



Tactical Talk

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"A guy who has 100-percent confidence in his ability to use his or any weapon doesn't have to worry about his personal safety-- he can concentrate on his mission."

--Major General John "Jack" Singlaub

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Violence in Churches

Recently, Rangemaster instructors Tom Givens, Cecil Booker, and Steve Palmer attended a full day seminar for church security teams from around the country. There were some very interesting blocks of instruction from various law enforcement and church organizations.



One of the points that really stood out was how little public awareness exists of this problem. As one of the pastors of a large church stated, many churches refuse to report crimes against them, or try hard to keep them quiet for fear of scaring the members from attending services and other church functions. Despite this, reported serious incidents at churches have increased by 200% in just the past five years.

According to a spokesman from the Sheriff's Department's Homeland Security office, since January 1999 there have been 473 major incidents in US churches, resulting in over 200 fatalities. These range from mentally ill persons assaulting or killing pastors to religion-based hate crimes. Robbery accounted for 27% of the serious incidents, since churches are known to have cash on hand, especially during services. In those 473 incidents, 596 people were killed or seriously injured.

This serves as a reminder that violence can occur wherever there are people. Thinking one is "safe" just because one is in a house of worship is naïve. You are safe where you make yourself safe, and nowhere else. Discreetly conceal your personal emergency safety equipment and have it on you at all times. That is really the only way to actually have it when the need suddenly arises.

HPR Ammunition

We recently began stocking a new brand of factory ammo, HPR Ammunition. HPR is an American company based in Arizona. They built a brand new, state of the art manufacturing plant, with the latest test equipment and production facilities. Every component in their ammo: primers, powder, cases, and projectiles are made in the United States, with very strict quality control standards. We tested some of this ammo in 9mm, .40 S&W and .45 ACP and found it to be very consistent, clean burning, and accurate, so we started stocking the stuff for sale here. While slightly more expensive than re-manufactured ammo, it is far more reliable and accurate. I am now using this ammo for my practice as well as for demo purposes in road classes. For more information, see www.hprammo.com. We're offering this ammo for sale at these prices: 9mm- \$15.99, .40- \$18.99, and .45- \$23.99. Again, this is first quality factory ammo, NOT reloads.

1911 Operator's Course

The famous and venerable 1911 pistol is celebrating its 100th birthday this year. On November 7 we will offer a one night 1911 Operator's Course, for those who wish to carry this iconic sidearm.



We will cover 1911 history and development, accessories and modifications, and handling techniques specific to this particular handgun. We'll also spend some time on the range, reinforcing correct operation of this pistol. Students will need a 1911, at least 3 reliable magazines for it, a belt holster that covers the trigger guard, and 150 rounds of quality jacketed ammunition. Cost is \$85.00.

This course is NOT for beginners. Students should have attended at least Level 2 or its equivalent prior to this course. We will supply a workbook with detailed maintenance information and other guidance.

Violent crime comparison, 2009, source- FBI Uniform Crime Report

<i>City</i>	<i>population</i>	<i>Violent Crimes</i>	<i>Murders</i>	<i>Robberies</i>	<i>Aggravated Assaults</i>	<i>*</i>
Memphis	667,421	12,055	132	4,139	7,402	1 in 55
Los Angeles	3,848,776	22,250	312	11,106	9,991	1 in 173
Miami	419,205	4,983	59	2,094	2,765	1 in 84
San Antonio	1,373,936	7,844	99	2,683	4,434	1 in 175
Collierville	39,973	82	-	5	75	1 in 487
Bartlett	47,881	130	2	23	100	1 in 368
Southaven	46,093	84	1	8	40	1 in 548
Olive Branch	33,284	90	1	17	29	1 in 370
Jackson, TN	63,530	606	14	184	384	1 in 105
Nashville	610,176	6,959	77	1,971	4,649	1 in 88

1 Violent Crime per this many residents. *

This is a good indicator of the overall danger level in the community.



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“Proven Techniques, Tactics, & Thinking For the Real World”

Phone Order: Payment by credit card accepted over the phone during business hours.

Fax Order: Fax this form with credit card information at any time.

Mail Order: Payment by check, money, or credit card are accepted by mail. Please make checks payable to “Rangemaster” and mail to the address at the top of this page.

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	DVD: “Concealed Carry for Self Defense”	\$19.95	
	DVD: “Defensive Shotgun”	\$19.95	
Subtotal			
Shipping (\$3.00 per DVD, \$4.00 per Book)			
Order Total			

Billing Information	Shipping Information (If Different)
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Zip Code:	Zip Code
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Number:	Type: Visa MasterCard AmEx Discover
Expiration:	Signature:

Learning Trigger Control

by Tom Givens

As an aspiring handgun shooter, you will soon learn that one of the hardest things to learn for new shooters, yet one of the most important skills, is trigger control. The shooter must learn to keep the sights on the target while smoothly moving the trigger to the rear until the gun discharges. Even in high speed defensive shooting, this process occurs, although the time it takes to complete the process is compressed. With a handgun, yanking and cranking on the trigger is the root cause of almost all misses, if the gun was even roughly aligned on the target when the decision to fire was made.

Larry Vickers, retired Special Operations soldier, former Delta operator, and world class firearms instructor once said, "Why is the rifle so much easier to shoot than a pistol? Easy. The rifle weighs more than its trigger pull, while the handgun weighs less than the weight of the trigger pull." That is a truly brilliant summation of the whole problem. If you have an eight pound rifle with a two pound trigger, it's easy to shoot it well. Unfortunately, we often have a two pound pistol with an eight pound trigger pull, hence the difficulty. Thus, proper trigger technique becomes vital.

First let's look at the different phases of trigger operation. Manipulation of the semiautomatic pistol's trigger actually consists of four separate and distinct phases, and each impacts our accuracy. These phases, in sequence, are:

CONTACT: The "pad", or fingerprint, of the shooter's index finger should contact the center of the face of the trigger. The trigger finger should not touch the frame of the gun. Ideally, the only place the trigger finger should contact the pistol is on the face of the trigger.

SLACK: Semi-auto pistols have "slack" or "pre-engagement travel" built into the action. This is a bit of rearward movement in the trigger,

prior to the actual trigger pull. The shooter can feel a distinct difference in the amount of finger pressure needed to take up the slack as opposed to that pressure needed to fire the piece. Some designs have significantly more slack than do others. As the gun is brought to bear on the target, the slack is taken up, so that the trigger finger feels the resistance of the trigger pull. As the gun goes on target, the trigger finger contacts the trigger and removes the "slack".

PRESS: Beware of semantics. The words you use form images in your subconscious, and this drives your actions. For instance, if you tell your student to "squeeze" the trigger, he will likely squeeze his entire hand while moving the trigger. We call this "milking the trigger". This results in low misses. As the lower fingers tighten their grip, the barrel is pulled downward as the gun fires. Instead, we want to "press" the trigger, with steady rearward pressure. We hold the gun with our hand; we fire the gun with our trigger finger. The student must learn to use the trigger finger independently, while maintaining a constant, consistent, unchanging grip on the pistol with the rest of the hand. When enough pressure to the trigger is applied to disengage the sear, the gun fires.

It may help to describe the trigger as the pistol's "gas pedal". Using the analogy of a car, which all shooters are familiar with, the magazine is the gas tank, the front sight is the green light, and the trigger is the accelerator. When you see the green light, you apply steady, increasing pressure to the accelerator until the bullet takes off smoothly. If you stomp the gas pedal, the car takes off jerkily and under less control. Same with the bullet.

RE-SET: Once the gun fires, the shooter must maintain contact with the trigger. Many newbies will have the tendency to take their finger completely off the trigger the instant the gun fires, and this must be corrected. As soon as the shooter sees the front sight begin to lift,

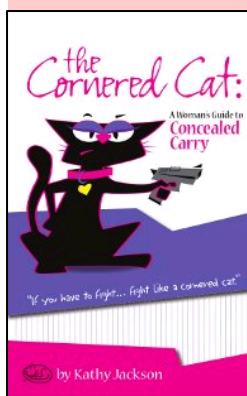
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that bullet has exited the barrel and is in flight. The shooter can no longer do anything to affect that shot, so he should forget it and start concentrating on the next shot! The first step is to relax the trigger finger's pressure just enough to let the trigger return forward to its re-set point. That is normally a really short distance, and there is usually an audible and tactile "click" when the trigger re-sets. There is no need to let the trigger go any further forward than that. Once the trigger is re-set, the shooter can begin working on the delivery of the next shot.

Double-action revolver triggers do not have slack in them, otherwise the process is the same. It is important with the revolver to move the trigger all the way to the rear to

fire the gun, then let it roll back all the way out before starting on the next trigger pull. The revolver trigger must go all the forward or you can skip a chamber or even lock up the action, a process called "short stroking". The double-action trigger should be pressed all the way through in one smooth motion.

All one needs to do to play a concerto on a piano is to hit the right keys, in the right order, at the right time. It's a simple process, but it takes practice. All one needs to do to hit anything with a pistol is to keep the sights aligned on the intended point of impact while you work the trigger smoothly to the rear. Again, a simple concept, but it takes practice.



The Cornered Cat, Ladies Only Handgun Course

On Feb. 18-19, 2012, Rangemaster will be pleased to host a Cornered Cat Ladies Only Course featuring Kathy Jackson.

Kathy is the editor of Concealed Carry Magazine, a staff instructor at the Firearms Academy of Seattle, and the author of *The Cornered Cat*, one of the best books on women's self defense issues. Kathy is a talented shooter and a very knowledgeable trainer. As a woman who carries daily and has for some time, Kathy is a wealth of information on specific carry modes, holster designs, clothing options and other issues women face in this arena. She will be assisted in this class by several of Rangemaster's lady instructors, including Lynn Givens.

This course is ladies only. Students need to be prior graduates of at least our basic handgun permit class.

Cost is \$400. Call 901-370-5600 to register.

Students will need:

- ◆ Handgun, at least .38 Special or 9mm caliber;
- ◆ At least one spare magazine or speedloader, although more is always better;
- ◆ A good belt holster, worn on a pants belt, on pants with belt loops;
- ◆ 500 rounds of jacketed ammunition.

Eye/ear protection is available here at no charge, or bring your own.

Our range and classroom are fully heated and comfortable. Dress for indoor comfort.

Class runs from 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. both days. There will be a lunch break each day.



Check Your Ammo!

By Todd Louis Green

As long time readers of pistol-training.com and pistol-forum.com will know, I am a believer in using ammunition manufactured by the Big Three: ATK ([Federal](#) & [Speer](#)), [Remington](#), and [Winchester](#). These companies spend more money on quality control than their smaller competitors make in a year. They have capabilities — like sealing primer pockets and case mouths against environmental contaminants — that the little guys usually don't, too.

They also do more testing and development. Years ago, a small company called Triton Ammunition sent me some 357SIG hollowpoints to test. The copper washed bullets were not properly constructed for the pressures and velocities of the 357SIG. The "jacket" literally shredded itself in the barrel and the malformed projectile then flew out into the world in a nearly random direction. Out of 20 rounds fired on a 15×18" target at 25yd from a seated rest only one bullet managed to hit the paper. Five rounds fired at 15yd measured well over 12". The same gun (a custom Beretta 96G rechambered for the 357) averaged 1.72" 5-shot 25yd groups with six other loads from Federal, Remington, Speer, and Winchester. Clue.

Triton never could have test fired this ammo through a gun. They just loaded it and sent it out to gunshops. Even after the problem had been identified, they did nothing to recover or recall the affected ammo. Triton went out of business almost as quickly as it started up. Clue.

But even top brand ammunition is not immune to production mistakes. As demand increases, output increases. We also tend to shoot a lot more than previous generations so each of us is likely to see ten or even a hundred times as many rounds. The odds of finding some bad ammo, then, has increased pretty substantially. It's important that we check each round of ammo before it goes in the gun. That's especially true with the ammunition you keep in the gun for duty, home defense, or concealed carry.

For practice ammo, primarily I rely on a quick visual check in the box. This happens before I load up a magazine or dump the whole box into an ammo can. I'm looking for two things: are the rounds all about the same height and do they have properly assembled primers? A round that sits so tall or short in the box that it's noticeably different probably needs to be culled. Missing or damaged primers also tend to be pretty noticeable.

Ammo I put in my gun for off the range gets a more serious examination. In addition to the in-the-box check above, I quickly inspect each case to be sure it's properly formed and has no cracks, dents, or other imperfections that could affect function. You can find some pretty whacky stuff this way.

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The photo at left shows an improperly extruded case (R) compared to a properly formed case of the same ammo (L). The bad round fed into the gun and fired properly, but because the extractor groove and rim are in the wrong place there was no way for the extractor to grab the case and it had to be punched out from the muzzle. Obviously, that's a problem you cannot expediently

address in a fight. This wasn't from a round of crappy off-the-shelf ammo, either. It was a round of name brand top of the line JHP ammunition issued to a high profile federal law enforcement agency.

I also chamber check my carry ammo. I take the barrel out of the gun and drop each round into the chamber one at a time. If the overall length is too long or there is some deformation of the case, it will often show up here. It only takes a few minutes and can be done along with the visual inspection. A round that looks perfect might still stick due to some dimensional abnormality undetectable to the human eye.



Of course, even if you check everything you can still run afoul of bad luck. Here is a photo of a fairly unusual squib load in which the bullet had just enough momentum to reach the muzzle but not leave the gun. There is no practical way to test for that in advance. A squib is just the Gods of War telling you, "Take a break."

Take the time to check your ammo. Whether it's a few seconds in a match, a blown up gun, or having your defensive tool turned into a bookend at the worst possible moment you really don't want to have a problem that could have been prevented with just a little time and effort.

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"Working With Others (Significant Others, Family, and Friends) for Mutual Protection"

Instructor: Claude Werner

Saturday, 5 November 2011, 9:00 am-6:00 pm

Tuition- \$225.00 Need 200 rounds of handgun ammo, we will supply airsoft gear at no charge.

Claude Werner served in the US Army as a Captain in Special Forces, and later for several years was the Chief Instructor at the famed Rogers School in Georgia. He has expended a great deal of effort and research into how best to ensure your safety and the safety of loved ones in a sudden emergency.

Loved ones, friends, and associates are a regular part of everyday life. However, most self defense/firearms training does not generally discuss the implications of how having multiple protectees can radically escalate the complexity of responding to a criminal assault.

Working With Others is a seminar that focuses on the issues associated with having additional people, including children and elderly parents, to care for in the context of personal protection. The format for the seminar is a combination of lecture and guided exercises. This is not a bodyguard

class, but rather an exercise in mutual cooperation on the part of both partners. Partners are encouraged to attend together but unaccompanied persons are welcome.

Highlights:

- Determining priorities of planning and preparation
- Deciding ultimate objective(s)
- Readiness Conditions
- Couple training/practice issues
- Marksmanship issues (case studies)
- Best Practices interview results on communication, SOPs, and weapons
- Safeguarding children and elderly parents
- Safe room considerations and procedures for families

There will be live exercises involving the use of airsoft equipment, to allow safe movement through thought provoking practical exercises. There will also be some live-fire range time illustrating some of the key points covered in the classroom portions of the training. You will need your daily carry handgun, holster, and spare ammunition carrier, plus 200 rounds of ammunition. This course will be conducted at Rangemaster, Memphis. To register, call 901-370-5600.