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RANGE • MASTER

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DEFENSIVE TACTICS
FOR THE REAL WORLD

Firearms Training Services

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

So, The Why 40

By Tom Givens

I get a fair number of emails asking me why I still carry a .40 caliber pistol, instead of switching to 9mm, as so many others have done. I've been carrying a .40 for eleven years now. I carried a 1911 .45 for many years. When I decided to transition to a more modern sidearm, I decided on the Glock .40.

I chose the .40 S&W cartridge at that time because the bullets generally weigh 33%-45% more than the most common bullet weight in 9mm, the 124 grain. The 165 to 180 grain .40 bullets have good sectional density, and penetrate well. It is my belief that the .40 bullets perform better against automobile sheet metal and window glass than 9mm bullets, and probably do better against bone. I still get 16 rounds in the Glock 35 I settled on, which is almost twice the capacity of a .45 1911, and only two rounds less than the capacity of a Glock 17 or 34 in 9mm.

I initially bought a G23 and had a grip reduction and good sights put on it. I hated it. Sold it in a few days. Tried a G22, it was better but not optimal. Then tried a G35 and loved it. If you stand a 1911 and G35 up side by side, they are identical in size, but the G35 weighs a good bit less, plus has 16 BB's. The G35 shoots fairly softly and the long sight radius helps precision. The long barrel also gives good ballistic performance. My preferred load is the Federal Tactical Bonded 165 grain JHP, which leaves my G35 at

around 1150 feet per second and is match accurate in my guns.

Recently, I took an identical G34 and G35 to the range and shot some drills with each. I used the Casino Drill as a benchmark, starting at Ready, so my draw time would not affect the times. I shot three runs with the 9mm, then three runs with the .40. My average times were less than one second apart, between 15 and 16 seconds for all runs, both calibers.

Hackathorn's "Test" is a good short exercise to check controllability and that elusive "shootability" of a pistol. It is 10 rounds in 10 seconds at 10 yards on a B-8 bullseye, scored as printed. I shot five runs on one bullseye target with the Glock 35, with JHP duty ammo. Four of the five runs were in the 7.5 second range. My total score was 484 out of a possible 500 (97%). I then shot Ken's "Half Test", which is 10 rounds in just

Ken Hackathorn's "Test": 10 shots at 10 yards in 10 seconds. Five runs for a total of 50 shots (500 points possible). My score = 484. This was with my Glock 35 .40 and 165 grain Golden Saber ammunition.





five seconds, at five yards. I shot two runs, and scored 198 out of 200. So, for me the .40 G35 is quite controllable.

I am NOT a fan of the .40 in compact or sub-compact pistols. In smaller guns, the recoil is too brisk, the cartridge is hard on small guns, accelerating wear, and capacity is reduced too much. That's why my BUG is a 9mm. In a full-size service pistol, however, the .40 is not the bear a lot of people make it out to be. I still get 16 rounds, only two less than I'd get with a G34. I like it. ■

The Cambridge English Dictionary defines **culture** as "the way of life, especially the general customs and beliefs, of a particular group of people at a particular time."

CULTURE

shock

by Tom Givens

In the United States, there are some regional differences, but for the most part, we share pretty much the same culture throughout this country. There are two things most Americans fear, or are concerned about, and both are culturally ingrained fears/concerns, planted in our minds early in life by our parents and others who had a hand in our development. These culturally ingrained fears/concerns, among many others, help keep us safe in a sometimes-perilous world.

The two that are almost universal in our culture are a healthy respect for lightning, and a general fear of snakes. These are not innate, or instinctive fears, they were planted in your mind as a child and have stayed with most of us throughout life. Rational people don't stand on the golf course

holding an iron, nor on the rifle range holding a shooting iron, while lightning plays across the sky. Instead, we seek shelter. We do this because we were taught early in life that to stay in the open holding a metal rod would likely get us fried. If you ask a typical person, especially here in the South, to reach under a woodpile and hand you something, many will flatly refuse. As their reason for refusal, they will cite the almost certain likelihood that they will be bitten by a snake. Again, it's something you were taught as a child.

According to the National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA, which runs the National Weather Service and related government activities), each year in the US about 450 to 500 people are struck by lightning. Of these, an average of 51 people per year die from that lightning strike. That's right, just 51.

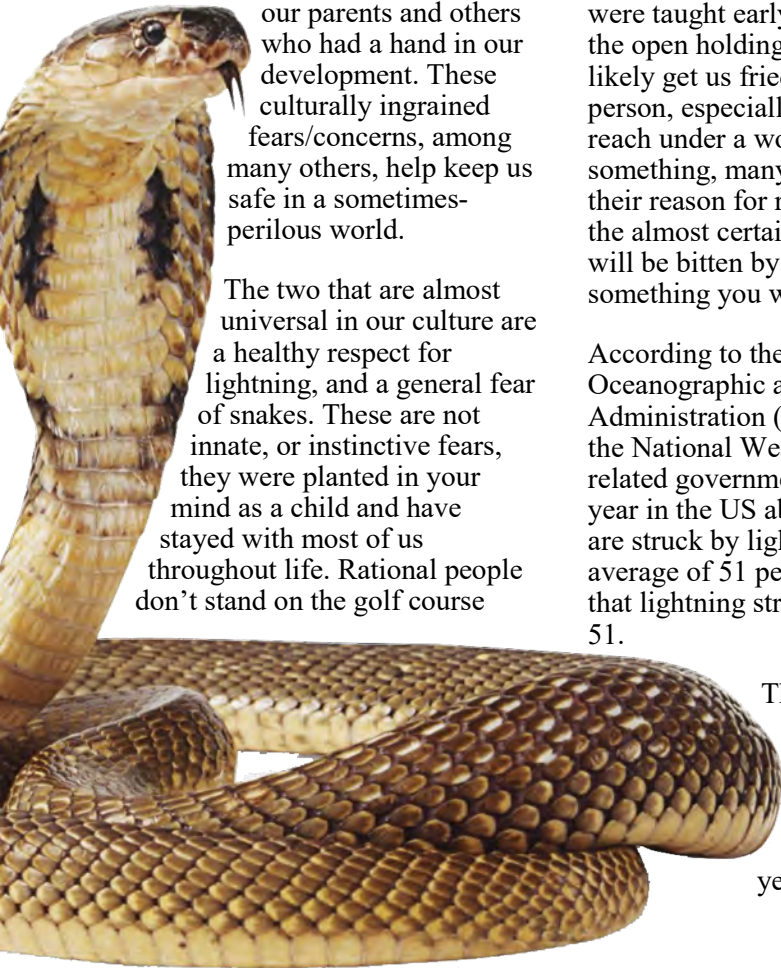
The University of Florida Department of Ecology and Conservation (which studies such things) reports that in a given year in the United

States, between 7,000 and 8,000 people are bitten by venomous snakes. Of these, an average of five people per year actually die from the snake bite. Yep, five, in a country of 320 million people. Far more people die from bee stings than from snake bites.

So, if you add deaths from lightning strikes and deaths from snake bites together, they annually account for less than 60 deaths in the entire country. Upon learning this, one might be tempted to say, "It's silly to spend so much time teaching our children to be wary of lightning and poisonous snakes, when so few people are ever killed by either." I would suggest that this is the wrong conclusion to be drawn from these facts.

It might be smarter to think, "Since our entire culture takes precautions against these potential threats, very, very few people actually fall prey to them." That's the key. Since almost everyone takes sensible precautions against these threats, the risk is mitigated to a very low level.

One threat most Americans are not taught to deal with from an early age is violent crime. Instead, we do



everything possible to encourage victimization. We try earnestly to convince everyone that violent crime only happens to other people. (To every single person on the planet but you, guess who you are? Other people!) “We live in a nice neighborhood.” “We don’t hang out with bad people.” “Who’d want to hurt us?” “It’ll never happen to me.”

As a result, violent crime is a real, ever present threat in the US. The Department of Justice’s Bureau of Justice Statistics recently released the violent crime figures for 2015. They only count “non-fatal” violent crimes, limiting the reporting to Rape/Sexual Assault, Robbery, Aggravated Assault, and Simple Assault. According to the BJS, in 2015 approximately one in every 100 Americans 12 years old or older experienced at least one serious violent victimization.

I firmly believe that one of the primary reasons for this astronomical amount of violent crime is the huge pool of victims created by NOT making part of our culture teaching kids that violent crime is as real as lightning and snakes, and that the risk of violent crime can be mitigated the same as with those other threats, by education and simple precautions, if practiced by the majority of the population.

If you are reading this, odds are you are an adult. It’s too late for someone to teach this to you as a child, so teach yourself now as a responsible adult. You must, on your own, accept, internalize, and act on these simple facts:

1 In a single year, your odds of encountering a potentially dangerous criminal involved in a violent crime are NOT “one in a million.” They are actually closer to one in a hundred. That’s a huge difference. Don’t be dismayed when it occurs. Be mentally prepared to accept this eventuality and act to protect yourself and your loved ones. Don’t get stuck in a denial loop: “I can’t believe this is happening to me!”

2 Accept that no one has a greater stake, nor a more vested interest, in your personal safety and well being than YOU do.

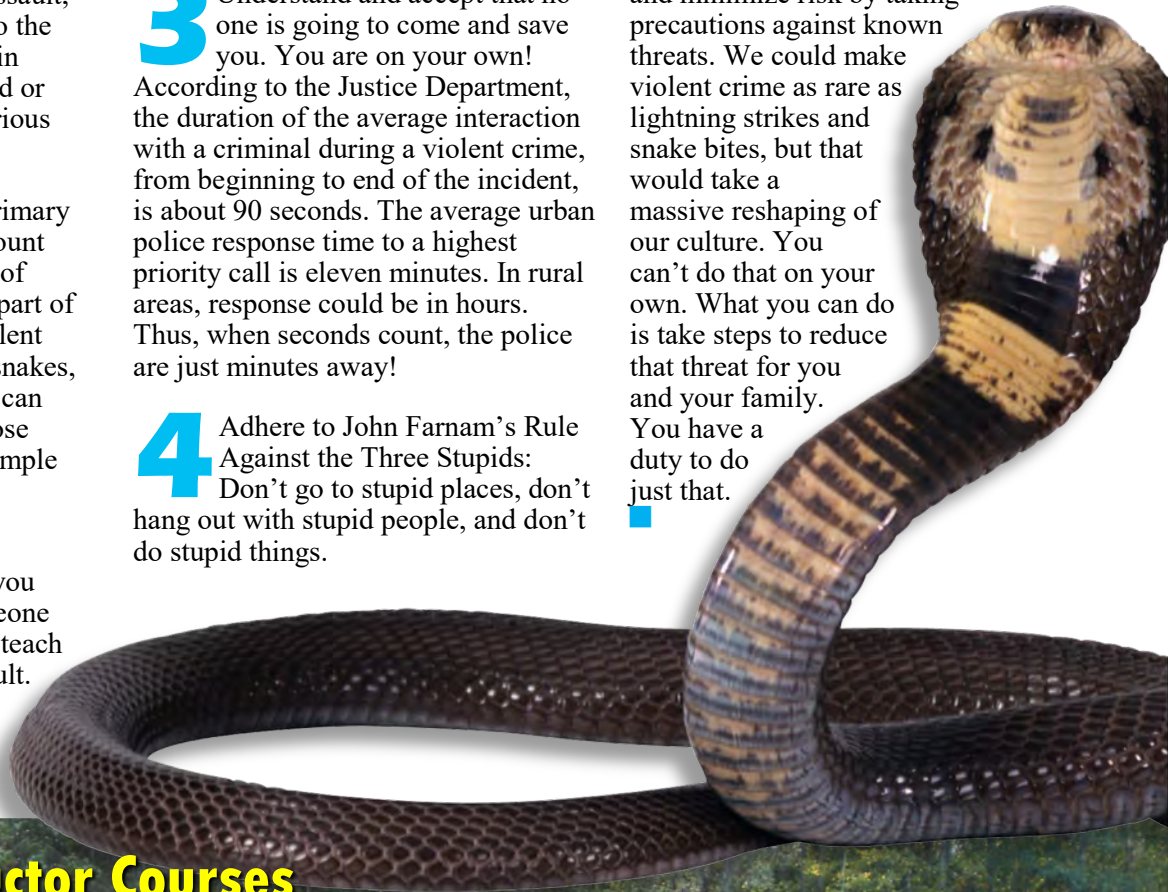
3 Understand and accept that no one is going to come and save you. You are on your own! According to the Justice Department, the duration of the average interaction with a criminal during a violent crime, from beginning to end of the incident, is about 90 seconds. The average urban police response time to a highest priority call is eleven minutes. In rural areas, response could be in hours. Thus, when seconds count, the police are just minutes away!

4 Adhere to John Farnam’s Rule Against the Three Stupids: Don’t go to stupid places, don’t hang out with stupid people, and don’t do stupid things.

5 Make a habit of simple things, like keeping all doors locked and using your alarm system. Scan your surroundings, especially when going from one environment to another (out of the store, onto the parking lot; out of your car, to the gas pump).

6 Have the emergency safety equipment you need to respond to a violent, life threatening emergency when it occurs, and have it on your person. You will not be able to go get anything.

We cannot remove risk from daily life. What we can do is control, mitigate, and minimize risk by taking precautions against known threats. We could make violent crime as rare as lightning strikes and snake bites, but that would take a massive reshaping of our culture. You can’t do that on your own. What you can do is take steps to reduce that threat for you and your family. You have a duty to do just that.



Upcoming Instructor Courses

In February, we will be conducting two instructor development courses in sunny South Florida. The first is our Three-Day Firearms Instructor Development Course (handgun), followed the next weekend by a Three-Day Defensive Shotgun Instructor Development Course. These will be held at the Homestead Training Center, in Homestead, FL. There are tons of great activities for your family in the Miami area, so make a family outing of it and get some quality training at the same time.

**Handgun Instructor
Development Course
Feb. 3-5**

**Shotgun Instructor
Development Course
Feb. 10-12**

Eventbrite

ONCE IN EVERY MAN'S LIFE

WHAT HAPPENED TO HIM
MAY HAPPEN TO YOU



THE AUTOMOBILIST'S STORY

"Just as we came over the hill, two thugs with murderous looking clubs sprang out of the darkness, but when I flashed my Colt they disappeared in a jiffy. Of course that saved us, but believe me the Colt is a mighty necessary part of an automobile equipment nowadays. I wouldn't be without one in my car."

You're liable to have the same experience any time. Why not equip your car with a Colt?

SEE A COLT
AT YOUR DEALERS
OR
Write for free booklet,
"How to Shoot, and
Catalog No. 29"

"You can't forget to make a Colt safe"
COLT'S PATENT FIRE ARMS MFG CO. HARTFORD, CONN.

Vintage Colt Advertisement:
"The Automobilst's Story"
Circa 1917

Add a COLT to Your Motoring Equipment

AND so safeguard yourself from the growing menace of auto bandits and thieves.

Colt protection, so essential to the home, is even more necessary when traversing highways beyond the reach of help.

COLT'S

FIRE ARMS
"The best that money can buy"



Colt (Caliber .32 or .380) Automatic Pistol
Ask your dealer to show you this and other Colt models suitable for motorists
Colt's Patent Fire Arms Mfg. Co., Hartford, Conn.
Pacific Coast Representative, Phil. B. Bekeart Co., 717 Market St., San Francisco.

Vintage Colt Advertisement:
"Add a Colt to Your Motoring Equipment"
Circa 1922

Purpose-Built Gun Belt

As anyone who has worn a gun for any length of time knows that the gun belt is every bit as important as the holster. The belt must support the weight of the handgun and spare ammo, lock everything in place, and be comfortable for all-day wear. It should maintain its rigidity, so it keeps the gun tucked close to the body for better concealment. And of course, a good belt should not scream "gun!" to the casual observer. It's a bonus if the belt is tough enough to wear for several years without losing its shape.

Our good friend and colleague Paul Sharp (SharpDefense.blog) recently clued us in on an inexpensive belt that meets all of these criteria: the "Indistructibel" from Daltech Force.

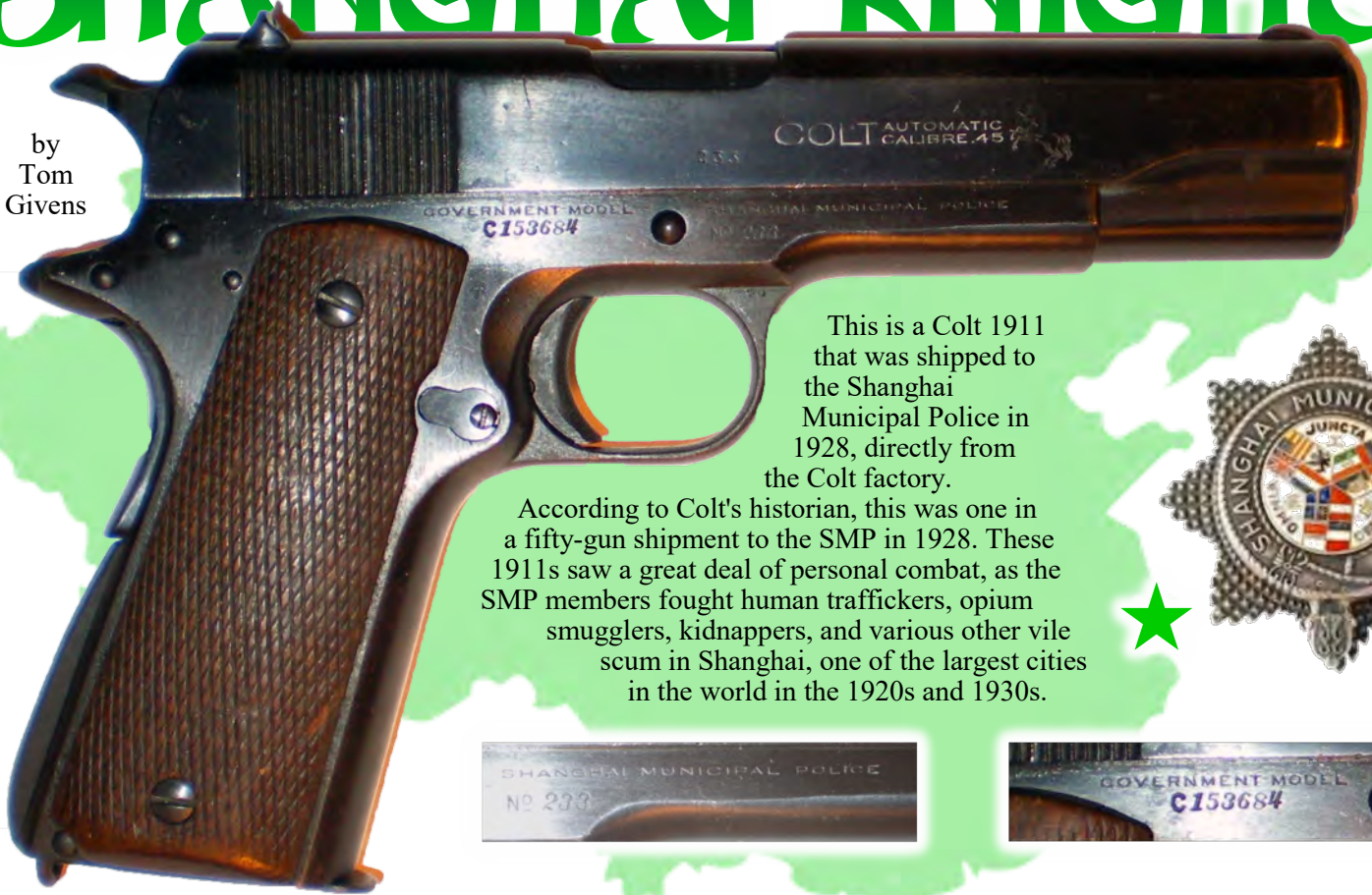
I've been wearing one, and I'm impressed. In addition to good quality, it only costs \$50! Check it out at www.DaltechForce.com. ■

There is absolutely no stretch, sag, or fold-over make this the strongest gun belt you will ever own. High-strength hi-tech thermopolymer polyurethane leather-like textured material with an internal integrated polyester webbing that makes it durable, waterproof, easy to clean and stronger than natural leather...



SHANGHAI KNIGHTS

by
Tom
Givens



This is a Colt 1911 that was shipped to the Shanghai Municipal Police in 1928, directly from the Colt factory.

According to Colt's historian, this was one in a fifty-gun shipment to the SMP in 1928. These 1911s saw a great deal of personal combat, as the SMP members fought human traffickers, opium smugglers, kidnappers, and various other vile scum in Shanghai, one of the largest cities in the world in the 1920s and 1930s.



GIVENS GEAR

When I teach a class I wear my handgun concealed exactly the same way I carry it every day, whether I'm teaching that day or not. Quite often, the first time I present my pistol from concealment in class, some of the students are amazed to see a Glock 35 appear from underneath a Columbia fishing shirt or similar cover garment. By the time I draw my gun, we've been together in class for two or two-and-a-half hours, and they've been looking at me the whole time. Really concealing a full-size handgun under light clothing requires some finesse in holster design, and for several years now I have been wearing the same rig 95% of the time.

My holster is an IWB #3 from JM Custom Kydex, in Reno, Nevada (www.jmcustomkydex.com). The owner, Tony Mayer, wears a gun every day (unlike many Kydex benders), and he is quite skillful with his. Tony has attended my courses and those of other trainers, and he understands that a proper concealment holster must be comfortable, concealable, secure, and fast. His rigs meet these criteria in spades.

Tony now offers the exact rig that I use as a package deal, with a discounted price and fast delivery. You get the IWB #3 set up like mine, plus two single magazine pouches. I prefer two singles instead of a double mag pouch, as the two singles give you more flexibility and conceal better. The fact that I carry this rig every day is the strongest endorsement I can give it. For more information or to order, please visit jmcustomkydex.com/p/tom-givens-package-G17.html. ■



JM CUSTOM KYDEX

- Tom

*I*n December, I conducted the last class of 2016 for a group of federal law enforcement firearms instructors in Miami. That brought to a close a very busy and rewarding year.

We taught 33 classes in 2016, in 14 states: Oklahoma, Florida, Tennessee, South Carolina, Georgia, Virginia, Kentucky, North Dakota, Kansas, Wisconsin, Indiana, New Hampshire, Texas, and Arizona. We taught a total of 510 students this year. I drove a bit over 40,000 miles, plus five airline trips. We saw just about 420,000 rounds of pistol ammunition fired, plus a boatload of shotgun shells, with zero injuries. I'd like to thank all of the students who attended, worked hard, and pulled together to meet our training goals. This allows Lynn and me to do for a living that which we are passionate about, and we really appreciate our students and hosts. Thank you!

It was not all good news in 2016. The training community lost some giants this year, and they will be sorely missed. Todd Louis Green, Pat Rogers and Walt Rauch all passed away this year. Their absence creates a gap that will be hard to fill.

We're on track for a very similar run in 2017. Our class schedule is full, with 31 classes booked, literally all over the country. We'll be as far northeast as New Hampshire, and as far west as Washington state and Montana. We'll be in Minnesota and Georgia, and lots of places in between. We hope to see you in class. These skills are perishable, and I expect 2017 to be exceptionally violent, if the current trends hold.

Lynn and I would like to wish you all a happy, healthy and prosperous New Year!

- Tom

Happy New Year!

QUIZ TIME!

Quick! Post the right answer on the Rangemaster Facebook page, and you'll be the very first

Quiz Champion of 2017!

Frank Hamer
1922



When Frank Hamer tracked down and killed Bonnie and Clyde, he was acting on behalf of...

- A. The Texas Department of Corrections
- B. The Caddo Parish Sheriff
- C. The Texas Rangers
- D. The Texas State Police
- E. Himself, as a Private Citizen

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