



The 2016 FBI Report on Law Enforcement Officers Killed or Assaulted in the Line of Duty (LEOKA)

total of 118 law enforcement officers were killed in the line of duty in 2016, according to the FBI's annual Law Enforcement Officers Killed and Assaulted (LEOKA) report. Of those deaths, 52 were accidental and 66 were felonious (murdered in the line of duty). Both are a significant increase from 2015, when 45 officers died accidentally and 41 were murdered in the line of duty.

The 66 felonious deaths occurred in 29 states and in Puerto Rico with the south proving to be the 13 in the Midwest, 4 in the

most deadly for law enforcement with 30 felonious deaths. In addition, 17 occurred in the West, Northeast, and 2 in Puerto Rico. Police ambushes reached a twodecade high in 2016 with 17 officers ambushed and killed by suspects. According to the FBI, here's what those 66 law officers were doing when they were murdered:

Seventeen were victims of a premeditated ambush.

> Six were engaged in tactical situations (SWAT, etc.).

Thirteen were answering disturbance calls (seven were domestic).

> Five were investigating (surveillance, searches, interviews, etc.).

Nine were answering calls about suspicious persons or circumstances.

> Four were conducting traffic pursuits (2) or stops (2).

Nine were trying to make arrests.

- 1 burglary
- 1 robbery
- 3 drug-related 4 other

Three were victims

of sudden. unprovoked attacks.

Sixty-two of the 66 slain officers were killed with a firearm. Of those firearms, 37 were handguns, 24 were rifles, and 1 was a shotgun. Four officers were killed when vehicles were used as weapons against them.

Also, 57,180 officers were assaulted in the line of duty. Nearly 30% of those resulted in injury. That's roughly 157 officers assaulted per day (a 10% increase from 2015), 32% of the assaults were on disturbance calls.

In addition to murders, 52 law enforcement officers were killed accidentally while performing their duties in 2016. Twenty-six were killed in car wrecks. Seat belt information was available for 21 of those deaths: 10 officers were wearing a seatbelt; 11 were not. Other accidental deaths included 12 officers who were accidentally struck by vehicles, 7 motorcycle wrecks, three officers who were shot by accident, two who drowned, and one died in an aircraft accident.



# Inc Changing Tace of lot of people are under the mistaken impression that all law enforcement agencies report crimes and other data to the FBI for the FBI to use in formulating their annual reports. This is a purely voluntary reporting system and many agencies, large and small, do not submit their statistics to the FBI. Thus, when the annual FBI UCR (Uniform Crime Report) comes out, the totals of crimes like Murder and Aggravated Assault are grossly under-reported. by Tom Givens

One research think tank went to municipal departments all over the US and gathered their homicide totals. It found the actual number was far higher than what the FBI acknowledges. For instance, from 1976 through 2016, this group identified a total of 751,785 murders in the United States (see www.murderdata.org). That is an average of 18,795 per year, not the 14,000 to 17,000 the FBI reports indicate. By the way, that's 51 or 52 Murders each day, on average.

An interesting by-product of this group's research was a look at how "clearance rates" have dropped significantly over recent decades. The "clearance rate" refers to the percentage of murders considered "solved," even if no arrest or prosecution ever takes place. In 1965, the average clearance rate for Murder in the U.S. was 92%. In the past, the majority of Murders were committed by spouses or ex-boyfriends, drinking buddies, gambling friends, or relatives. It doesn't take Sherlock Holmes to solve these. The offender is often still

at the scene when police arrive, and everybody knows what happened.

In the decades since 1965, the percentage of "stranger homicides" has risen dramatically. In a "stranger homicide" the victim and offender are not related or known to each other. These are typically armed robberies, carjackings, rapes, or other crimes that turned into murder, or serial killer victims. In 2016, the national clearance rate for murders fell to just under 60%, down from 92% just 50 years ago. Los Angeles had the highest clearance rate in the country, at 73%, while Detroit was the worst, at just 14%.

These high rates of unsolved murders point to the rise in stranger homicides. With no known connections between the victim and offender, police have far less chance of a successful investigation. The actual number of murders in the US is even higher than this research shows, however. Each year, about 30,000 people in the U.S. simply vanish without a trace.

Many of these are homicide victims whose bodies were especially well disposed of by their killers. I believe a low estimate would be that 20,000+ of those who completely disappear are homicide victims not discovered. They simply disappear. The actual number of murders in the US, then, is actually closer to 40,000 per year.

#### **Book Update!**

Tom's publisher has decided to get out of the retail book selling business. However, you can still get an autographed copy of Fighting Smarter (now in its third edition) by sending a personal check, company check, or money order for \$38.95, plus \$5.00 shipping, to Rangemaster; 1808 James L Redman Parkway, Suite 226; Plant City, FL, 33563.

#### FIGHTING SMARTER

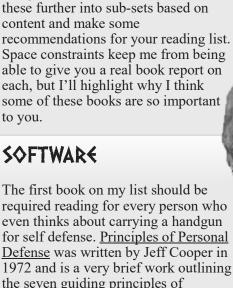
A PRACTICAL GUIDE FOR SURVIVING
VIOLENT CONFRONTATIONS
By Tom Givens
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# THE THINKING GUNMAN'S BOOKSHELF

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 two hundred 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

GONZALES



proper defensive mindset,

involved in using force. The

understanding the criminal mind, and basic understanding of the legal issues

"hardware" books deal with handguns,

holsters, and other equipment and with

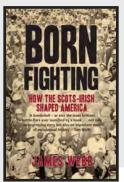
using these tools efficiently. I'll break

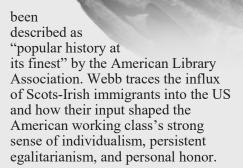
the specific techniques involved in

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. Another one of my favorites by Cooper is Fireworks, a Gunsite Anthology.

Born Fighting, How the Scots-Irish Shaped America (by James Webb) has

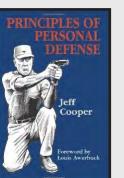




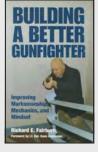


Deep Survival: Who Lives, Who Dies, and Why (by Laurence Gonzales) is a vital description of the mental, emotional, and character issues involved in surviving catastrophe, whether natural or manmade. Many years ago Jeff Cooper wrote that "the world is divided into two groups, copers and non-copers."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

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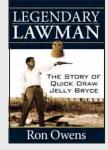


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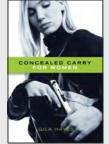














The Deadliest Men, by Paul Kirchner, is a fascinating look at some of the most skilled and successful warriors in history. Paul spent five years researching this material and has offered some real insights into the character and actions of some of the best known as well as some relatively unknown fighters. 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.

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 <u>Deadly Force Encounters</u>, by Dr. Alexis Artwohl and Loren Christensen, and <u>Into the Kill Zone</u>, by David Klinger.

#### HARDWARK

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.

- <u>Building a Better Gunfighter</u>, 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 of simunition-based training, and his book is the bible for force-on-force.

#### 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. You can often find used copies on Amazon or at Gunbroker.com.

- <u>Fast & Fancy Revolver Shooting</u>, by Ed McGivern
- ◆ Sixguns, by Elmer Keith
- <u>Gunfighters</u>, by Col. Charles Askins
- ◆ The Pistol Shooter's Book, by Col. Charles Askins
- ◆ Combat Handgun Shooting, by James Mason
- Shooting, by J. Henry Fitzgerald
- ◆ <u>Legendary Lawman</u>, The Story of jelly Bryce, by Ron Owens

#### WOMEN + FIREARMS

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.

- Concealed Carry for Women, by Gila Hayes
- ◆ <u>Teaching Women to Shoot</u>, by Vicki Farnam and Diane Nichol

#### LEGAL ISSUES

Massad Ayoob's In the Gravest

Extreme is several decades old now but still has a solid foundation of information on the legal aspects of self defense. His newer work is Deadly Force: Understanding Your Right to Self Defense – updated and highly recommended. Andrew Branca also covers the legal issues in depth in The Law of Self Defense. The latest addition to this list is Straight Talk on Armed Defense: What the Experts Want You to Know, edited by Massad Ayoob with chapters from Tom Givens, John Hearne, and many others.

#### <RIMINAL PSYCHOLOGY

I also recommend the revised/updated version of Inside the Criminal Mind by Stanton E. Samenow, Ph.D. The original version was published in 1984 and became a best-seller. It was updated in 2004, after Samenow had gained 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 has described Inside the Criminal Mind as "utterly compelling reading, full of raw insight into the dark mind of the criminal."

Finally, <u>The Dark Side of Man</u> (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. It's not for the faint hearted.



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#### **ΥΠΑΝΙΦΑΙΙΡΑΙΝΑ**

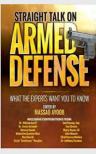
<u>Gunshot Wounds</u>, by Dr. Vincent DiMaio, is an authoritative text by one of the most experienced and respected forensic medical examiners in the US.

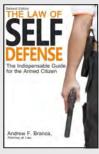
Last but not least, <u>Forensic Analysis of</u> the April 11, 1986, <u>FBI Firefight</u>, by Dr. French Anderson, is a detailed look at a historic shooting incident, including extensive information on the many wounds suffered by participants in this gun battle and how those wounds affected the action.

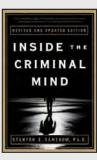
So, this should keep you reading for a while. When you finish these, you'll have a good basic working knowledge of the many topics that are involved in self defense and hopefully, an appetite for more. Happy reading!

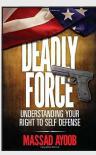














### **Upcoming Classes**

#### **April 7-8**

Combative Pistol Lakeland, FL

#### **April 13**

Defensive Shotgun Culpeper, VA

#### **April 14-15**

Combative Pistol Culpeper, VA

#### **April 27-29**

Handgun Instructor Lincoln, TX

#### **May 4-6**

Defensive Shotgun Instructor Franklin, TN

#### **May 18**

Defensive Shotgun Okeechobee, FL

#### **May 19-20**

Combative Pistol Okeechobee, FL

#### **May 26-27**

Intensive Pistol Florence, SC

#### **June 9-10**

Rangemaster Instructor Conference & Reunion Athens, GA

#### June 28-30

Handgun Instructor Xenia, OH

July 27-29, 2018 | Onalaska, WA

# MORTHWEST REGIONAL

**Eventbrite** 

www.eventbrite.com/o/tom-givens-6762296023

## POP QUIZ!

According to the 2016 LEOKA report, 66 law enforcement officers were murdered in the line of duty that year. How many of those were women?

- A) Two
- B) Five
- C) Eight
- D) Twelve



Got the answer? Be the first to reply to Tom's newsletter thread on the Rangemaster Facebook page, and you'll be this month's

WINNER!

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