



# Tactical Talk

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"The right of the citizens to keep and bear arms has justly been considered as the palladium of the liberties of a republic; since it offers a strong moral check against usurpation and arbitrary power of rulers; and will generally, even if these are successful in the first instance, enable the people to resist and triumph over them."

-- Supreme Court Justice Joseph Story of the John Marshall Court

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## November *Specialty Courses*

**Rangemaster**  
*Memphis, TN*

### **Vehicle Defense Course (anti-robbery/carjacking)**

Monday, Nov. 2nd  
6:00-10:00 p.m.

### **Ladies Only**

**Introduction to Handguns**  
Tuesday, Nov. 3rd, 6:00-10:00 p.m.

### **Defensive Shotgun Level II**

Mon./Tues., Nov. 9-10th, 6:00-10:00 p.m.





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	Book: “Fighting Smarter” 3 <sup>rd</sup> Edition	\$27.95	
	DVD: “Concealed Carry for Self Defense”	\$34.95	
	DVD: “Defensive Shotgun”	\$29.95	
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# Unconscious Incompetence

My friend, Paul Gomez, led me to this quote,

"People tend to hold overly favorable views of their abilities in many social and intellectual domains. The authors suggest that this overestimation occurs, in part, because people who are unskilled in these domains suffer a dual burden: Not only do these people reach erroneous conclusions and make unfortunate choices, but their incompetence robs them of the metacognitive ability to realize it."

-- **Journal of Personality and Social Psychology**  
1999, Vol. 77 No.6, 1121-1134, Kruger & Dunning.

In our discipline, this means that very often, people are woefully unskilled and unprepared, but think they're ready for the fight of their lives. They know so little, that they don't realize how little they know. The purpose of professional training is to identify those skills you need, and instill and ingrain these skills, bringing them to a useful level. Train as if your life depends on it (it does!).

# Shotgun Modifications

This year we have taught a number of Defensive Shotgun Courses, both here and on the road. I've watched a number of students, both male and female, struggle with a shotgun which is too long for them, resulting in frustration and poor performance. I am 100% convinced that the single most useful modification to a self defense shotgun is shortening the butt-stock to the correct length.

"Length of pull" (LOP) is a designation for the measured distance from the face of the trigger to the center of the buttplate of a shotgun. Most American repeating shotguns have a LOP of around 13 7/8 inch to 14". The last couple of Beretta and Benelli shotguns I measured had an LOP just over 14 inches. This is because all of the common defensive shotguns, such as the Remington 870, the Mossberg 500 series, the Winchester 1300, and the Benelli M1, started life as sporting shotguns, intended for use on waterfowl and clay birds. In wingshooting, the body mechanics are quite different from those used in fighting with the shotgun. Unfortunately, the gunmakers basically just slap a shorter barrel and a dull finish on the sporting guns, and sell them for defensive purposes.

For fast repeat shots with buckshot and slugs, in the fighting context, we need a shorter LOP. I find that for most women, and for men under 5'8" in height, a 12- 12 1/2" LOP is about perfect. For men over 5'8" tall, a 13" LOP works just fine. I am right at 6 feet tall, and my personal "grab and go" gun has a 12 7/8" LOP, which is just about perfect for me. This allows me to mount the gun quickly, without getting hung up in clothing, allows a strong grip on the gun, for retention purposes, and allows an aggressive stance for fast follow-up shots with buckshot loads. Shorter is better than longer, in this instance. I can shoot much better with a 12-12 1/2" LOP than I can with a 13 3/4"-14" LOP. Thus, if a husband/wife have access to the same shotgun, it would be better to shorten the LOP to fit the smaller partner—the taller partner will still be able to shoot it just fine.

There are a couple of ways to accomplish this modification. Of course, the existing factory stock can be shortened by your friendly

neighborhood gunsmith. We recommend Phil Colley, at Summer and Graham in Memphis for this task. When he shortens the stock for you, have him install a quality recoil pad, like the Pachmayr Decelerator, with the LOP, including the recoil pad, cut to your specifications. For the same cost, you can simply replace the factory stock with a shorter after-market stock. Remington offers a Youth stock for the 870, that is the right length and can be exchanged with a screwdriver. Choate Machine, of Bald Knob, Arkansas, makes a replacement stock with removable spacers, allowing a custom fit. Ramline, Speedfeed, and others also offer shorter replacement stocks. Whichever route you take, you will find the gun both easier and quicker to shoot well, and a marked increase in comfort with heavy loads. Perceived recoil is far less with a properly fit shotgun. If the gun is more pleasant to shoot, you will be more likely to practice and gain proficiency with it. Next month we'll look at other useful shotgun modifications.



Remington 870 shotgun. Length of Pull (LOP) is measured from the face of the trigger to the rear edge of the recoil pad. A 12"-13" LOP is optimal.



## **Class Announcement**

**Dates:** 30-31 January 2010

**Cost:** \$400

**\$200 Deposit to Register**

**Balance due by 15-Jan-10**

**Instructor:** Todd Louis Green

**Location:** Memphis, TN

**Facility:** Rangemaster

**Class size:** maximum 16

**Class Description:** Aim Fast, Hit Fast is intended to pick up where most marksmanship training ends. All shooting involves a balance between **accuracy** and **speed**. Away from the practice range, a shooter does not get to choose how much time he will get to break a shot ... shooting becomes reactive and all timeframes are determined by the situation rather than comfort or habit. The goal of this class is twofold. First, we will come to understand the **critical balance between accuracy and speed** for each individual shooter. Second, we will improve each shooter's ability to **deliver accurate, rapid fire** in shorter timeframes to maximize his effectiveness shooting a pistol **under stress**. Skills to be covered include marksmanship, presentation from the holster, reloads, multiple targets, and shooting on the move.

**Prerequisites:** This is a fast-paced class suited to shooters who have already achieved proficiency with a handgun. At a minimum, prospective students should be capable of performing the following drill(s) on demand:

- Fire and hit a 3×5 card at 5 yards on demand (both double and single action as appropriate)
- Draw, fire 1 round, reload, fire 2 rounds (3 hits on 8" circle) at 7 yards in eight seconds

*Individuals who cannot meet these requirements at the beginning of class will not be able to keep up with the fast and demanding pace of instruction.*

### **Equipment Needed:**

- Reliable semiauto handgun
- Duty, range, or concealment holster with suitable gunbelt
- Enough magazines, pouches, etc., to carry a minimum of 50 rounds to the firing line
- Minimum 1,000 rounds of ammunition (1,200+ recommended; bring more, shoot more)
- Wrap-around eye protection; ear protection; brimmed hat

**Instructor:** Todd Louis Green has worked in the firearms industry since 1998, including instructing for the NRA Range, Beretta, and SIG-Sauer. He has over 1,000 hours of firearms and combatives training from such prestigious trainers as Ken Hackathorn, Ernest Langdon, Larry Vickers, SIG Academy, and Blackwater. A 3-time "Advanced" rated shooter at Rogers Shooting School, Todd is also a graduate of the NRA Tactical Pistol Instructor Development program and a 3 division Master-ranked IDPA competitor. Todd is a certified SIGARMS, Beretta, and Glock armorer; certified Simunition force-on-force instructor; and certified Emergency First Responder. He is also a long time member of IALEFI, IDPA, and USPSA.

**Please contact Tom Givens ([rangemaster.tom@gmail.com](mailto:rangemaster.tom@gmail.com)) with any questions or to reserve your spot for this course.**

## Crime in Memphis

The office of the District Attorney General recently released the annual crime report for 2008. Although some progress has been made in a number of areas, the overall crime picture in Memphis continues to be bleak. Here are some highlights from the almost 50 page report.

Gang crime continues to be a very real threat in Memphis. In 2008, there were 1,208 violent crimes involving 3 or more perpetrators (more than 3 incidents per day). One of the most common crimes involving multiple assailants was Robbery, with 795 robberies involving 3 or more suspects.

For the City of Memphis only, the major crime totals were as follows:

Crime	2006	2007	2008
Homicides	149	163	162
Rapes*	409	457	445
Aggravated Assaults	5,898	5,704	5,685
Robberies	5,293	4,881	4,889
Burglaries	16,363	14,499	14,635
Auto Theft	6,377	6,087	6,035

*\*the FBI believes 1 rape out of 3 is reported to authorities.*

Interesting note- looking at the numbers you would think the robbery rate dropped a bit. It didn't. The police department just changed the way they take reports. Now, if an armed robber holds up two people who are together on the parking lot, that is only one robbery. In the past, that was two separate offenses.

For comparison to other Tennessee cities, the TBI lists the offenses per 100,000 population as follows:

County	Murder	Aggravated Assault	Robbery	Total offenses
Knox	7.9	664.2	183.7	8,650
Hamilton	6.9	539	174.9	10,964
Davidson	12.1	921.8	386.8	14,498
Shelby	16	915.2	545.9	16,299

Thus, in Shelby County in 2008, there was one of these three extremely serious crimes for every six residents.

Out of the 50 states in the US, according to the TBI, Tennessee ranked #2 for violent crime .

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If you have done any study of Western Religions, you quickly learn that the King James Version (KJV) of The Bible is not a particularly accurate translation of the original texts. There are a lot of reasons for this, some cultural and some political, but suffice to say that translating from Hebrew to Greek to old English to modern English made many opportunities for error. The Sixth Commandment is a classic example.

The word "kill" in Exodus 20:13 and Deuteronomy 5:17 should properly be written as "murder." The proper translation is THOU SHALT NOT MURDER. It is interesting that in Matthew 19:18 the King James Version correctly translates the Sixth Commandment: "Thou shalt do no **murder**." The Hebrew word (**ratsach**) and the Greek Word (**phonēnō**) which are used in the Sixth Commandment in earlier texts both clearly mean "murder." The Hebrew language has a general word for killing (the verb **muwth**, meaning "to cause to die") and the Greek language has a general word for killing (the verb **apokteinō**), but these general terms for killing are not used in the Sixth Commandment. Instead very specific words are used which forbid MURDER. Thus, there is no Biblical injunction against using deadly force in self defense or in defending the life of another. MURDER is killing unjustly, or without justification, and unlawfully. None of those adjectives describe legitimate self defense.

