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# RANGEMASTER

DEFENSIVE TACTICS FOR THE REAL WORLD

*Firearms Training Services*

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER



In certain types of violent crime, it is not uncommon for the bad guy to remove the victim from one place to another, usually at gunpoint. Typically, the victim is accosted in a relatively public place, like a shopping mall parking lot, and is then forced to go to a more remote and more private location. That second location is called “the second crime scene” and is usually a pretty gruesome sight.

Unlike in much of the world, abductions in the U.S. are rarely ransom kidnaps but rather are forays to obtain rape/torture/murder victims. The Bad Guy selected the second crime scene specifically because it is remote, or private, and will conceal his activity over a period of time. In business hold-ups, victims are often removed from the front of the store to a back stock-room or restroom, where they can be raped and murdered out of sight. You

must not let the violent criminal remove all your options! Once you are face down on the stock-room floor, or tied hand and foot, there is little you can do. You must act before things reach that point.

Recently in Georgia, an armed citizen was able to turn the tables on someone who was almost certainly going to kill the citizen and a store clerk. Here is part of the story from a local news source:

“Officials say the suspect walked into the store waving a gun in the air and forced a cashier and Ellis (armed citizen) at gunpoint towards a break room. At that point, Ellis pulled out a concealed weapon and shot the suspect once in the chest.”

“He escorted a customer who was trying to leave the store and a cashier

toward a break room. The cashier went in first and the customer went in behind her, and the individual had the gun on the customer and the customer had a pistol concealed in a holster,” Dallas County Sheriff Harris Huffman said. “And when the customer got to the door, he turned around and shot the individual.”

Of course, this was ruled a justifiable shooting. When you are being herded into a second crime scene at gunpoint, you are reasonably in fear for your life, and the time to act is NOW. So, make up your mind now, that:

**I will NOT get on the floor.**

**I will NOT get on my knees.**

**I will NOT go to the stock-room.**

**I will NOT be tied up.**

**I will NOT get in the trunk of the car.**

If you brandish a weapon and order me to do ANY of those things, you have declared total all-out war. You had better be ready for the consequences. ■

**FRIENDS** DON'T Let **FRIENDS** Carry in a

# FINGER-RELEASE HOLSTER

by Steve Havey  
Rangemaster-Certified Instructor

Read about FLETC (click here) and the LAPD (click here) banning Serpas.

Click here for another video where a piece of debris gets in the retention mechanism and the gun just will not come out of the holster.

Bottom line is the holster is not acceptable. If you want that level of retention I highly recommend the Safariland GLS (Grip Locking System) or their ALS line holsters.

## For those in "B" camp:

In particular I suggest you read the detail of the FLETC decision to ban them for training. They found that under a REAL stress situation someone pulls up on the gun with such force that the "normal" pressure on the release mechanism will not work and they start jabbing at it with their fingertip instead, leading to a negligent discharge.

## For those in the "C" camp:

This is the group we hope will keep growing. So, for everyone in this group, please spread the word. Remember: friends do not let friends carry in a Serpa. ■

**W**hen it comes to trigger-finger release holsters like the ones offered by Blackhawk or Fobus, I typically have seen responses that fall into one of the three typical responses.

**A** **Why is it a bad holster? My friend/gun store employee/instructor recommended it. I really like having retention."**

**B** **I have been using one for thousands of draws and never had an issue. Don't blame the holster. It's the shooter's lack of training and/or discipline."**

**C** **I will never use one."**

## For those in the "A" camp:

Many instructors, myself included, will not allow a Serpa in class or will require that the retention mechanism be disabled. The design places the trigger finger in line with the trigger during the draw, and there are just too many well documented instances of negligent discharges with these holsters. Below are some links to more evidence that Serpas are a bad choice.

Click here to see where a Guns and Ammo editor nearly has an ND while trying to tout the Serpa. It starts at the about the 2:27 time point in the video.



## Defensive Shotgun INSTRUCTOR

The shotgun is one of the most effective and versatile weapons the individual police officer or private citizen can normally access. It is also perhaps the least understood and most misused weapon system we have. Topics covered over these three days:

- Shotgun Selection
- Modifications and Accessories
- Shotgun Ammunition
- Shooting Technique for Defensive Shooting
- Efficient Gun-handling
- Patterning
- Tactical Application
- Modern Teaching Methodology

Students will need a pump or semiauto shotgun with a barrel length of from 18" to 22", or a legal SBS. You will fire approximately 300 rounds of birdshot, 150 rounds of buckshot, and 30 slugs.

Registered students will receive a detailed equipment list prior to class, and each will be issued a comprehensive manual and a two-hour DVD at class. Prior registration is required.

[www.Rangemaster.com](http://www.Rangemaster.com)

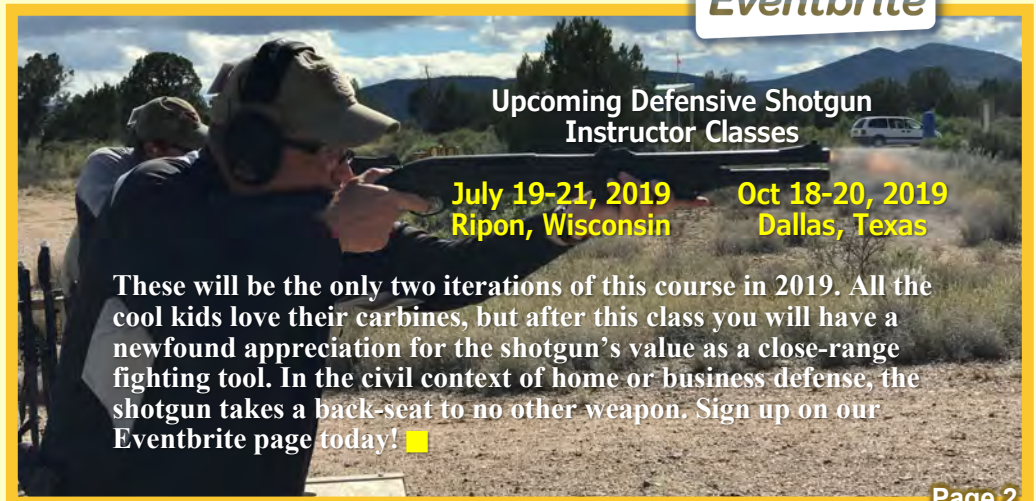
Eventbrite

### Upcoming Defensive Shotgun Instructor Classes

July 19-21, 2019  
Ripon, Wisconsin

Oct 18-20, 2019  
Dallas, Texas

These will be the only two iterations of this course in 2019. All the cool kids love their carbines, but after this class you will have a newfound appreciation for the shotgun's value as a close-range fighting tool. In the civil context of home or business defense, the shotgun takes a back-seat to no other weapon. Sign up on our Eventbrite page today! ■





# CONGRATULATIONS!

by Tom Givens



In September, Rangemaster instructor course graduate Elizabeth Saunders took Gabe White's excellent "Pistol Shooting Solutions" course here in Florida. I highly recommend this course. Gabe is a brilliant instructor and this course is both challenging and rewarding. Gabe awards graduates with pins, each signifying a higher level of performance during the shooting tests. A student can earn a certificate of completion, a Dark Pin, a Light Pin, or a Turbo Pin, in ascending order of difficulty. Elizabeth earned a Dark Pin, making her only the fifth female student to earn a pin of any sort in Gabe's classes. This is quite an accomplishment!



In October, more Rangemaster family members were able to attend one of Gabe's courses, and more pins were awarded. John Hearne (Rangemaster staff instructor) and Randy Harris (multiple Rangemaster graduate and Tac Con presenter) both earned Turbo Pins, #7 and #8 respectively. Turbo Pins are rare, and this was the first class in which two were awarded. Rangemaster staff instructor Aqil Qadir earned a Dark Pin in this class, and Rangemaster alumna Annette Evans won a Light Pin.



I took Gabe's course last February and I was thoroughly impressed with both his shooting skill and his mastery of teaching physical skills. Gabe is very bright, very articulate, and very passionate about making people better technical shooters. I recommend his training very strongly. ■



## November Midterm Elections

On November 6th, Americans will have the opportunity to vote in possibly the most important mid-term elections of my lifetime. PLEASE get out and vote! If progressives take control of the House and Senate, you can guarantee a spate of draconian gun bans and restrictions shortly thereafter. You simply cannot afford to sit this one out. ■



# FRONT SIGHT PAINT

by Tom Givens

**A** lot of us, myself included, like to paint our pistols' front sights a bright, highly visible color. This makes it easier to pick up the front sight visually at high speed, and as importantly, provides a sharp visual contrast against most clothing.

Here are some paint options that have worked well for me. Both are available from Amazon. You can look them up by the name and stock numbers listed below.

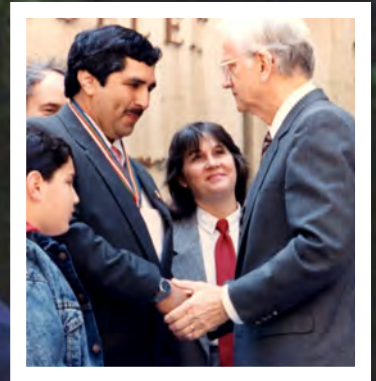
- Model Master, Fluorescent Red-Orange, FS28913
- Model Master, Fluorescent Red, FS28915

Also, Birchwood-Casey makes a three-pen set containing paint pens in white, bright red, and safety green. You apply a coat of white, let it dry, then apply the color of your choice. The white undercoat makes the color shine brighter, and these pens make touch-up easy. It's available from Amazon ([click here](#)).

Consider giving these options a try. Since they're not permanent modifications, you can experiment and find the color your eye likes best. My personal choice is the Model Master Fluorescent Red-Orange. ■

December 1, 2018 • Tampa, FL

# Ed Mireles Lecture & Book Signing



**I**n the past 50 years, a few incidents have caused the firearms training community to stop, re-evaluate, and revamp longstanding doctrine. The Newhall Incident (1970), the Bank of America hold-up in North Hollywood (1997), and Columbine (1999) prompted huge changes in equipment, tactics, and procedures; but many those lessons are more relevant to police than to armed private citizens.

However, the FBI firefight on April 11, 1986 in Miami offered valuable lessons for anyone who goes armed. The FBI Special Agents in this incident were in civilian clothing, riding in unmarked cars, wearing concealed handguns. Many facets of this furious gun battle parallel elements of a private citizen shooting in response to an armed robbery or car-jacking. In fact, this is the single incident with the most pertinent lessons for the armed citizen that I have ever found.

Retired Special Agent Ed Mireles was one of the FBI agents involved in that gun battle, and he was the agent who wound up killing both of the suspects, despite having been shot twice with a rifle. Ed recently published a book, *FBI Miami Firefight: Five Minutes That Changed the Bureau*. Over the years, Mireles has many times delivered an intensive lecture on this event at law enforcement academies and conferences. We are proud to announce that Ed will be conducting this exhaustive examination of this fight for an open enrollment audience on Saturday, December 1, 2018, at the Double Tree Hotel on W. Cypress Street in Tampa, Florida (just a few minutes from Tampa International Airport).

This event will begin at 11:30am with a social hour. Ed's lecture will run from 12:30pm to 5:30pm, followed by a book signing. Registration is only \$125.00 per person. To register, please see our Eventbrite page ([click the logo](#)). ■



# The Oral Histories Project

by Tom Givens

In recent years, more and more people have begun hanging out shingles as firearms instructors. Many in this new generation of trainers are increasingly disconnected from the origins of formal civilian defensive pedagogy. Young trainers are more distanced in time and philosophy from the likes of Col. Jeff Cooper and other giants of modern pistolcraft, and I fear this could jeopardize the quality of instruction.

To help solve this problem, back in 2016, I set out to write a book documenting the storied development of modern handgunning and the historical contexts from which today's favored defensive tools and techniques emerged. I hoped to give the next generation of trainers a road map from the past, so they could still be free to innovate but without losing sight of where we came from.

As part of my research for the proposed text, I scheduled interviews with some of today's renown firearms instructors. I selected instructors whose longevity, first-hand experience, and deep respect for history could be useful resources for up-and-comers following in their footsteps. Before long, I realized that instead of reducing these interviews to a hard-bound text, they might reach a broader audience through publication on the Rangemaster website. And that's how the Oral Histories Project was born.

Please check out the Oral Histories Project on our website, under the "Publications" tab (or just click here). The first post is our chat with Massad Ayoob. Over the coming months, we'll reveal more interviews, including transcripts and audio recordings. We encourage all firearms trainers to heed the sage words of these respected industry leaders, as no one can successfully blaze new trails without fully understanding their past. ■



Lynn likes to dress like a girl but still be adequately armed, with a handgun worn on the body.

To accomplish this, she often wears a Belly Band, with a 9mm Shield in it.

The Belly Band is an elastic band, closed with Velcro, that is worn around the waist, inside the pants.

by Tom Givens

Some people object that the thin material of the pistol pouch in many Belly Band designs may allow something to put pressure on the trigger of the pistol contained therein. Lynn has come up with an ingenious fix for this. She sewed a patch of female Velcro (the "loop" side, not the sticky "hook" side) to the outer side of the pistol pocket of her Belly Band. This makes the "holster" portion of the band more rigid and thicker, preventing anything from even possibly moving the trigger. The Velcro adds just a few hundredths of an inch to the thickness of the rig, but it makes the "holster" portion more rigid and makes it work better. Recommended! ■

## POP QUIZ

Be the first to post the correct answer in Tom's newsletter thread on the Rangemaster Facebook page, and you'll be this month's WINNER!

Are you going to the Ed Mireles lecture on the 1986 Miami Shootout? Test your knowledge first! What kind of shotgun did William Matix use against the agents on that fateful day?

- A. S&W Model 3000
- B. Remington Model 31
- C. Stevens Model 520
- D. Ithaca Model 37