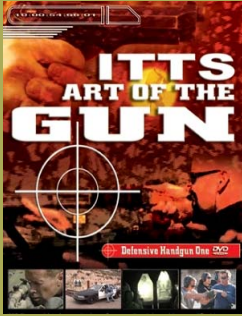


March 15, 2007
Volume 1, Issue 3



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Tactics under Pressure

Scott is a big believer in putting our *advanced* students under pressure to see how they perform in a stressful situation. Standing around doing repetitive drills just doesn't simulate what you will encounter in a gunfight. In our upcoming **Tactical Carbine II class on March 30- April 1** you will be pushed to resolve rapidly escalating problems with the Carbine and transitioning to the Handgun. In three days you will balance speed and accuracy while shooting on the move and on a fast-paced moving target system, from varied positions, in the shoot house and in force on force scenarios. At the end of the class you will have mastered the Carbine with speed, accuracy and sound decision-making skills. This is not a class for beginners!!

How would you perform in a gunfight? You will have the chance to find out in the new **5 Day Ultimate Tactical Course on April 25-29**. Using both air soft and live fire, students will work on the knife attack system, the barricade mover, an obstacle course using multiple shooting positions, a day and night time Donga trail, the shoot house, gunfighting from vehicles, ambushes against armed assailants, and that's just in the first three days! Day four will cover re-enactments of real shootings where you are the shooter and the instructors are the suspects, setting up crime scenes by RHD Detectives, walk-throughs of crime scenes, evidence containment and OIS reconstruction. Day five covers hostage rescue, cover teams, emergency medical procedures in critical situations, and the lead LAPD tactics instructor will walk you through the shoot house one on one to sharpen your tactics skills. This is a highly challenging five days and you should be in good physical condition to take it on.

The Carbine class has three open spots and the 5 day school has four. Don't wait to sign up. Call us at 310-471-2029 or email us at its@gte.net to sign up.

New Courses Coming up Soon:

March 30- April 1 **Tactical Carbine II**

April 25-29 **5 Day Ultimate Tactical Course**



The 5 Day Ultimate Tactical School involves using vehicles for cover, fighting from inside a vehicle, around a vehicle and into a vehicle. Day 5 of the course will include hostage rescue and officer down rescues with vehicles.

March – September 2007 Course Schedule



Our Knife Attack System replicates an assailant charging at you at full speed!



The Shoot House has multiple rooms to clear with shoot and no shoot targets.



Instructors work one on one with students on team drills

March 17-18	Problem-Solving Tactics
March 30-April 1	Tactical Carbine II
April 14-15	Defensive Handgun II
April 20-22	Intermediate Handgun Series
April 25-29	5 Day Ultimate Tactical Course
May 5-6	Defensive Handgun I
May 18-20	Tactical Sniper/Counter Sniper Course
May 25-27	Tactical Carbine I
June 1-2	Vehicle Assaults/Stops
June 2-3	Defensive Handgun II
June 2-4	Subgun/Carbine Course (Alabama)
June 8-10	Advanced Handgun Series
June 8	Advanced Handgun III A
June 9	Advanced Handgun III B
June 10	Advanced Handgun III C
June 20 – July 10	Training in Europe
July 13-15	Intermediate Handgun Series
July 13	Intermediate Handgun IIA
July 14	Intermediate Handgun II B
July 15	Intermediate Handgun II C
July 21	Private Instruction
July 21-22	Defensive Handgun I
July 27-29	Concealed Carry – off duty
August 3	Private Instruction
August 4-5	Defensive Handgun II
August 10-12	Dynamic Shotgun/Handgun
September 7-9	Advanced Handgun Series
September 7	Advanced Handgun III A
September 8	Advanced Handgun III B
September 9	Advanced Handgun III C
September 22	Private Instruction
September 22-23	Defensive Handgun I
September 27-30	High Intensity Dynamic/Covert Entries

The "Fighting" Handgun

By Scott Reitz

Over the years I've lost count of the number of times I've been asked what modifications if any, should be made to a fighting pistol. The following are very general principles regarding this subject. First and foremost is the objective of obtaining a quality firearm that fits your hand. By quality I refer to a well designed and machined piece of ordinance from a well established firearms manufacturer. Some students have shown up with pistols from sources that I've never heard of before that looked like cast, pot metal cap guns and they fell apart within the first fifty rounds. Steer clear of this predicament. Of all the factors this is

the most important. Many handguns may look great in slick ads, but the end users find them difficult to work through evolutions with any degree of ease. Some are much too large and others are more complicated than they need to be. Find a high quality weapon that suits you and works when you want it to and you won't be disappointed. It is far better to have one pistol of quality than three of inferior design and craftsmanship. The next step is to ensure that the pistol will work reliably every time. Some pistols may require throating, (cleaning up the chamber) and ramping, (polishing the feed ramp) to ensure a reliable feed from the

magazine. This allows for rounds to feed smoothly from the magazine into the chamber. Many pistols will boast sub-inch groups at such and such a distance yet they have a tendency to malfunction due to such very tight tolerances. We are seeking combat effective accuracy in a fighting pistol. If it will maintain a group of five to six inches at twenty five yards and work every time when it's in your hands, then that should suffice. The next step is a good trigger. You can shoot a moderately accurate pistol with a good trigger better than a highly accurate pistol with a bad trigger. Of course the best is a melding of the two. The trigger should

break cleanly and without any undue effort on the part of the shooter. This does not mean a sniper style trigger set at two pounds. This means a combat trigger that when the slack is taken out, the remaining trigger press is smooth and free of bumps and grinding of uneven metal surfaces. Leave the trigger work to a competent armorer. Too many shooters have destroyed an otherwise effective pistol by cutting and scraping and grinding on parts that they shouldn't. Trying to dry fire a pistol into a good trigger takes months and months; it is far better to have a competent armorer address this issue at the outset.

CONTD NEXT PAGE

New Equipment and Facilities!

Scott with the men and women of "C" Platoon on a training day.



Next Issue:

The Value of Low Level Light Training!

* If you know someone who wants to receive the ITTS newsletter, please send us their email and they will be put on the list



Scott's Personal Carry Pistol

A hardened, .45 caliber 1911. No frills, just a straightforward fighting Handgun. It is accurate, reliable and built to fit Scott's hands.

Note rear sight, stepped-up for one-handed operation, dark, non-glare finish, set-back trigger, thin Micarta stocks, beaver-tail grip safety, ambidextrous thumb safety, and fine checkering on front and back straps. This works!!

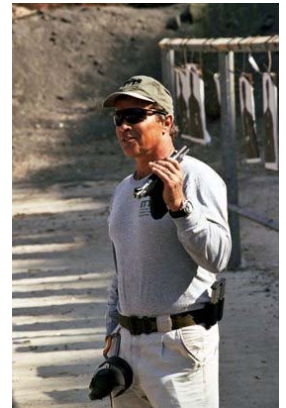
CONTD PREV PAGE

Night sights give you the horizontal and vertical alignment of the bore. Without them and absent sufficient light, there is very little chance of aligning these two planes when there is no visual reference for either one of them. I prefer the three green dot system over all others. They are bright, easily aligned, and provide for a consistent alignment of the bore on my intended target. I would also advise to change these out every five years or so as they do degrade in luminosity over a period of time. Night sights should absolutely be fixed on all fighting pistols. Without them, you are subject to fighting the pistol itself in obtaining hits in low level light conditions when there is really no good reason to do so. The sights should be fixed, (not adjustable) and they should be hardened and stout to prevent breakage. Mark them once they are

sighted in so that a simple glance at the markings will tell you if they've shifted in any way. Stocks should be of a durable material such as micarta which I personally prefer, and they should have a rough texture to ensure a good firing grip especially if they become wet or you are forced to fire with one hand only. I shy away from finger grooves and slick rubber stocks as I feel they have no benefit whatsoever to the shooter. The thumb safety on 1911 style pistols should be extended and rounded and if possible, ambidextrous. Stay away from extended magazine releases and slide releases, as these tend to go when you least want them to do so. On my personal pistols I prefer fine checkering to the back strap and the front strap of the pistol and if at all possible, I prefer a straight back strap which in turn ensures a firmer grip higher up on the pistol.

If the magazine well is not radiused but is in need of it, then I have it done but not to the extreme.

Proper loading techniques will provide a much surer and faster reload than an over enlarged magazine well. I prefer a darker matt finish on my pistols that do not reflect light off the slide when using the flashlight at night. I prefer rounded edges commonly referred to as, 'de-horning' throughout the pistol. This is not necessary but after prolonged training sessions you'll be grateful that you had it done. Other than these simple modifications, I keep it very simple, very straightforward with an eye towards creating a very reliable and workable pistol and it has always served me well. These are very general principles and I will deal with these and other subjects in much greater detail in my first book which is nearing completion.



"Find a high quality weapon that suits you and works when you want it to and you won't be disappointed. It is far better to have one pistol of quality than three of inferior design and craftsmanship."

INSIDE THE LAPD- CIRCA 1976 by Scott Reitz



Scott's Graduation from the Academy – Class of 1976. He is flanked by Chief Ed Davis and his parents, Captain (USN) and Mrs. Spencer Reitz!



Van Nuys Special Problems Unit Circa 1979. A great bunch of guys! Scott also worked the Heroin car with legendary LAPD Narcotics Officer, Ray Lyons!



Scott at the top of Mulholland Drive, circa 1979. Note the Mickey Mouse ears on the black and white. Scott is armed with a 6" .38 Smith and Wesson in a clam-shell holster. Talk about 'old school'!!

Young Officers often find it amusing when I tell them of the LAPD Academy back 30 years ago, when I came on the department and what was expected of you. So with this thought in mind I thought I'd take you down memory lane to November 22, 1976. Today the LAPD and other departments have a hard time finding recruits to fill their ranks, but back in 1976 this was not the case; not by a longshot! Thousands of applicants had applied for positions on the Department that year and from these numbers, only 2500 were actively processed. From this applicant pool they took less than a hundred of us. Since you didn't want to screw this up after all the hand wringing and pressure, you did everything by the numbers. The roll call was at 0500 hours at the Academy grounds in the gymnasium in a suit and tie and sporting a very, very short haircut. Almost all of us were there in the parking lot at 0300 staring at one another from inside our personal vehicles. Terry Spears, George Haines and Jerry Stokes were our primary instructors and the very first thing that they made emphatically clear was that we did not deserve to be LAPD Officers unless we earned it. Talk about pressure? We soon found out that if they told you to get, "your hat and books" that meant that you were finished right then and there. This could come at you from out of the blue for any number of reasons and back then a recruit suing a department for such dismissal was unheard of so there was no recourse available if you slipped up. "Stand clear," was shouted to our class anytime a sworn Officer approached anywhere on the Academy grounds. This meant that you cleared a path and slammed your body against the wall if at all possible until that Officer had passed the class in its entirety. This made for lengthy transits through the Academy grounds from one location to the next with no reprieve for being late to a scheduled activity. We wore khaki uniforms that were pressed and starched and the Sam Browne's and leather gear were spit shined at all times. We were issued Smith and Wesson four inch stainless steel .38 caliber revolvers with two dump pouches for a whopping twelve spare rounds. At the time the only authorized ammunition was the 138 grain lead round nosed bullet. This thing wouldn't bowl a bunny rabbit over at ten feet but that was all that we had! We had a straight hickory wood baton, one set of Peerless handcuffs, a badge and a whistle, a yellow plastic flashlight and we were to be set on the streets of the city to bring the nefarious denizens of the city to bay with all of this high tech, official police gear. You had to wear your hat at all times. Even if you were shot to doll rags you'd better have that hat on or you'd take days without pay or worse. I could see it now, "Shot to smithereens? Where's his hat...that's what I want to know?" You didn't dare show up late to the Academy or that definitely was your last day as we were constantly reminded of all the other applicants just waiting to take our place. You had to be very careful in asking a question of an instructor. If you needed clarification on an issue then they wondered just how stupid you really were. If you didn't ask for clarification then they wondered just how stupid you really were. It was great fun! The one thing they did however was to instill a real sense of pride in what it took to be an LA cop armed with the key to the city which of course, was the world famous LAPD badge. (It was rounded they told us, so that the department could insert it into parts unknown if we really, 'stepped on it' during the course of our career.) They regaled us with historical gunfights and pursuits and legendary capers of those that had served before us and it really made you proud just to be a raw recruit in such a department. Physical training was fairly intensive and the instructors pushed you all they way. Back then you choked each other out, kicked each other and generally tried to kill one of your classmates much to the amusement of the instructors. George Haines was a bear of a man and an Olympic Judo champion and, as I found out later, a man with a great heart who would set us against one another on the combat mats and then yell, "Combat Wrassle..." from then on it was an all out fight until one of the recruits was rendered into a shapeless lump of nothing. This was an early version of Ultimate Fighting without the scorecard girls! **To be continued in the next issue!**

“ASK UNCLE SCOTTY” COLUMN**Real answers to real questions from you!**

“What kind of light mount do you recommend for an AR-15?”
Tony W.

Dear Tony,
Surefire makes an integral light mount that readily affixes to the rifle and is secure, bright and dependable. I have both this model which incorporates a vertical foregrip and two small LED lights for low light use and a side-mounted Surefire light as well, that allows for a back-up light if the other drains during a prolonged search or extended use. Both of these have been on the rifle for years and I’ve never had a single problem with either one and this rifle is used hard! They’re expensive but you only need to buy it once and it lasts for years and years; so in the long run the cost is really quite negligible. Jury-rigged systems and small screws seem to fail on an all too frequent basis so I tend to shy away from them. Get good equipment, don’t lend it out and it will stay with you.

I came across a guy that claimed to be LAPD SWAT but couldn’t answer some questions I asked. How do I check this out?
Ofcr M. Parsons.

Dear Ofcr Parsons,
If you ever have such a question, contact us and I will give you the number to contact to verify such a claim. One individual of very questionable character once published a book on SWAT tactics claiming to be an LA SWAT Officer. Not only was he not in LA SWAT or Metro Division, he wasn’t even an LAPD Officer! Unfortunately dishonesty and deceit know no bounds and any real ‘stand-up’ man would never even think of claiming to be something that they’re not. Those that have earned the title, doing the right thing at great cost, think very little of the charlatan’s out there. Integrity is everything.

Some people tell me to oil my gun heavily and others say that only a few drops will do so what is the right answer?
Mario A.

Dear Mario,
Most oil will dry out after two or three hundred rounds are cycled through a weapon. Think of the adage ‘everything in moderation.’ I keep a good amount of oil on my weapons but not to the extent that it is dripping off. Even when you don’t fire the weapon, oil seems to evaporate and simply go elsewhere so every three weeks or so you should oil a carry gun. I am not a fan of just few drops and that’s it. Weapons heat up, metal expands and failures occur on a frequent basis when shooters have dry or very lightly oiled weapons. A good check for this is to dry function the weapon so that it feels smooth. If it is grinding or rough then oil it. There is an oil/grease mixture out there called Jardine’s that works well and Kellube M12 that also works very well for me. The bottom line is that more people under oil than over oil and the failures seem to come more on behalf of those that under oil their weapons.

Send your questions to brett@internationaltactical.com and we will try to answer them as soon as possible here! Names withheld by request.