

## In This Issue

- ▶ AMBIDEXTROUS SKILLS ..... 1
- ▶ CHURCH SECURITY ..... 2
- ▶ TACTICAL CONFERENCE UPDATES ..... 3
- ▶ WHAT'S TOM WEARING .... 3
- ▶ NEW COURSE: DOMINANCE PARADIGM .... 4
- ▶ DRY FIRE DRILLS ..... 5

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RANGE • MASTER

Volume 18 • Issue 12

# RANGEMASTER

DEFENSIVE TACTICS FOR THE REAL WORLD

*Firearms Training Services*

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

## “What about having to draw from the holster on the non-dominant side?”

Several years ago I attended the NRA Law-Enforcement Tactical Shooting Instructor School. This was a week-long school which covered a lot of material intended for those who teach law-enforcement officers firearms skills. During the course of that week, we were supposed to wear two holsters, one on the right side and one on the left side. We only had to wear one pistol, but for certain courses of fire the class instructors would

side. I picked up several valuable tidbits during the five days of this class but one of my major takeaways was the wisdom of having everyone work with those two holsters. Many instructors require their students to do at least some shooting with their non-dominant hand. The most commonly cited reason for this practice is the fact that people get hit in the hands and forearms so commonly during exchanges of gunfire. The famous FBI shootout in Miami in 1986 is a classic example. There were a total of nine people actively involved in that gun battle; two bad guys and seven FBI

agents. During the course of the furious gun battle five of those nine persons were struck by gunfire in their hand or forearm. That's over half the people involved. So, obviously the need to be able to shoot the gun with your non-dominant hand is a useful skill.

What about having to draw from the holster on the non-dominant side? Reloading and malfunction fixes while using the non-dominant hand as the primary? Well, there are actually two really good reasons for that. First, the vast majority of firearms instructors

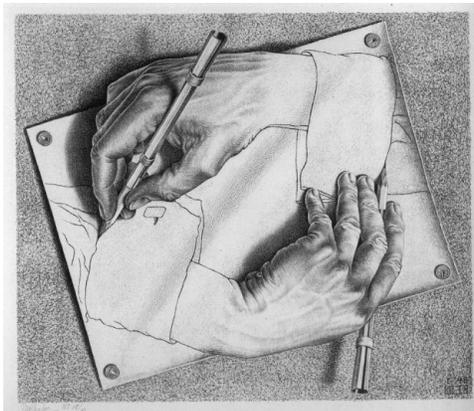
ACHIEVING  
LEFT / RIGHT  
PARITY

# ăm•bi•dĕx•ter•i•ty

ACHIEVING  
LEFT / RIGHT  
PARITY

announce that all of the shooters would be right-handed or left-handed for that particular course. That was why we needed a holster on each side.

A lot of firearms instructors have their students do at least some shooting with their non-dominant hand. However, this was the first formal class I attended in which we were required to draw, shoot, reload, fix malfunctions and do all other operations from either



are right-handed, as are most of the population. About 15% to 20% of the student base is left-handed, however. Having to actually work the gun over an extended period of time with the non-dominant hand gives the instructor a much better understanding of how his left-handed students will have to function. Most handgun designs are set up for use by right-handed people and may require some adjustment in technique to operate them efficiently



with the left hand under combat conditions. The instructor should be familiar and comfortable with these operations so he can teach them to his left-handed students.

The other reason is that as we go through life stuff happens. I am right-handed. A week ago I had surgery on my right hand and it is now in a cast and will be for another week or so. For a few weeks after that it will not be operating at 100%. I cannot use my right hand to draw, shoot, or perform any other task requiring any manual dexterity. Fortunately, I had Tony at JM Custom Kydex make me a left-handed version of his excellent IWB holster that I wear every day. I ordered it well in advance so that I would have it in my possession when my hand surgery took place.

For now and the near future I am left-handed, wearing my gun and other equipment in a mirror image to my normal set up. Having already spent time learning to draw, shoot, reload, etc. with my left hand, and having proper left hand equipment I can now just carry on my normal routine without interruption. Since I have the same gun I normally carry the only adjustment I have to make is drawing and operating it with my left hand, something I have prior training and practice doing.

Whether you have a problem with your dominant hand right now or not, I would urge you to acquire a holster made to wear on your support side. Then if you have to have hand surgery, you sprain your wrist badly, or you break your arm you'll have on hand the gear you need to continue to be adequately armed. Once you get your non-dominant side holster, be sure to practice with it, including dry work (to clean up and speed up your presentation) as well as live fire practice (shooting, reloading, and fixing malfunctions). One day you may be glad you did. ■

- By Tom Givens

# CHURCH SECURITY

Every now and then, some astonished sheeple will ask me, "You mean you'd wear a concealed pistol to church?" Well, duh... Anywhere there are people gathered, there is a potential for lethal violence. Consider these facts, from a recent church security conference I attended:

- ◆ There has been a more than 200% increase in reported crimes against churches in the past several years.
- ◆ From January 1999 through July 2010, there were 473 reported violent incidents in US churches, involving 200 fatalities.

In one study of 335 church incidents, the causes were listed as (some incidents fell into multiple categories):

Domestic Violence	18%
Personal Conflicts	27%
Robbery	27%
Gang-Related	10%
Random / Other*	22%

\* This includes cases involving mentally-disturbed attackers.

Weapons used in those 335 church incidents:

Firearms	60%
Knives	16%
Automobiles	20%
Other	4%

In these 335 studied incidents, there were 596 people killed or seriously injured. Approximately 63% of the victims were male and 37% were female. The attacker was male 92% of the time. ■

- Tom Givens

# TACTICAL CONFERENCE

RANGE MASTER

*2015*

- APRILL**
- AYOUB**
- BOLKE**
- DOBBS**
- DOUGLAS**
- ELLIFRITZ**
- FARNAM**
- GIVENS**
- HAGGARD**
- HAYES**
- HEARNE**
- HIGGINBOTHAM**
- KEEPERS**
- MOSES**
- MURPHY**
- REHN**
- SHARP**
- TOPPER**
- WERNER**

*And many, many more!*

The annual Tactical Conference will be held in Memphis, TN, on February 20-22, 2015. That is Friday through Sunday with three full days of training, competition and networking. For 2015 the event will be conducted at the fabulous facilities of the Memphis Police Department Training Academy in Memphis. This is a wonderful facility for this type of event, with multiple ranges and multiple classrooms. Having multiple ranges will allow us to conduct live fire training blocks in addition to the tactical pistol match.



Because we have a bigger venue, we have 35 trainers lined up this year to present training blocks from two hours to four hours in duration throughout the event. This will be an unmatched opportunity to train in a variety of self-defense topics with a variety of well-known and talented trainers. Topics will range from classroom lectures on the law of self-defense by Andrew Branca to live force on force simulations with marking cartridges. No other training event comes close to this variety of topics and trainers.

There will also be a defensive pistol match requiring your every day carry gear and full power ammunition, all carried concealed. The targets include lifelike mannequin type targets that only fall to good vital zone hits used in scenarios that mimic real life situations. The scenarios require target identification and discrimination, as well as effective marksmanship under duress.

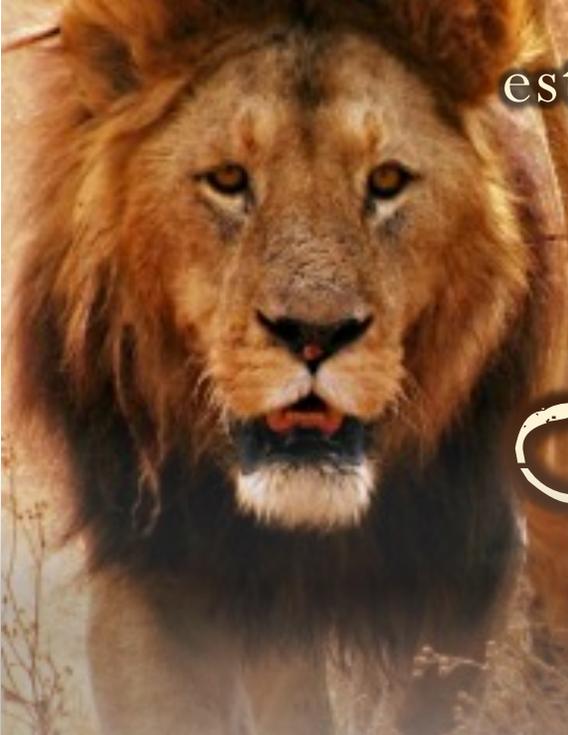
The entry fee of \$299 includes as many training blocks as you can fit into the three days, entry in the pistol match, and a prize drawing at the award ceremony. As of the last week of November, the Conference was full to capacity and registration is now closed. However, if you would like to put your name on the waiting list in case a slot opens up, please email us at [rangemaster.tom@gmail.com](mailto:rangemaster.tom@gmail.com). ■



For several months now I have been wearing an ingenious inside-the-waistband holster (IWB) made by JM Custom Kydex in Reno, Nevada. Their IWB Version 3, with 25-degree cant, secures my Glock 35 such that it is really well-concealed but comfortable enough for all-day wear. This has become my all-time favorite kydex IWB holster. See [www.jmcustomkydex.com](http://www.jmcustomkydex.com) for details. ■



- Tom Givens



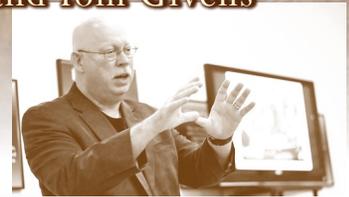
establishing

January 9-11, 2015  
Shawnee, OK

# a **d**ominance **D**ominance Paradigm

a new specialty course from  
**William Aprill, Craig Douglas, and Tom Givens**

**P**reparation for the unknown demands of personal defense is best described as an ongoing commitment rather than a series of isolated acts. It starts with applied physical and technical skill development and then leads to ever-more robust inquiries into the conceptual, the philosophical, and the meta-cognitive.



**“Even an animal can *survive*. I am not interested in mere survival.”**  
-Attributed, *F.L.*

Those who undertake this commitment in earnest have already prepared themselves to do lawful violence if necessary. Once a student reaches this mindset, traditional defensive training environments pose fewer challenges, skills tend to plateau, and mental agility wanes. To counter this effect, veteran instructors William Aprill, Craig Douglas, and Tom Givens have introduced a new set of training modules to push highly-advanced shooters well beyond their comfort zones.

Establishing a Dominance Paradigm is a 30+ hour specialty course designed for the senior practitioner/student of firearms. The course work interweaves increasingly difficult shooting standards with complex Simunitions-based decision making exercises, all while presenting more in-depth instruction. Pressure will begin literally from the moment the course begins and steadily increase over the three-day period. The class will be kept small in order to maximize individual growth and learning. Students will be selected based on their prior training and known abilities (admission is not guaranteed). The instructors will forego the basics and move directly into more advanced skills.

This course will expose participants to a regimen of novel stressors with the explicit goal of heightening performance levels to project dominance across the spectrum of defensive encounters: from de-selection and disruption to chaos management and physical mastery.

The centerpiece of the course is the experiential learning laboratory. In this module, participants will be called upon to operate at and beyond their current level of mastery in the following domains:

- 1) Applied use of defensive firearms within demanding time and accuracy standards;
- 2) Understanding and operating within the parameters of criminal victimization profiles;
- 3) Dynamic, multi-modal decision-making under pressure by resisting opponents; and
- 4) Integrating and leveraging personal strengths and limitations.

It has been said that under extreme stress, most people’s performance will barely approach 50% of what they can do under optimal conditions. This program empowers practitioners to accommodate any degradation in performance and win decisively when called upon to do so.

Tuition is \$675.00 for all three days. For more information or to register online, please visit [www.eventbrite.com/e/establishing-a-dominance-paradigm-tickets-13062517341](http://www.eventbrite.com/e/establishing-a-dominance-paradigm-tickets-13062517341) (or click the Eventbrite logo below). To register by mail, send a check payable to Rangemaster Firearms Training Services, PMB 303; 1016 W. Poplar Ave, Suite 106, Collierville, TN, 38017. A detailed equipment list will be sent to registered students well in advance of the class. ■



When the flag flies, the *amount* of practice you've done may not be nearly as important as how *recent* your last practice was. The easiest way to ensure you've had RECENT practice is to engage in dry fire exercises at home on a frequent basis. Here is a suggested dry fire practice regimen that takes only a few minutes to complete. We suggest this routine two or three times per week to

# DRY FIRE DRILLS

**CLEAR YOUR GUN. Remove all live ammo from the dry fire area (put it in a separate room). CLEAR YOUR GUN AGAIN.**

## Drill #1

Draw to the ready. Draw like you mean business! Remember that the gun should be low enough for you to see the hands and waistline of an assailant, your trigger finger straight. Do this 10 times.

## Drill #2

Draw to the ready, once. From the ready, bring the gun up to the eye/target line, get a quick sight picture, and get the slack out of the trigger, but do not press. Do this 10 times.

## Drill #3

Draw to the ready, once. From the ready, present to the target and press off a good hit, quickly. Do this 10 times.

## Drill #4

From the holster, present to the target, get a quick sight picture, and get the

slack out of the trigger, but do not press. Do this 10 times.

## Drill #5

From the holster, present to the target and press off a good hit. Do this 10 times.

## Drill #6

From the ready, gun in dominant hand only. Present to the target and press off a good hit. Do this 10 times.

## Drill #7

Same as Drill #6 above, but with the non-dominant hand only. Do this 10 times.

## Drill #8

Start at ready, slide locked open on empty magazine. Have a magazine in your pouch, with at least one dummy round in it. Do an emergency reload. Do this 5 times.



Now you are finished with dry work. **Clear the gun.** Put the dry fire target away. Out loud, say to yourself, "This session is over." Leave the dry fire area. Clear the gun again. Some minutes later, in a different room, load the gun and say to yourself out loud, "**this gun is now loaded.**" Then holster the gun on your person or put it in its proper storage location.



## Be serious about safety.

When a session is over, IT IS OVER. Put the gear away and be done, period.

Very few of us get to the range to practice live fire as much as we would like. That is why dry practice is so important. This dry fire regimen will help you keep your skills sharp and ensure that if you ever face a deadly encounter you will have had recent experience handling your equipment. ■

- Tom Givens

“Victorious warriors win first and then go to war, while defeated warriors go to war first and then seek to win.”

- Sun Tzu  
*The Art of War* (Ch. 4)



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