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RANGEMASTER

DEFENSIVE TACTICS
FOR THE REAL WORLD

Firearms Training Services

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

A friend sent this to me, and I wanted to share it. This was written by a Brazilian legislator named Major Araújo. Before entering politics, he was a longtime police officer, and he came from a family of police officers. I hope it offers useful insight, especially for those who have never worked in law enforcement. —Tom

Those who fight monsters inevitably change. Because of all that they see and do, they lose their innocence, and a piece of their humanity with it. If they want to survive, they begin to adopt some of the same characteristics as the monsters they fight. It is necessary. They become capable of rage and extreme violence.

There is a fundamental difference, however. They keep those monster tendencies locked away in a cage, deep inside. That monster is only allowed out to protect others, to accomplish the mission, to get the job done, not for the perverse pleasure that the monsters feel when they harm others. In fact, those monster tendencies cause damage: guilt, isolation, depression, PTSD.

There is a cost for visiting violence on others when you are not a monster. Those who do so know one thing: the cost inflicted upon society as a whole is far greater without those who fight monsters. That is why they are willing to make that horrible sacrifice so that others may live peaceably.

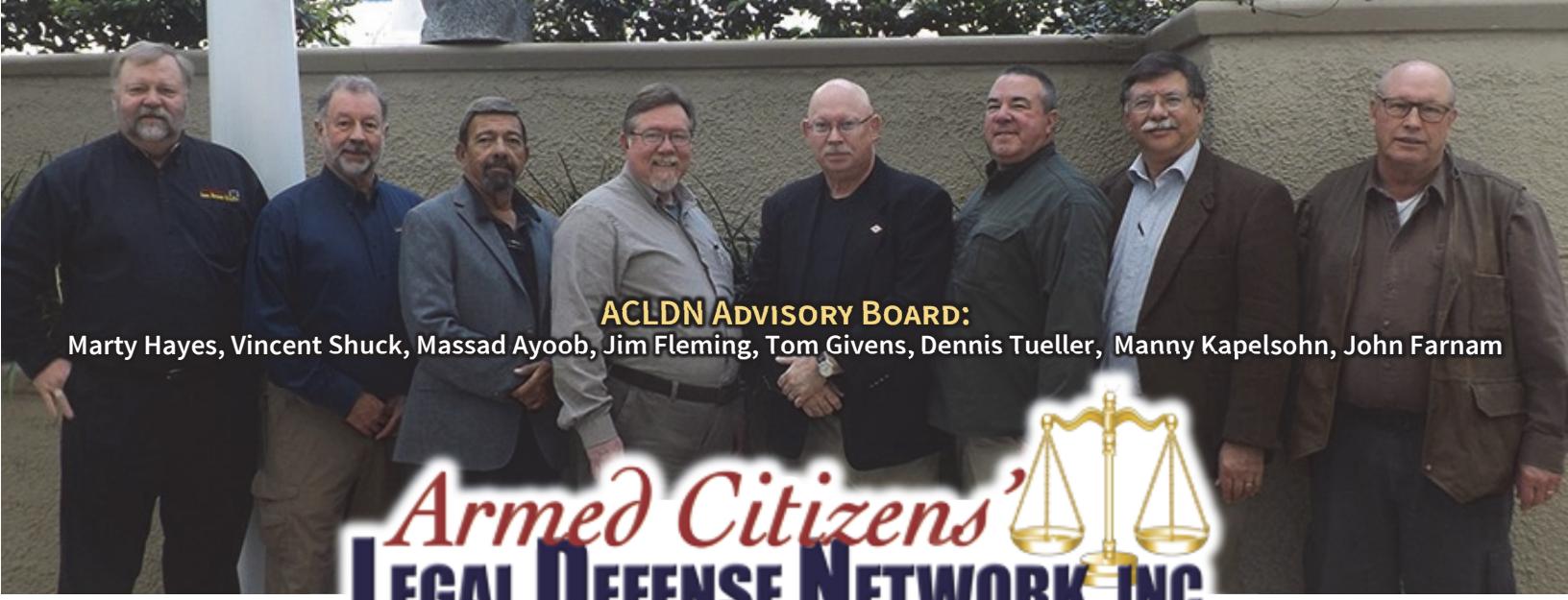
Before you judge one of us, remember this. We witness things that humans aren't meant to see, and we see them repeatedly. We perform the duties that you feel are

beneath you. We solve your problems, often by visiting violence upon others. We run towards the things that you run away from. We go out to fight what you fear. We stand between you and the monsters that want to damage you. You want to pretend that they don't exist, but we know better. We do the things that the vast majority are too soft, too weak, too cowardly to do. Your life is more peaceful because of us.

The current political climate in this country holds that there is nothing worth fighting for. Submission is the popular mantra. Warriors are decried, denigrated, and cast as morally inferior. We know how childish, how asinine, and how cowardly that mindset is.

We know this: there ARE things worth fighting for — and dying for. We know that not every problem can be solved through rational discourse, that some problems can only be solved through the application of force and violence. And while we do prefer the former, we are perfectly capable of the latter.

We believe that fighting what others fear is honorable, noble, and just. We are willing to pay the price for that deeply held belief. Why? For us, it isn't a choice. It is what we are. We are simply built that way." ■



ACLDN ADVISORY BOARD:

Marty Hayes, Vincent Shuck, Massad Ayoob, Jim Fleming, Tom Givens, Dennis Tueller, Manny Kapelsohn, John Farnam

Armed Citizens' Legal Defense Network, Inc.



I work with several organizations that promote or protect our self defense rights and training for responsible gun owners. One that I am particularly proud to be a part of is the Armed Citizens Legal Defense Network. At the SHOT Show in Las Vegas back in January, one of the highlights for me was the gathering of all of the members of the ACLDN Board of Advisors to go over what we've accomplished in the past year. Here are some highlights.

The network now has over 10,500 members from all over the US. The legal defense fund has now amassed more than \$650,000.00, a considerable

war chest. We added a new bail bond assistance feature, wiring up to \$25,000.00 to get a member out of jail on bond, in addition to the instant delivery of cash to an affiliated attorney in your geographic area.

Particularly gratifying to me was the response the network provided to one of my students a few months ago. Our student, John, was forced to shoot an intruder to death in his home. After calling 911, John called the ACLDN. A network attorney was on the scene the same day, and even handled the press interviews on scene, keeping the reporters out of John's and his family's faces. The attorney guided John

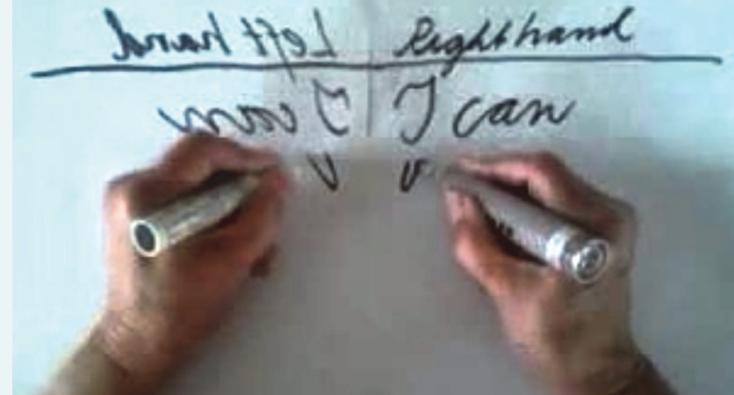
through the post shooting process, and as no charges were filed, even returned the unused money to the ACLDN. I had dinner with John few months after the shooting, and he was extremely grateful for the Network's immediate and thorough assistance.

Dues for new members are \$135.00 the first year, with renewals at \$95.00. On signing up, members receive eight training DVDs and Massad Ayoob's latest book on self defense legal issues. The training materials alone are worth more than the cost of membership. For more information on joining the ACLDN, please visit its website: www.armedcitizensnetwork.org. ■

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

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 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

AMBI-SKILLS



AMBI-SKILLS *Cont'd*

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 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. Last year I had surgery on my right hand and it was in a cast and then a brace for four months. During that period, I would not be operating at 100%. I could not 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 the period that I was left-handed, I wore 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 could then just carry on my normal routine without interruption. Since I had the same gun I normally carry the only adjustment I had to make was drawing and operating it with my left hand, something I had 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 do some practice with it, including some dry work to clean up and speed up your presentation and some live fire practice including shooting, reloading and fixing malfunctions. One day you may be glad you did. ■

trying to load an empty gun through the open ejection port from the bottom I switched to loading over the top and things really smoothed up. I also switched my ammo in the butt cuff from brass down to brass up, and this helped smooth my reloads. We ran a variety of drills concentrating on getting hits and keeping the gun loaded. The morning ended with a series of Rolling Thunder drills to put a little stress on you to get loaded and ready to shoot.

Rangemaster is offering several shotgun classes in 2016. Defensive Shotgun is scheduled for June 17th in Oklahoma, August 5th in Indiana, and September 18th in Texas. We are also excited to announce a new three-day Defensive Shotgun Instructor Course, which is scheduled for October 21-23 near Atlanta, GA. Below is a recent Defensive Shotgun AAR written by one of our Oklahoma students, RavenBatchf3yvl. If you'd like to take our shotgun courses, please visit our Rangemaster.com and click the "Sign Up" tab.

- Tom

Defensive Shotgun AAR



The week before class, I headed to the range to try out Winchester SuperX birdshot in my gun. I'd bought a bunch the past couple years when it goes on sale before dove season so I planned on running it. It flat wouldn't run in my gun; I had five or six FTEs out of a box of 25. I knew that would be a PITA during class so I picked up a box of Federal Game loads and Winchester High Speed loads. These both cycled my gun fine, so I bought enough Federal for the class. I zeroed for my slugs and buck and called it good.

Class started with covering ready positions, presentation, stance, and manipulating the gun. We were soon doing dry presentations, and those running pump guns were dry firing and working the slide. We started the morning shooting birdshot at

five yards, working on keeping the gun topped off and running. This was the emphasis of the morning and most of the day. Since the shotgun is a lower capacity weapon, it must be kept full. Replenish what you shoot so it is ready to run. All loading and manipulations were done with the support hand, the gun hand never left the pistol grip. I started off fumbling and having some issues, so I switched my ammo in the butt cuff from brass down to brass up, and this helped smooth my reloads. We ran a variety of drills concentrating on getting hits and keeping the gun loaded. The morning ended with a series of Rolling Thunder drills to put a little stress on you to get loaded and ready to shoot.



We had a classroom segment covering shotgun history, types, modifications, and performance. We watched a video demonstrating the effects on the pattern by changing ammo in the same gun. Patterning was a point of emphasis so that you know what your gun and load are capable of.

The afternoon started with a rolling thunder drill to warm up and then we switched over to buck shot. We shot buck at five, seven, ten, 15, and 20 yards to see how it patterned. This was very interesting to see the performance in different guns and types of ammo. My gun was still shooting an almost solid hole at 15 yards. By 20 yards, I was starting to see some opening but it was still a very tight group. Other guns were throwing pellets off the target on head shots at seven yards. We ran many of the same drill from the morning using buck during the afternoon.

We then moved onto shooting slugs, we shot from 15, 25, and 50 yards to see how our guns grouped and where they hit. Tom then demonstrated with his personal gun the importance of trying different slugs out and how guns will like one type/ brand better. He shot 3 different types of slugs in 3 round groups at 25 yards on three targets; 2 groups were hand sized and one was a single hole. Quite a difference! We then worked on transitioning from standing to kneeling for taking a more stable shot. After running the slugs, we went through a small qualification drill and wrapped up the day.

I came away a much better shotgunner. Being my first class I was able to soak up material and really feel improvements during the day. My gun ran like a champ and patterned beautifully, it really improved my confidence in the little Mossberg. A lot of the myths and BS surrounding shotguns was dispelled and replaced with facts and first-hand knowledge. This was one of the more fun classes I've been to and now have some drills I can run on the range to improve my gun handling. If you are thinking about taking a class, it's well worth your time and effort. ■



Eventbrite



Lynn and I closed the Memphis range location a year and a half ago. Since then, all of our training has been conducted on the road, all over the US. This year we're teaching from New Hampshire to Arizona, and everywhere in between.

It occurred to us that since all our training is done away from home, and our admin work is done via the internet, we no longer have to live in the Memphis area. So, we have decided to move to Florida, just outside of Tampa. We have friends there, the beach is nearby, there are other things to do and enjoy there, and the Tampa airport can get us anywhere we need to go.

We're in the process of buying a home there and should be moved by mid-Summer. This will NOT affect our operations. Scheduled classes will go on, and we'll be training just as much as we do now. Only our home base is changing. Lynn and I eagerly look forward to this next step in our adventures! ■



Sweet Success

Rangemaster Tactical Conference 2016 | Memphis, Tennessee

Once again, the annual Rangemaster Tactical Conference has come and gone, and again it was an outstanding success. Participants came from all over the United States for this interdisciplinary training event. The Conference included classroom work on mindset, criminal psychology, trends in terrorism, skill development, and more – plus hands-on work with empty hands and blades, plus live-fire training with handgun, carbine, and shotgun! There was also an interactive component with live opponents and Simunitions equipment. There is simply no other event like this one. We've posted dozens of videos and hundreds of photos from the Conference on our website.

I would like to thank the Memphis Police Department Firearms Training Unit for their hospitality and support. Thanks also to the many trainers who traveled here from all over to conduct their training blocks, and to the attendees who took part in them. Finally, huge thanks to the Rangemaster staff, who made the event run seamlessly for three days.

Over 200 people attended the event, including 40 ladies. Of those, 158 chose to compete in the defensive pistol match that was run concurrently with the training blocks. The top ten finishers in each division are listed below, starting with the winner, in descending order. Congratulations!

OVERALL

- | | |
|----|----------------------|
| 1 | Kirk Clark |
| 2 | Spencer Keepers |
| 3 | John Johnston |
| 4 | John Hearne |
| 5 | Dave Reichek |
| 6 | Kirin Kachroo-Levine |
| 7 | Karl Rehn |
| 8 | Chuck Haggard |
| 9 | Ron Mebane |
| 10 | Massad Ayoob |

LAWMAN

- | | |
|----|----------------|
| 1 | John Hearne |
| 2 | Chuck Haggard |
| 3 | Ron Mebane |
| 4 | Massad Ayoob |
| 5 | Paul Sharp |
| 6 | Lee Weems |
| 7 | Greg Ellifritz |
| 8 | John Jayne |
| 9 | Darryl Bolke |
| 10 | David Hicks |

LADIES

- | | |
|----|--------------------|
| 1 | Cindy Bowser |
| 2 | Eve Kulcsar |
| 3 | Gail Pepin |
| 4 | Lori Bigley |
| 5 | Tameka Johnson |
| 6 | Elizabeth Saunders |
| 7 | Teresa Roddy |
| 8 | Lynn Givens |
| 9 | Tammy Smith |
| 10 | Kanda Keepers |

This year's training faculty line-up was amazing. The list of instructors who conducted training blocks included William Aprill, Massad Ayoob, Lori Bigley, Darryl Bolke, Cecil Burch, Caleb Causey, Greg Ellifritz, John Farnam, Fletch Fuller, Lynn Givens, Tom Givens, Gary Greco, Chuck Haggard, Marty Hayes, John Hearne, John Holschen, Tiffany Johnson, Spencer Keepers, Eve Kulcsar, Larry Lindenman, John Murphy, Karl Rehn, Paul Sharp, Southnarc, Julie Thomas, Dr. Martin Topper, Lee Weems, and Claude Werner. ■

POP QUIZ



Escaping Common Restraints
Instructors: Greg Ellifritz
and Lauren Pugliese
Rangemaster Tactical Conference
March 12, 2016; Memphis, TN

What's Julie thinking?

[facebook](#).

Post the best answer on the Rangemaster Facebook page and be crowned this month's Photo Caption King (or Queen)! Of course, Julie decides what the "best" answer is...

ARE YOU
READY
FOR

TAC CON 17?

When: Friday to Sunday
March 17-19, 2017



Where:
Little Rock, AR
Direct Action
Resource Center (DARC)



The next Rangemaster Tactical Conference will take place on Friday through Sunday, **March 17-19, 2017**. We have partnered with the Direct Action Resource Center (DARC) just outside Little Rock, AR, for this major event. DARC is a huge training complex with a 20-year history of training military Special Ops and police SWAT personnel. There are multiple ranges and other features that will make this a unique training event. There are many hotels nearby in Little Rock and North Little Rock, and the Little Rock Airport fairly close as well.



All the usual trainers will be presenting, along with a couple of new faces. As usual, we'll cover handgun, shotgun, and carbine, knife work, medical training, and much more, plus the Polite Society Defensive Pistol Match running concurrently all weekend.

The entry fee is only \$335.00 for all three days of valuable training. You can register online with a credit card; or if you wish to avoid the small processing fee, you can register by mail with a check (see our website). Be sure to register early to avoid disappointment. The 2016 event was sold out by late October, five months in advance. We had to turn away dozens of participants who waited too late to register. Space is strictly limited, and once we're full, that's it. Don't miss out! ■

www.rangemaster.com/2017-tactical-conference