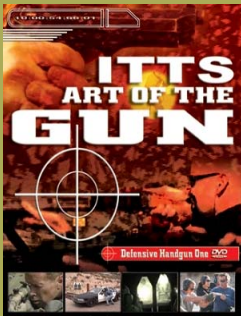


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Happy Holidays and our thanks to you!:

Scott & I were talking the other day about how fortunate we have been over the years to have such a great group of students who come to us for training. Many of you have become good friends to us over the years and also have made friends with others in the classes.

People have come to us from all over the world; some from as far away as Tasmania and Iceland and we have had the good fortune to have met some wonderful folks in our travels who have extended their hand in friendship and been outstanding hosts to us.

Some of you have been with us for almost 20 years and it has been a great pleasure for us to see your children and even some of your grandchildren train with ITTS. We have watched your children grow up right along with ours and it has been a real pleasure for us.

I know that aside from training, many of you have learned from Scott colorful new language and references to certain anatomical parts of the body that you never knew existed. He is quite the educator, bless his little heart!!

All kidding aside, we want to take this opportunity to thank you for your loyalty and we want you to know that each one of you has enriched us in so many different ways! Even though you are from many walks of life whether it is law enforcement, military or civilian, you have found a common ground in your commitment to master a new skill and be respectful and professional in so doing. From our family to yours, and from our hearts, we wish you all a very happy, healthy Christmas, Chanukah, Kwanza or whatever holiday you celebrate. And thank you for being a part of the ITTS family!

Courses Coming up Soon:

January 10-11	Defensive Handgun II
January 30-Feb 1	Tactical Shotgun/ Handgun
February 7-8	Defensive Handgun I
February 27-March 1	Active Shooter Course



Class in Indiana December 2008



Advanced Handgun December 2008



Couple's class 2008 courtesy of Marty Conrad

August 2009 Course Schedule

January 10-11	Defensive Handgun II
January 30-Feb 1	Tactical Shotgun/ Handgun
February 7	Private Instruction
February 7-8	Defensive Handgun I
February 27-March 1	Active Shooter – NEW
March 7-8	Defensive Handgun III – 2 day – NEW
March 21-22	*Vehicles Assaults/Stops
March 27-29	Tactical Carbine/Handgun
April 17-19	Advanced Handgun
April 18-19	Defensive Handgun I
April 24-28	Ultimate Integrated Force on Force
May 1	Private Instruction
May 2-3	Defensive Handgun II
May 2-3	Dynamic Entries
May 29-31	Sniper/Counter Sniper Course
June 5-7	Defensive Handgun III
June 6-7	Defensive Handgun I
June 13-14	Couple's class
July 10-12	Advanced Handgun
July 24-26	Tactical Shotgun
August 1	Krav Maga Summer Camp
August 2	Private Instruction
August 7-9	Active Shooter
August 8-9	Defensive Handgun II

Working in the Cold by Scott Reitz

Cold weather will cause certain body parts to work more slowly than usual so...I would advise that you keep this in mind when you try to go to speed as you would on a balmy sunny day when in fact, it's really 27 degrees and overcast. Indiana training was in December and it was coold...at least for me. The flight attendant's (in the old days these were stewardesses and they weren't 80 plus years) had to pull me off the plane as I was kicking and shouting, "I'm not going...I'm not going!" Kind of like an outtake from the scene in Apocalypse Now. The interesting thing is that in order to survive in even colder weather, there is no running about on the range in shorts, a tank top and Tiva sandals. Nope. If you want to get to your gun you'll have to work through gloves, layers of clothes and whatever else it may be that shields you from the weather. This not altogether an insignificant fact and it should never go unnoticed. Attempting to go to the same speed in cold weather that you can pull off time and again in warm weather, may not prove to be as effective as you thought it might be. Trigger presses may take longer and the simple manipulative actions one takes for granted may be fumbled when frozen fingers do not respond well to mental commands. Just be aware of this.

Many years ago I was afforded the opportunity to train with Blue team of SEAL Team 6 (Now Dev Group) in Kentucky. Now only two of us (Greg Horton and myself) went back there for three weeks in the field with these guys. It was something else, believe me. Their idea of fun - is far different than my idea of fun - so here's one of the many 'fun' evolutions that we gleefully participated in. It was in November in Kentucky mind you and since frogs do all things at night this evolution was to be no exception to this unwritten frog rule. We were to conduct an ambush deep in the woods after having been inserted by Blackhawks shortly after nightfall. We moved in and set down without a sound and of course we went to ground right in the middle of a slow running stream about two inches deep and began waiting. In about twenty minutes I couldn't feel most of my body parts so I just concentrated on the fact that soon, this would be over. In about two hours, my lips felt like they were injected full of Novocain and my eyeballs were actually shivering. In about four hours I had no real concentrated thoughts at all and the only relief that ever came was when you had to relieve yourself without moving and of course that particular warmth only lasts about five to ten seconds at most but at least you knew that your insides were still warm.

It was somewhere around dawn that we finally launched the ambush and then had to move like hell for several miles to extraction. In the first five minutes of movement nothing on me seemed to work. Not my legs, my feet, my arms, my

hands...nothing. Everything was stiff from the running water and the cold of the night and the complete absence of any physical motion. We looked like flailing apes tanked up on torpedo juice for the first few hundred meters. I learned one thing that night and that - was that these guys...are real hard core, they operate in a totally different world, and that their sense of fun is much different than mine.

I used to surf in New England in the winter but back then I had a wetsuit and my time in the Atlantic Ocean was limited to about 45 minutes or so. This was a lot different as you were loaded down with gear and nothing...nothing was on you that wasn't soaking wet, freezing cold and clinging to you precisely where you didn't need it to cling to you when you were moving. If there had been a malfunction of the weapons or such, it would have taken a lot longer to clear as my fingers just wouldn't respond to commands - at least not in the manner that I would have liked them to have responded. My legs could barely move and my feet didn't feel a thing so from the waist down I was basically detached until I finally warmed up after about a mile or so of moving fast.

So...I learned one valuable lesson that night and that was that extreme cold and wet can be counted on for one thing and that is that things will not work like you think they will work...so be aware. Frogs are great guys and the one thing that I have always admired about them is their 'can-do' attitude. Freezing-no problem, tired-no problem, freezing, tired and with no fingers working - no problem, all of the above with much more thrown in...never, has been, and never will be, well you know - no problem! You're not dead, you can feel pain and sometime you'll be warm again and sometime you'll be dry again and sometime you'll get lucky again so - what's the worry? Now that's...a great philosophy!

Looking Back on the LAPD- 'The Holidays'

So the holidays are here for 2008. The economy soured, gas rose and fell faster than a pole dancer in front of drunken sailors on leave and the crime continued unabated. When I was a younger officer - every Christmas Eve, Christmas Day and New Years Eve was spent working. It was the price of being young and possessing an LAPD serial number - higher than the national debt. I'm not too much in tune with the newbies(sic) of today's LAPD but I suspect that they are meeting the same fate as I did some thirty plus years back. You'd walk into the watch commander's office only to be handed your days off that were set in stone and that no one - not even God himself, could or would change. The watch commander took a very dim view of any protestations and would usually just stare at you in icy silence until you got the message and finally left the office.

If you were lucky, your partner might be of a different religious persuasion that regarded these holidays as a non-event but that never seemed to happen to me. Nope, I was stuck working every one of these days for about the first five years on the job. It's the price of being young and new and expendable and having, once again, a serial number that took thirty minutes to reel off in court.

There was one nice thing however especially around Christmas, and that was that the usual crimes seemed to taper off a bit. Perhaps this was due to the holiday spirit exhibited on behalf of the suspects towards their erstwhile victims or just the fact that in Los Angeles, temperatures below fifty degrees officially qualifies as a snow-in. The streets were usually deserted and for once, the radio was quite, in fact it was dead, until the RTO (Radio Transmitter Operator) came on and announced the sighting of a sleigh and a rather portly proportioned, possible suspect flying above the city at excessive speed and could someone please notify dispatch if any units observed such a suspect and if so, what was the current disposition and direction of said suspect so that other units could give chase. Now this rather seemingly benign chain of events would lead to some rather hilarious comebacks on the air.

Remember that you have the following ingredients;

1. Very young officers with no time on the job
2. Old timers (their turn in the barrel) stuck with very young officers.
3. Very few calls for service
4. No bad guys about
5. Deserted streets
6. Active imaginations
7. There was no way back then, to tell who was broadcasting on the air other than voice recognition so everyone disguised their voices.

So here is a snippet of some of the responses from the old days;

"Yeah we see him...if he needs any packages I've got one hangin' for him right here'

"He needs one big enough to see..."

"Your wife didn't think so..."

"Who is this?" -Silence-

"Fifty dollars to the first car to cap the reindeer!"

"Pistol or shotgun?"

"Who cares?"

"Take the fat guy down after he enters and book him on a hot prowl 459 (Burglary in occupied residence.)"

"Nice Christmas spirit."

"Hey...a 459's...a 459...its called recap junior."

"I'd like to give the RTO some Christmas cheer."

RTO response - "My husband works 77th."

"Who cares?"

"Tell him to work a real division like Wilshire."

RTO again, "You guys are real cute."

"I'll tell you what's cute, my...(partner cuts him off.)"

"How much lead do you need on a flying reindeer?"

"Just hose him and you'll hit him."

"Uh-oh...I think we see the fat suspect...stand by...wait...no it's just 7A51...sorry."

7A51 - "Who said that?"

"Anybody comes down my chimney and I'll dust 'em."

"You don't have a chimney..."

"I'll still dust 'em."

"Hey tough guy...where's the Christmas love?"

"You want love?...I'll give you love...(Radio mike held up to a jacket zipper as it opens loudly.)"

"I'd still like to give the RTO some Christmas cheer."

Watch Commander - "Cut it out guys."

There'd be dead silence on the air for about five minutes and then the whole thing would start up again. Bored cops have always found amusing ways to amuse themselves. These are not Rhodes scholars so perhaps the humor, while somewhat sophomoric is understandable to a degree. Most probably the Spartans did the same thing when there were no battles to be fought and the days were slow and their spears were as sharp as they could be...who knows?

Happy Holidays and we hope to see you all next year!!