



BULWARKS FOUNDATIONS OF THE SELF-DEFENSE PISTOL CLASS IN MT. STERLING. OCT 17

Bulwarks Bugle Nov 2017

IN ISSUE #1

The Boss's Box

by Eric Dean

Thanks for stopping by. This edition, our first edition, will cover some of the foundations of what The Bulwarks LLC is about. Starting from the idea, to the founding, to the changes that we have done over the short 2 years that we have been at this. We will talk some about our future, what we have on the table, and getting feedback from some of the most talented folks in the self-industry, you folks, The Bulwarks Alumni.

History

The Bulwarks LLC become an official reality on 01 January 2016. My wife and I (Staci. The real brains of the operation) decided to take a risk and present the things that we thought were important. I chose the castle as the icon of The Bulwarks because of the many things that it stands for. I will discuss that in another piece.

The Bulwarks Alumni

I was the founder of The Bulwarks LLC, but I am by far NOT the most important part. The Alumni are what we are really about on the education and training side. You folks are the bases of our start AND part of the extensive laboratory that refines the foundations of

Weaponcraft. Thank you for trusting me, and the other folks, and when I told you "Welcome to the family" I truly meant it. We have a lot of fine adventures to meet, courses to complete, and challenges to face. To have a community where good ideas can be exchanged is priceless. I hope this outlet, along with other social media, is the real value behind your offering of time and treasure to The Bulwarks. God Bless!

Addition of Staff

It did not take me long to see that The Bulwarks was growing beyond my control. With the security operations we have conducted, and the time I have spent teaching with the military put a real burden on my free time. Q is like that. Go figure. In 2017 The Bulwarks added a "Director of Training" to the titles here. Jesse Ordunez of Raven Defense came on board and the results were immediate. From adding new courses, to stream-lining the sign-up process, to creating a catalog of courses, Jesse has certainly been a brick in The Bulwarks.

Again, thank you and to many future adventures!

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- The Calendar
- Drill O' The Month
- Jesse's Content
- Eric's Rules to Live By
- Future Ops
- A Special Discount Code

UPCOMING OPPORTUNITIES

Check out page 6 for more stuff!

ERIC DEAN
eric.dean@thebulwarks.com



Our List of 2018 Events.

We still offer weekly and some weekend packages to interested, private entities.

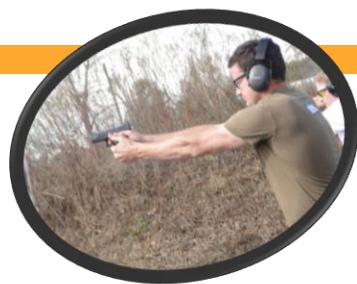
Contact us at training@thebulwarks.com for more information.

Calendar through the end of April 2018

- Jan 13 **Defensive Mindset**
(Murray, KY)
- Feb 3 **Unarmed Self-Defense**
(Murray, KY)
- Feb 10-11 **KY CDWL and ISDP**
(Murray, KY)
- Feb 24 **Bulwarks TACMED**
(Murray, KY)
- Mar 3-4 **KY CDWL and ISDP**
(Mt. Sterling, KY)
- Mar 24-25 **FSDP**
(Murray, KY)
- April 7-8 **FSDC**
(Bowling Green, KY)
- April 14-15 **KY CDWL and ISDP**
(Murray, KY and MT. Sterling, KY)

A FULL DESCRIPTION OF THESE COURSES CAN BE FOUND BY

<http://www.thebulwarks.com/courses.html>



Thought O' The Month

Get up in the morning and you have chosen what to wear. Take a few moments to check a few things:

1. "Make Ready"! Remember this command? Like on the range, make yourself ready. Check gun(s), back-up first, reloads, flashlight(s), and anything else in your "toolbox"
2. Am I concealed the way I want?
3. Have I practiced with what I am wearing? 5-10 pistol presentations. Maybe throw the back-up gun (or knife) into the mix.
4. Today may be the day. Having a "chin-up" attitude that you are prepared will make for a much more relaxed day indeed!
5. You have a plan and you are ready. Now stay **yellow** my friends!

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Rise of Women and Firearms

73% of gun dealers, according to National Shooting Sports Foundation, said that gun ownership amongst women has risen nearly every year since 2011.



Dr. Andreas Grabinsky

stated that you have a 6 out 7 chance to survive being shot with a pistol. DANG FINE ODDS! KEEP FIGHTING!

FAST FACTS

85%

The number Dr. Grabinsky states that survive a gunshot wound if they make it to the hospital. KEEP FIGHTING!

Eric's Rules to Live By #1

by Eric Dean

They just come to me. Well I say that often, but I am not overly sure it is completely accurate. Anyone that knows me knows that I have a certain flair about delivering information. Maybe not good, but at least it can be entertaining. Some years ago, I suspect now about 10, I came up with something that I try and base my day to day's on. I named them "Eric's Rules to Live By". There are lots of folks that have their own set of rules and probably sound a lot like mine. So, I came to this moment to take some time, write them down, and now I am going to write a little about the deeper meaning.

My first rule that I'll peck away about is not my rule, well I am not the originator of said rule, but I have made it a part of my character and continue to preach it at every instance that I have. The originator, and my mentor, one of the most brilliant men I have had the blessing of knowing. Jim Higginbotham is one of the greatest minds in the business. The perfect analogy of the self-sufficient man. Takes point, is nearly unshakable (though he will not suffer foolishness) and always ready to offer a kind word and a foundational thought. Truly one of the most underappreciated speaker or writer in the business.

RULE #1- "I am not afraid to go unarmed. I just find it a contemptible and undignified condition in which to find oneself." Let's break it down a bit, shall we? "Unarmed"; more than just having a gun, but being able to deploy it in a legal, moral, and ethical manner. Armed is much like regulated, as in the 2nd Amendment. "Ready to go" and able to see it through.

"Contemptible" As I read the definition, it tells me "a person that has the physical and mental ability to stop a lethal encounter, but chooses, either by apathy, or my incompetence, to do nothing". Now I had to write that into my Webster's Dictionary, but it is fitting. If you can (legally, morally, ethically, and safely) then you should so that the next person should not fall victim to that "goblin".

"Undignified" Here is another \$2 word. I define this as a state of not being polite (a "polite society, if you will) and standing up for rights under Natural Law, God's Law. We are created in God's image and to allow that image to be disgraced due to evil's attempt to defile that is really undignified.

Now do not let me put words into Jim's mouth. These are just my reflections through my own bumbling's. Jim is as free a discriminator of information as anyone on the planet if you will accept it. Thank you, Jim for all you have done, are doing, and continue to do. Truly in your debt. God Bless!



“Life or a Trophy”

by Jesse Ordunez

Are we training for a gunfight or a trophy? Now don't get me wrong here, I'm not saying that competition is bad thing. I enjoy it myself. We just need to look at how we address competition and what we take away from it. Even the good Colonel himself was fan of competition. After all, it is how we ended up with the Modern Technique of the Pistol. So, on that note, thank you to Col. Copper and to the other famous Leather Slappers.

Remember, we fight as we train. If we dive head first into the world of competition and we ingrain their rules in our head, what's going to happen? Will you “unload and show clear” before you realize the threat is still a threat? What could happen if you fumble a magazine and you decide to pick it up instead of leaving it behind because you're trying to avoid a penalty?

Penalties for trying to avoid “penalties” in the real world could come in the form of loss of life or serious bodily harm. The threat doesn't care what you do, and they hope you pick up the full magazine that you dropped. They would certainly love to see you with an unloaded gun after you shot them if they were still able to fight.

As much as I love to shoot competitively, I limit myself on how much I do it. When I do compete, I go out to work on the speed and accuracy, not going faster than my ability. I still scan and assess and try to re-holster reluctantly. However, I normally get stopped before I can re-holster. I do my best and try to run everything as if I was in real fight for my life. These things include the way I use cover, reloads, and even a fumbled magazine every now and then. I have no problem getting a penalty if I know what I did was right in my eyes.

Go forth and do good things and have fun. Just remember, you will fight the way your train. I don't just say this, I've done it. Your life is worth much more than a trophy and if it ever comes down to it, you will have to work out your own salvation. How will you train?

JESSE ORDUNEZ, THE BULWARKS DIRECTOR



Jesse discussing “the turn”

Jesse is not only the lead instructor for Raven Defense and The Bulwarks, but also has a formidable resume that more than meets all of Cooper's requirements



Eric's Privy-Ponderings- "Don't go as fast as you think you can, go as fast as you can without thinking"



Jim Higginbotham

Jim is the rock of The Bulwarks. His mentorship and experiences are what drives what we do here. He is a real American, hero, and example. Thanks, Jim!



Practice the Self-Assessment

We have been trying to create a self-assessment for folks to work on. If you have participated in any of the October 2017 FSDP's then you have probably seen it.

The FSDP Drill is unique as it requires both precision and speed. Each stage needs to be "passed", but obviously we practice to win so keep going! We will lay it out, and we want to hear how you did on it.

STAGE 1

3 yards 2 rds 2.5 sec (from holster)
and then
3 yards 3 rds 1.5 sec (from ready)

STAGE 2

5 yards 3 rds 3.5 sec (from holster)
and then
5 yards 2 rds 1.5 sec (from ready)

- Each stage is scored
- Must have 1 hit to the CNS or
- 2 hits to the 8" inner circle
- NO hits off target
- 5 pts in CNS zone
- 3 pts in "A" zone
- 0 pts in circle around the "A"
- -1 pt in all other parts of target

Take your time and get a perfect hit first and not worry about follow-up shots. If the first shot is perfect then take your time on the others.

Let us know how you did. Email Eric at eric.dean@thebulwarks.com

STAGE 3

10 yards 3 rds 5 sec (from holster)
and then
10 yards 2 rds 2 sec (from ready)

STAGE 4

25 yds. 2 rds 6.5 sec (from holster)
and then
25 yds. 3 rds 4 sec (from ready)



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Nov 2017**

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The Bulwarks LLC
152 Pleasant Retreat Drive
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The Bulwarks Alumni is your neighbor, your family, or that person down the street that is a reliable, and a person with integrity. Fear of God, to the man or woman that believes, is the only thing to be fearful of. Once you are here, no evil upon this earth can displace you.

Deuteronomy 20-20b

www.thebulwarks.com

BOOK OF THE MONTH!

Check out Jeff Cooper's "Principle of Personal Defense" available at Paladin Press <https://www.paladin-press.com/>

QUOTE OF THE MONTH

"A mighty fortress is our God, a bulwark never failing; Our helper He, amid the flood of mortal ills prevailing: For still our ancient foe doth seek to work us woe; His craft and power are great, and, armed with cruel hate, On earth is not his equal.

Martin Luther

FUTURE STUFF

- Our online store is still in the works
- UPDATED website and our new approach to training is also in the works
- We still have room for your class. If you are interested in hosting a unique Bulwarks class, please let us know!
Jesse is a great help! 859-474-2383 or jesse.ordunez@thebulwarks.com
- NEXT ISSUE
 - o Charles Riggs
 - o Jim Higginbotham
 - o more "Eric's Rules to Live By"
 - o Jesse Ordunez
 - o and much more!

