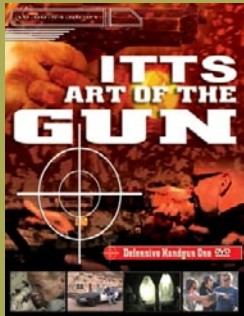


February 15, 2009

Volume 3, Issue 2



MONTHLY



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Active Shooter class moved to June 26-28

Because of the fires late last year and rains that followed, we have not been able to get our shoot house back up as soon as we anticipated. Since the shoot house is a necessary component of this course, we will be moving the date to June 26-28. We appreciate your understanding and hope to see you then. More on this class at a later time.

Defensive Handgun II on February 28-March 1

We have had some requests from those of you who have completed the Defensive Handgun I course to put on a Handgun II course as soon as possible. This will enable you to take the Defensive Handgun III course the following weekend and then qualify for the Force on Force course in April. The Force on Force class is one of our most dynamic and challenging course and covers five days of some amazing components. It includes re-creating and re-constructing shootings and then evaluating them with an L.A.P.D. RHD Detective, hostage/officer rescue using a vehicle, gun take-aways with a Krav Maga instructor, a half day dealing with critical situations where life-saving techniques have to be utilized and much more. http://www.internationaltactical.com/class_detail.asp?CSID=346 Since there is a great deal of individual instruction, the class size is very limited. To sign up for Defensive Handgun II go to

http://www.internationaltactical.com/class_detail.asp?CSID=362

Defensive Handgun III on March 7-8 is a brand new format

For those of you who can't take off Fridays from work, we are having an intense 2 day weekend only Handgun III class. We will cover the same information as in the 3 day class but the days will be longer. Perfect for those with a busy schedule!

Don't miss the Tactical Carbine/Handgun Class on March 27-29

We will have lots of great transition drills, Metro qualification course with both systems, new donga course, new mover with barricade and lots more! http://www.internationaltactical.com/class_detail.asp?CSID=335 to sign up We like to hear from you so send us your suggestions and we will try to accommodate you. Email us at itts@gte.net or call us at 310-471-2029.

Courses Coming up Soon:

February 28-March 1	Defensive Handgun II
March 7-8	2 Day Defensive Handgun III
March 21-22	Night time Vehicles
March 27-29	Tactical Carbine/Handgun



Shotgun Class - January 2009



Night Shoot- Shotgun Class - January 2009



Scott gives an interview for the 'Watchman' DVD

August 2009 Course Schedule

February 28-March 1	Defensive Handgun II
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
June 26-28	Active Shooter - NEW
July 10-12	Advanced Handgun
July 24-26	Tactical Shotgun
August 1	Krav Maga Summer Camp
August 2	Private Instruction
August 8-9	Defensive Handgun II

* Law Enforcement only class

It's the Small Things by Scott Reitz

It's the smallest of items that sometimes lay one low. Having investigated hundreds of officer involved shootings in very great detail, there is a commonality which surfaces within many shootings wherein the smallest of details have had far reaching effects. Our last shotgun/pistol class was a classic case in point. The following are some illustrative examples of the smallest details which can have the greatest of implications when it counts the most.

Failure to lock down the retention nut on the fore end of the shotgun for a dedicated flashlight mount on the 870 Remington, shotgun will result in the inability to articulate the slide handle assembly to its fullest extent. If the nut works loose - then the slide bars cannot work to the full rearward position and the shotgun will not cycle properly. Side saddles must be checked and the small hex screws that attach the carrier itself to the mounting plate must be lock-tighted (sic) to prevent loss and separation. Rear sights must be marked to check for misalignment. Some of the side saddles utilized in the class sheared off at the attachment pin and the cause was either a slightly extended fore end or the quality of the pins that attach same.

Slings not properly attached will catch up in the forward reciprocation of the slide/fore end and not allow it to lock up. The sling can also block the light under mount if not attached and set to a proper configuration. The butt cuff if not secured will work out of adjustment rendering it pretty much useless. In short, any one of these factors could have far reaching consequences in a critical situation. There is a way around all of this. Each of our classes delves into the problems to be encountered and the best and most proven method of circumventing these problems. Some of these are extraordinarily simple fixes. In any weapon system, you are trying to render it into a dependable and workable piece that will work when called upon without failure.

Again as I have stated for decades, what sells in the glossy magazines ads may be utterly worthless when put through its paces. Most ancillary items sold for weapon systems are not designed for real world applications which will be run in training for far longer and far harder than in real world applications. For every round you fire in the field you will fire far more in training. This is what separates the real guys from the 'strap hangers' not only in training but in equipment as well. I have lost count of the hundreds of students through the years that approach me at the outset of a class with the following statement; "What do you think of this thing?"

The litmus test is to simply run it through the class. If it is of benefit then that will be readily discernable and if it fails then that will also manifest itself within short order. Perhaps I should get into the gadget business but I cannot bring myself to that point nor would I ever want to. Just because a design or a product is manufactured does not equate into a viable system. Most of these designers are not shooters – not by a long shot.

What looks good on paper and in theory may not translate well into the field. Most of these devices are designed to run for about a hundred rounds of full house loads and no more as the average, gadget infused individual fires far less than this number of real rounds throughout his entire lifetime so...what's the worry? You are not the average. These are just a few random thoughts and ruminations that have surfaced time and again throughout the years so perhaps they have a certain truth and validity to them. The small things do count.

Looking Back on the LAPD- Back in my Day

Each generation has its own view of how it, as a specific generation, is viewed in the grand scheme of things. When I was a young rookie all I ever heard was how hard it was for the old timers and how 'we' as the newer generation of 'Centurions' would never have cut the mustard. The guy's locker next to mine belonged to Kenny F. He had 40 years on the LAPD and had developed a rather pronounced case of 'Dunlop's Disease' wherein his belly had, 'done lopped over his belt.' This rather obvious physical fact never once deterred Kenny from holding forth on how spoiled and dandified the new breed was, (myself included.)

"Kid..." he would state while dressing and never once looking in my direction, "We had to beat each other to death in the Academy and all you had were your wits, gun, baton and fists to bring 'em in. We didn't have fancy radios in the car...we went out and fought crime by the skin of our teeth and we brought 'em in over the hood. An arrest report was half a page kid...half a page! That's all we needed when police work was really police work. You guys are pathetic with your little shiny, silver pistols and fake Sam Browne's. How they ever hired you guys is completely beyond me kid."

He'd slam the locker door and walk off without ever having looked at me. The older officers in the locker room just shook their heads – they'd probably received the same verbal drubbing from Kenny so now it was my turn in the barrel. In some sense Kenny was partially correct. In the very old days of LAPD, you had to be at least 6 feet in height in order to be hired on. They threw heavy medicine balls at each other's midsections and I have seen the historical film to substantiate this. They were subjected to somewhat draconian training and no mercy was ever expected nor shown to opponents. You unloaded the pistol into whatever it was that you shot at and presumably the prevailing thought at the time was that if the suspect deserved one shot then why not all six? They rode on running boards to calls, they worked with no overtime and they could be fired for anything that tweaked the sensibilities of their superiors without any legal recourse whatsoever. The city sleds did not have air conditioning, long sleeve shirts were worn even in the full heat of summer, there were no sissy bullet proof vests, You had eighteen rounds and that was it, there was no fancy SWAT team - you just kicked the door and went in when 'real cops' worked the street. There were no Taser's, no sticky foam, no Nerf guns, no hand held radios...there was nothing! There was lethal force and there was something slightly below that and that was about it. There was no Miranda ruling, fleeing felons were dropped where they stood, the pay was an astronomical 500 or so dollars a month, you got hurt or cut and the city doctors patched you up good and proper and you went right back out - same watch- no complaints...there was no crying in police work back in those days! I was painfully informed on more than one occasion, that for sure and for certain...we could never have cut the mustard back in the day...not in a million years. No way.

My generation also looks askance and with a somewhat jaded view upon the newer generations with a little bit of the same disdain although not quite as harshly stated. We came on with revolvers and straight sticks and nothing more. It was the tail end of the Dragnet era. The Ford Matadors screamed and the air on them never worked but we didn't care. We were few in numbers and we could still be fired for coming to work hanging left rather than right. We had no computers, the cell phone was still in the distant future and even pagers were new back then! You wrote your reports with pencil and paper. Fingerprints were hand researched and you personally took the prints- not some dandified, CSI type wannabe. Everyone in the division went in pursuit together or rolled lights and siren on a Code -3 call...why not? It was good practice. You sat in court all day, went to PM watch fought bad guys at night and rolled into the next day only to repeat it all over again – no one ever complained – not once. We had eight hour and forty five minute work days, five days a week - not some sissified compressed work schedule. The only thing we ever compressed were carotids. You had a WWII era shotgun with

no sights and a well worn shiny, slippery, wooden stock. There were no girly, rubberized pistol stocks on the old venerable fire-stick. If you couldn't hold on to her when she kicked out a full house load in a blazing, yellow and crimson blinding flame...then perhaps you should never have come onto the LAPD in the first place! There were no light under mounts, no night sights - nope...there was none of that stuff. The LAPD only took on real men and nothing less back then. Yep...those were the old days alright! (If ...you were so inclined to reminisce.)

Now the newest generations will undoubtedly carry on this time honored tradition of demeaning the newer, up and coming generation. This is a surety as sure as the sun will rise and the moon will fall. It's simply in the nature of things. No doubt the Spartan's had the same tradition. The following are actual transcribed statements from a conversation from real Spartan's during a training break. No kidding!

"In our day we had 8 foot heavy spears not some new fangled light weight sissy 6 footer."
We didn't have any fancy leather sandals either kid...we used our bare feet."

"Our shields weighed a full stone heavier than these new knock offs. Where the hell is this thing made anyway?"

"Our helmets didn't have these new fancy sheep wool liners, we just had pure bronze on the noggin and that was it. Back then you really had to be tough kid. Believe me you did."

"We ate nothing but gruel and stale olive oil and we changed our tunics every other solstice...you guys are spoiled beyond belief with all this wine and meat and new tunics every six months."

"We used to bend our bronze swords back into shape with our own teeth instead of sending them off to the sword-smith like you pansies."

"Kid...let me tell you about the days when a Spartan was really a Spartan...for instance..."

All that I can say is; that it is - what it is. Hindsight may romanticize and over simplify our pasts and perhaps even overstate the hardships and demands according to our own version of history. Never let the facts stand in the way of a good story. Stay in touch and let us know if you have any questions that can be addressed in this newsletter.