



The Bulwarks Bugle

January, 2019

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Upcoming Events:

January 25-26 2019 - KY CCDW Instructor Course

January 26 2019 - Kentucky CCDW Class

February 9th 2019 - Tactical Aid Class

March 9th-10th 2019 - Foundations to the Self Defense Handgun

March 23-24th 2019 - Foundations to the Self Defense Handgun

Business of the Month / Advertising:

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“Let Your Trigger Do the Talking”

A firearm, being the useful instrument that it is, has a lot more to offer us than just the big picture of putting holes in paper, deserving miscreants, and so on. The science behind how the thing operates, when dissected, gives us some secrets that not everyone else knows about. Let us talk about a couple here and you can figure the rest of them out on your own, no doubt.

Firstly, a gun will do one of three things when we press on the trigger (if the firearm operates properly, of course); 1) it goes “bang”. This is the second loudest noise in the world when you were expecting a “click”. We will get to THAT loud noise next. So, you press the trigger, focused on the front sight post, gun goes bang, planets are aligned, puppies are napping with each other, and everything that was supposed to happen happened. Good. Keep doing that voodoo as long as needed, or long as we can, which leads us to the second thing your gun/trigger will tell you about itself.

Secondly, now I guess I should explain that this is not an order of precedence or anything, just the way my mind wrote them down. So secondly, is the “click”. Remember earlier we mentioned the second loudest noise in the world? That noise was a “bang” when a click was intended. So obviously the “loudest” noise in the world is a “click” when a “bang” was desperately needed. Imagine that for a second, if possible. Okay a life of a good guy/gal is at stake, all measures of legal lines have been crossed, all forms of verbal persuasion have failed and even running away has not helped. Our hero pulls their firearm, fires their Gloc..... errrr umm handgun, and “CLICK”!!!! Now what? Well when we let the gun talk to us, we already know the instant the “click” of the hammer or striker

falling, hitting the primer (if there is one there), the sound wave traveling up to and down our ear canal, bouncing off the ear drum, stirring up the Anvil and Stirrup, and then down the auditory nerve to our brain, registers there, “sees” the neuro-pathways developed by the perfect practice following a Bulwarks class, and our brain has made the decision on what to do instantly, at lightning speed. “M.O.V.E.!!!” (motionless operators ventilate easily). When moving we do have a couple of things to do too, but here is what we do know when we get a “click”. The gun is working!!! Well, probably. Assuming there is not a broken firing pin (VERY RARE), the gun just passed a functions test. So, we need to get rid of either an empty chamber, or an offending round that was made on a Monday morning, or a Friday evening. (never trust stuff on those shifts. Either they are ready to make the weekend memorable, or they just got done doing it.) So “fix” it and get back to work. We will save the “fixing” part for another article.

So now we have made it to the last possible noise a functioning gun (or in this case, maybe a non-functioning gun) will make when that trigger is pressed; deafening silence. (Insert dramatic poetic license here.) The gun failed to respond when the trigger is pressed. We tend to call it a non-responsive trigger. Could be a better name, but this one works. Now we have a problem. Like 99 problems. The gun is broken is by far the most important thing right now. The pizza delivery guy will just have to wait. It will take a competent human like 5-6+ seconds typically to get this problem remedied assuming the gun is not broken. That amount of time is an eternity, or at least the rest of your life. I do not know about you, but even an incompetent buffoon can get lucky at 5 yards in 5 seconds even if I am running around like mad. So, what is the solution to THAT? Well simply put, have a back-up gun. A back-up gun eliminates all the junk having to lock the sli.....oops, you just got shot the first time. Okay, okay, lock the slide ba..... Crap, another one. That feels like a .25acp. DANNIGIT!!!! Im getting really irritated. OKAY!!! SLIDE IS LOCKED BACK. MAGAZINE IS OUT..... NOW HANG ON JUST A DAD-BLABBED SECOND!!! JUST CUT IT OUT WHILE I GET THIS FIXED!” Get the picture by this point. Of course, there are some things that one can do to get it done faster, but it is still going to

take time. Heck even drawing a BUG takes a fair amount of time (that you do not have).

Long story short, let your gun talk to you. There is not much of a reason to have to spend time (again, that we do not have) to see what is going on. There may be time later to resolve the issue, but this article is about fighting, not gun-smithing. “Bang”, keep that up as long as needed. “Click”, the gun is still in this, it is probably waiting on getting right in the world. “Dead trigger”- hopefully the back-up gun is where it is supposed to be and simply put, (don’t confuse that with easy) get the B.U.G. out and finish the work. THEN there is time to fix any problem. Also, try listening to your AR when the bolt locks back. Load up 5-10 or more magazines with 1 or 2 rounds and just feel the bolt locking back. Once its picked up, it is it is empty or broken instantly. So I simply avoid getting wrapped up in the nuances of type A6B844 malfunction clearances. I need a clear, defined, and simple solution to a problem (probably that I created in the first place) that I can fix in under 1-5 seconds, or less. Discussion to lead to step by step remedies, but I really do not care about them in these situations. Pay money for a class that will teach them more in-depth than Bulwarks and that is okay.

PROBLEM.NEEDS.REMEDIED.NOW and I do want to know how to fix them, and I do, but that does not fix my life. Carry a back-up gun, starting today! If it is important enough to carry a firearm, which is a life-saving tool, carry a back-up. Got a spare tire, right? Of course you do. So what else can a gun tell us about what is going on? Maybe it needs a hug and a trip to the range, and THEN a thorough, “detailed” cleaning, if you know what I mean. Hint hint, wink wink.

- *James Eric Dean, Bulwarks
Director*

“I do not want techniques that work in the majority of circumstances, I want techniques that work in all but the freakishly rare!” – Jim Higginbotham

“It’s On You!”

I often get asked the question, “when is the Advanced class?”

Normally, it’s from someone who needs a Foundations class and several more hours of additional training.

What if I told you that there was really no such thing as an Advanced class, but only more advanced situations. No matter what is put in front of us, we should still press the trigger the same way, meaning not slapping it like Ike Turner, or Chris Brown for you younger folk. We should still be focusing on our front sight just like we do when we’re shooting a failure drill. Do you see where I’m going here? If you don’t have a handle on the foundations, how are you going to handle an advanced situation without falling apart?

So, this leads to how we practice. Sure, it’s fun to go out and just dump rounds as fast we can and dump mags. I get it, I really do. It’s fun and I’ve done it. We all have.

What was gained out of it though? Probably nothing. When we go to the range and practice, we should have a plan and we should practice with a purpose. We should practice to the point that we can draw and shoot two or three rounds on demand and place them exactly where we want, when we want, and from whatever position we may be sitting or standing in. But ammo is expensive, and I can’t go the range... Guess what? Dry fire is free and you can get a lot of benefit from it. Work on your draw stroke and finding your front sight. Practice this from several positions. Once you get to range, you will have all those dry reps in and you can get to work fine tuning those with live fire.

Make a plan and work that plan. Practice shooting and moving and moving and shooting. Work on those controlled pairs or controlled threes and fours. Get that draw stroke down so it’s nice a smooth. And for the love of all things, practice like you carry. Practice from concealment. You may spend

the rest of your life getting that shirt out of the way if you don’t practice it.

Getting to that “advanced” level takes practice and that’s on you. There’s not an instructor or school out there that can make you advanced. They can teach you the steps, but that’s it. The rest is up to you. If you have the drive and dedication, you will get yourself there. Remember, only perfect practice makes perfect. You got this.

Now, go forth and do good things. Practice as if you’re going to get into a gunfight today. You never know, you just might.

- *Jesse Ordunez, Training Director*

Featured Drill!

This is a new section; I’m hoping to have graphics to accompany this area in the next release!

El Presidente (Jeff Cooper):

Set up: 3 silhouette targets. They should be in line, and equally spread apart, about 3-5 feet.

Engagement:

Each target should be shot twice each, from right to left, or left to right, the shooter should then reload, and engage each target again, with 2 shots each.

Purpose: This drill is focused on accuracy, reloads, and target transitions, and is easily one of my favorites.

“Stop The Bleed”

The civilian use of tourniquets is saving lives, improving outcomes, and reducing mortality. A 6-fold reduction in mortality in patients with injuries to their limbs and/or extremity amputation, is due to civilian tourniquet use.



Shown above are TCCC certified tourniquets.
*Bulwarks Approved

The military data has shown a 67% reduction in battlefield deaths due to uncontrolled hemorrhage by implementation of bleeding control education. The American College of Surgeon’s Civilian Stop the Bleed movement is full speed ahead. The civilian first responder is more important now, then they ever have been, and will continue to improve the outcomes of their fellow man.

Babies and children are also benefiting from early uncontrolled hemorrhage control by direct pressure and tourniquet use. The key to this success is civilian education, perfect practice, proficiency, constant training, and continued learning. Basic first-aid, hemorrhage control, and tactical-aid classes are an excellent resource for the civilian learner. Education alone isn’t enough.

Training routines and maintaining proficiency in tourniquet application for compressible uncontrolled hemorrhage is the only way to remain prepared. Training

to protect yourself and loved ones should include ways to save each other at the point of injury. Staying in the fight, by treating a preventable life-threatening injury, may be the only chance we have to survive.

Controlling compressible hemorrhage with a tourniquet is a skill every civilian can master and remain proficient. Do not stop learning, invest in training, and keep yourself in the fight. Stop the Bleed and help save lives.

- *Jason Reed, MSN, RN, AEMT, CEN*

“But Can You Run It?”

We’ve all seen the latest, greatest, newest gear, and there are those of us who have fancy gear, and there are those of us with less fancy gear. And I’ve outshot \$3,000 handguns with a bone-stock Glock.

The question I really wish we’d ask of guys who like X and Y, or own X and Y and have no need to own X or Y, is, can they run it?

If you have a \$4,000 gun and never shoot it or run it, it’s a pointless trophy piece, like buying a Ferrari you never drive. Equipment should be used hard, tested hard, and put away clean. And if you can’t do that with something we’re betting our lives or those around us lives’ on, then why do you have it?

Since I started shooting and really getting in touch with the finer things in life (read: self-defense and medical training.) I’ve seen people with safe queens, or with fancy new gear they won’t use. And those people tend to get on my nerves, because they’ll bash you for not having X or Y. My plastic guns just run, I certainly didn’t buy them to be pretty. (*so do 1911’s, only prettier)

I’m victim to it, I have a Leatherman my father’s best friend gave to me for graduation, and I refuse to carry it to this day because I’m afraid of losing or breaking it. I’m sure it wasn’t his intention for it to sit relatively unused, but it’s a tool, and tools are tools. But they’re useless if you spend loads of money on them, be it knives, belts, guns, or multi-tools, and they never get used.

So my question to you is, if you carry it every day, depend on it 24/7, or just want to buy it because buying it is “cool.”

Can you run it? And if you don’t can you really depend on it?

- *Willem Mathis, EIC*

Thanks for reading. If you have ideas, please email me at bulwarks.bugle@thebulwarks.com