



Tactical Talk

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Voting in Chicago

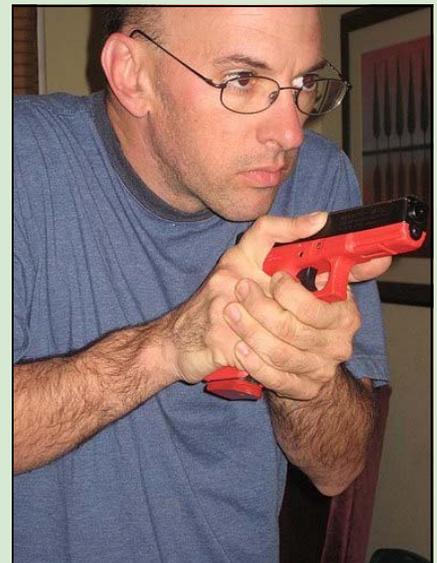
My Uncle was a staunch conservative and voted straight-line Republican right up until the day he died. Now, he votes Democrat.

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Paul Gomez memorial event a resounding success!

In August over twenty professional trainers and over a hundred attendees participated in a training conference in Garrettsville, Ohio, to raise money for the education of the children of the late trainer and good friend, Paul Gomez. Classroom, hands on, and live fire training was conducted all weekend in four separate training areas. In all, we raised \$40,000 for Paul's kids.



Our sincere thanks to Raven Concealment Systems for providing the range venue and lots of logistical support, and to all the trainers who donated their time and expertise to provide all the quality instruction. We'll be doing this again next August to make certain that Paul's minor children are adequately taken care of.

The handgun is an interesting artifact, and its mastery is a notable accomplishment. Those who master it achieve a peculiar satisfaction, for they partake in some measure of one of the attributes of the gods -- the ability to point the hand and smite at a distance. This idea existed millennia before anyone ever saw a pistol. So it must be an innate human aspiration, independent of technology. ... As the handgun has no evil of its own, it has no skill of its own; however, in a master's hands, its efficiency is almost unbelievable. As with all instruments, it is the man, not the tool, that makes the difference. The more subtle the tool, the greater the difference. Skill with a shovel makes less difference than skill with a violin. The handgun lies somewhere between."

---COL Jeff [Cooper](#)



Tom and Lynn Givens coach a line of shooters engaging our DOT targets. The DOT targets are excellent diagnostic tools, which enable the instructors to identify and fix common shooting errors.



A student learns to shoot at high speed, accurately! Note the two fired cases in the air above the pistol, but gun back on target. This is fast shooting.



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By Alan Korwin, used with his permission.

Dear Editor: What happened to waiting periods for guns?

An open letter to America's news media

From: Alan Korwin, The Uninvited Ombudsman

The Batman Movie Massacre
Our Forgotten Waiting Periods
The Need for Gun-Control... Counseling
Banning the Glock
Really Small Bullets
Copycat Heroes
Media Culpability for Massacres

Dear Media Colleagues,

Guns can't seem to keep themselves out of the limelight. Urban shootings, outside the ghettos where most shootings take place, are now becoming national news. What changed?

Why aren't we talking about waiting periods anymore? The media and the gun-control movement have abandoned waiting periods, but they used to be the holy grail. Why is that?

It turned out waiting periods didn't matter. They didn't work, had no impact on crime, they were a distraction. They were just an attack that could be made on guns, the flavor of the day, a reflection of what the public out here perceives as media hatred for guns. Like a reported shooting... from two thousand miles away.

Waiting periods were what gun controllers told media to ask for, not what media independently figured out might work. Media were told, "Waits will slow crime," and even though rational people knew this was silly, you (plural) called for them -- and then were bewildered at the resistance you got. Everyone lamented the predictable lack of results, until thankfully, you abandoned that red herring.

Now I find you urging support to ban gear, like magazine size, ammunition types and even brands, like AR-15 and Glock. This is just as bogus as the olden waiting-period demands, and you are just as mystified at the adamant resistance again. This is why it is time for *gun-control counseling*.

People seeking gun control, media included, understand the subject so poorly they are getting in the way of making any real progress. Gun control is *not* crime control. It doesn't have the desired effect. That's why gun owners and others resist it so fervently. *If it would work they would support it* -- everyone wants to stop senseless murder, we're not irrational.

There is actually lunatic talk of banning the Glock sidearm for the public, along with all semi-

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automatic firearms. The Glock is so good that 65% of law enforcement uses it -- it's reliable, effective, safe, simple, fast. Guns save lives. Guns *stop* criminals. Guns protect us. This is why we give them to police. This is why the public wants and needs them. This is what gun controllers don't get, and why counseling is called for if we are going to get anywhere.

You would consider taking Glock and other autoloaders away from the public because criminals understand the value and use these too. That makes as much sense as taking them away from the police themselves. Of course the public balks at that, and you interfere with getting to any real solution for stopping armed maniacs. You fail to see how your equipment-based arguments are doomed to failure. The gun-control debate needs an intervention. For example:

Why only discuss guns after a mass murder? Wouldn't covering all the newsworthy aspects of guns help us understand the issues better? What about all the good that guns do? You may not even clearly know what that is. What about the shooting sports -- a billion dollars bigger than golf? What about censorship on the subject of guns in education? It is a vacuum. Why don't you cover that?

That vacuum is a measure of your bias. Your bias is a measure of why we have this problem. The media, both so-called "news" media and the cultural media like movies, TV, video games and magazines, are powerful driving forces behind the mass-murder behaviors we have never before seen. This is understandably hard for you to face.

When guns were *more* available during our baby-boomer youth -- *without* age limit, *without* paperwork, *without* background checks, *without* the FBI, *by mail order from the pages of comic books* -- these kinds of atrocities were unheard of, unfathomable, unthinkable. What changed? Our culture, and the media led the way.

Can you at least savor the irony? A crowded theater witnesses a blood-drenched massacre -- while eagerly waiting to watch hours of blood-drenched massacres.

Before these atrocities were standard fare, people died off camera, without blood. A crook who shot a cop was shunned by his peers, never held up as someone to be idolized like today, where entire films glorify the villains. Kids today are virtually trained assassins, inured to immoral levels of violence. You did that.

As a 25-year member of the Society of Professional Journalists, peers have told me their editors suppressed or downplayed stories of armed self defense so they wouldn't encourage copycats. Then broadcasters treat us to endless days of glorified mass murderers, and encourage copycats. You do that.

You're discouraging copycat heroes while perpetually portraying copycat villains, then you scratch your collective heads. Consciously or not, you the media connect those dots. You take your unspoken bias and hoplophobic fear of guns, mix in an immoral and unethical ingredient of grief and horror, and in a beautifully orchestrated promotion push the misguided gun-control agenda -- supplanting the crime-control agenda we desperately seek.

Here's why an intervention is needed: Consider that 80 people left home, never to return, prematurely dead in their cars on the same day 12 were murdered in the awful *Batman-movie* massa-

cre (please don't besmirch a fine American city when referring to this literally theatrical violence; let the name help frame the blame).

Eighty grieving families, spread out everywhere, not just in one unlucky community. Blood and guts, horror, unspeakable tragedy, children ripped from us, police cars and flashy lights. Where were the cameras in *their* faces? Why not promote their grief with crocodile-tear remorse? Or does the thought of hounding those car-wreck victims for days horrify even you?

And what about the next day's eighty? And the next? No, the monstrous bias of the media is on display here, dancing in the blood of victims and trumpeting society's miscreants, with effects too offensive to rationalize. For *shame*, as a CNN anchor scolded me recently.

No, the broadcast pity party national mea culpa grief deluge the "news" media perpetrates on the public is as meaningful as the waiting periods you have jettisoned. You wouldn't dare impose on other grieving families this way, it would be intolerable, reprehensible.

Without accepting it, you are a root cause of the problem. You appear to secretly hope the grief will finally be enough to convince the innocent to relinquish their rights and abandon the products you so misunderstand.

Please realize -- people face the exact same thugs police face. But cops operate in groups, with backup, in body armor, with sniper teams and helicopters. Is that why we need less ammo and smallish bullets in inferior guns? It is we who are the first responders in criminal assaults on ourselves. The police we dial after assaults start are second responders, a point you fail to appreciate.

If the public is limited to little bullets, and only a few of them, the problem of crazy people committing murder will neither resolve nor improve. It's waiting-period logic again. The public needs *parity* with police, not inferior tools. This is why counseling is appropriate -- so we can discuss this intelligently.

Oh, you can go into denial, talk numbers, point to countries that are not the linchpin of freedom on the planet. Ask about Japan or Switzerland that do not have drug wars or *ghettos* -- a word you will no longer even use -- yet which is at the heart of what you like to call guns on the street.

Things that will help, like firearms education in our schools, erasing decades of enforced ignorance, confronting your own biases that perpetuate and encourage violent behavior, examining activities of your companion industries, and seeing the "cultural" problem -- until we face these challenges, you'll keep seeking changes the majority of the public will correctly resist. You'll just be frustrated, get nowhere and not understand why.

Meet with me and a few select others for counseling that will truly get to the heart of the matter. Let's get past the firing mechanisms, types of lead or brand name intrigues and into the real-world answers that can reduce or stop this sort of behavior and make our world more safe. Together we can fix this.

Sincerely,
Alan Korwin, Publisher

Bloomfield Press

Competition: Pros and Cons

This was written by our friend and colleague, Todd Green. Very sound advice, used here with Todd's permission.

If your interest in handguns is focused toward carrying on duty and/or for personal defense, is competition a good way to supplement your practice or is it a doorway to bad habits that could be detrimental to your primary goals?

Answer: **yes.**

The simple truth is that most people will put more effort into practicing for a shooting match they **know is coming up next weekend** than they will a gunfight that **may or may not happen sometime in their lifetime**. We like to beat our chests and talk about preparing for the real world but the human animal tends to have a very short attention span. Almost every truly *exceptional* shooter I know has spent substantial time shooting [IDPA](#) and/or [USPSA](#).



BEING THE BEST

Easiest when you're all alone.

For many, competition is also the first exposure they'll have to people who are *serious* about shooting. **It's easy to be the best shooter you know when you're on the range all by your-**

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self. It's natural to convince yourself that your buddies are all good and as long as you can hang with them you're good, too. Step up to the challenge of attending a major match and you'll see a whole new level of *good*.

In fact, competition can be a reality check for many shooters — especially law enforcement and military shooters — who are forced to face the fact that what is good enough to “qualify” is woe-fully pathetic compared to what the average casual club-level IDPA or USPSA shooter can do on his worst day.

Another great thing about competition shooting is that it forces you to shoot someone else's problem. Instead of just setting up drills you want to shoot, you have to deal with courses of fire you've never seen or perhaps even considered before. Not only does this push you to round out your skill set but it can show you where you've developed bad habits. My favorite example comes from IDPA: plenty of people practice shoving a magazine into their pocket as part of a “tactical” or “retention” reload but then discover in the middle of a match it's not so easy if you're kneeling or prone or otherwise in some position that makes accessing that pocket difficult. Getting the mag in can be difficult... getting it back out if you need it can be impossible!

Possibly the biggest benefit of competition is that it is often **the most stressful shooting** many people will ever be exposed to. While obviously not the same as being in an actual gunfight, shooting in a competitive event in front of peers and strangers will do a great job of showing you just how easy it is to make mental mistakes under stress. Learning to stay focused on the task at hand and building experience fixing mistakes under pressure both have legitimate real world payoffs.

Competition can also have some pitfalls, though. The major action pistol games are as much about the *game* part as they are the *pistol* part.

There are certain skills that are critical to the game that have little or no real world value. Head over to YouTube and watch some random people shooting matches. Just a few examples:

- ◆ Many stages are more about moving properly than shooting. When time is part of your score, the guy who can shave two seconds off his run by getting from Box A to Box B faster than you has a huge advantage
- ◆ *Set-ups* are another valuable game skill that have no real analogue in real life. A set-up is basically presenting your gun to the target as you step into a new position (like at a barricade or doorway). To do that properly you need to know exactly where the target is going to be when you're coming into position and you need to have made the decision to shoot it before you've put your eyes on it. Easy to do at a match, but not going to happen when searching a real building with real, thinking, moving, unidentified people.
- ◆ *Transitions* (driving the gun from one target to the next) are yet another skill that competitive shooters work on that doesn't rate as much attention if your focus is just on defensive



gun use. In a game, you know when the buzzer goes off exactly which targets you're going to shoot, how many times, at what location, and in what order. Things aren't that predictable in the real world.

♦ Many of these issues can be brought together under the single heading of *stage strategy*. To be good at the games, you need to understand their scoring systems and their rules. Sometimes things that make perfectly good sense — like dropping an empty magazine on the ground — could be illegal. Some things that make no sense whatsoever — like exposing yourself to half a dozen targets at once instead of using available cover — might be key to getting the best score. Most stages at most matches actually give you a chance to walk through and possibly even pantomime your plan in advance. Taking those opportunities and using them properly is important for the game, but obviously antithetical to preparing to respond to a sudden attack.

So, you need to be honest with yourself about your motivation. **Are you there to supplement your training or are you there to compete for the sake of competition?** Both are perfectly valid choices, obviously. But the answer to that question is going to have an impact on what you practice. Time you spend working on competition-oriented skills is time you could have used to work on defense-oriented skills.



Another potential snare of competition shooting for the defense-minded shooter is equipment selection. When you go to a match, it's hard to look at the guys with their tricked out race gear when you're wearing a Glock 27 in an IWB holster under a sweatshirt (which is exactly how I shot my first USPSA match in the mid-90s). The temptation to compromise a little here and a little there can be strong. First you switch to a G34... because, hey, it's basically the same gun, right? But it's not. Seeing how you can shoot with a G34 isn't the same as seeing what you can

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do with a much smaller, greater recoiling G27. Then you switch to a faster holster. Now you're practicing to draw a different way and perhaps from a different location on your body. We said earlier that people will focus more on the definitely-game this weekend than the maybe-fight in the future. So where will your focus be, on your CCW gear or your game gear? On the other hand, if you're going to run your "real" gear you cannot use it as an excuse or a crutch. You're making a decision and that's 100% on you. Don't try to convince yourself you would have beat the World Champion if only your holster was a little faster or your sight radius a little longer.

So at the end of the day, there are pros and cons to competition shooting for the "defense-minded" shooter. **But, the pros are pretty universal... and the cons are really only cons if you let them be.** Because whether you stay true to your original purpose or give in to the dark side and become an absolute gamer, you're still getting more time on the range and more experience shooting complex problems under stress. As long as you don't fall into the trap of thinking that winning at a game makes you an honorary gunfighter, competition is a fun and effective way to become a better shooter.

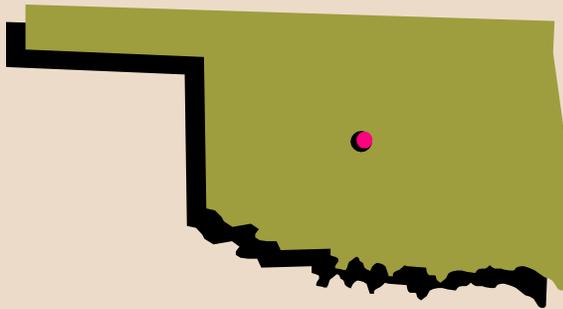
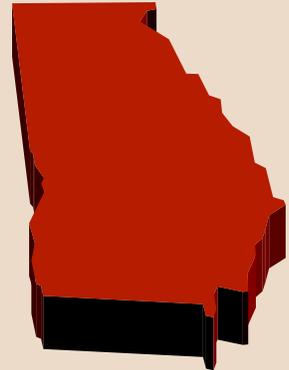
Train hard & stay safe! Todd G



Tom Givens demonstrates speed shooting during a recent class. There is an ejected case right above the pistol, and a new round being fed into the chamber.

October Rangemaster Road Classes

Oct 5-7, Friday-Sunday, Three-Day Firearms Instructor Development & Certification Course, Andersonville, Georgia (south of Atlanta), contact Dennis Raines at americustraining@yahoo.com or Shane Gosa, 229-815-9188



Oct 12-14, Fri evening through Sunday, Combined Skills Course, 6pm-10pm Friday, 9am-6pm Saturday and Sunday, Chandler, OK
Tom Givens, Steve Moses, Dr. Troy Miller

Oct 20-21, Sat-Sun, Combative Pistol, Rogers, Arkansas
Contact Jon Hodoway, nighthawkcustomtraining.com or 479-631-1321



Oct 27-28, Sat-Sun, Dynamic Marksmanship, South River Gun Club, Atlanta, GA, contact Robert E Wilson Jr PO Box 3494 McDonough GA 30253
WilsonGSG9@aol.com

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Here a female student completes a reload during a drill.