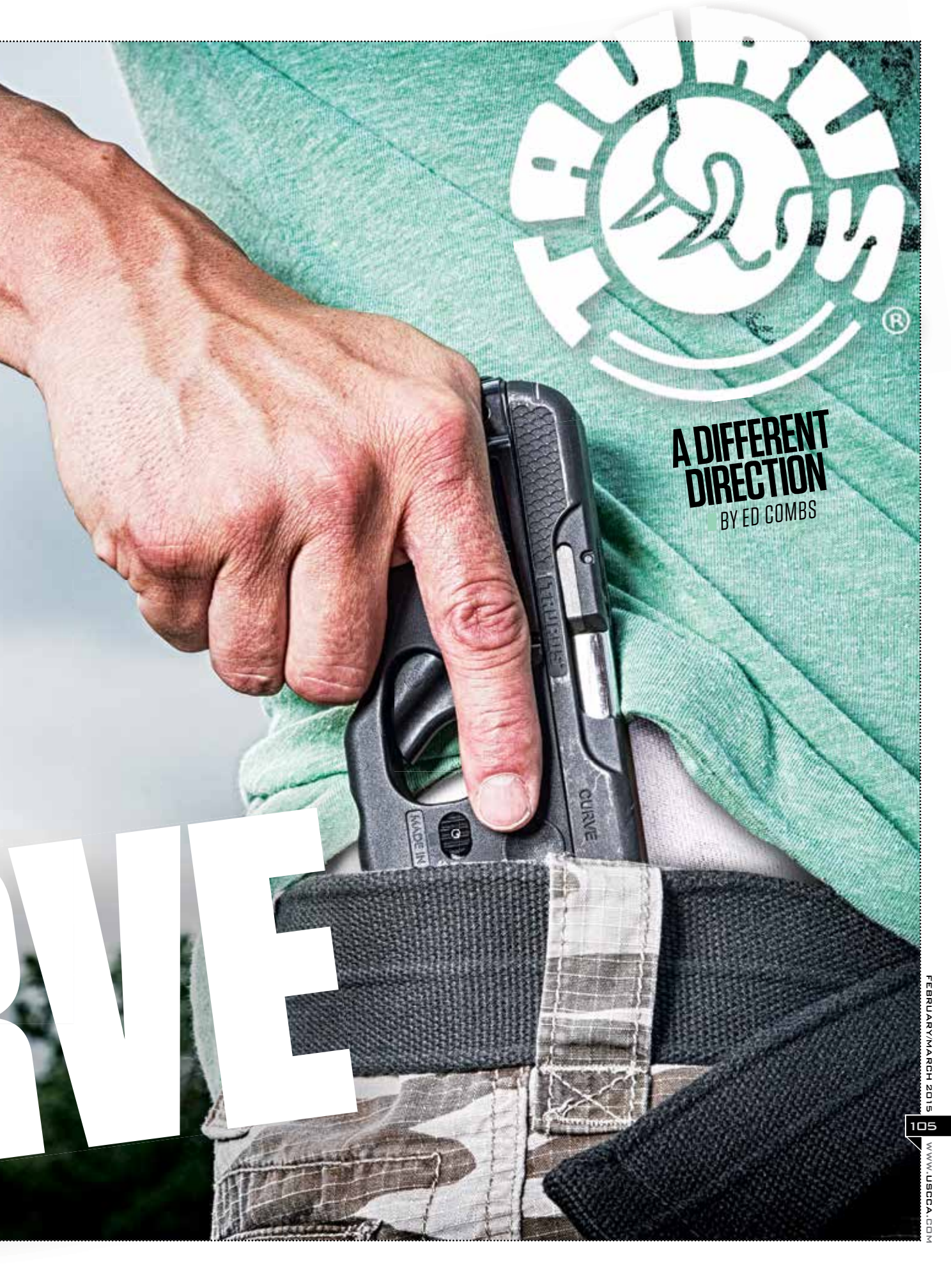
shooters who made no secret of their distaste for this gun. They claimed it was too small, the trigger pull was too long and most commonly that its curved frame felt terrible in the hand.

Oddly enough, the one thing that a lot of other gun reviewers are knocking the most is my favorite aspect of the Taurus Curve: the fact that they have done something completely and unassailably new. They didn't just try to make a gun that would be more comfortable to carry; they changed the shape of the gun itself to make it more appealing and accessible to those who just will not, under any circumstances, ever wear a belt-mounted holster system.

In case anyone hasn't yet caught on, the Curve is strongly marketed to women, who have a harder time than men carrying a concealed gun due to clothing styles. Let's all be honest: After you take sport coats, suit jackets, belts and untucked polo shirts out of the equation, the business of carrying a gun gets a lot more complicated. With its body-hugging curvature, the Curve is banking on ladies finally feeling like they have a safe and easy alternative to always dressing like their husband, resorting to off-body carry or not carrying at all.

# 180 FULL





**A DIFFERENT  
DIRECTION**  
BY ED COMBS

**WE**



The Curve ships with a molded trigger protector. These have been available for some time through online manufacturers for Glock and other pistols. By connecting the lanyard to a belt loop, the shooter can waistband a pistol with a relatively high level of security against negligent discharges. I understand that some readers are nothing short of adamantly opposed to carrying a pistol without a holster under any circumstances. This is their prerogative, and I respect their opinion, but this isn't the old days of a loaded double-action revolver with the firing pin resting on a live primer. This is a modern double-action-only pistol with an 8-plus-pound trigger pull that ships with a trigger cover that firmly and reliably snaps over the trigger assembly and pops off on the draw. If that isn't safe enough in your book, I guess there isn't a whole lot I'm going to be able to do to change your mind.

The sighting system is of the bore-axis type, which amounts to a crosshairs of sorts on the back of the slide. Traditional sights were skipped on this model to make it as streamlined as possible, as the weapon is designed to be drawn exclusively from under cover. Make no mistake: This is a point-and-shoot bellygun.

Speaking of which, the LaserLyte sighting system and LED light built into the muzzle end of the pistol were interesting and innovative, but I would have liked to see a grip-activation system rather than the starboard-side index finger switch. A master shut-off switch would aid in training so as to not drain

batteries at the range, but I am a firm believer in carrying lasers that activate as soon as a firing grip is acquired.

My misses on this one are the magazine release and the lack of even the tiniest bump of a front sight. The magazine is released in a fashion not unlike the battery from a modern cordless drill: A tab is depressed with the thumb, releasing the hold a small clip has on the inside of the magazine well. I understand that total concealability and compactness were the goals of Project Curve, and I understand that the target market for this sidearm is not a man who shoots a few thousand rounds a year, but I still had a hard time training on this gun as it is neither a Browning-style or European heel-style. If this isn't your only gun, there'll be a learning, well, curve.

As for the lack of a front sight, my LCP and P3AT have the smallest little nubbins of front sights, but even those allow me to reliably score combat-effective hits out to 25 yards. At 25 yards, I was not able to perform as well with the Curve, but it is what it is: a get-off-me-gun. I'm not sure if I'm ready to blame some of my poor performance on the beveled barrel crown, which is cut to match the curvature of the muzzle as it joins the slide, or on the bore-axis sighting — or if I'll simply let it go with that old excuse of, "Meh, long trigger, long shot. That's not what the gun is for."

When drawing from the waistband, I was able to get the gun on target and fire extremely quickly, although the size of the frame led to a few accidental deactivations of the LED and laser. Though I can understand why the designers wanted the activation button to be sensitive, I would have liked to see something of a hair trigger for ON and a press-and-hold for OFF. Out of the box, the laser was high and a bit right, and the battery does not seem to be a marathon athlete; between running the LED light and laser, it burns juice fast.

## LEAD ON PAPER

I tested the Curve at the rollout on the Nexus Shooting Complex in Davie, Fla. as well as on the indoor range at the Iola Conservation Club in Iola, Wisc. When firing at the live-ammo video game at Nexus, I had lots of fun, but I had a hard time knowing exactly where my



## SPECIFICATIONS

**CALIBER** — .380 ACP

**ACTION** — DOUBLE-ACTION-ONLY HAMMER-FIRED

**CAPACITY** — 6+1

**SAFETIES** — TAURUS SECURITY SYSTEM, LOADED CHAMBER INDICATOR, SNAP-ON TRIGGER COVER, MAGAZINE DISCONNECT

**FRAME** — POLYMER

**SLIDE** — MATTE BLUED CARBON STEEL

**GRIP** — POLYMER WITH METALLIC SUBFRAME

**BARREL** — 2.5-INCH STAINLESS STEEL

**SIGHTS** — LED AND LASER BUILT INTO FRAME; BORE AXIS REAR SLIDE PLATE

**TRIGGER PULL** — 8 POUNDS

**LENGTH** — 5.18 INCHES

**WEIGHT** — 10.2 OUNCES

**ACCESSORIES** — INTEGRAL HOLSTER-FREE BELT CLIP, EXTRA MAGAZINE

**MSRP** — \$392





### SEVEN-ROUND GROUPS FIRED AT 5 YARDS

**FEDERAL PREMIUM HYDRA-SHOK**  
90-GRAIN JHP  
GROUP SIZE - 1.75 INCHES

**REMINGTON UMC**  
88-GRAIN JHP  
GROUP SIZE - 2.5 INCHES

**LIBERTY CIVIL DEFENSE .380 ACP**  
50-GRAIN SOLID HP  
GROUP SIZE - 2.75 INCHES



rounds were hitting. When firing at Dirty Bird silhouette targets at 5 yards, however, groupings got a lot clearer (see above right).

My sighting method was to hold the center of the crosshair on the center of the 10 ring. Even with the laser sighting system engaged, the biggest obstacle to accuracy was the long trigger. Though I am no stranger to long triggers (I'm a big P3AT and P11 fan), the travel is long even by DAO standards and demands the absolute tip of the pad of the index finger be used while firing.

In what was possibly the biggest curveball of my adult life, the only reliability problems I experienced were with ball ammo. I had two Blazer Brass FMJs fail to eject and a single double-feed, but all of the jacketed hollow-points fed and extracted flawlessly.

In the interest of being as clear as possible, I would like to make the following statement: This is not a gun that you will relish firing more than a few dozen times in a session. The frame's curvature that makes this pistol so concealable also makes for strange bedfellows when a human hand is introduced to the equation, but I can't say I really care. This is a device that reliably spits defensive projectiles at attackers, and it is a device that does so while being more comfortable to carry for a large number of people who otherwise might have chosen to leave the house unarmed. In doing so, it has passed one of my major tests: Will people carry this gun rather than no gun?

During the opening speech before our tour of the factory, a Taurus executive stated

that they have always been a "close follower" in the gun industry, meaning a firm that manufactures their own models of already successful sidearms. Regardless of your attitude toward this particular pistol or Taurus in general, I don't think anyone can deny the

fact that they've actually done something completely new here, and it might be time for other manufacturers to follow their lead.



## ONE HOLSTER FOR ALL YOUR GUNS

### The Revolution IWB & OWB Holster



**The SwapRig Difference**  
**Quick Change Kydex Skins**

www.SwapRigHolsters.com  
(513)348-5017

**SwapRig**  
Holsters L.L.C.





**USCCA MEMBER**  
**LARRY REID**  
INFORMATION  
TECHNOLOGY  
MANAGER

*FREMONT, WISC.*

» Larry Reid carries for the same reason many of us do: because he understands that the world is an uncertain place.

"Every day when I pick up a newspaper, watch TV or listen to the radio, someone has been hurt or killed. In most cases, they had no way to defend themselves or their loved ones. I don't know if it's the increased media coverage or if the times are becoming ever more violent, but I want to feel secure with the knowledge that I can act to defend myself if the situation warrants it.

"If someone is interested in carrying concealed, I would tell them to first get safety training and shooting lessons from a qualified instructor. I'd tell them to select a gun that they're comfortable with and to get their concealed carry permit. And I would recommend that they partner with the USCCA for insurance protection and to continue their education as a responsibly armed citizen."

**EVERYDAY  
CARRY:** GLOCK 19





# INTO THE ★ FRAY ★

INSIDER INFORMATION  
WITH KEVIN MICHALOWSKI



*For Self-Defense Information & Insight You Won't Get Anywhere Else  
Found only on the USCCA website [www.IntoTheFrayCCM.com](http://www.IntoTheFrayCCM.com)*



»DRIVEN AT A BLISTERING 2,000 FEET PER SECOND, these one-piece 60-grain copper solids are engineered with a deep hollow point that facilitates fragmentation and reduces the chance of over-penetration. In plain English, that means that your defensive projectile delivers its energy payload into the threat — and not out the other side. Available in common defensive calibers, this .40 S&W fragmented early and deposited quite a wound channel. Head to [store.libertyammo.com](http://store.libertyammo.com) for more information, and head to <http://youtu.be/32EFHqpVFHk> for our video assessment.



LIBERTY

# CIVIL DEFENSE .40 S&W





**CLEAR  
IMPACT**  
AMMO TESTS YOU CAN TRUST

WATCH **CLEAR IMPACT** ON  
<http://youtu.be/32EFHqpVFHk>

YouTube



» The words “copper solid” and “concealed carry” usually don’t go together, as solid copper projectiles are most often encountered in dangerous game hunting rifle and shotgun cartridges. These hollow-points from Liberty’s Civil Defense line break that mold and deliver excellent energy transfer.



PART ONE

# Emergency FIRST-AID

*BECOMING YOUR OWN  
FIRST RESPONDER*

» **WOULD YOU KNOW** what to do if you were deep in the wilderness and a hunting companion sustained a penetrating chest wound from an errant round? Could you prolong the life of a loved one long enough for an ambulance to arrive if she had sustained a lacerated artery from a violent attacker armed with a knife?

» Armed self-defense is inherently violent: You are presenting your willingness to meet an attacker's violence with righteous counteroffensive violence, and that violence can easily result in the death of your attacker. However, when you fight back, you also might be injured, and you need to train to respond to that reality.







wound. While it might seem unrealistic to translate what professional EMTs and paramedics are able to do in an emergency versus the things that nonprofessionals would be capable of, in life-threatening medical and traumatic emergencies, it all boils down to the same thing — sustaining the life of the patient until he can be delivered to the emergency room. In some cases, the tools available to professionals will differ from the tools available to nonprofessionals, but in most cases, the only differences between professionals and nonprofessionals are training and experience.

Before I kick things off, it's worth mentioning that the treatments I'll be discussing in this article are not a substitute for EMS or emergency room care. In other words, the treatments I'll discuss are meant to extend the life of your patient so that you'll be able to reach EMS support and the emergency room, not so that you can skip them altogether. While many treatments will be critical even if EMS is just minutes away (such as starting CPR or stopping severe arterial bleeding), many others will only be necessary if EMS and the emergency room are days away (such as closing a wound with adhesive sutures).

## STABILIZING VERSUS FIXING

Watch any TV show or movie where EMTs or paramedics arrive at the side of a patient and you'd swear that they've all been trained in emergency surgery. While some invasive procedures can be performed in the field by properly trained personnel (such as a needle jet ventilation procedure to reinflate a collapsed lung), the real job of EMS is a simple one — deliver the patient as quickly and safely as possible to an emergency room while attempting to stabilize or improve the patient's current condition.

As I'll discuss in the section on patient assessment, you'll see that the checklist of items that need to be accomplished during a traumatic or medical emergency is not exhaustive. Keep in mind that if we're trying to save the life of another person, it isn't necessary for us to diagnose the illness or injury to the degree that will be accomplished in the emergency room. Instead, we're simply assessing the status of our patient's key systems, and we're making corrections

» Violence is an extremely ugly business and its aftermath is even uglier. If seeing this image makes you feel uneasy — and it should — that means that you understand the gravity of lethal force encounters and, equally importantly, your decision to carry a firearm for self-defense. Educating yourself in basic trauma care is the logical next step in a complete personal protection plan, and that education will include forcing yourself to understand just what bullets can do to you and your attacker.

While most Americans are comfortable dealing with the cuts and scrapes of everyday life, and tens of thousands have learned the Heimlich maneuver and CPR, most individuals would be a bit less comfortable dealing with severe, life-threatening injuries or illnesses when seconds count and EMS personnel and the emergency room are minutes (or longer) away.

In this two-part article, I'll not only discuss the proper way to assess a patient to identify significant life threats but also cover in detail the proper way to deal with serious bleeding and a penetrating chest

to those systems in an orderly fashion.

In addition, it isn't necessary for us to fix the problem. It's only necessary for us to stabilize or improve our patient's current condition. As an example, if we're with a companion who is going into shock due to internal bleeding, we're going to be unable to fix the internal bleeding, but we will be able to stabilize our patient with the appropriate treatment for shock. The emergency room fixes; we stabilize.

One interesting difference between professionals and nonprofessionals is that in certain situations, nonprofessionals might have to perform additional tasks that even the professionals don't need to accomplish. That difference lies in whether a patient's condition must simply be corrected or whether it must be corrected and then maintained.

trip, you might find yourself literally days from EMS support and the entrance to the emergency room. That might mean that as a nonprofessional, you'll need to conduct a few tasks that even the guys in the back of the ambulance don't do on a regular basis. There will be more on that topic in Part 2.

## ASSESSING THE SITUATION

A common thread exists in all first responder education, regardless of whether that education is for police officers, firefighters, paramedics or EMTs, and that's that learning to assess a situation is at the top of the list of things to learn. Assessing things like the safety of the scene, the seriousness of the situation, the need for additional help and the risks to the rescuer's personal safety is drummed into the heads of these professionals.

for spinal immobilization.

- Assess the patient's airway.
- Assess the patient's breathing rate and quality.
- Assess the patient's circulation, including pulse, skin color, temperature and condition.

Let's review the most critical items in that list in more detail:

**Determine scene safety:** Regardless of whether first responders were trained as police officers, firefighters, paramedics or EMTs, something that they'll learn on Day 1 is that their No. 1 responsibility is for their own personal safety. That has to do with more than the police, fire and EMS departments wanting their employees to make it home safe at night. It's because the risk to rescuers dramatically increases based upon the number of victims needing rescue. If a potential

**“THE TREATMENTS I’LL BE DISCUSSING IN THIS ARTICLE ARE NOT SUBSTITUTIONS FOR EMS OR EMERGENCY ROOM CARE. IN OTHER WORDS, THE TREATMENTS I’LL DISCUSS ARE MEANT TO EXTEND THE LIFE OF YOUR PATIENT SO THAT YOU’LL BE ABLE TO REACH EMS SUPPORT AND THE EMERGENCY ROOM, NOT SO YOU CAN SKIP THEM ALTOGETHER.”**

When EMS personnel arrive on a scene, they have the luxury of knowing that even for the most serious medical or traumatic emergencies, the emergency room might be no more than 30 minutes away and often much closer than that. That means that they can remain focused on correcting any major life threats and correcting deficiencies to their patient's ABCs while being less concerned with the maintenance of the condition. For example, in a case of severe bleeding, EMS personnel will be concerned with stopping the bleeding and monitoring and/or treating their patient for shock. They won't concern themselves with intense cleansing of the wound to ward off infection, and they won't attempt to close the wound using something like adhesive sutures. On the other hand, nonprofessionals might find themselves hours or even days from the emergency room. Outside of urban and suburban areas, millions of U.S. citizens are outside of the "golden hour" of EMS arrival, and of course, if you've embarked on a camping, hiking or canoe

While there are many procedures that should be reserved just for professionals, assessing a situation is not one of them. From the moment you arrive at the scene of a traumatic or medical emergency, you'll need to mentally run through an assessment checklist. Committing this checklist to memory can help calm you during what might be a very chaotic scene and can lead to a better outcome for the patient. The assessment includes:

- Determine scene safety.
- Determine the need for additional resources, including calling 911 or dispatching someone to seek additional manpower resources.
- Develop a general impression of the patient, such as whether you're dealing with a trauma or medical patient, whether they appear to be conscious or unconscious, etc. This general assessment can help you to take a mental pause to plot your course of action.
- Assess and treat any immediate life threats.
- For trauma patients, assess the need

rescuer runs headlong into a situation that isn't safe, they risk becoming a victim themselves, also requiring rescue and putting subsequent rescuers at greater risk.

As an example, let's say that on a hike an individual becomes trapped in the collapse of a ravine. As cruel as it might seem to not immediately jump to that person's rescue, if the walls of the ravine haven't been shored up, any rescuer jumping into action risks doubling or tripling the next rescuers' job and risk. Regardless of whether the traumatic or medical emergency you find yourself in is a violent attack in the middle of the city, a heart attack at the family cabin or a tumble off of a cliff miles from rescue, your overriding responsibility is to your own personal safety.

**Determine the need for additional resources:** In any area with telephone or cell phone coverage, your first priority when it comes to requesting additional resources is as simple as a phone call to 911. Do not delay this call for even a few minutes. Regardless of how well-



trained you are, in cases of serious trauma or medical emergencies (such as cardiac arrest), your patient's chances of survival depend upon how quickly they arrive at the emergency room. Even EMS professionals will limit their time on scene to 10 minutes or less (and often far less) for serious trauma or medical problems. The sooner you can get EMS to your patient, or your patient to EMS, the greater the chances of survival.

Also, additional resources will mean something different depending upon the emergency, your location and who might be available. You might simply need manpower to lift an injured patient or to lift something off of him. You might need one or two additional trained or semi-trained individuals to assist with and rotate the tasks of CPR. Or you might need to send a runner to find the closest automated external defibrillator (AED). This is your moment to step into the leadership role and delegate these tasks. As I'll mention to Cub Scouts and Boy Scouts visiting my fire station, after calling 911, the most common response of bystanders during a medical or traumatic emergency is to do nothing. Don't be that person.

**Develop a general impression of the patient:** This impression can be done from across the room to establish your next steps. Even before getting hands on, you can quickly determine if you are dealing with a medical or traumatic event. Does the person appear to be alert? If so, how alert? Are there any obvious life threats, such as pooling or spurting blood? If it is a traumatic injury, does the mechanism of injury seem to be serious enough that it could have caused spinal or head injuries?

**Assess and treat any immediate life threats:** Life threats are exactly that — deficiencies so significant that they will result in the patient's rapid deterioration and death if not corrected immediately. Immediate life threats from trauma can include:

- Serious arterial bleeding, characterized by bright red, spurting blood.
- An open wound to the chest.
- An airway blocked by the tongue, vomit, blood, teeth, food or another object.
- A broken femur or pelvis that bleeds heavily and can cause the patient to lose as much as a third of his or her blood volume.

Don't be distracted by what are appropriately called "distracting injuries." These

are injuries that might be obvious and give the appearance of being serious life threats but only distract us from more serious deficiencies. One common distracting injury is a cut to the scalp. The scalp is rich with capillaries and will bleed profusely if cut but will rarely bleed enough to cause anything more than a gag reflex in bystanders. But focusing on that injury could distract the rescuer for critical minutes while a more serious injury (such as a knife wound to the chest) goes undetected and drains the life from the patient.

After a violent attack, the adrenaline and endorphins coursing through your patient might mask the pain of serious injuries, and the patient might not even realize that she has been shot or stabbed, so your assessment will need to include visually checking the patient from all sides — looking for bleeding or removing an appropriate amount of the patient's clothing to visually search for bullet or stab wounds.

**Assess the patient's circulation:** As mentioned, severe bleeding can quickly compromise a patient's cardiac system, leading to compensatory and decompensatory shock within minutes. This isn't caused by the actual blood loss itself. Instead, it's caused by the lack of oxygen to the brain, and the blood is the transport system responsible for delivering that oxygen. If that transport system is interrupted by blood loss or for any other reason, the situation must be corrected within minutes or the patient risks almost certain death. Serious external bleeding is an easy deficiency to notice, but how would you determine if any other part of your patient's circulatory system was deficient?

EMS personnel will measure the status of their patient's circulatory system by using a number of diagnostic tools, including measuring their patient's blood pressure, the percentage of saturated oxygen in the patient's blood (using what's called a pulse oximetry), and taking a snapshot of the electrical signals coursing through their patient's heart. But beyond all that, EMS personnel are also taught to read the patient. What that simply means is that regardless of what the patient's blood pressure is or what the pulse oximetry reads, if the patient doesn't look right, then decisions will be made based upon that information even if the diagnostic tools aren't uncovering a problem. Some things that you can use to read your patient without diagnostic tools include:



**Made in the USA** 

*Secure your first line of Defense*



**HOLDS UP TO**  
**15**  
**POUNDS**

**STILL ONLY**  
**\$19.99**

Strong Magnet Holds Firearm Securely

Rubber Surface Protects Firearm Finish

- Under a desk or table
- Behind the headboard or nightstand
- Inside a closet
- Under your vehicle dashboard
- In your deer stand or duck boat
- Use two for shotguns and rifles





[www.Magna-Arm.com](http://www.Magna-Arm.com)



# “AFTER A VIOLENT ATTACK, THE ADRENALINE AND ENDORPHINS COURSING THROUGH YOUR PATIENT MIGHT MASK THE PAIN OF SERIOUS INJURIES, AND THE PATIENT MIGHT NOT EVEN REALIZE THAT SHE HAS BEEN SHOT OR STABBED.”

**Look at the condition of your patient's skin:** In this case, I'm not talking about looking for contusions, abrasions or lacerations. I'm talking about looking to see if the patient's skin is moist or dry; if it has proper coloring versus being flushed or pale; and if it feels like it has the proper temperature, versus feeling hot or cool and clammy. Pale, cool, clammy skin can indicate a blood loss (internal or external) and should be a warning sign that shock might be approaching or is already there. EMS will also conduct a simple test by pressing a finger or two on the skin of their patient's arm. If the patient has adequate perfusion (that is, if they have adequate blood volume and the blood has adequate oxygen), color should return to the spot that was pressed within two seconds. If it takes longer than that for color to return, you should prepare to treat your patient for shock.

**Estimate your patient's blood pressure by determining which pulses are present:** If you are able to feel a pulse in your patient's wrist (the radial pulse), you can assume that his systolic blood pressure (the upper number) is at least 80. The actual systolic blood pressure might be much higher than that, but the fact that you are able to feel the radial pulse indicates it's at least 80, and it also indicates that pressure remains in your patient's blood vessels. If the radial pulse is missing but you are able to detect a femoral pulse (the pulse in the groin), you can estimate that the systolic blood pressure is at least 70. If the radial and femoral pulses are missing but you are able to detect a pulse in the carotid artery, your patient's systolic blood pressure is most likely not more than 60. Whenever your patient's radial pulses are absent, aggressive preparations should be made to protect your patient from shock, and of course, if no pulses are present (what EMS would call asystole, pronounced ay-SIS-toe-lee), you'll need to immediately begin CPR and get access to an AED.

If done correctly, we've now identified and are working on correcting the most serious deficiencies of our patient. As long as it took to explain those steps, even nonprofessionals can accomplish those

tasks in five minutes or less. The reality is, you'll need to complete them in five minutes or less during critical incidents, such as a traumatic injury where serious bleeding is occurring. At four to five minutes with no oxygenated blood, the body is at risk of crossing from compensatory shock — when the body's systems will do what they can to compensate for a loss of blood pressure — to decompensatory

shock — when the body's systems begin to fail — to irreversible shock, when the only outcome is death.

*Next issue: Treating severe bleeding and penetrating chest wounds, and building your own home and field trauma kit.*



**Vehicle Handgun Mount™**

**DEFENSE**  
AT YOUR  
**CONVENIENCE**

**QUICK ACCESS, COMFORT AND SAFETY.**

When it comes to self defense and carry you are looking for quick access, comfort and safety. That shouldn't change when you're behind the wheel.

The Gum Creek Vehicle Mount is the best solution.

**GUM CREEK™**  
Driving Innovation

[www.GumCreek.com](http://www.GumCreek.com)

Available with standard or concealed holsters.





# Lawless Behavior and Some Advice for Criminals

**» I CAN'T POSSIBLY BE THE ONLY AMERICAN** scratching my head right about now. What's got my scalp itching are the phony protests that occurred across the country (many were violent) in the names of the memories of Michael Brown in Missouri and Eric Garner in New York City. Now I'm not here to debate the grand jury decisions. They speak for themselves, and any clear-thinking individual understands our judicial process. That's not what has me miffed.

What has me itching to scratch is the lack of honesty of the mainstream press, the racial agitators and the junior tyrant himself. Forget the so-called "protesters." Those folks weren't there to protest anything other than their hatred for America and their hatred of you. They are well-formed mobs of agitators, racists and anarchists whose sole goal is to cause trouble, and they will and do use any excuse to show up and cause problems. No, I'm talking about real Americans who are, yet again, being subjected to outright lies and misinformation by the media and the nation's supposed leaders. Every time the alleged "leaders" open their mouths there is more evidence of the fact that they're concerned more about their so-called "progressive" liberal America-hating agenda than they are about the rule of law that this nation depends on for its foundational stability.

Yeah, I'm gonna go here. Gotta do it. Let's get this straight: If you honestly believe that all law enforcement hates you and wants to harm you because of the color of your skin, then why would you invite confrontation with those folks? See, it makes sense to me that if I believe a certain entity might want to do me harm, I would avoid it like the plague whenever and however possible and at all costs. In fact, we discuss that very strategy on *Armed American Radio* all the time; it's a recurring theme. We refer to it as preparation, avoidance and awareness. Prepare to avoid by being aware is what I like to say.

The best way to win a gunfight is to avoid it at all costs. Wouldn't you agree? If you avoid trouble, you effectively increase your longevity. Conversely, if you hang around on a street corner living the gang lifestyle, robbing liquor stores or stealing cigars (anyone care to hazard a guess what the "high on marijuana" Michael Brown might have wanted to

do with those cigars?), selling illegal items on street corners in front of businesses that sell legal products (see also: Eric Garner), and basically being a criminal scumbag, you not only risk confrontation with law enforcement — that very same law enforcement you believe wants to harm you — but can virtually guarantee it at some point. Why would you do that?

This is a really simple equation. OK, here you go. Are you ready for this Sharpton? How about you Jackson? Obama? Here it comes. Drum roll please.

If you do not engage in criminal behavior, you will more than likely avoid confrontation with law enforcement. If you avoid confrontation with law enforcement, then you will most likely never interact with those law enforcement officers that you believe might lead to your demise. Wow, there, I said it. Does it make any sense? Let me rephrase it for those who might be a little slow. If you decide to use illegal means to deprive someone else of their life, liberty or lawful pursuit of happiness, you lose your right to all of the above instantly, and you then play a significant part in whatever befalls you, including the possibility of your own death, even by what might later be determined to be unlawful behavior by the law enforcement officer(s) that stopped you from whatever you were doing.

When you put yourself in danger by escalating a confrontation with law enforcement while you're breaking the law, such as actively or passively resisting arrest, fighting with or attempting to disarm the officer, etc., any reasonable person (you know, most of us who pay law enforcement to keep us safe from people like you) would expect the police to react in such a way as to bring you into custody.

See, this is the plain talk you don't get from chicken-little, politically correct politicians pushing their little agendas or from the racial agitation industry that profits from race hatred in America. You also don't get it from the whiny, liberal reporters who park their Priuses in their garages in Pie in the Skyville. If you really do believe that all law enforcement hates you and wants you dead, then you should straighten the hell up, stop breaking the law and leave the rest of us alone.

Now, you may very well run into that extremely small minority of less than 1 percent of bad cops who do want to harm you, or maybe that one great cop who has had a really rough day fighting people like you and may in fact act a little overly aggressive toward you. Maybe you will run into that armed citizen with or without a permit that decides he needs to employ the muzzle-end of his firearm to defend himself from you. Would it matter to you if any of those individuals — police or otherwise — were in compliance with the law when they killed you while you were engaging in illegal behavior? I don't think your dead self would be able to voice your opinion at that point.

So, here are some words of advice for those of you who think the police are the boogeyman out to get you: Avoid them. Do you know the best way to do that? Don't break the law in the first place.

Oh and a postscript: To those in positions of power and authority who fail to teach right from wrong and remain silent in the face of criminal behavior, your silence condones such behavior, and quite frankly, America can't rid itself of your cancer soon enough.

Is it 2016 yet?



WE DIDN'T JUST CREATE  
A NEW FIREARM  
**WE REDEFINED**  
PERSONAL DEFENSE



## THE ALL-NEW TAURUS CURVE

The world's first and only curved firearm engineered to fit the unique contours of your body, Taurus Curve is one ultra-comfortable, ultra-reliable personal defense handgun.

**Suggested Retail: \$392**

- First-ever LED light and laser built into frame
- Smooth lines ensure no visible "printing"
- Snag-free design
- Bore-axis sighting system for instinctual shooting
- Built-in holster-free belt clip
- .380 ACP, 6+1 capacity
- Lightweight 10.2 ounce subcompact pistol
- Includes two magazines



**curve™**  
THE GUN YOU WEAR™

[TheGunYouWear.com](http://TheGunYouWear.com)

Taurus Unlimited Lifetime Repair Policy™







# Ridiculously Comfortable Neoprene Padded Holster

✓ Enhanced Comfort ✓ More Flexible ✓ Improved Stability ✓ Lighter Weight



'Cloak Tuck 2.0' IWB

**\$35.88**



## We've Got The Famous Iron-Clad Triple Guarantee!

▶ 30 Day Test Drive ▶ Free Shell Trades For Life ▶ Forever Warranty



Learn  
More  
About  
New  
Holster



MADE IN USA

Find us:



Learn more at:  
[AlienGearHolsters.com](http://AlienGearHolsters.com)