



# Tactical Talk

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*"Security' is mostly superstition. It does not exist in nature, nor do the children of men as a whole experience it. In the long run, avoiding danger is no safer than outright exposure. Life is either a daring adventure, or nothing."*  
----Helen Keller, 1950

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## ***Tactical Conference Results***

On April 24-25, 2010, Rangemaster conducted the annual Tactical Conference/Polite Society Match at the wonderful facilities of the United States Shooting Academy in Tulsa, OK. USSA is the largest and most modern firearms training facility in the country, and is the perfect venue for our event. One hundred and fifty attendees came from literally all over the US, from Washington state to Maryland, Minnesota to Florida, and all points between.

As usual, we had classroom, live-fire, and hands on training segments going on concurrently in several locations throughout the weekend. Attendees were able to sample training from a broad cross section of nationally recognized trainers, in a variety of subjects. In the classrooms, lectures were presented by Massad Ayoob, Skip Gochenour, Tom Givens, John Hearne, William Aprill, Glenn Meyer, Hany Mahmoud, Andy Stanford, and Martin Topper. Live-fire range training was conducted by Rob Pincus, Wayne Dobbs, Paul Gomez, Marty Hayes, Steve Moses, and Will Andrews. There was hands on training by Southnarc, Mike Brown, and Steve Moses, plus airsoft scenarios in the shoot-house against live opponents, directed by Karl Rehn. Attendees were able to attend several classes of their choosing each day.



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We also conducted a tactical handgun match, consisting of a 60 round set of Standards, followed by three scenario based stages, two of which involved shooting in/around a car. The scenarios involved reactive mannequin targets, that look surprisingly real and fall only when struck solidly in the vital zone. A third match segment involved a live fire exercise in the shoot-house, run as a side match.

The top ten shooters in the tactical handgun match were:

Todd Louis Green	70.56
Mike Cyrvus	71.15
Wayne Dobbs	78.56
Karl Rehn	82.06
William Aprill	83.64
Hany Mahmoud	83.78
Randy Richardson	83.87
Massad Ayoob	86.40
Charles Cowden	87.80
William Arnett	89.93 .



The High Lawman for the match was Mike Cyrvus, and the High Lady was Joanie Webb.

More shooting was done in a side match run by Todd Louis Green (pistol-training.com). Todd ran shooters through his FAST drill, with all entry money going to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, the leading research hospital in the world in the fight against childhood cancers. We raised \$1,700 that was donated to St. Jude's. The best time of the day was turned in by retired cop and trainer Wayne Dobbs of Texas, followed closely by Spencer Keepers and Massad Ayoob.

At the conclusion of the event, plaques were awarded to a number of high scoring shooters, and there was a prize drawing for everyone with several thousand dollars worth of goodies, including a rifle, free classes, and lots of range gear.

The Tactical Conference will be back at USSA in Tulsa for 2011. The dates are April 30-May 1, 2011.



**Rangemaster**  
 2611 S. Mendenhall Rd.  
 Memphis, TN 38115



Phone – (901)370-5600  
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## Student Incident #52

Our 52nd student involved incident occurred in March, 2010. I recently had a chance to sit down with the student and debrief him on the experience. He asked that his name not be used publicly, so we'll call him BM.

BM went to his former wife's home to do some yard work on the property. The home is located in East Memphis, near Kirby and Quince. The time was 2:00pm, on a sunny Sunday afternoon. No one would need to be armed in broad daylight, in East Memphis, on Sunday, right? Wrong.

As BM prepared a chain saw and other tools he got from his truck, he noticed a young male black walking up the sidewalk nearby. The young man appeared to be 22-23, but it was later learned he is 17. The youth was wearing baggy "thug" clothing and a baseball cap turned sideways, but these are common sights in Memphis. BM saw nothing threatening, so he turned back to his truck to continue his work. Almost immediately, he heard a voice behind him demand his wallet.

BM turned around to find the young man now standing an arm's length away, pointing a Hi-Point 9mm pistol at BM. He again demanded BM's wallet, and brandished the handgun menacingly. He also ordered BM, "Don't look at me". From his demeanor, BM became convinced he was about to be shot, even if he complied. BM reached for his wallet with his left hand, and the Bad Guy watched that hand, taking the wallet as it was offered. The Bad Guy looked at the wallet and was opening it, distracting him. At that instant, BM drew his gun with his right hand, stepping to the side as he did so. BM fired one shot. Because BM had side-stepped, the bullet entered the Bad Guy's chest from a quartering angle, penetrating to and striking the suspect's spine. This dropped the suspect instantly, leaving him paralyzed on the ground. At the bullet's impact, BM saw the suspect's gun fly away as the suspect fell, so BM did not fire any further shots.

BM moved to a position from which he could cover the downed suspect and watch his surroundings as he called 911 on his cell phone. Police arrived shortly, and the Bad Guy was taken to the hospital by ambulance. It was subsequently learned that the suspect, who survived, is still paralyzed by his wound.

According to BM, the police patrol officers and the detectives were very supportive to him, and did their best to calm him and guide him through the process. Obviously, no charges are contemplated against BM, although the suspect will eventually be tried for armed robbery. When questioned by detectives, the suspect admitted that a second suspect was right around the corner (the house is one house from an intersection), in a waiting car, which sped away at the gunshot, according to neighbors.

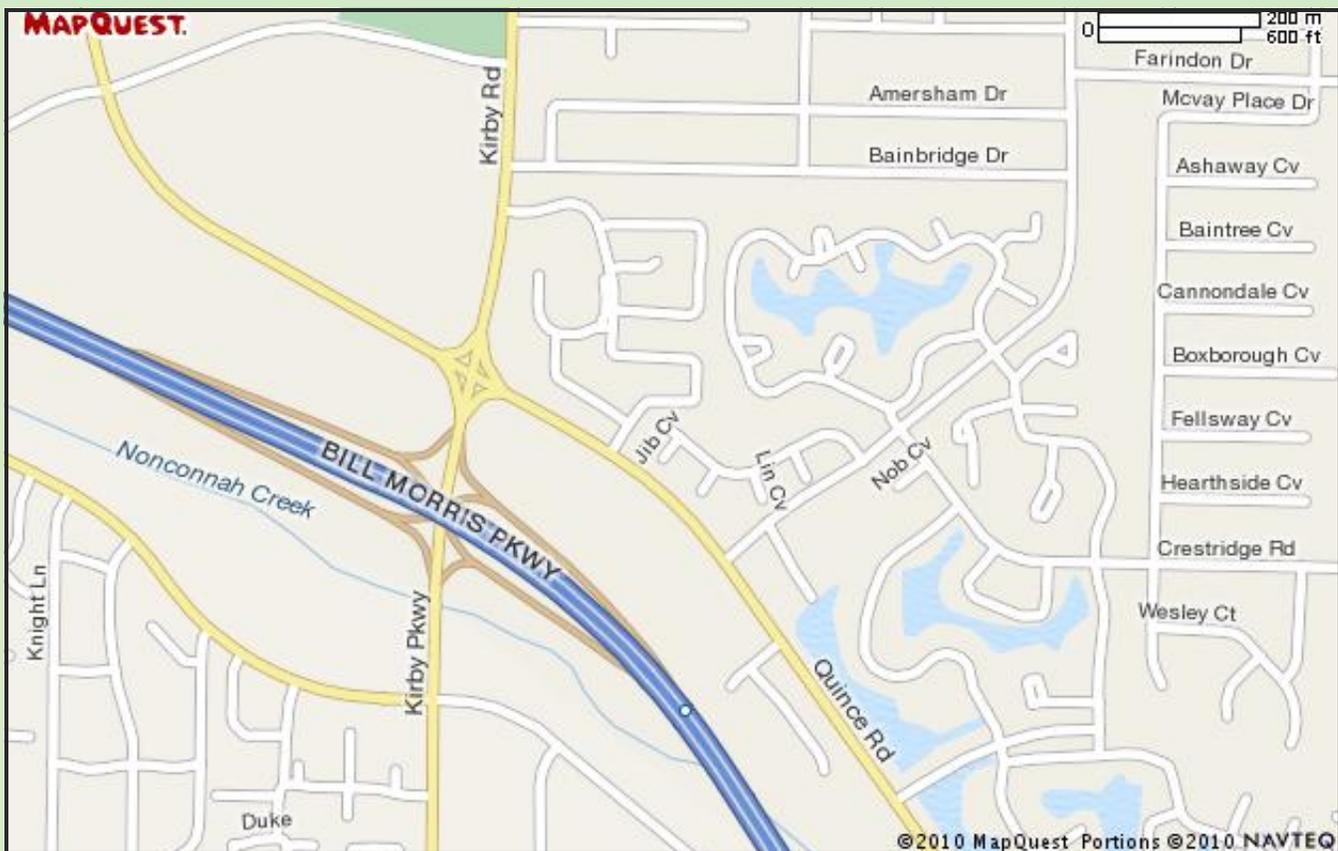
## Lessons:

1. Don't be lazy or complacent. The ignorant or naïve may ridicule you for carrying a handgun on a sunny Sunday afternoon. BM is alive today because he carries a gun every day, Sunday or not. We do not get to pick when, nor where, we will need a gun. Someone else makes that decision for you.

2. Your gun should be concealed. This suspect had no idea BM was armed. The element of surprise was a key ingredient in BM's success.

3. When it is time to act, act! An aggressive, explosive counter-attack is the last thing a thug expects. Don't give him time to recover from the initial shock when you make your move.

Congratulations to BM for keeping his wits about him in a perilous situation. Be armed, be mentally prepared, and be ready when the time comes.



## Arming the Law Enforcement Unit – in the Old Days

By Lt. Marlan J. Ingram

About the photo: The revolver is an original S&W Military & Police revolver from 1903. The handcuffs are original Mattutuck brand, from prior to WWI. The badge is an original from the WWI era, and the timepiece (pocket watch) is an original Hamilton, circa 1900, and yes, it keeps perfect time. The playing card was shot off-hand, with the revolver in the photo. All items would have been in common usage at the time when the Fed was first signed into existence in 1914.

Currently, I'm knocking on the door of 24 years of steady employment with the Federal Reserve Bank. In that time, I've seen a LOT of changes. As a member of the Law Enforcement Unit, I started in the days when we were called 'Guards', a title that was eventually euphemized to 'Security Officer', then 'Protection Officer'. After the tragedy of 9-11, and the new authority granted to us under the Patriot Act, we have our new title of 'Federal Reserve Law Enforcement Officer', or FRLEO for short.

With the changes in title and increase in authority, we've also upgraded the training, and as a Training Officer, I can attest that it is now up to date, realistic, and intense. So much so, that we are now on the verge of FLETA (Federal Law Enforcement Training Accreditation) accreditation. As expected, our equipment and armament have undergone changes as well. As someone who has had intimate, hands on usage with that armament and equipment since my start with the Fed, I can't help but compare our modern armament with what we used in the Old Days.

In looking at old pictures of FRB 'Guards', one firearm that is very much in evidence is the Thompson Sub-Machine Gun, also known as the Tommy Gun. First created in 1918, it was too late for WWI, but was soon a standard item in the Sears, Roebuck and Co., catalog, and some of its first users (who would simply order it direct through the mail) were well dressed gangsters, or those wishing to make 'immediate large cash withdrawals' whether they

had an account or not. Such people made the 20s Roar. Law Enforcement next caught on, and the Tommy Gun soon became a standard item not only in Law Enforcement, but with the Federal Reserve Banks as well. The Tommy Gun went on to serve with distinction in WWII, Korea, and Vietnam, and even today, it is held in HIGH regard, and is considered to be a prized possession by those fortunate enough to own them.

Despite the fact that the Tommy Gun is prized and highly regarded, the Federal Reserve System, in the spirit of 'lets go get something modern' eased them by the wayside, eventually getting rid of them. After 9-11, when discussions of 'the best armament' come up, the Tommy Guns get frequent mention. Whenever I ask someone why we got rid of the Tommy Guns in the first place, I get one of two replies: The answers are either, "We don't know", or "We made a mistake." Oh well, I guess that's why they call them 'The Good Old Days.'

Another firearm commonly seen in the old photographs is a short barreled, pump action, 12 gage shotgun. The 'sawed off' shotgun has its roots in Old West history, being used both by outlaws, and lawmen alike. At that time, the double barrel shotgun was the mainstay, and this was especially favored by shotgun guards riding on stagecoaches, thus the term 'riding shotgun'. This was also the official issue firearm to Wells Fargo Express Guards, who guarded valuable shipments on the railroads. In the late 1880s, lever action shotguns came on the scene, and in the 1890s, the pump action shotgun came on the scene, with the 1897 Winchester Pump in sawed off form giving good service in the trenches of WWI. Along with the Tommy Gun, sawed off 12 gage pump shotguns were a favorite of Gangsters, Federal Officers, local law enforcement, and yes, Federal Reserve Bank Guards.

When I first put on the uniform of a Federal Reserve Bank Guard, the sawed off, 12 gage, pump action shotgun was a primary firearm, in the form of the Remington 870. In the law enforcement community, it was, and IS still considered to be one of the best and most affective firearms available for law enforcement purposes. Currently, we still use and qualify with the Remington 870 shotguns, and hopefully we will do so for a long time to come.

When I first came on the scene, the handgun I was

issued was the Smith & Wesson Military and Police revolver, in .38 Special caliber. They had long, tapered, 6 inch barrels, and had served as mainstays in Police work from the early 1900s through the 1980s, when they were phased out. In fact, looking at old photos of FRB 'Guards', this seems to be the most commonly encountered handgun. Back in those days when I first started, some of the older officers were mighty fine shots, and I learned quite a bit from them. In those days, marksmanship was appreciated and respected, and one of the things I learned from the older officers is what I term the 'six-shooter' mentality. Basically, you had six shots, whereas your opponent could have two or three times as many rounds. Being able to put your rounds quickly and accurately on target was essential. Speed and accuracy were improved through 'coin practice'. Basically, after confirming that the revolver was empty, you put a coin on the top strap, and dry-fired. When you were able to dry-fire without the coin falling off, you knew you had mastered trigger control, the key element in being accurate with any firearm. To increase speed, once again with an empty revolver, you put a coin on the back of your hand, holding the hand at chest height. The key was to draw and shoot BEFORE the coin hit the ground. I eventually attained the ability to keep all shots in the center of an Ace of Spades playing card quickly and accurately upon demand (with each hand) which in turn led to me consistently shooting 99-100% on qualifications.

We got rid of those fine old Smith & Wesson Military & Police revolvers in 1991 (in favor of a S&W Model 15 revolver), and in doing so, I got a chance to look at some of the original paperwork of the older guns.

The majority of them had been purchased between 1923 and 1926! To have an item remain in service, with constant use, for that many years is a testament to the quality of manufacture. The fact that they were still in perfect condition when we got rid of them illustrates why they are considered classics. I recently picked up a S&W Military & Police revolver, made in 1903, and shooting it brought back fond memories of my early days with the Fed.

Recently, I had the privilege of testing some of the handguns that the Fed is considering purchasing in the future. From a standpoint of quality, most items now days simply don't meet the standards set by the old Smith & Wesson M&P revolver. From a standpoint of accuracy, many of the modern handguns fall short, although there were a couple of notable exceptions.

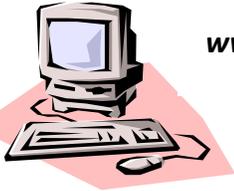
I respect that in order to increase our standards of professionalism, we have to make changes in our armament and equipment to keep up with current trends in the Law Enforcement community. In my position, I am committed to bringing the Law Enforcement unit up to the required level. However, as both a historian, and an 'old hand', I can't help but reflect that, while I've used different firearms throughout my career at the Fed, we had it pretty good, back in the Old Days.



RANGEMASTER  
2611 S. Mendenhall Rd.  
Memphis, TN 38115-1503



Phone: 901-370-5600  
Fax: 901-370-5699  
Email: [rangemaster.tom@gmail](mailto:rangemaster.tom@gmail.com)



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

***"Killers who are not deterred  
by laws against murder are not  
going to be deterred by laws  
against guns. "***

***– [Robert A. Levy](#)***



There will be a new television show starting this Fall dealing with true stories of armed citizens who prevail against criminals in self defense situations. This could prove to be very interesting. It is produced by the folks who did "Real Vice Cops" here in Memphis a couple of years ago. A detailed trailer can be seen at <http://www.crimestriketv.com/> .

Rangemaster now has a home on Facebook. Visit our site for updates on coming events, pictures and video from range activities, and to interact with fellow students and Rangemaster staff.



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