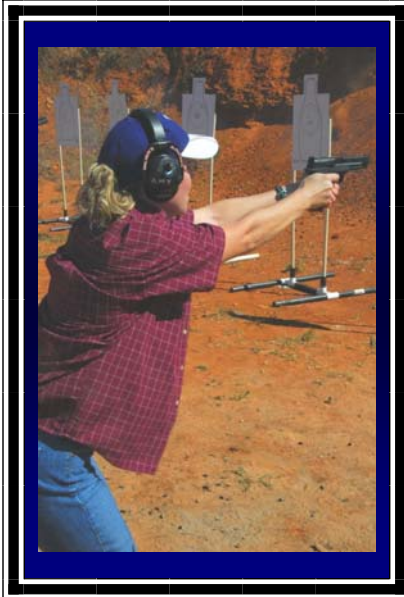




# Tactical Talk

Volume 16, Issue 2

February 2012



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## Memphis Homicides In 2011

In 2011 there were 119 criminal homicides (murders) in the city. There were 28 justifiable homicides. A justifiable homicide occurs when a person lawfully kills another in self defense. Thus, one in five homicides here were ruled justifiable in 2011.

Of those 28 justifiable homicides, only 4 were committed by law enforcement officers; 24 were committed by private citizens. There are some lessons here:

First, be mentally prepared for the possibility of being involved in one of these incidents. On average, there were 2 justifiable homicides by private citizen per month in 2011. We have truly outstanding trauma care in this community, so only about 1 person out of 20 that are shot actually die from that injury. So, there were a LOT more self defense shootings than the number of dead would indicate.



Tennessee state law is very explicit that citizens have a right to defend their lives and the lives of their loved ones. As long as you don't do anything stupid with your gun, you have nothing to fear from the criminal justice system here. Of course, if you do something stupid with a gun, you can expect to be punished. Fair enough! You will never be prosecuted for using a gun in self defense here as long as you live as stated here: "I will forget I have a gun unless I need it to terminate an immediate deadly threat to me, or to someone for whom I am responsible." The gun is not for settling disputes, scaring people off, or preventing the theft of property. It is a last ditch, last resort used to save innocent human life. Remember that and you will do fine.

## Annual Tactical Conference February 24-26, 2012

The annual Rangemaster Tactical Conference will be held on Friday through Sunday, Feb 24-26. The range will be unavailable from Thursday, the 23<sup>rd</sup> through Sunday, the 26<sup>th</sup>, as it will be dedicated to this event. Over a hundred practitioners from all over the US will be here, along with 20 of the best trainers in the country.



## Caution—Do Not Load/Unload the Same Round Repeatedly

Some people have the bad habit of unloading their carry gun every day when they get home, then loading it again the next day. This leads to cycling the same rounds in and out of the gun repeatedly.

This is very bad, for three reasons:

- 1.** Here is an example of a misfire in a deadly force incident, caused by this very practice: “In September of this year a GCPD officer was involved in a situation which quickly became a use of deadly force incident. When the officer made the decision to use deadly force, the chambered round in his duty pistol did not fire. Fortunately, the officer used good tactics, remembered his training and cleared the malfunction, successfully ending the encounter. The misfired round, which had a full firing pin strike, was collected and was later sent to the manufacturer for analysis. Their analysis showed the following: “...the cause of the misfire was determined to be from the primer mix being knocked out of the primer when the round was cycled through the firearm multiple times”. We also sent an additional 2,000 rounds of the Winchester 9mm duty ammunition to the manufacturer. All 2,000 rounds were successfully fired.

In discussions with the officer, we discovered that since he has small children at home, he unloads his duty weapon daily. His routine is to eject the chambered round to store the weapon. Prior to returning to duty he chambers the top round in his primary magazine, then takes the previously ejected round and puts it back in the magazine. Those two rounds were repeatedly cycled and had been since duty ammunition was issued in February or March of 2011, resulting in as many as 100 chambering and extracting cycles. This caused an internal failure of the primer, not discernable by external inspection. This advisory is to inform all sworn personnel that repeated cycling of duty rounds is to be avoided.
- 2.** Every time a round feeds from the magazine, it strikes the feed ramp before going into the chamber. Repeated chambering causes repeated impacts to the bullet nose on the feed ramp. This can cause the bullet to set back deeper into the cartridge case. Pistol cartridges have very limited space inside them for the powder charge, and shortening the overall length of the cartridge causes huge spikes in chamber pressure when that round is fired. Pistols have been blown up by these shortened rounds. If you have chambered a round of carry ammunition more than a couple of times, it is best to remove that round from your carry magazines.
- 3.** Most accidental discharges happen during loading/unloading.

It is a lot smarter to leave your carry pistol loaded. If you need to keep it out of the hands of children or irresponsible adults, use a locking container for the gun when you are not wearing it.



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## Mindset Article, by Shane Gosa

(Shane is a working police officer in Georgia, a Rangemaster student, as well as a graduate of several other schools/trainers. )

*This is a summary of a presentation entitled Law Enforcement Officers Killed and Assaulted in Action (LEOKA), recently presented by the Federal Bureau of Investigation at the Georgia Public Safety Training Center. The following are notes I took throughout the class. It was different from what I had expected, but in a good way. This was essentially an eight hour block of instruction on mindset, that was one of the best I have been through. I have included some of my own thoughts at the end of the review, and will denote them as such.*

United States Marshal Robert Forsyth was the first law enforcement officer to be killed in the line of duty in the United States of America. He was appointed a US Marshal by George Washington in 1789, and was killed in 1794. Unfortunately, he was not the last.

LEOKA is a part of the FBI's Criminal Justice Information Services Division. The division's mission is to serve law enforcement by gathering statistics on line of duty deaths and assaults every year, and then to distribute the information for learning purposes. 2004 was the last year these statistics were printed on paper. All further statistics have been made available in electronic format only.

The FBI has been collecting statistics on law enforcement officers killed in action since 1937. They first began to distribute these results in 1972. In 1982 they began to include assaults on officers. 1987/1989 was when LEOKA was started as its own specific unit. About 55% of the law enforcement agencies in the United States report assaults to LEOKA, so the actual numbers are considerably higher than reported.

LEOKA wants to answer the question "why?" and to help eliminate or reduce risk to law enforcement officers. You can generally sum up their efforts by three questions:

Why this officer?            Why this offender?            Why these circumstances?

It has been found that in the majority of cases it is NOT:            a physical issue; a training issue

It IS a MINDSET issue.

The "Deadly Mix" is comprised of three elements: Officers, offenders, and circumstances. How we act can prevent our being assaulted or killed ?

In 1993 LEOKA published the study "Killed in the Line of Duty." It is comprised of 51 cases with 50 offenders, and 54 officers killed.

The second study is entitled "In the Line of Fire." It looks at 40 cases with 42 offenders, and number of officers that were assaulted.

In 2006 "Violent Encounters" was published and it is the culmination of 20 years of research. It is comprised of 40 cases, involving 43 offenders, and 52 officers that were assaulted.

LEOKA is now in a 4<sup>th</sup> study of Police Ambushes. These ambushes are up 252% since the year 2000. They are now prominent in the media due to multiple officers being hit at one time.

The training presented in this class is about:

Officer and offender perception.

MINDSET. It is the psychological side of law enforcement.

*(Continued on page 5)*

The following are summaries of assaults with firearms on officers, and my take on their thoughts/mindset and that of the offenders:

### 1<sup>st</sup> Case:

Uniformed Patrol Officer, older (but unspecified) age. The officer received a BOLO (be on the look-out) on a vehicle used in a bank robbery. Almost immediately after receiving the BOLO he sees the vehicle. At this point he attempts to initiate a traffic stop on the vehicle. The suspect vehicle then leads the officer on a high speed pursuit. The chase leads through several "S" curves. The officer loses sight of the suspect vehicle. When he comes out of one of the "S" curves, the suspect vehicle is parked with the offender standing outside. The offender fires 16 rounds at the patrol car. 14 rounds penetrate the vehicle through the windshield. 6 of these rounds struck the officer, fatally injuring him.

Officer Mindset: Did not expect the situation to happen. Did not think anything bad would happen to him. Did not associate an armed suspect with a bank robbery. Mindset?

Offender Mindset: His main concern was escape. Wounding or killing the officer was seen as simply a means to an end. The officer was a target of opportunity, "he was chasing me and needed to be stopped." He thought of the officer as "just an obstacle."

### 2<sup>nd</sup> Case:

Deputy Sheriff assigned to transport duties. Deputy is in excellent shape and routinely bench presses 400 pounds. He has taken a slight of build, yet mentally unstable, inmate to a hospital. Because of the inmate's polite and non-threatening manner and build, the deputy places the inmates handcuffs in front of him. The inmate then "bumps" against the deputy, and when he recovers the inmate is holding the deputy's revolver. The inmate forces the barrel into the deputy's chest and attempts to pull the trigger.

The deputy uses his thumb to block the hammer from striking the firing pin and begins choking the inmate. The inmate continually tries to pull the trigger, and the deputy can feel the hammer closing down repeatedly on his thumb. A nurse sees the confrontation and gets two other officers in the hospital to assist the deputy. They are able to subdue the inmate without the deputy being shot.

The inmate stated that when the officer moved the handcuffs from behind him to the front, that he could feel the officer becoming nicer and less guarded. He also felt that his environment became easier for his needs. He decided to take the gun from the deputy because "voices" told him to. His first thought was to "use the gun to get away." his second thought was shoot the deputy in order to "get him out of the picture." His third thought was to kill himself.

The reason that the inmate was at the hospital was he had tried to escape the night before and it took 4 deputies to stop him. The inmate was injured in the process. These facts were not known to the deputy prior to transport. This is a failure of communication.

When looking at the summaries provided by LEOKA they can be provided into three categories:

#### Good to Know:

- ◆ In 2010 the average age of officers killed in action was 38 (not rookies).
- ◆ The average height was 5'10"-6', and the average weight was 190-200 pounds.
- ◆ 56 officers were killed by means of firearms (54 males and 2 females)

#### Need to Know:

- ◆ 81% were single man patrol units
- ◆ 16% were 2 man patrol units

#### Critical to Know:

- ◆ 50% died within 10 feet of their assailant
- ◆ 21% died within 5 feet of their assailant
- ◆ 71% died with their gun in their holster OR not having fired a single shot
- ◆ 69% were wearing body armor (offenders know this and are shooting for the head)
- ◆ 15 were ambushes

- ◆ 14 while making arrests
- ◆ 8 during investigations
- ◆ 7 during traffic pursuits
- ◆ 3 during tactical operations
- ◆ 1 during inmate transport
- ◆ 7 were killed with their own gun.

**Foot Pursuits (1997-2006 studies):**

There are a large number of officers killed or injured in them, but most agencies do not train their officers in proper tactics concerning foot pursuits.

80 cases were selected randomly ~ 85 offenders ~ 102 victim officers ~ 10 were shot ~ 2 were stabbed

1 was shot at and not hit ~ 1 was physically attacked ~ 1 escaped injury (he was the only one to receive training in foot pursuits by his agency)

Foot pursuits are DANGEROUS, and you must change your mindset in regards to them.

**1<sup>st</sup> Case:**

Officer: 9 year veteran, primarily worked high crime areas, very experienced, knew suspect.

Suspect: specialized in strong armed robbery, knew officer, was bigger and stronger than the officer.

The officer saw the suspect sitting in a car and knew he had a warrant for his arrest. The officer did not wait for back up to arrive and approached the suspect. He has the suspect places his hand on the suspect's car. The suspect turns around and applies a brachial stun to the officer. The officer is knocked unconscious. When the officer regains consciousness he chases the offender around the corner of a house. The offender shoots the officer twice with the officer's own gun. The officer tries to draw his gun, but realizes the offender has it.(it was taken from him when he was unconscious.) The officer then runs around the corner and retrieves his back up gun off of his ankle. He then reengages the suspect.

The above officer had NO plan before this incident happened. Do NOT let the suspect dictate HOW you choose to chase him. Wrong presumption? Why is the suspect running-you never know Where are you going? Can you radio in your location? What are the environmental conditions? (If the suspect does not have a weapon, can he get one from the environment? Example: construction sites-- tools, lumber). Note- It is almost NEVER a good idea for a private citizen to chase a criminal suspect. You don't have back-up or radio communication, and if you catch him, what are you going to do with him?

**2<sup>nd</sup> Case:**

Two officers one with 4 years of experience, and one with 3 years of experience. Offender is a 90 pound male who is 14 years of age. He is described as a weak and puny, scared kid by the officers. (Never underestimate your opponent!)

Offender had a probation violation, which is unknown to the officers. They are making contact with him for a trespass violation and only intend to issue him a verbal warning. Offender runs into an abandoned building and the officers give chase. He is waiting for the officers on the second floor inside a doorway. The first officer is stabbed in the chest, but the knife is stopped by the officer's bullet resistant vest. The second cut is to the officer's right arm, the third is to the base of the officer's neck. The second officer moves his gun up and is stabbed.

In the investigation following this incident it is found that the offender had multiple pumpkins in his room. They all have hundreds of punctures in them. The offender states that he ALWAYS carries a knife on his person.

**3<sup>rd</sup> Case:**

Officer: 10 year veteran assigned to Tactical Operations in marked uniform, knows suspect.

Suspect: 21 years old, known drug dealer, extensive criminal history, active murder investigation underway on him.

Time is 2330 hours. The suspect is in the projects and has an active barring notice from said premises. He sees the

*(Continued on page 7)*

*(Continued from page 6)*

officers and begins to run and the officers give chase. One officer follows behind suspect and the other goes around a building to cut him off. The suspect hides on a second story landing area and lies in wait. The first officer is spotted in the dark due to his flashlight beam and reflective gear.

The offender fires 8 shots from an elevated position 40 feet away from the officer. 2 rounds hit the officer. One round enters the officer's shoulder, through the opening in his body armor, and the other goes into his leg. The suspect then walks up to the officer and fires at his head. That bullet misses the officer.

#### **4<sup>th</sup> Case:**

Officer: 2 year experience working Uniformed Patrol by himself responds to a silent bank alarm.

Offender: 19 years old, has just committed burglary of a bank, is armed with a 9mm handgun.

The suspect sees the officer approaching the bank. When the officer goes back to his patrol car to call for back up, the offender grabs two bags of quarters and runs out of the bank. The officer comes around the corner and the offender shoots the officer. The officer shoots the offender and both go down. The offender gets up and runs off still shooting at the officer.

The officer is on the ground, one hand is injured and he has been struck by five bullets. The officer fires at the offender's muzzle flash, one handed, 9 yards away striking the offender.

**Street Combat Veterans (Thugs):** According to the FBI study, gang members who kill police officers typically a history of 5 or more street shootings under their belts prior to the police shooting. Gang members are becoming routinely armed at younger and younger ages: 18 year olds began carrying firearms on a regular basis when they were 16; 24 year olds began carrying firearms on a regular basis when they were 18; 32 year olds began carrying firearms on a regular basis when they were 24.

Out of 42 offenders the following commented on their practice with handguns:

- ◆ 14% never
- ◆ 26% once or more per year
- ◆ 33% once or more per month
- ◆ 14% once or more per week.

Note- These "practice sessions" did not involve a trip to a formal shooting range, but were informal sessions shooting at cans or other objects in vacant lots, dumps, project courtyards and other locations.

Another interview was done on a known gang member and "Street Combat Veteran" in prison. He claims to have been in over 50 street gunfights and to have never been shot himself. The inmate was asked what would cause him to kill a police officer. He is in prison for shooting a police officer. The inmate stated that he would kill any police officer who tried to take his freedom or who disrespected him. He described disrespect as being man handled or thrown around, and/or punched in front of his people. He calls shooting people his "work."

He stated that all he needed was to see his opponent. He would keep his arm straight, just below eye level and point in the direction of his target. He did not worry about marksmanship, nor was he concerned about bystanders or what/whom was in his line of fire. He stated that a quick draw and fast hits make the winner. He got his first exposure to firearms when he was 10 years old. He had a friend whose mother was a cop. He took her gun, without her knowledge, and practiced with it. He would shoot street lights and stop signs. He stated you need to know when to shoot, by surprise, and then shoot multiple shots. His plan was to put them down, and then execute them.

#### **Will to Win and Will to Survive or MINDSET!:**

##### **1<sup>st</sup> Case:**

Officer had his throat blown out by a 410 derringer at point blank range. The offender then disarmed him of his primary and back up guns. The officer was able to find a 2x4 lying on the ground. He used it to subdue the subject. The officer recovered from his injuries and was able to provide the following commentary on his training and actions:

Combat Mindset is NOBODY can take me (bigger and stronger does not apply)

The only time someone can take you is if you let them.

If someone is trying to kill you, then you have to want to kill them.

Do NOT give anyone permission to be bigger/badder than you or to win.

No matter what happens, be determined that you WILL go home.

This officer made it a practice to constantly visualize the following:

being seriously injured; fighting back despite serious injuries; killing the person trying to kill him.

### **2<sup>nd</sup> Case:**

The officer was ambushed and knocked unconscious by a suspect wielding a large rock. The offender then pummeled the officer with the officer's own duty flashlight. While the officer was unconscious the offender disarmed him of his 9mm handgun. The officer regains consciousness as the offender fires three shots. None of the shots hit the officer. The officer grabs the offender and the gun as the offender fires another round directly next to the officer's head. The officer maintained control of the suspect's hand and drew a Spyderco Civilian (a very task specific curved blade knife) from inside the front trauma pocket of his vest (the offender had missed this during the search of the officer's person).

The officer then opened the knife one handed and slashed through the offender's throat one time. The offender loosened his grip on the officer's gun. The officer then took his gun back and fired a single round into the offender's head just above his right eye. Either of these wounds inflicted on the offender would have been fatal by themselves.

The officer gave the following insights: He had carried a small automatic back up handgun on his ankle for a time. He stopped this practice because he was scared he might lose it. He gave a lot of thought to knives and where to conceal them on his person. He also spent a lot of time training and practicing deployment of his knife.

### **3<sup>rd</sup> Case:**

Officer arrests a female at a store on a felony warrant. He is placing her in the patrol car when her boyfriend approaches. (The boyfriend goes by the street name of "the devil" and has horns tattooed on his forehead.) The "devil" has his hands in his pockets. The officer gives verbal commands in regards to potential weapons. The "devil" states "as a matter of fact, I do" and then produces a knife.

The "devil" is 7 feet away and the officer attacks and controls the knife in the "devil's" left hand. The "devil" brings his right hand across his chest with a gun in it. He fires a round into the officer's face at point blank range. The bullet exits the back of the officer's neck. The "devil" then shot the officer several more times. The officer took rounds to his arm, left lower chest (stopped by vest), in the left lower back (stopped by vest), and another round went under his left arm exiting near his spine.

A security guard comes over to help the officer. The "devil" fillets the security guard open leaving over a one foot gash in him. At this point the officer's right hand is injured. He uses his left hand to try and punch the "devil" in the face. He misses the face and hits the curb with his left hand, splitting it open. The "devil" then goes into the officer's patrol car and tries to get an HK carbine out of its locking rack.

The officer had a civilian ride-a-long with him who was outside the patrol car. The officer called the ride-along over and had him draw his pistol and place it in his injured left hand. The officer then fired two rounds at the "devil" through the door of the car. The rounds did not penetrate and the "devil" looks up at the officer. In his injured left hand from a grounded position, the officer fires a single round into the "devil's" forehead. The round does not penetrate the skull and exits with minimal damage. This changes the officer's angle of fire. He fires a 4<sup>th</sup> and final round into the buttocks of the "devil." this round travels through his body and lodges in his neck, killing him on scene.

This officer was a defensive tactics instructor and had practiced combat breathing thousands of times. The ER surgeon said that this saved his life. In the ER the officer's blood pressure was normal, despite multiple wounds.

Develop a winning/survival mentality now, you will not have time to in the middle of battle.

Examples: If I get shot, I'm going to \_\_\_\_\_



Think of someone you love, or a quote that inspires you.

Remember that you can always die later.

#### **CONCLUSION:**

If it is predictable, it is preventable.

Recurring Themes with Officers that had a proper MINDSET and prevailed:

- ◆ They pre-planned. They played the “What if...” mental exercise often.
- ◆ They visualized possible confrontations and their responses.
- ◆ When injured they stayed focused on getting the job done and surviving, deflecting attention from their wounds.
- ◆ No matter how bad it got, they would not give up.

There was a final interview of a career criminal in regards to the officer that put him in prison. He stated: “When I saw him I knew without a doubt if I did anything to fuck with him he would smoke me without hesitation. His voice and commands removed any doubt of it from my mind. He had an ethos and an aura that said I will be obeyed.” He also added that a weak officer, even if armed with a shotgun, would mean nothing to him. It’s not the gun, it’s the determined, dangerous **person** with a gun that frightens offenders.

Personal Thoughts on proper MINDSET:

The following may seem a bit harsh and/or gruesome to some. It is and it needs to be, as this is a fact of life for the path we have chosen. Have no doubt that we are in the middle of a war. This has been one of the deadliest years in Law Enforcement in recent history. In 2011 nine officers have been killed in Georgia alone. Every day we face new threats. The criminal element is getting smarter, better equipped, and more willing. It does not matter to them that you have a family. At best you are the enemy. At worst you are just an object that stands in their way. What are you going to do to prepare?

You should not train to defeat the common street thug. You should train to beat your worst nightmare. While there will always be someone bigger, stronger, and better; you should strive to beat them. With the proper tools, tactics, and skill, combined with MINDSET you may very well carry the day.

## **Combat Focus Shooting at Rangemaster in March**



Rob Pincus of I.C.E. Training will be here to conduct a two-day Combat Focus Shooting handgun course on March 1-2, 2012. This is a fast paced course and Rob is an enthusiastic and talented instructor. See [http:// www.combatfocusshooting.com/calendar/location/3/Tennessee](http://www.combatfocusshooting.com/calendar/location/3/Tennessee) to register for this class.

The Combat Focus® Shooting Program is an Intuitive shooting program designed to help the student be more Efficient with a defensive firearm in the context of a Dynamic Critical Incident. The Combat Focus® Shooting Course is not designed to make you the best shooter you can be on the range, rather its goal is to help you quickly develop fundamental skills that you can apply in a worst case scenario defensive shooting situation.

## Rangemaster Firearms Instructor Courses in 2012

In 2012 we will be conducting Firearms Instructor Courses in several locations around the country. These will include:

- April 20-22, 2012, Beaver Falls, Pennsylvania
- June 7-10, 2012, Firearms Academy of Seattle, Washington state
- August 3-5, 2012, Rangemaster, Memphis, Tennessee
- Sept 20-22, 2012, Tulsa, Oklahoma
- Oct 5-7, 2012, Andersonville, Georgia (south of Atlanta)

These classes are designed to teach motivated individuals how to teach others self defense with a handgun. They are intensive classes, with both classroom and range training. Here is a review written by a federal prosecutor who attended our instructor course in Oklahoma City in 2010:

**AAR- Tom Givens/Rangemaster's-Three Day Firearms Instructor Certification Course, 29-31 October 2010, Friday-Sunday, 9 am to 6 pm each day.**

Instructors: Primary-Tom Givens. Tom was assisted by his wife Lynn Givens and the class host, Spencer Keepers.

Intro: I feel compelled to write this for those who find themselves on the fence re taking a class from Tom Givens in particular and others in general. My only goal was to hone a knowledge/skill base that will, with perfect practice, allow me to better teach the running of a pistol at an increased speed, with acceptable accuracy and unconscious competence. This was my second Tom Givens class per se though I have attended his Tactical Conference in Tulsa for the last two years. I have taken handgun classes at Thunder Ranch, Gunsite, APT, with Todd Louis Green and rifle classes with EAG (Pat Rogers) and the Kansas City Police Department. I have trained with a plethora of agents and agencies in both my personal and professional capacities. I am also an NRA Certified Pistol Instructor.

Venue: The Oklahoma City Gun Club (immediately east of Edmond right off of I-35). The OKC Gun Club is a complex with a series of dedicated shooting areas roughly divided by platform. We shot in an area that is often set aside for cowboy action shooting. We had an outdoor 25+ meter range. There was off road parking, a modern climate controlled classroom with real bath room facilities all within 10 meters of the range, classroom and parking. The weather was essentially the same each day, the mornings were cool at 40ish and the afternoons were pleasant at 70ish.

Class Format: There were approximately 20 students in the class. Each student was paired with another who observed and "taught" while his partner was on the line shooting. With the change of the relays, the roles were reversed. Given the stated goal of the class- instructor development, the 24+ hours of instruction were evenly divided between range time and class time. Tom lectured, incorporated power point driven materials and provided access to a variety of pistols for familiarization. Moreover given the fully disclosed shooting test, closed book written exam and required oral presentation, the bulk of Friday and Saturday night after class were spent studying and preparing to teach a lesson that you and your partner would do on Sunday. Tom also touched on some of his students' shooting incidents (56+ )students have used their firearms in self defense and/or defense of others in the last 14-15 yrs with great success..

Class Strengths: My training goal was met. I was given the tools to better teach one how to run the platform at an improved level. Drills and lessons taught included: safety, presentation, stance, grip, sight picture/alignment diag-

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*nostics, accuracy diagnostics, speed diagnostics, trigger management at a variety of speeds vis a vis the accuracy standard desired and distance from the target, support hand only, strong hand only, movement "off the x", reloads, malfunctions and multiple targets. Particular attention was paid to moving off the "X" in the 0-7 yd range when presenting, reloading and fixing malfunctions. It should be noted that the overall shooting skill level of the class was quite high and all passed with the required 90% plus score on the latest FBI qualification test which includes kneeling and prone shots taken from the 25 yard line. Tom uses this test as the baseline given its international recognition. Tom also administered other Rangemaster developed courses of fire which tend to be even more demanding in terms of the accuracy and time requirements.*

*The teaching approach was that of building blocks, first the accuracy, then some speed, while increasing the distance and increasing/shrinking the target size as appropriate. Tom did an excellent job keeping the targetry fresh by constantly rotating various paper targets with distinct target areas. The "Furbie" target with its distinct eye set and number/shape sub targets was very helpful. Tom stressed that we perform all non shooting tasks quickly to maximize the time we could have to make quality shots. Of course you have more time to slow down to get the hits if you have a quick and quality presentation coupled with sound manipulation skills. This point was driven home by Tom whenever appropriate to the drill.*

*The instruction was excellent. Tom demonstrated every drill to standard. There were a number of graded shooting exercises that validated Tom's teaching approach. Tom shot enough to show that he can really shoot without it being a distraction. He was exceptional in working the line and offering just the right mix of earned praise with suggestions to improve. Tom has a keen eye. As such, he offers mechanical "tweaks" i.e. trigger finger and /or thumb placement that , when applied, paid immediate accuracy dividends. Lynn Givens is also gifted in this realm and really cleaned up the presentation on a few students whose scores literally skyrocketed from the first drill on Friday to the final shooting test on Sunday.*

*I mean this with the utmost respect-Tom has an "answer" for everything he teaches. You may not like or agree with the "answer", but it is clear that Tom has thought long and hard about his teaching approach, material and methodology. When asking a question, you will get a full explanation as opposed to a "because I said so" answer. Tom was very approachable during and after class. Tom is a gifted, no nonsense instructor with exceptional grounding in the Modern Technique and his own development of firearm based martial arts as time, equipment and techniques continue to evolve and change for the better.*

*Class Development: I would have liked to have had more timed exercises and perhaps even a bit of man on man competition. Some application of the techniques in a lower light setting would have been great as well. I recognize that time and safety concerns could impact my desires.*

*Bottom Line: I cannot stress how important it is to get quality weapons training. Owning a weapon does not mean you can run it anymore than owning a guitar makes you musician.*

*I was able to get quality training within 6 hours drive time of my home with a highly respected instructor whose methods are clearly successful. In short, we talked about what to teach, we talked about how to teach it, Tom taught it. Tom showed us how it was to be done. We practiced it until we too could do it and then we were tested over the techniques.*

*Final Thoughts: I am excited to train with Tom Givens in the future. The OKC Gun Club provided a quality training environment both in terms of the range and the class room facilities.. Thank you to all for making this class possible. Finally, I would be remiss if I did not give Spencer Keepers big kudos for his continued efforts at bringing quality instruction to the central Oklahoma area.*

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### ***Here is a news story I wanted to share with you:***

**\*Editor's note: Officials had earlier stated the man had died. They now say the man is on life support.**

SAN DIEGO - A 22-year-old Navy SEAL was gravely wounded early today when he shot himself in the head at his Pacific Beach home while trying to convince a companion that the pistol he was showing off was safe to handle, authorities said.

The shooting in the 1800 block of Grand Avenue left the sailor on life support at Scripps Memorial Hospital La Jolla, according to San Diego police. Authorities initially reported that the man had died.

The serviceman, who had been drinking with a woman at a bar before they returned to his residence, was showing her his 9 mm handgun when the accident occurred, SDPD Officer Frank Cali said.

The man offered to let his friend hold the weapon, which he mistakenly believed was unloaded, according to Cali. When she declined, he tried to demonstrate how safe it was by putting it to his head and pulling the trigger.

The sailor, whose name was not released, graduated recently from the Navy's Sea, Air and Land Teams program, which trains elite special-operations tactical units.

How many problems do you see here?

1. Drinking booze and handling guns is a bad idea. I think it is safe to say this guy's judgment was impaired.
2. **ALWAYS** clear a gun before administrative handling, showing it to a friend, etc. It doesn't matter what status you "think" the gun is in. Clear it.
3. Don't point the thing at anything you don't want a hole in.
4. Don't pull the trigger unless you want the gun to go bang.