



Tactical Talk

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"Of all tyrannies, a tyranny exercised for the good of

its victims may be the most oppressive. It may be better to live under robber barons than under omnipotent moral busybodies.

The robber baron's cruelty may sometimes sleep, his cupidity may at some point be satiated; but those who torment us for our own good will torment us without end for they do so with the approval of their own conscience."

—C.S. Lewis

As you know, there was a mass shooting at a theater in Colorado in July, and in August there were 6 people killed and more wounded at a Sikh temple in Wisconsin. What you probably do not know, is that 9 people were killed and 4 others wounded in a KNIFE ATTACK by one man in August in China. Here is the news report:

A teenager has been arrested after killing nine people and wounding four others in a knife attack in northeast China, state media reported Thursday.

The 17-year-old, who was identified only by his surname Li, barged into the home of his girlfriend armed with a knife following an argument and killed two relatives of the girl, the Legal Daily said. As he left his girlfriend's home in Liaoning province's Xinbin county, he stabbed six more people to death and wounded five, it said. One of the injured died Thursday in hospital, the paper said. Li was arrested near the scene of the attack, late on Wednesday night, and was taken into custody, the official Xinhua news agency reported. Police had nabbed him as he was preparing to jump from a building in an apparent suicide attempt, it added. No other details were immediately available. Calls made to local authorities and police in Xinbin county went unanswered.

Violent crime has been on the rise in China in recent decades as the nation's economy has boomed and the gap between rich and poor has expanded at an alarming rate.

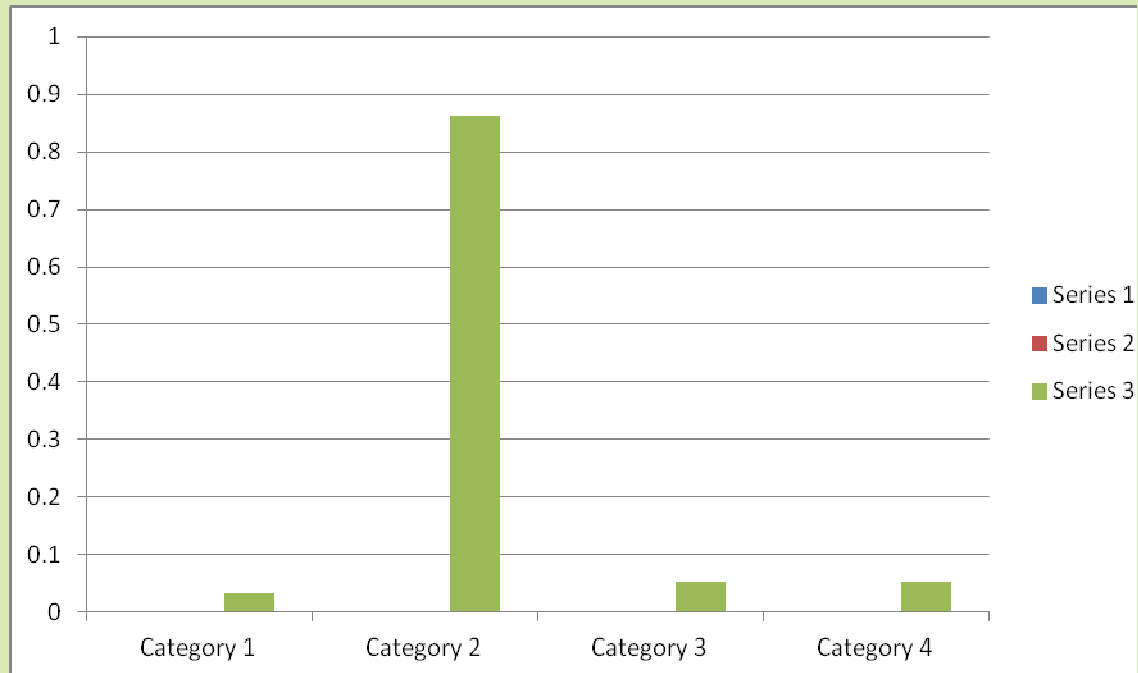
So, it doesn't take a madman with a gun to do mass damage. What it does take is a bunch of unarmed victims, unable to defend themselves. In no case will the police ever arrive in time to stop the carnage, even if the attacker has a knife, not a gun. He will only be stopped by an intended victim who refuses to be a victim. It is your duty and your responsibility to be able to defend yourself and your family, regardless of the location.

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Eric Brown beams over a very respectable target after a difficult timed course of fire in a Combative Pistol Course, Culpeper, Virginia. (July 2012)



Category 1, 0-2 yards, 2 incidents, 3.4%

Category 2, 3-5 yards, 50 incidents, 86.2%

Category 3, 5-7 yards, 3 incidents, 5.2%

Category 4, 7-25 yards, 3 incidents, 5.2%

Students often ask me at what distances should they be practicing for self defense. In May we had our 58th successful defense by a student against criminals. Those 58 incidents break down as shown in the graph here. Note that the vast majority of these fights took place in the 3-5 yard range (86.2% of the total). A typical American sedan is 16 feet long, so this distance could be characterized as “within a car length”. There were two incidents that involved physical contact between the defender and the attacker. At the other end of the spectrum, there were 6 incidents that occurred beyond a car’s length, and 3 of those were at extended ranges of 15, 18, and 22 yards.

Thus, I would spend the majority of my practice effort on distances in the “inside the length of a car” range, but put some effort into longer shots, as they do occur.



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These are classes taught by Rangemaster staff on the road in September and October.

Sept 15-16, Sat-Sun, Combative Pistol, Wichita, Kansas, contact The Bullet Stop, 316-945-3331

Sept 21-23, Fri-Sun, Three-Day Firearms Instructor Development & Certification Course, McLoud, Oklahoma, call Rangemaster, 901-370-5600

Sept 29-30, Sat-Sun, Combative Pistol II (Dynamic Marksmanship), Longview, Texas, contact James Sterling, sterlingranch@suddenlink.net

Oct 5-7, Friday-Sunday, Three-Day Firearms Instructor Development & Certification Course, Andersonville, Georgia (south of Atlanta), contact Dennis Raines at americustraining@yahoo.com or Shane Gosa, 229-815-9188

Oct 12-14, Fri evening through Sunday, Combined Skills Course, 6pm-10pm Friday, 9am-6pm Saturday and Sunday, Chandler, OK
Tom Givens, Steve Moses, Dr. Troy Miller

Oct 20-21, Sat-Sun, Combative Pistol, Rogers, Arkansas
Contact Jon Hodoway, nighthawkcustomtraining.com or 479-631-1321

Oct 27-28, Sat-Sun, Dynamic Marksmanship, South River Gun Club, Atlanta, GA, contact Robert E Wilson Jr PO Box 3494 McDonough GA 30253 WilsonGSG9@aol.com



**Tom overseeing a class,
Culpeper, Virginia, July 2012**



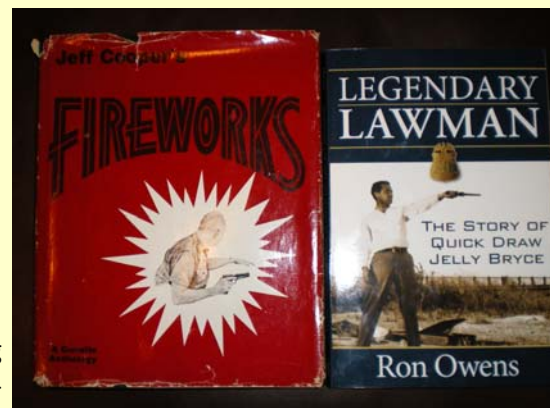
The Thinking Gunman's Bookshelf **By Tom Givens**

As a serious "student of the gun" for over forty years, I have always sought out information on every aspect of armed self defense. Sadly, I frequently encounter people who own guns, ostensibly for self defense, but they have no knowledge of defensive shooting technique or equipment. Others know something about their handguns and may even be good shots, but have never actually considered the moral, ethical and legal ramifications of using a firearm in self defense. Still others have some understanding of these issues, but have no idea of the rich history of armed self defense in this country, or the evolution of the techniques we take for granted today. If self defense against dangerous criminals is your goal, some understanding of the criminal's mentality could be very useful. Finally, some understanding of the wounding mechanisms of handgun ammunition and of human anatomy are important pieces of the puzzle. In my view, a well rounded handgunner should have some basic knowledge and understanding in each of these areas of study.

Looking over my personal reference library, I found over one hundred and fifty books dealing with the topics listed above. Generally, they can be divided into two categories, "software and hardware". The "software" volumes deal with such issues as developing a proper defensive mindset, understanding the criminal mind, and basic understanding of the legal issues involved in using force. The "hardware" books deal with handguns, holsters, and other equipment and with the specific techniques involved in using these tools efficiently. I'll break these further into sub-sets based on content and make some recommendations for your reading list. Space constraints keep me from being able to give you a real book report on each but I'll highlight why I think some of these books are important to you.

SOFTWARE

The first book on my list should be required reading for every person who even thinks about carrying a handgun for self defense. Principles of Personal Defense was written by Jeff Cooper in 1972 and is a very brief work outlining the seven guiding principles of personal combat. It is available in booklet form from Paladin Press. Jeff authored a number of books in his long career and many of them contain great insight into both shooting technique and mindset development. One of my favorites is Fireworks, a Gunsite Anthology.



Born Fighting, How the Scots-Irish Shaped America, by James Webb has been described as "popular history at its finest" by the American Library Association. Webb traces the influx of Scots-Irish immigrants into the US and how their input shaped the American working class's sense of fierce individualism, persistent egalitarianism and strong sense of personal honor.

Deep Survival, Who Lives, Who Dies, and Why by Laurence Gonzales is a vital description of the mental, emotional and character issues involved in surviving catastrophe, whether natural or man-made. Many years ago Jeff Cooper wrote that "the world is divided into two groups, copers and non-copers". The purpose of training and personal development was to become a "coper". According to Gonzales, it appears Jeff was correct.

The Deadliest Men, by Paul Kirchner is a fascinating look at some of the most skilled and successful warriors in history. Paul spent five years researching this material and has offered some real insights into the character and actions of some of the best known as well as some relatively unknown fighters. From well known folk heroes like Sgt. Alvin York and James Bowie to some less well known gunmen like Delf "Jelly" Bryce and Lance Thomas, Kirchner gives us a look at what makes real warriors.

(Continued from page 6)

To this list I would add two more works dealing with the emotional and mental aspects of law enforcement involved deadly force incidents. Both offer a great deal of information on what you can expect during, and as importantly, after a defensive shooting. They are Deadly Force Encounters, by Dr. Alexis Artwohl and Loren Christensen, and Into the Kill Zone, by David Klinger.

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

Without comment, here is a good starting list for learning about the history and development of gunfighting in the US. Many are available as low cost re-prints, or you can scour gun shows and estate sales for original copies.

Fast & Fancy Revolver Shooting, by Ed McGivern

Sixguns, by Elmer Keith

Gunfighters, by Col. Charles Askins

Shooting, by J. Henry Fitzgerald

Legendary Lawman, The Story of Quick Draw Jelly Bryce, Ron Owens

HARDWARE

These are current works dealing with modern, effective shooting and gunhandling techniques. Each represents current state of the art technique, but because of the different backgrounds of the authors (law enforcement, special operations military) those techniques may vary slightly.

Stay in the Fight, Warriors Guide to the Combat Pistol, by Kyle Lamb, recently retired from US Army Special Operations.

Handgun Combatives, by Dave Spaulding, recently retired from a long and storied law enforcement career.

The Art of Modern Gunfighting, by Scott Reitz, recently retired member of LAPD SWAT, winner of several line of duty gunfights and experienced trainer.

Building a Better Gunfighter, by Richard Fairburn, a police firearms instructor, researcher and writer.

Training at the Speed of Life, by Kenneth Murray. Murray is one of the pioneers in simulation based training and this book is the bible for force on force training.

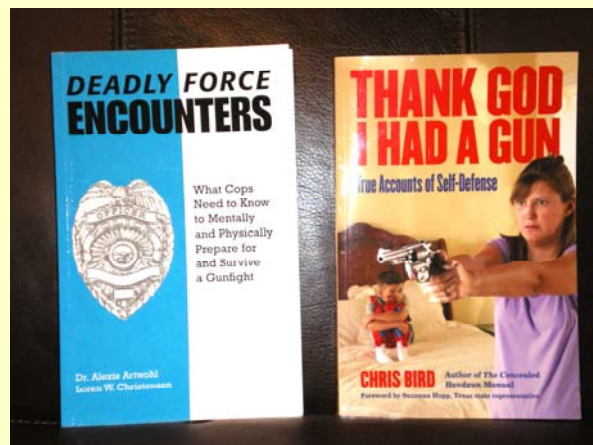
WOMEN'S ISSUES IN FIREARMS TRAINING

More and more women are entering the field of personal self defense training, and they bring a unique set of challenges and needs to the modern firearms trainer. Here are some excellent works to help guide women and their trainers.

The Cornered Cat, by Kathy Jackson

Personal Defense for Women, by Gila Hayes

Teaching Women to Shoot, by Vicki Farnam and Diane Nichol



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GUNSHOT WOUNDING

Gunshot Wounds, by Dr. Vincent DiMaio, one of the most experienced and respected forensic medical examiners in the US

Forensic Analysis of the April 11, 1986, FBI Firefight, Dr. French Anderson A detailed look at a historic shooting incident, including extensive information on the many wounds suffered by participants in this gun battle, and how those wounds affected the action.

LEGAL ISSUES

In the Gravest Extreme, by Massad Ayoob is several decades old now, but still has a solid foundation of information on the legal aspects of self defense.

CRIMINAL PSYCHOLOGY

Inside the Criminal Mind, by Stanton E. Samenow, Ph.D. (The Revised and Updated Edition). The original version of this book was published in 1984, and became a best-seller. The work was updated in 2004, after Samenow had an additional 20 years of experience in researching criminal behavior. John Douglas was one of the original profilers in the FBI Behavioral Sciences Unit, and he had this to say about Inside the Criminal Mind, "Utterly compelling reading, full of raw insight into the dark mind of the criminal."

The Dark Side of Man, by Michael Ghiglieri is a thorough and detailed look at human aggression and violence from the unique perspective of a former combat soldier and longtime primate researcher, a protégé of Jane Goodall. The Dark Side of Man offers scientific explanation for behavior such as rape, murder and genocide. Not for the faint hearted.

So this should keep you reading for a while. When you finish these, you'll have a good basic working knowledge of the many topics that are involved in self defense and hopefully, an appetite for more. Happy reading!