



# Tactical Talk

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Trying to reduce gun crime with gun control laws is like trying to reduce drunk driving by making it tougher for sober people to own cars.

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## 2009 Memphis Firearms Instructor Development & Certification Course



On August 7-9, 2009, Rangemaster conducted our annual three-day firearms instructor course. We had students from all over, including the Nashville area, South Carolina, Georgia, Pennsylvania, Wisconsin, and Texas, plus locals. Several already working instructors attended, including two from area law enforcement agencies. We'll be conducting this course again next year, in August.



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# Autopistol Malfunctions

A quality semiautomatic pistol, properly maintained (cleaned and lubricated) and fed quality ammunition, is just about as reliable as any machine can be made to be. I have personally taken a number of classes as a student, in which I fired as many as 800 to 1,000 rounds of ammunition through my pistol with zero malfunctions. That is the standard of performance I expect from a pistol meant to be carried for self defense. Stuff happens, however, and malfunctions can certainly occur, often at the worst of times. It is important to be able to recognize and fix the commonly encountered handgun malfunctions.

Please note these are not “jams”. A “jam” requires tools to fix. The problems described here are “stoppages” or “malfunctions” and can be fixed quickly and simply with immediate action drills. These should be practiced thoroughly, so they can be applied quickly in the event of a stoppage during a fight.

The single most common is the Failure to Fire (FTF). You press the trigger and the gun goes “click” instead of “bang”. Ninety-nine times out of a hundred, this is due to the magazine not being locked in, OR you simply forgot to chamber a round when you loaded the gun. The 100<sup>th</sup> time is due to a “dud”—a misfired cartridge. In either case,

- ◆ TAP- the base of the magazine with the support hand,
- ◆ RACK- the slide, vigorously, and
- ◆ BANG – Fire, if the situation still calls for gunfire. (In Memphis, also referred to as “Smack ‘em, Jack ‘em, Whack ‘em!”)

Stove-pipes, or a Failure to Eject, consist of a fired case caught in the ejection port, preventing the slide from going back into battery. TAP/RACK/BANG! The RACK portion of the immediate action drill must be done forcefully, pulling the slide to the rear HARD while spinning the gun a bit to the right. We must eject not only the spent case but also the live round from the chamber.

Failure to Extract (Double Feed)- BAD!!! This can be caused by an underpowered round, a bad magazine, a poor firing grip on the handgun, a broken extractor, and bad juju. Your reflexive response should be a **TAP/RACK/BANG**. If that fails to fix it:

- ◆ LOCK/RIP/RACK/TAP/RACK/BANG
- ◆ LOCK the slide to the rear, RIP out the magazine, RACK the slide hard three times/ TAP in a new magazine/RACK the action/BANG if still needed.

Some students will have the hand strength to skip the LOCK stage. Another way to describe this process is simply UNLOAD/RELOAD. Clear the gun, load it with a new magazine.

The best/fastest/surest way to remedy a double feed is to transition to a back-up gun (BUG). A skilled shooter will need 5-10 seconds in the field to fix a double feed. I can discard my primary gun and draw my BUG in 2 seconds. That’s a lot better.

# One Hand or Two? Instinct or Conditioning?

by Tom Givens

*The Firearms Instructor* is the official publication of the International Association of Law Enforcement Firearms Instructors. In the last issue of *The Firearms Instructor* there was an article proposing that drawing a handgun to a one handed shooting position was “instinctive”, and therefore we should be training officers to do so as a default technique. Ordinarily, I resist the temptation to respond to this type of article, but the “test” included in the text was so misleading I felt I had to chime in.

First, I checked my trusty dictionary. It gives the primary definition of “instinct” as “an inborn pattern of activity and response common to a given biological stock”. Since handguns have only been around 500 years (the blink of an eye in geologic or biologic terms) there is obviously no instinctive way to handle a gun, or any other mechanical device. We have to teach people to drive cars, because there is no instinctive mental model for that activity. The same applies to firearms.

My school teaches a large number of private citizens each year. Most have little or no prior experience with handguns before we get them. Each year we have several students involved in defensive gunplay, and they always win. At the National Tactical Invitational earlier this year, I presented a power point presentation on ten shootings involving civilian students. These were simply a representative sampling, showing certain trends. Among other items of interest was the fact that in these ten self defense

shootings, against armed criminal attackers, the students fired a total of 38 shots and scored a total of 36 hits. That is a 95% hit ratio. This astonishingly high hit ratio came from two-handed, eye level *accurate* fire. One of those shootings is extremely instructional. It occurred inside a convenience store, with the surveillance cameras rolling. The entire fight was captured in good quality color video, from two angles, so there is no guess work involved in seeing what happened and how it happened. In brief, an armed robber entered the store, walked toward the clerk, and as he got near, drew a large handgun from underneath the waistband of a hoodie. The clerk quickly side-stepped to the left, presented a 9mm handgun, in both hands, to eye level, and fired one shot, which struck the suspect in the upper chest. The suspect bent over and hobbled out of the store to a waiting getaway car, again seen on the outside cameras. The thug never got off a shot.

The most interesting thing about this episode to me is the fact that the student involved was a 53 year old Thai immigrant female, who had never touched a gun prior to receiving training here, less than two months prior to this shooting. There is no gun culture in Thailand, and this lady was a blank slate when we trained her. This was a classic, close range, reactive, surprise gunfight, and she did as trained.

I suspect that the “stick it out in one hand” form of shooting is not instinctive, but rather cultural in origin. The Thai lady had not spent her formative years watching people shoot that way on TV, so we had no ingrained mental image to overcome. The other nine students in this ten shooting sample were, however, all American males, yet they also went to two hands and eye level, with

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the exception of two involved in contact distance shootings. That's because *they reacted the way they were trained to*.

We teach two default responses: two handed eye level sighted fire if the target is beyond arm's reach, and retention position firing if it is not. One handed shooting is taught strictly as the choice when one hand is disabled or otherwise unavailable. If we have both hands, we put them on the gun. This simplified training works.

Now, as to the "test" in the original article, I have some real heartburn with the methodology. I have two major gripes. First, the goal was "a hit anywhere on the IALEFI silhouette target". By now, everyone should be well aware that peripheral hits with handgun cartridges are ineffective. The second was limiting the firing to one shot. See the last statement. Since handgun rounds are so anemic, compared to rifles and shotguns, several fast hits are often required to incapacitate a suspect. One of the main advantages of firing with two hands is the increase in ability to accurately place follow-up shots on target.

With these thoughts in mind, I arranged the same range set-up as the one in the article; one IALEFI target at 5 yards. I then put twelve of our staff members through this test. On the first stage, each shooter was to draw and fire 3 rounds, with the dominant hand only, keeping all hits inside the 10" chest circle of the target as quickly as possible. On the second run, each shooter would draw and fire 3 rounds into the chest circle, using both hands. Each shooter went through the one handed firing first, then after everyone had fired, each shot with both hands. This made a cooling off period between strings, to avoid skewing the results. Each shooter performed the drill three times with one hand, and three times using both hands.

When the test was complete, I had 36 iterations of one handed firing, and 36 of two handed firing. I felt this would be a more representative sample. I then averaged the times.

Firing with one hand, the average time was 2.91 seconds, for 3 good hits. Firing with two hands, the average time was 2.23 seconds for 3 good hits. Thus, two handed firing was .68 seconds faster (an almost 25% advantage). This group of twelve shooters represented a broad range of skill development, with some of the shooters more highly trained and experienced than others. To see if the same spread held true for a highly trained shooter, I repeated the test myself. In my case, I fired five three-shot strings, drawing and firing with the dominant hand only, plus five three-shot strings drawing and firing with both hands. Again, the requirement was to keep all hits inside the IALEFI-Q chest circle. The results were as follows:

One Handed	Two Handed
2.39 secs	1.59 secs
1.97 secs	1.70 secs
1.86 secs	1.58 secs
1.82 secs	1.58 secs
<u>1.85 secs</u>	<u>1.60 secs</u>
9.89 secs total	8.05 secs total

Thus, with two hands, I was 19% faster than with one hand. As I suspected, with a highly experienced shooter, the difference was less, but still significant.

Two handed fire allows better recoil management, faster follow up shots, and fewer blown shots (misses). Proper training includes explanation of the situation, presentation of proper technique, dry practice of proper technique, and repetitive practice in live fire. Our cultural predisposition to poor technique certainly can be overcome, as our students illustrate year after year. As Instructors, it is our responsibility to have them do so.

# Tennessee self defense laws: what you need to know to protect yourself legally

*BY PATRICK STEGALL, Attorney and Counselor*

## Use of deadly force & What to do after you are involved in a self-defense shooting

I believe that an armed society is a safer society. If you're reading this, chances are you do too. But with being armed comes a great responsibility: you now have the power to use deadly force. In order to use that force you must be justified in doing so. You must know when and under what circumstances it is to be used. If you're not justified, the result could very well be a one-way ticket to jail.

This is a guide to Tennessee's laws on self-defense and use of deadly force. You need to know these laws. Furthermore, you need to know what to do if you are ever involved in a self-defense shooting. What you say and how you act in the moments following such an event will be crucially important to how you are dealt with by the justice system. This guide will help answer any questions you might have, while at the same time get you thinking about real-life situations and how you should react to them. Let's get started.

### The use of deadly force

Here is the Tennessee law on using deadly force in self-defense. The full statute can be found in the Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 39-11-611. The critical elements of this law are that:

- ◆ You may use deadly force only if you have a **reasonable belief of an imminent danger of death or serious bodily injury**
- ◆ If you do not have **all** of these elements, do not even show your weapon—you will likely be facing a criminal charge
- ◆ You get the protection of this law only if you are not engaged in unlawful activity and you're in a place where you have a right to be \*\*\*
- ◆ You CANNOT use deadly force to protect property because there is no danger of death or serious bodily injury: the threat has to be against a **person**, not a thing
- ◆ The threat has to be **imminent**: it has to be about to happen now
- ◆ You do not have a duty to retreat before using deadly force if you hold a reasonable belief of an imminent danger of death or serious bodily injury, and you do not have to give any kind of warning, verbal or otherwise
- ◆ The no duty to retreat concept applies in and around your home, as well as out in public

### What to do afterward

- ◆ If you are in a self-defensive shooting, the moments following it are going to be extremely emotional. Your body will probably be raging with adrenaline and your heart beating faster

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\*\*\*There is an exception to this. Despite this language, you still get the protection of the self-defense law if you are carrying your firearm in a place where it is not allowed, such as a school or posted no-gun zone, and you do actually use it in justifiable self-defense.

than you've ever felt. You will have just had a deadly threat on your life or the life of someone close to you. Perhaps you have killed a person. Soon, the police are going to be on the scene and they're going to want to know what happened. What do you do? You may want to consider the following:

- ◆ First and foremost, you probably should not make any kind of statement to the police without consulting with an attorney. You likely will not be in any shape emotionally or psychologically to be giving an account of what happened. Your memory may not be accurate, and you could easily get too excited and say the wrong thing. Legally, there is too much on the line for you to do this. Remember that anything you say can and will be used against you.
- ◆ If you decide to talk to the police right way, it's probably best to convey to them that you were justified in what you did. Make it short and concise. "I thought he was going to kill me," or "I was in fear for my life" are good statements. This could go a long way in establishing that you had **a reasonable belief of an imminent danger of death or serious bodily injury**.
- ◆ Tell the police that you intend to cooperate, but that you must speak with your attorney before making any more statements. Simply tell them, "I want to talk to my lawyer now." When you invoke your right to counsel, the questioning must cease. If it does not then anything gotten beyond that is inadmissible.
- ◆ It may be a good idea to ask to be taken to the hospital. Why do this? First, you may very well need to be checked out by a doctor. Your heart is going to be running like a freight train. Second, if you were not under the influence of alcohol or drugs at the time of the shooting then a medical report will show that. This could be critical evidence for possible future legal proceedings, criminal or civil. Third, being in the care of a physician will keep you out of jail or an interrogation room at the police station, and will give your family and/or attorney time to get to you.

You need to be planning for what to do after a shooting **now**, not when it happens. When it happens you won't have time to plan, and furthermore you're not going to be in the right frame of mind to even try. Take the time now to think about these kinds of situations, and discuss them with someone you trust.



#### About me

I practice criminal law in Memphis and the surrounding areas and I'm a firearms enthusiast. As such, I am passionate about educating people on the rights and responsibilities of gun ownership. If you have any questions about what I've covered in this guide, or about any other area of criminal law, I encourage you to call me at (901) 526-7770. You also may email me at [stegall.patrick@gmail.com](mailto:stegall.patrick@gmail.com).

Disclaimer: This guide is not intended to be legal advice for your particular situation. Furthermore, it does not establish an attorney-client relationship. This is simply an interpretation of the current Tennessee laws, along with my observations and those of other armed citizens that I have spoken with. It's impossible for me to give legal advice on a case that hasn't yet happened. What the best course of action is in your particular situation is going to depend on the facts. Should you find yourself in need of legal advice or the services of an attorney, please contact me as soon as possible

## **Rangemaster/Polite Society Tactical Conference, 2010**

**Saturday-Sunday, April 24-25, 2010**

**at the United States Shooting Academy (USSA) Tulsa, Oklahoma**

***Registration fee is \$189.00. This includes all of the training segments, the tactical match, the side match, and the prize drawing.***

All of the trainers present for 2009 will be returning, plus we will have some new trainers presenting topics. We will be expanding to take advantage of USSA's sprawling range complex, and there will be 21 instructors presenting various live-fire, hands on, and classroom training segments. This event will fill completely two to three months in advance, so sign up early to avoid disappointment.

You MAY NOT register for this event by phone. The only way to register is to print and complete a registration form and print and complete the USSA liability waiver, and send these to Rangemaster, along with payment. To request a registration packet, e-mail [rangemas-ter.tom@gmail.com](mailto:rangemas-ter.tom@gmail.com) .

Mail-in registration may be accompanied by a personal or company check, a money order, or credit/debit card information. FAX registrations can be accepted with credit/debit card info. The fax number is 901-370-5699.

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Registered attendees will receive a detailed equipment list, list of trainers and their topics, and other information prior to the event date.

The following after-action report was written by Paul Gomez, one of the trainers who presented a topic at the 2009 conference.

### **RangeMaster's Polite Society/ Tactical Conference 2009**

“Over the last ten years, Tom Givens has put together the 'must attend' event in the training community. The Polite Society Tactical Conference began as the RangeMaster IDPA Winter Invitational in 1996 and evolved into the Tactical Conference in 1999. Starting in 1999, Tom began coordinating a large number of trainers who gave of their time to journey to Memphis and offer short blocks of training around the shooting competition. Two years ago, the event shifted to the Memphis Police Department Firearms Training Unit and, for 2009, the event shifted to the best venue yet...the US Shooting Academy in Tulsa, Oklahoma.

This year the competition was divided into two phases, one conducted on the outdoor range and another conducted in a shoot house. Additionally, there was a Back Up Gun side match

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conducted on each day.

Seventeen trainers offered lecture and/or hands-on blocks running the gamut from Immediate Trauma Management to Combat Focus Shooting. Some of the grand, old men this year included Massad Ayoob, Skip Gochenour and John Farnam. Of course, [Marty Hayes](#) and [Rob Pincus](#) were present and, perhaps less well-known, but very competent trainers; [Hany Mahmoud](#), [William Aprill](#), [John Hearne](#), Will Andrews and Glenn Meyer also offered blocks to the approximately 150 attendees. As has become the norm for this gathering, [Karl Rehn](#), offered Force-on-Force scenario training utilizing airsoft guns each day.

As this event has grown, it is impossible for one person to attend every presentation. My first block on Saturday morning was occupied with presenting on the Need for Medical Training for People that Carry Guns/Immediate Trauma Management. I discussed an abbreviated version of the TC3 medical model with the express purpose of 'extending the Platinum 10 minutes to allow the injured party entry into the EMS system'.

From 1000 to 1200 I attended Massad Ayoob's 'Shooting Incidents, Aftermath Management'. Mas is always entertaining and informative. This was no different. Using a series of court cases to emphasize each point, Ayoob offered a simple protocol for post event interactions with authorities.

Mike Seeklander's module was initially billed as 'Grounded/Wounded Shooter Drills' but, more explicitly, it focused on one hand gun manipulations, both right and left handed. Mike is an USPSA/IPSC Grand Master class shooter, as well as having spent more than ten years as working cop and having extensive experience with the Federal Air Marshall program. He is currently the Operations Manager for the US Shooting Academy. This class was very well thought out and executed. I had already developed rather high expectations for USSA prior to being exposed to Mike's block and I was not disappointed. I am looking at making my way back to USSA this year for more in-depth study.

For those not familiar with William Aprill, you are missing out. William offered a presentation entitled 'Violent Actors, Violent Acts, a Conceptual Overview' that was truly outstanding. He provided the attendees with an understanding of a number of psychological theories pertaining to violent criminals & their behavior and explained the best, current theory and the implications as it applies to our behaviors in complex, confusing environments. This was my favorite presentation of the weekend.

My last block for Saturday was John Farnam's wide ranging discussion ostensibly entitled 'Urban Rifle, the AR & its Alternatives'. In all of human history, there has never been a recorded instance of John staying on a single topic and this was no exception! Listening to John is an always worthwhile endeavor and this was no exception. He is one of the last of the first generation trainers and time spent with him is never wasted.

*No comments pertaining to Saturday night will be included to protect the guilty.*

*(Continued on page 10)*

I spent the first block on Sunday morning visiting with friends and getting a look around the facility. I attended Glenn Meyer's presentation on Modern Psychology and Firearms Usage at 1000. Glenn and I first met during an injured shooter course in 1999. Glenn showed up with a broken arm, broken leg and a couple of broken ribs...he always was an over achiever. His lecture covered a wide range of topics dealing with everything from some classic experiments and findings through some of the research that he was directly involved in regarding jury perceptions in 'lethal force' cases.

SouthNarc offered his block on Managing Unknown Contacts. This was taught from 0800 to 1000 each day with Mike Brown's Fighting & Weapon Access in the Clinch immediately following from 1000 to 1200. Anyone who has not taken advantage of these blocks being offered in this format is truly missing out on some absolutely vital knowledge and skills.

John Hearne's presentation on the Newhall Incident and its Training Implications has continued to evolve and is truly eye-opening. Viewing of this presentation and Tom Givens Miami Massacre Analysis ought to be considered mandatory for anyone involved in training or who carries a gun.

A quick rundown of stuff that I did not get to witness:

Marty Hayes offered a classroom presentation on 'Reducing Firearms Instructor Liability'. It was very well received by those who did get to attend, unfortunately, I didn't get in on this one.

Skip Gochenour spoke on Criminal Behavior. Skip is a wealth of information and I always enjoy listening to him. Between running the National Tactical Invitational and his 'day job', there is no one quite like Skip.

Will Andrews covered Shooting On the Move but the timing coincided with my attending Ayoob's lecture.

Steve Moses offered a live fire block on the AK47 as a Battlefield Pickup Weapon.

TJ Pillings did a live fire shotgun block.

Rob Pincus offered a block on Combat Focus Shooting.

The RangeMaster Polite Society Tactical Conference has grown each year. What began as a fun time has grown into the best value for time and money invested in the training community. My hat is off to Tom Givens for sticking with this thing, his staff for busting their [collective] ass to make this thing what it has become, to USSA for offering their wonderful facility, to all the trainers who devote their time and energy and to all those who show up and make the Polite Society Tactical Conference event *the event.*"



# Upcoming Classes

Combined Skills Course, Southnarc and Tom Givens, Sept 12-13,2009, at KR Training, near Austin, Texas

Combative Pistol 1, Tom Givens, Sept 21-22, 2009, at the Shawnee Police Range, Shawnee, Oklahoma

Defensive Shotgun, Tom Givens, Sept 23,2009, at the Shawnee Police Range, Shawnee, Oklahoma

Advanced Pistol Skills, One Day, Tom Givens, Oct 10,2009, at Woodbury, GA (an hour south of Atlanta)

Defensive Shotgun, One Day, Tom Givens, Oct 11, 2009, at Woodbury, GA (an hour south of Atlanta)

Snubby Skills, One Day, Claude Werner, Oct 18, 2009, at Rangemaster. Claude is the Chief Instructor at the famed Rogers School and an acknowledged master of the snub-nosed revolver.

Advanced Pistol Skills, One Day, Tom Givens, Oct 24,2009, at Texas Tactical, Weatherford, Texas

Defensive Shotgun, One Day, Tom Givens, Oct 25, 2009, at Texas Tactical, Weatherford, Texas

*For details on any of these courses see [www.rangemaster.com](http://www.rangemaster.com) or call 901-370-5600.*



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## New Ruger LCR .38 Snubby Revolver



I have recently tested an example of Ruger's new concealment revolver, designed specifically for the concealed carry crowd. This innovative revolver has a polymer frame, like many modern autopistols, and a steel cylinder. Weighing just 13.5 ounces, it holds five rounds of .38 Special ammo, and is rated for +P loads. My daily BUG is a 1960 vintage Colt Cobra, with after-market wood grips. I also had a new S&W 442, with the current factory rubber grips on it. I used these to compare to the LCR.

<u>Gun</u>	<u>cylinder diameter</u>	<u>height</u>	<u>OA length</u>	<u>weight</u>
LCR	1.27"	4.84"	6.32"	13.6 oz
442	1.30"	4.45"	6.41"	14.8 oz
Cobra	1.40"	4.80"	6.54"	16.1 oz

\*\*Note- The Cobra holds 6 rds, the Ruger and S&W hold 5.

I fired the LCR with several loads, including Winchester White Box 130 grain full jacketed practice ammo, Federal 125 grain Nyclud hollow points, and Buffalo Bore 150 grain cast wadcutters (my carry ammo). All grouped fairly well, and all shot fairly close to point of aim. This seems to be a suitable gun for its role as a deeply concealed back-up gun.