



Tactical Talk

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Light travels faster than sound. This is why some people appear bright until you hear them speak



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New Laws, New Confusion

On July 1st, two new laws go into affect that have generated a lot of public confusion. Here is an attempt to clear up the muddy legislative water.

In Tennessee, the "Safe Commute Act" was supposed to allow carry permit holders to store their weapons in their cars on parking lots of businesses or other locations that forbid the carrying of weapons on the property. As an example, Fed Ex, a major opponent of the bill, flatly prohibits possession of weapons by employees anywhere on their property. Thus, if a Fed Ex employee were caught leaving a handgun for which he has a state issued carry permit in his car on a Fed Ex lot, he would be immediately terminated. The intent of the Safe Commute Act was to protect this permit holding employee as long as he does not remove the gun from his car while on the employer's parking lot. However, the bill, as passed, only provides protection against being arrested for having the gun in the car—not from being fired. The employer still, Safe Commute Act notwithstanding, has the power to fire at will employees for violation of company policy or regulation, even though the prohibited conduct is perfectly legal. Prior to this law, employers had the authority to fire employees who violate company policy. After this law, employers have the authority to fire employees who violate company policy. Nothing really changed.

Of course, the whole point of this bill was to allow legal handgun carry permit holders to defend themselves on the way to and from work, or if they choose not to go straight home from work. Thus, the "Safe Commute Act" title. However, the bill was poorly worded and doesn't change the situation at all.

In Mississippi, House Bill 2 clarifies some issues that have been very murky and left open to interpretation by previous laws.

Open carry (wearing a holstered handgun in plain view, not concealed) has been legal in Mississippi since their new constitution was adopted in 1890. However, certain judges and prosecutors have held that if any part of a handgun is in a holster, that makes the gun "concealed", since one cannot see all of the gun. HB2 does away with that notion. So, if the handgun is worn openly on the belt where everyone can see it, it is legal to carry it, without a permit, in Mississippi. If the gun is covered or concealed by clothing, however, a carry permit is required. Again, nothing really changed, except for keeping moron judges from claiming a gun in a holster is "concealed". To carry concealed in Mississippi, one still needs a regular or enhanced Mississippi carry permit.



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One recent afternoon I got a rare chance to get out on the range and actually practice. I took 200 rounds of brand new factory .40 S&W ammo we recently received.

Out of 200 rounds, I had 8 in which the bullets had been pushed back into the case, resulting in a way too short overall length. My gun would have fed them, but fortunately I caught them while loading magazines. The .40 is a high-pressure cartridge to begin with, and the pressure spike caused by these rounds could easily have blown up my gun. See pictures.



This was US made factory ammo, not reloads. This underscores the need to give a visual and tactile inspection to EVERY round you put into your gun. Also, here is a photo of a 9mm factory round from a recent class. The bullet was inserted backwards during the loading process.

Manufacturers are busting their butts trying to meet demand. Quality control is suffering, as a result. Be careful.



The following comes to us from our old friend and esteemed colleague, John Farnam:

The Bill of Rights, paraphrased from a friend and scholar:

"At the time of the drafting of our Federal Constitution, there was much heated discussion with regard to the structure of the federal government. The proposed construction certainly attempted to dissipate power among the branches, but the rights of citizens were still not secure. Tyranny was ever the major concern.

In fact, the body of the Constitution protects only two individual rights:

The prohibition against ex-post facto laws, and Bills of Attainder.

James Madison was the principle author and architect of the Bill of Rights. He also almost single-handedly caused the Bill of Rights to be passed by the First Congress.

At the time, the single greatest objection to an enumeration of specific rights was the fear that, when a right was missed in the enumeration process, that right would be deemed forfeit. The states thus submitted a total of seventy-seven enumerated rights. Avoiding a cumbersome and tediously redundant list demonstrates Madison's genius, and also reveals his historical study of tyrants.

Throughout history, tyrants have used a predictable assemblage of techniques to collect power and weaken, discredit, and demolish all opposition. The single most effective and regularly-used technique is to misuse the law to criminalize all forms of resistance. 'Treason' is thus incorrectly defined, by tyrants, as any word or act that even suggests opposition to them. Truth is never a defense! Entire groups are thus arbitrarily declared "enemies of the State," and everyone in them loses his civil rights, his property, sometimes his life.

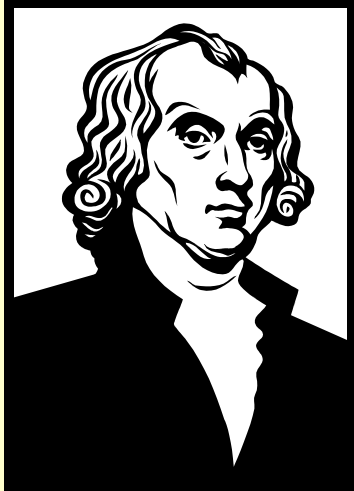
Religious beliefs, particularly Christian and Jewish, are regularly seen by tyrants as home for opposition.

Weapons in the hands of those expressing concern about tyranny is also regularly seen by tyrants as a threat.

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Madison therefore recognized that central to all tyranny is the creation of 'special classes' of citizens, classes who are arbitrarily endowed with special privileges not enjoyed by the rest of the population. 'Special citizens' are specifically exempted from obeying certain laws that are binding upon the rest of us, most often through a series of capricious edicts. Individual rights and thus progressively, relentlessly converted to 'privileges.'



Hapless citizens falling outside 'special classification,' including members of the opposition, find themselves progressively marginalized, denigrated, despised, eventually stripped of rights, property, liberty, and are ultimately herded into gulags and gas-chambers.

Madison thus created an inter-connected list of individual rights that protect the personal liberty and property of every, individual citizen.

What should represent a great concern to all good people is when tyrant wannabes contemptuously dismiss the Constitution, and the Bill of Rights, in an effort seize power, using terms like 'irrelevant,' 'outdated,' 'a living document.'"



Comment:

"The most dangerous man to any government is the one who is able to think things out, without regard to prevailing superstitions and taboos. Almost inevitably he comes to the conclusion that the government he lives under is dishonest, insane, intolerable."

-- **H.L. Mencken**

Rangemaster Three-Day Firearms Instructor Development & Certification Course

August 2-4, 2013, Friday through Sunday
9:00 a.m.-6:00 p.m. each day

This is an intensive full three day (24 hours total) course that teaches candidates:

- modern adult learning theory;
- preparation, delivery, and documentation of training;
- development of training aids, including power points and others;
- coaching methodologies, diagnosing and correcting shooters' errors;
- modern, effective gunhandling techniques, designed to work under stress;
- proper handling/operation of a variety of handgun types; and
- effective, efficient combat marksmanship techniques.



The course time is divided about equally between classroom sessions and range firing, and each student will fire approximately 1,000 rounds of ammunition. Students will act as coaches for other students, and each will be coached extensively in turn. Students also receive a 170+ page training manual, which is a valuable information and reference resource. To graduate from this course, students must pass a shooting qualification, pass a written examination, and conduct a brief presentation in the classroom on an assigned topic. This course satisfies the training requirements for the Tennessee Department of Safety to become a State Certified Handgun Instructor and the Oklahoma CLEET requirements to become an OK SDA Instructor. It is recognized for 24 hours of continuing education credit for law enforcement in South Carolina by SCCJA.

For this course, students will need:

- ◆ A serviceable sidearm, revolver or semi-auto, of at least .38 Special or 9X19mm caliber (.38 Special, 9mm, .357 SIG, .40 S&W, .45 Auto);
- ◆ A serviceable uniform duty or concealed carry holster, worn on the belt, of leather or kydex construction, with a covered trigger guard;
- ◆ At least three magazines or speedloaders (more is better);
- ◆ 1,000 rounds of full power ammunition for the sidearm.



If you have ever considered teaching others to shoot, or if you want to master the art of handgun shooting, this is the course for you. We teach this course all over the US, but this class is at our home range, which is air conditioned, and has all of the props and supplies we may not have on the road.

Advance registration is required. Tuition is only \$499.00. Call 901-370-5600 to register.
See www.rangemaster.com for more information

See and be seen!

By Craig Harper, Rangemaster Instructor

Way back when I still had hair and was a young and dumb Army Military Policeman, "See and be seen" was something we always heard as part of our daily briefing prior to going on duty. That brief sentence was always spoken - shouted usually - by the Shift Commander as a reminder of a basic tactic of patrol that we learned early on in MP school.

The "see" part meant exactly that: don't just be there, actually see what is going on around you. We were to be on the lookout for things that were unusual, unexplained, and therefore, possibly suspicious. It further served as a reminder that we needed to be aware of those who were around us.

"See" is just as applicable today as then. As we go through our daily routines, we need to pay attention to our circumstances and those around us. In short, we need to stay alert; what Jeff Cooper called "Condition Yellow." Early on in your Rangemaster training, and repeated throughout the various classes you participate in, you'll hear "See" expressed in various ways. It's our constant reminder to students that the single most important tactical principle is alertness.

The "be seen" part was to remind us that, in our vehicles or on foot, we were to patrol in a manner that would allow the bad guys to understand that we were there and looking for them; a deterrence to crime or other bad behavior. It also was to reassure those we were protecting that, indeed, the cops were on duty; not down at the closest Post Exchange or snack bar.

There is a twist on "be seen" for citizens. We actually don't want to be seen; we're not on police patrol. Rather, we want to blend in with our surrounding, so that it lowers our chances of being selected as victim. Flashy clothes, displays of jewelry, and inattentive behavior can attract the attention of those who would do us harm.

Yet, we do want to "be seen" - it's a matter of *how*. Since we can't become invisible, how we are seen can be a deterrent to victim selection. We can all be - and are - targeted to be a victim. Whether we are selected can often come down to how we are perceived by the thugs. If we act in a confident manner without cockiness, if we are obviously paying attention to our surroundings, if we walk in a normal, confident gait, we are less likely to be selected as a potential victim.

Other than shining shoes and cleaning guns, I thought that once I got out of the Army, I'd never again use many of the skills I had acquired. Little did I know that "See and be seen!" would be a skill that became a regular part of my life.

More Propaganda from the Commercial Appeal

For the entire month of May, the Commercial Appeal ran a daily series entitled "Safe in Memphis". The gist was that one should "feel safe" walking in Memphis at night, and that crime here is really not that much worse than in other cities of similar size. There was a lot of feel-good talk from various sources, but precious little hard information. In fact, during a discussion of over-coverage of crime by the media, the writer let slip the fact that in the previous three weeks, the newspaper had

written up 14 shooting incidents involving 7 fatalities (homicides) in Memphis. Bear in mind, that's only the shootings the C/A covered, NOT all of the shootings that occurred. Given that half of these shootings proved fatal, that underscores that they only reported the most serious incidents. There were many other shootings in Memphis during that period that were not covered by the newspaper.

The bottom line is that "feeling safe" is delusional, and has little to do with reality. You can "feel safe" and still be raped, crippled or murdered. I'll stick with reality, rather than feelings, thanks.



Defensive Shotgun Course, at Rangemaster

July 22-23, Mon-Tues

6:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m.
both nights.

All ammunition is supplied by Rangemaster, included in the tuition.

The shotgun is one of the most capable weapons available to the average citizen, for home or business defense. In this course you will learn to properly select, modify, feed and use your shotgun effectively. We will have some loaner guns available to those who do not own a proper shotgun yet. Call 901-370-5600 to register.

Incident Trends and How That Affects Training

At present, we are at 63 student involved incidents. The current tally is 61 wins/ 0 losses/ 2 forfeits. Henceforth, I will simply refer to these as incidents.

I am fully aware that 62 incidents represents a statistically insignificant number. When we see the same things occurring over and over again, however, I consider that a clue. Of our 63 so far:

- 2 occurred at contact distance;
- 3 occurred at 5-7 yards;
- 3 occurred between 15 and 25 yards;
- 55 occurred at between 3 and 5 yards. (87%)

For purposes of discussion, I suggest the following definitions pertaining to distance:

0-2 meters/yards Extreme Close Quarters If two men are standing, facing each other, and both outstretch their arms forward, they would touch or almost touch. You have not been paying attention to your environment if the first time you are aware of the bad guy is when he is within arm's reach!

3-5 meters/yards Close Quarters This is essentially from just beyond two arms' reach to the length of a car. This is where 87% of our incidents occurred and I believe that holds for legitimate civilian self-defense shootings in general. This is where the bulk of civilian training/practice should occur.

5-7 meters/yards Open Quarters Less common, because you are leaving conversational distance. To speak to someone, as in making a robbery demand, one will usually be within one car length of the person spoken to. Conversational distances = confrontational distances.

7-25 meters/yards Mid-Range More common than Extreme Close Quarters, but still not typical. Should put some effort into training at this distance.

25 meters/yards and beyond Long Range Has not come up in 63 incidents. Longest range in one of our incidents so far was 22 yards. The only scenario I can envision here for a private citizen would be an active shooter across the food court at the mall. An accomplished shooter should practice this some, for familiarization. Probably beyond the scope for the typical CCW person.

I have started referring to distance on the training range in "car lengths" rather than in yards or meters. I find the typical modern student has no concept of distance measured in yards/meters, but all are familiar with a car length. The typical American sedan is 16 feet long, so one car length is about 5 yards. Two car lengths is 10 yards, 3 car lengths is 15 yards, and so on. This seems to work well.

Given the distances broken down in our incidents, I believe the bulk of our practice should be at one car length, or 3-5 meters/yards. One should have some familiarity with contact distance shooting and with mid-range engagement, but since roughly 9 out of 10 of our incidents occurred at 3, 4, or 5 yards that is where we spend the bulk of our training effort in Rangemaster courses.

You Stopped Shooting, Now What?

by Tom Givens

You have drawn your holstered sidearm and fired shots. The fight appears to be over or the practice drill has been completed. What should we do next?

Ideally, in your practice routines you should be deeply ingraining habits that will carry over into proper performance in an emergency. Anything you do in practice the same way, over and over, will tend to be what you do under high levels of stress. This applies equally to good habits and bad habits. As an example of bad habits, there are documented cases of police officers in gunfights taking the time to place fired brass in their pants pockets before reloading an empty revolver, sometimes getting killed in the process. This was what they did on the range, and it carried over to the street. An example of good habits is a shooter who brings a handgun to eye level, in both hands, and gets good hits in a fight, because that is the way he practices religiously. We want to structure our practice in such a way that we constantly reinforce good habits, while avoiding the formation of bad habits.

For this article, we'll concentrate on just one topic, that of what to do once we stop shooting. If we develop a standard procedure and practice it every time we finish a drill on the range, we are building a sound tactical habit. A side benefit of this approach is increased personal safety on the practice range. Many people think drawing a handgun from a holster quickly is dangerous. It is, if done incorrectly, but with just a small amount of proper training in the modern four-count draw stroke we can just about eliminate the risk. Oddly, most shooters who are injured while engaged in practicing working from the holster are not shot on the draw, but while attempting to re-holster the handgun at the completion of a drill. Most of the major schools have had students who accidentally shot themselves during training, and darn near 100% of those shootings occurred while holstering.

This is typically caused by what we call "speed holstering". The student fires the last shot of the drill, and while brass is still in the air tries to quickly stuff the gun back into the holster. Whether the trigger finger did not get clear of the trigger guard soon enough, or clothing or some other item entered the trigger guard, the shooter jams the gun into the holster and it goes "Bang". This usually results in a bullet burrowing down the leg lengthwise, exiting around the ankle. Ouch! That is the training risk created by "speed holstering". The tactical risk this habit engenders is that of putting the gun away too soon, only to find someone still needs to be shot! In a real fight, we really don't want to have to draw that gun but once.

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To prevent this issue, I suggest you use a brief ritual each time you stop shooting, to prevent speed holstering and its attendant risks. In its most elemental form, the sequence might go like this:

Come down to a "hard ready". You simply lower the gun enough to be certain you can see the hands and waistline of anyone downrange. The instant the gun breaks the eye/target line, the trigger finger goes out of the trigger guard to its "register" position along the pistol's slide.

Look at the target(s) you just engaged, then scan to left and right for any additional targets/threats.

Bring your support hand off the gun and back to your chest, to avoid flagging that hand with the muzzle when you bring the gun back.

Bring the gun hand back to your body and holster the pistol, slowly and deliberately.

Different schools have different methods for teaching this skill to new students. The NRA Law Enforcement Training Division, for instance, has shooters come down to Ready and scan, then they give the command to "Holster, reluctantly". The word "reluctantly" reinforces in the student's mind that they do not want to put the gun away prematurely. Make sure the fight is over, then holster.

Andy Stanford has for years taught "The Wyatt Protocol", named after California shooter Lyle Wyatt. It was codified by Andy Stanford and has been taught, in some form or fashion, since the early 90s. It began as a series of steps following an encounter: "Fight! Do I need to Fight anymore? Do I need to fight anyone else? Get Ready to fight again!" Trainers at Tactical Response took the Wyatt Protocol and evolved it into the acronym FAST, or "Fight, Assess, Scan, Top-off". Adding "top-off" indicated the need to reload your pistol, to return it to full capacity. Recently, Tactical Response added another T, making it FASTT, or "Fight, Assess, Scan, Top-off, Treat", with "Treat" referring to treating injuries to self or companions. As far back as the 1970's, I was taught the same thing by the venerable Chuck Taylor, as a series of questions, "Did I hit him? Is he down? Is he out of the fight? Where are his friends?".

The main point is to get out of the mindset that you "fired a few shots, it's all over, stuff the gun back in the holster". Whether in training or on the street, when you stop shooting, come to a solid ready position and evaluate the threat you just engaged. Then look for other threats. If desirable, reload your pistol in case things go bad again. Only then, safely and deliberately holster your pistol. This is one range habit that will serve you well on the street.

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