



Tactical Talk

Volume 15, Issue 3

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“Somewhere there are Brownings in a two-hand hold ---

cocked and locked, one up the spout

There's nothing for it but to sit and wait

for the hard men to get me out”

— Unknown

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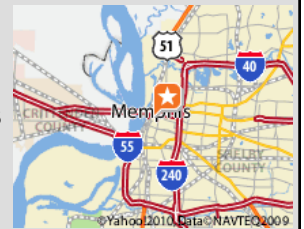
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Crime in the Metro Area



Every municipal Police Department, Sheriff’s Office, and Campus Police operation in Tennessee is required to tally the crimes reported to it and submit this annual total to the Tennessee Bureau of Investigation (TBI). The TBI publishes an annual report of these crimes. The process takes a good while, so the 2009 totals were recently released. Here is how crime compared in some of the cities in the metropolitan Memphis area:

	Memphis	Collierville	Bartlett	Germantown
Robbery	4,163	5	23	10
Aggravated Assault	7,470	75	101	15
Burglary	13,737	91	161	74
Car Theft	4,250	20	40	12
Arson	333	2	2	5



In February Rangemaster hosted a Glock Armorer’s Course, attended by officers from several local law enforcement agencies and several of our staff. In fact, most of our sales people are factory certified armorer’s for Glock, Kimber, or Remington firearms.



New Magazine Pouches

For the past couple of months I have been wearing some innovative new magazine pouches from Concealed Carry Concepts. I was first introduced to these by friend and fellow trainer Todd Louis Green, and I have been very happy with them. Ingeniously folded from a single piece of Kydex, they are the most compact concealment pouches I have found. Two of these side by side on the belt take up much less space than the old Blade-Tech pouches I have used for years. We have some of these in stock for Glock 9/.40 magazines or S&W M&P's, with more on the way.

When you wonder how the federal government could get things so screwed up, remember who the government consists of.

Here, for instance, is a quote from our illustrious Vice President, Joe Biden: "When the stock market crashed, Franklin D. Roosevelt got on the television and didn't just talk about the, you know, princes of greed. He said, 'Look, here's what happened.'" The problem is, the stock market crashed in 1929. FDR was elected in 1932. And televisions were still in the laboratory.

Another fine example: Senator Charles Shumer said "... that's why we have three branches of government, the House, the Senate, and the President." A junior high school civics student knows that the three branches of government are the Legislative branch, the Judicial branch, and the Executive branch. This explains why Shumer doesn't understand issues like the Second Amendment—he has never read the Constitution.

US Concealed Carry Association (USCCA)

This is a worthwhile organization that I would encourage you to join, as a responsible, educated concealed carrier. Started in 2004, this organization now has 45,000 members around the country. One of the principal benefits of membership is a subscription to Concealed Carry Magazine, which currently publishes eight issues per year and is only available to USCCA members, not sold on news-stands. Concealed Carry Magazine is unique in that it has NO advertising. This allows the editors to be brutally honest about products and services for the concealed carry community, without worry about offending advertisers. Some very knowledgeable people write for this magazine, which is just one source of information that USCCA supplies. Members can also access information on-line, and receive periodic DVD's on various educational topics. See <http://www.usconcealedcarry.com/membership/> for membership options and to sign up. Highly recommended.





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“Proven Techniques, Tactics, & Thinking For the Real World”

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Quantity	Product	Price	Total
	Book: “Fighting Smarter” 3 rd Edition	\$27.95	
	DVD: “Concealed Carry for Self Defense”	\$19.95	
	DVD: “Defensive Shotgun”	\$19.95	
Subtotal			
Shipping (\$3.00 per DVD, \$4.00 per Book)			
Order Total			

Billing Information	Shipping Information (If Different)
Name:	Name:
Address:	Address:
City, State:	City, State:
Zip Code:	Zip Code
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Credit Card Information	
Number:	Type: Visa MasterCard AmEx Discover
Expiration:	Signature:

Gun Control Advocates Miss the Mark

by Tom Givens

"I have a Glock 9mm, and I'm a pretty good shot." No, these are not the words of Jared Loughner, the alleged Tucson mass shooting gunman. They are a quote from one of his victims, U.S. Representative Gabrielle Giffords in an interview in the New York Times in 2009. Another of his victims, Judge John Roll, was a frequent customer at the Marksman Pistol Institute, an indoor range in Tucson. In fact, Judge Roll sent his wife and many of his staff to this range for shooting lessons. The owner of the range said that Judge Roll was a good shot, but that he went to the political rally from church, so was not wearing his gun. There was a legally armed private citizen inside the Safeway store who heard the shots and rushed outside. Seeing that Loughner had been disarmed already, the armed citizen did not draw his own gun, but assisted in physically holding the suspect until police finally arrived. He displayed courage, good judgment and restraint, actually typical traits of those who responsibly and legally go armed.

Gun control zealots would have you believe that only criminals and the deranged carry guns. Nothing could be farther from the truth. In the past decade, there have been eleven scholarly studies conducted by very diverse researchers who concluded that thousands of times every day, Americans use guns to defend themselves against criminals. The lowest number of such incidents in any of these studies was 750,000 incidents per year. That's almost 2,000 times every day that good people in the US defend themselves and their families from criminals, and again, that is the lowest of the estimates! Here in Memphis, every year several of our students are forced to use legally owned, legally carried handguns to defend themselves or loved ones against armed criminals.

The real question here is how to keep weapons out of the hands of the mentally unstable, not out of the hands of decent, law abiding citizens. Federal law already prohibits, everywhere in the US, the purchase of any type of firearm by someone "adjudicated as a mental defective" or who has been involuntarily committed to a mental institution. Part of the problem is the movement over the past three decades away from institutionalizing anyone who is not a clear and present danger to themselves or others. This leaves many mentally ill persons on the street, often in dire need of treatment, but with no one to ensure they take their medication. As long as they are not violent at the moment, they are evaluated and sent right back out on the street. In Arizona, where Loughner lived, any person can go before a judge and detail behavior they have observed in another that leads them to believe that person is mentally ill. The judge can then order a psychiatric evaluation, and if that examination shows a need, can order treatment. Loughner scared the faculty and students at Pima Community College so badly that he was ultimately removed from the school, but no one from the school reported his behavior to a judge. Loughner allegedly had a shrine in his parents' back yard, with such items as skulls, but they did not take the matter to a judge. Friends saw huge changes in his behavior, but none bothered to make this known to authorities. To be "adjudicated mentally defective" one has to appear before a judge. Had he done so, he would have been entered into the database checked by the FBI during a gun purchase, and he would not have been allowed to purchase his gun. Blaming the gun shop, the clerk, or the gun in this case simply ignores the real issue.

Within hours of the shooting, opportunistic anti-gun activists proposed a ban on "high capacity" magazines. Again, a simplistic, knee-jerk reaction, blaming an inanimate object for mayhem. Such magazines were restricted by federal law for ten years, from 1994-2004. Various research groups, including the Justice Department and the Centers for Disease Control reported to Congress that they could find

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no evidence whatever that the "Assault Weapons Ban" had had any effect on crime. Thus, the ban was allowed to sunset. "Assault" is a behavior, not a device. Humans "assault" people, the instrument used is not relevant. Here in Memphis just a few days ago a woman was brutally murdered with a hammer. That does not make it an "assault hammer", nor does it indicate a need for restrictions on the purchase of hammers. It means that the man who wielded that hammer should be punished for his unlawful actions. Punish him, not people who were not involved, and don't try to shift blame from him to the hammer.

"But you don't need a high capacity magazine!" You don't need a new tennis racket or a new golf club, but that does not give government a legitimate reason to tell you that you cannot have one. Attacks by gang members often involve two or three assailants, and the fifteen shot magazine in my pistol might be very useful in such a scenario. Having fifteen shots in my magazines won't turn me into a raving madman, and having a magazine limited to ten rounds won't assure good behavior, either. Loughner allegedly shot nineteen people without reloading. He could have done the exact same thing wielding two pistols, each with a ten shot magazine in place. Again, it is the actor, not the instrument, that needs to be controlled.

In backward, primitive Third World countries, poor, ignorant, uneducated people think evil spirits live in rocks and trees. We make fun of them and call them savages. In this country, certain people think evil spirits live in guns or magazines for them. We call them anti-gun activists. A more rational thinker sees very little difference in these two views.

We recently did a news piece on one of the local TV stations about "Who takes handgun training and gets a permit to carry?". We looked at the registration forms for 120 recent students and found the following data. You might find the results interesting.

Survey of 120 recent student records:

Male	76	63%
Female	44	37%

Age:

21-30 years old	21	18%
31-50 years old	42	35%
Over 50 years old	57	48%

(4 out of 5 are 30 years old or older)

Home address:

Memphis	68	57%
Germantown	16	
Collierville	15	
DeSoto Cty	11	
Other	10	

(Fayette County, Alcorn County, etc)

Occupations:

Professional	21
(Professional and Management account for 34%)	
Management	20
Medical	14
Sales	11
Technical	10
Housewife	7
Retired	12
Other	25
(could be described as blue collar, 21%)	

As you can see, the vast majority of these people are well employed, solid citizens, and most are over 30 years old. We have one of the highest rates of female participation here in the whole country.



Annual Rangemaster/Polite Society 2011 Tactical Conference

**Saturday-Sunday, May 14-15, 2011
at the United States Shooting Academy (USSA) Tulsa, Oklahoma**

Registration fee is \$229.00. This *includes* all of the training segments, the tactical match, the side match, and the prize drawing.

The trainers present for 2010 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. We have included the registration form and USSA Liability Waiver here for your convenience. Print, them, fill them out, and mail them to us ASAP.

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.

Mail entries to: Rangemaster
 2611 S. Mendenhall Rd
 Memphis, TN, 38115.

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 (see page 9) was written by Paul Gomez, one of the trainers who presented a topic at the 2009 conference.



RANGEMASTER/POLITE SOCIETY ANNUAL TACTICAL CONFERENCE

May 14-15, 2011

United States Shooting Academy, Tulsa, OK

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

PHONE _____ OR _____

E-MAIL ADDRESS _____

CATEGORY: _____ Open _____ Lawman _____ Lady
(IF _____ LAWMAN _____ NAME _____ OF _____ AGENCY
_____)

ENTRY FEE* \$229.00

***INCLUDES MATCH, ALL TRAINING SEGMENTS, PRIZE DRAWING**

PAYMENT: _____ CHECK, PAYABLE TO RANGEMASTER

CREDIT/DEBIT CARD: VISA AMEX MASTERCARD DISCOVER
CARD# _____

EXP _____ DATE _____

CV

SIGNATURE _____

FOR USE BY RANGEMASTER:

DATE RECEIVED _____

ATTENDEE NO. _____ SQUAD# _____

SHOOT TIME _____

ID BADGE SENT _____ WAIVER RECEIVED _____

ENTERED ON DB _____

ACKNOWLEDGMENT, RELEASE AND HOLD HARMLESS AGREEMENT FOR USE OF USSA FACILITIES

In order to utilize the facilities at the United States Shooting Academy ("USSA"), I, _____, in consideration of the right to enter and use the facilities and services of USSA, do enter into this Acknowledgment, Release and Hold Harmless Agreement ("Agreement"), and do hereby consent and agree as follows:

1. I acknowledge that engaging in target shooting and the firearm training activities conducted at USSA are dangerous activities. I am fully informed and understand that these risks, hazards and dangers include the risk of serious bodily injury, including permanent disability, paralysis and death, as well as damage to property. I engage in these activities voluntarily and at my own risk.

2. I acknowledge and represent that I am familiar with the significant risks and dangerous nature of these activities and hereby assume any and all responsibilities and liabilities pertaining to such risks, whether to myself or to others, and without limitation or qualification.

3. I acknowledge that at the time of signing this Agreement I am of sufficient physical and mental condition to engage in target shooting and/or firearms training activities at USSA.

4. I agree that USSA, or any representative thereof, may, but has no duty to, provide to me with first aid, or through medical personnel of their choice, medical or training assistance, transportation, and emergency medical services if I am injured at USSA. This consent does not, however, impose an affirmative duty upon USSA to provide such assistance, transportation or services. I agree to be solely responsible for all medical expenses incurred in connection with my association with USSA and/or my use of USSA's facility. I understand that I may be unattended and unsupervised, and medical attention may be hours away, if any. I understand I may die without getting any medical attention, by getting improper attention, and/or not being evacuated promptly, or at all.

5. In consideration for utilizing USSA's services and/or facilities, I do on behalf of myself, my heirs, executors, administrators and assigns, release, waive, discharge and covenant not to sue USSA, its successors, officers, employees, agents, representatives, contractors, subsidiaries and affiliates and each person acting by, through, under or in concert with any of them (hereinafter referred to as "Released Parties") with regard to any and all liability, claims, demands, actions, and causes of action whatsoever arising out of or related to any loss, damage, or injury, including death, that may be sustained by me, or to any property belonging to me, whether caused by the negligence or gross negligence of the Released Parties or otherwise, while participating in any target shooting or firearms training activities, or while upon USSA's premises where the activities are being conducted.

6. I shall indemnify, without qualification or limitation, the Released Parties, and shall defend and hold the Released Parties harmless from any and all claims, causes of action, demands or charges of every kind (including attorney's fees and costs) which any party may claim to have for property damage or personal injuries or any other damages, including death, arising from any cause or reason of every kind pertaining to or referring to or relating to: (1) my use of USSA's facilities; (2) my activities on the USSA facility; (3) any training I receive from USSA; and/or (4) my use of any vehicles, assets or materials of USSA.

7. This Agreement shall be construed and interpreted pursuant to Oklahoma law. Neither party shall commence any litigation against the other arising out this Agreement except in the District Court of Tulsa County, Oklahoma. Each party hereby consents to jurisdiction over it by, and exclusive venue in, the District Court of Tulsa County, Oklahoma.

8. In the event any provision of this Agreement is held to be overbroad as written, such provision shall be deemed to be amended to narrow its application to the extent necessary to make the provision enforceable according to applicable law.

9. By my signature on this application, I state that I have no criminal convictions, am not currently under indictment or prosecution for any offense, and am not wanted for questioning or arrest by any law enforcement or government agency. I further state that I have no history of mental illness or substance abuse. I understand that my training may be terminated at any time during the course if my actions are not deemed appropriate by United States Shooting Academy's staff.

10. I affirm that I have read, understand and agree to be bound by the terms of this Agreement.

EXECUTED this ____ day of _____, 2009.

Signature: _____

Printed Name: _____

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 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, [Steve Moses](#), [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.

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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.

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**.

The Concealed Carry Presentation By Tom Givens

If one is going to carry a handgun for personal self defense, he will have to learn a number of skills involved in safely and effectively using the handgun. The vast majority of incidents in which you would need a gun for self defense occur away from the home. That is why we go armed in public, in the first place. Of course, this means that if you need your gun to defend your life, odds are you will have to draw it from a holster. The draw, or “presentation from the holster”, therefore, is a critical self defense skill.

I have often read on internet discussion boards that a fast draw is seldom needed, and if trouble is brewing, one should have a gun in hand. This approach overlooks a couple of very real circumstances that we face in actual defensive gun uses. First, police officers often enter potentially dangerous situations with gun in hand. They are usually, however, responding to a radio call that fore-warned them of a hazardous situation. The private citizen, on the other hand, is usually reacting to an immediate threat stimulus from an attacker, quite a different situation. Also, if the cop turns out not to need his gun, he holsters it and that’s the end of it. In many jurisdictions, a permit holder can be in serious trouble for drawing prematurely, or if it turns out the situation does not call for lethal force. Third, if firing is called for, the more time it takes you to get your gun out, the less time you have to make decisions and fire accurately. The ability to safely, quickly, and efficiently produce your handgun can be a life saving skill, and it’s one that requires some effort to master.

Let’s look at the requirements I mentioned. Presenting the handgun “safely” means getting the gun out without endangering the shooter, or any other innocent party in the process. Improper draw technique often sweeps the shooter’s own body or other persons in the immediate vicinity, and trigger finger discipline has to be ingrained as part of the draw-stroke. Presenting “quickly” means getting the gun on target in the least amount of time possible. An “efficient” presentation is one that gets the gun into a stable firing platform with minimal steps and motions, ready to deliver accurate fire.

A safe presentation depends on several factors. First and foremost is trigger finger discipline. All properly designed holsters will completely cover the handgun’s trigger guard, keeping a finger or other object from entering the trigger guard while the gun is holstered. Once the student starts the gun moving upward, though, the trigger will be exposed. Thus, the shooter’s trigger finger must be straight, and indexed above the trigger guard, alongside the pistol’s frame, where it remains until the gun is on target. Second, the motions involved in drawing the gun and moving it to the shooting position should not allow the muzzle to sweep over parts of the shooter’s body, or other persons. Third, the support hand must be positioned so that it is not in front of the muzzle at any time during the process. I suggest placing the support hand flat on the chest, at sternum height, thumb up, fingers together. Teaching the presentation in a “one step at a time” process at first helps to ingrain these proper hand positions and prevent accidents.

An “efficient” presentation requires as little motion as possible. Speed does not come from hustle, it comes from smoothness and economy of motion. Every unnecessary motion just adds time to the whole process. Ideally, the handgun will move through only two planes: straight up and straight out. To use a strong side belt holster as an example: the handgun is drawn straight up the shooter’s side until the thumb touches the pectoral muscle, at which point the muzzle is rotated toward the target, the support hand joins the gun hand, and the gun is thrust into the eye-target line and extended toward the target. This simple set of motions gets the gun on target as quickly as possible, in the line of sight, so visually indexed fire can be delivered immediately.

Here is the typical strong side belt holster presentation, broken down into four simple steps. As mentioned, teaching these steps as “building blocks” helps the student absorb and replicate the correct motions.

- ◆ **Step One-** The gun hand obtains a full firing grip on the gun, in the holster. This is critical. If you miss your grip, re-grip the gun first, then draw it. Once the gun is out of the holster, trying to shift your grip will eat up time and create the possibility of dropping the gun, so get your master grip in the holster. At the same time, the support hand moves to the sternum, thumb up, fingers flat on your chest.
- ◆ **Step Two-** The gun hand raises the pistol from the holster. Shooter should drag his thumb up his rib cage until it touches his pectoral muscle. This ensures that the gun is free from the holster and gets the gun closer to the eye-target line. When the shooter’s thumb touches his pec’, the muzzle is rotated up toward the target and the gun hand wrist locked. (In a bad breath distance confrontation, the gun can be fired from here. This is often referred to as a retention position, as a result.) Once the handgun is pointed toward the target in this position, the hands are only a few inches apart. The gun hand is moved toward the shooter’s centerline, at the same time the support hand slides over toward the gun hand. As the fingers of the support hand overlay the fingers of the gun hand, a two-handed firing grip is established.
- ◆ **Step Three-** Both hands are now on the gun, and the gun is just below the shooter’s line of sight. A straight line from the shooter’s eyes to his intended target is called the “eye-target line”. The gun is immediately brought up to the eye-target line and thrust toward the target.
- ◆ **Step Four-** If the decision to fire has been made, as the gun moves to full extension the trigger finger contacts the

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trigger and the eyes visually verify that the gun is on target, by use of the sights or a rough gun silhouette on target, depending on the distance and the degree of precision called for by the circumstances.

This simple four step process gets the gun out of the holster, under control, and on target as quickly and efficiently as possible. If the support hand is otherwise occupied or unavailable, the same basic movement of the gun hand would still be used. Now, this was the process for the presentation from an exposed holster. When we add a cover garment, we have to add one step to the presentation. We're not going to change the process just described, we're only going to add one thing, which is getting the garment out of the way. How this is done depends on the type of garment worn to conceal the gear.

Garments that open down the front (jackets, vests, windbreakers, over-shirts) are swept out of the way with the gun hand on the way to the holstered pistol. The most efficient method seems to be to hold all the fingers of the gun hand as if holding a small ball in your fingertips. Use these to aggressively throw the garment out of the way, to allow a full, unimpeded grasp on the handgun. Once the garment is out of the way, proceed with steps 1-4, as described previously.

Pull-over garments require a slightly different technique. The support hand is used to pull the garment up sharply and hold it out of the way until the gun is free from the holster. You want to pull the garment upward hard, then toward your centerline, so that your support hand winds up in its proper place for Count Two of the drawstroke. Again, once the gun is out of the holster, proceed with steps 1-4.

Holstering your handgun is the exact opposite of the presentation. First, be sure we don't need the gun out any more. Beware the tendency to "speed holster". Come down to the ready and look, then holster deliberately. First, be sure your trigger finger is indexed properly, then retract your support hand to your chest, to the same place it goes to on Count One. Then bring the gun back to your pectoral index, turn the muzzle down, and holster. If you have an open front cover garment, the little finger of the gun hand can be used to move the garment out of the way as you holster. If using a pull-over, leave the gun out in front as you retract the support hand and pull up the garment. The gun is not brought back to the pectoral index until the support hand is back on the chest, holding the garment out of the way. Most accidental discharges involving working from the holster occur on re-holstering, not on the drawstroke. So, take care and be conscious of trigger finger discipline and muzzle direction while holstering.

Fortunately, the presentation is a skill that can be mastered in dry practice, at no cost. Use this article as a guide for your dry work, and in short order your presentation skills should be good to go.