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carry
MAGAZINE

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VOLUME 6 AUG/SEPT 2009



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TIM'S THOUGHTS

THERE'S ALWAYS A SILVER LINING... ARMED AMERICAN RADIO GOES NATIONAL!

Even though I try to insulate myself from the news as much as possible, I still end up listening to Rush Limbaugh almost every day, so it is difficult to not hear about all the crazy things our current president is trying to do. Yes, socialism is now alive and well in the United States of America. It is hard to believe. I'm sure the patriots who shed their own blood to start this country are rolling over in their graves!

But every once in awhile something happens that reminds me of how blessed I am. Sure, almost every freedom in our country is in trouble, but things could certainly be a lot worse. It is times like these that remind me to be grateful for all the blessings in my life. Don't get me wrong, I'm not getting soft! I'll continue to fight this "soft war" for freedom until the day I die!

My wife and I took the kids on a vacation this summer and we really had a blast just spending a lot of time together. My kids are growing up so fast... it is really amazing! They are turning into interesting little young adults.

I challenge YOU to look for all the blessings in your life. Sometimes they're right under your nose!

Be safe and God bless,



Here is the Schmidt family sitting in a restaurant in Boston, MA. I just can't believe how fast the kids are growing up. Heck, my 11 year old son is almost as tall as my wife!

P.S. NEWS FLASH: Armed American Radio launches NATIONAL syndication.

July 12th, 2009, marks the birth of the nationally syndicated Armed American Radio Network. Yep, that's right, the USCCA started a local radio program recently and it has caught fire. In less than two weeks of national syndication, we've already picked up 6 affiliates and we're in contract negotiations with another 4 stations. Please help us continue the spread of the Armed American Radio Network by calling your local talk radio station and asking them to carry Armed American Radio. Visit www.ArmedAmericanRadio.org for more details.



AUG/SEPT 2009 COVER


PHOTOGRAPHER: Oleg Volk

MODELS: To learn more about the mystery couple on the cover, read their profile on page 18.

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The author moving the baby to safety and engaging the bad guys with his Glock 19.

People have a built in quick fear activation circuit.

THE POLITE SOCIETY AND THE PSYCHOLOGIST

[BY GLENN E. MEYER, PhD]

What metaphors or terms to use to describe Tom Given's Polite Society Conference and Tactical Match held at the United States Shooting Academy in Tulsa, Oklahoma?

It's an excellent five star tactical tasting menu. The venue could not have been better. The USSA facility is absolutely gorgeous, with helpful staff, spacious bays, and high berms.

The Polite Society is the baby of Tom Givens from Rangemaster in Memphis, TN. Tom came to Rangemaster after a 25-year career in law enforcement, and is a tough, but outstanding instructor. The stated purpose of the Polite Society reads as follows: "The Polite Society is not about sport shooting or competition, though tests of marksmanship,

gun handling or tactical skill are part of the program. The Polite Society is about information."

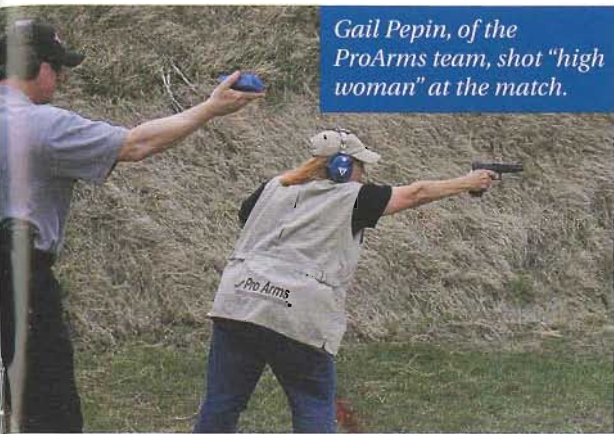
The conference has three major foci: One is a tactical shooting competition with standards, a saving a baby scenario in a shoot house as a stress and tactics test. The second is a series of two-hour firearms and action based mini classes. The third is a series of knowledge-based seminars for practitioners.

First, the techniques courses: I participated in Rob Pincus' (ICE Training)

"Combat Focus Shooting Techniques." The core idea is not to fight against automatically—and probably evolutionary—built in responses to threat. One interesting aspect of the course was a compressed ready position that had the gun forward at chest level, pulled in close to the chest. Important to the Combat Focus doctrine is that at close ranges, you may not need sight acquisition. One issue is that for some of us, we have well trained responses. Do we want to unlearn them?

Another gun usage minicourse in

Gail Pepin, of the ProArms team, shot "high woman" at the match.



which I participated was Will Andrews' (H&H Range) "Shooting on the Move." His major point is that in a violent incident you probably won't be standing with your body perpendicular to the threat. Will demonstrated a heel to toe step which creates a solid platform to avoid bobbing of the sights and muzzle.

There were several other firearms or practical interaction seminars such as the one given by Steven

Moses (Bluff Dale Firearms Academy) on the AK-47, Southnarc (Shivworks Training) on "Managing Unknown Contacts," Mike Brown (United States Shooting Academy) on extreme close quarter tactics, and Mike Seeklander (United States Shooting Academy) on "Grounded/Wounded Shooter Drills."

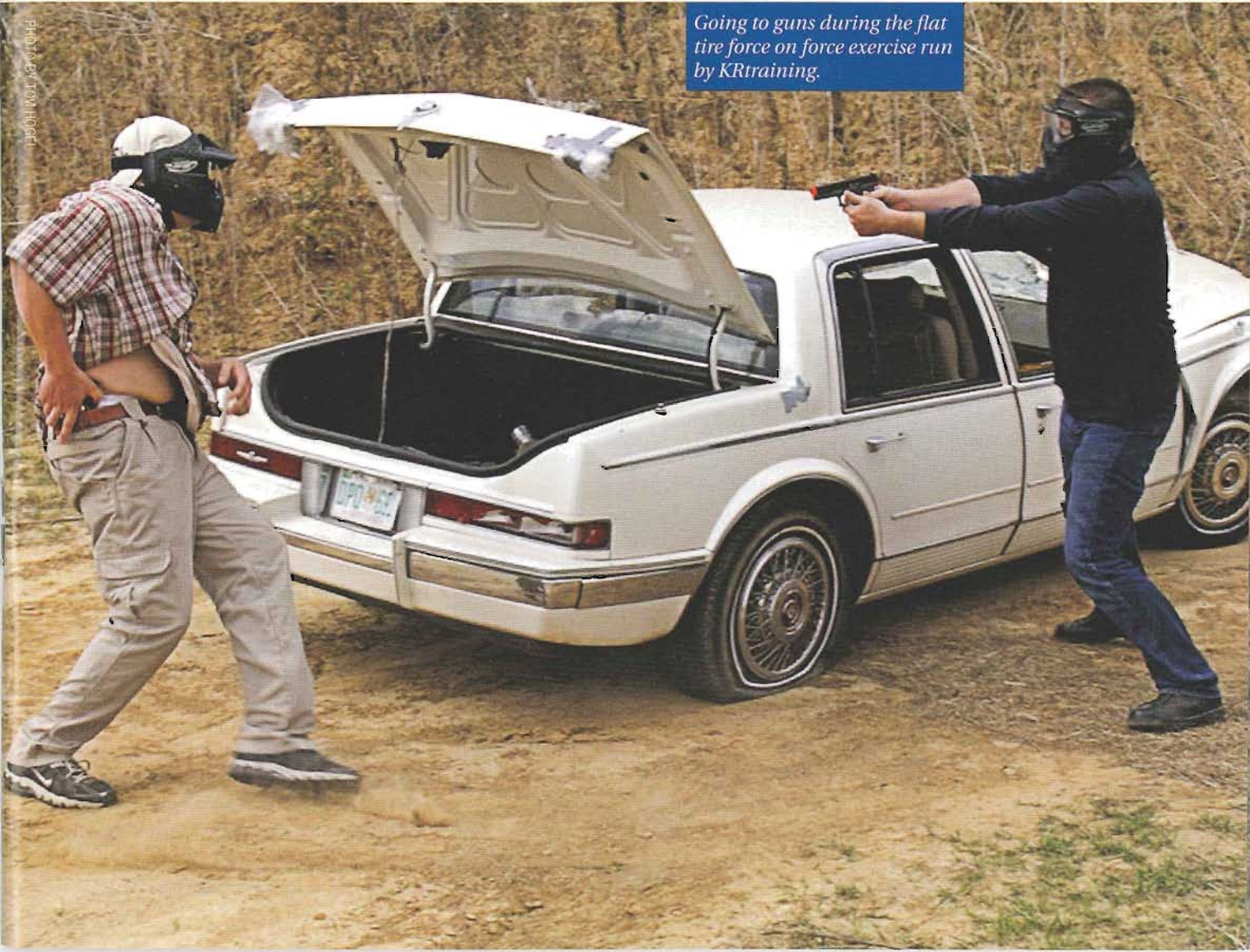
One of the best opportunities at the Polite Society was to take part in force on force (FOF) training with Karl Rehn and his staff from KRTraining. The idea of FOF exercises is to train with actual opponents, innocent bystanders, the police, and other good guys who can interact with you, up to and including shooting back at you. Airsoft guns are commonly used in FOF and Karl is one of the pioneers in their usage. Here's an important point: you need to be ready to screw up, look

stupid, and get "killed." You cannot have an ego and complain when you "die" or "kill" an innocent. It is a learning experience.

Karl ran several scenarios. One was based on a situation that occurred in Houston, where a motorist called the police and claimed that two guys beat on his car window and threatened to kill him. What really happened was that two men had a car break down on a busy highway and were asking passing motorists for help as they walked from their car down to a gas station. Later, the motorist admitted that he over reacted. This scenario's test was to see if someone would over react to a quick situation that was a no-shoot scenario.

In a second scenario, the good guy has parked at a public park, gone hiking, and comes back to find a flat. He is fixing the tire, when Henry and Otis roll up and offer to help. The test here is to evaluate whether the good guy

Going to guns during the flat tire force on force exercise run by KRtraining.





left: A female terrorist in the Mumbai Shoot House.



above: A scene from the Mumbai Shoot House: in low light, participants could easily overlook the terrorist partially hidden by the "fleeing" innocent no-shoots in front of him.

can be fooled into letting his defenses down, be taken away, and get tortured.

John Hearne, of Rangemaster and a federal law enforcement officer, analyzed the famous Newhall incident, the event that started a new look in firearms training and suggested range reloading practices caused the death of one officer. [ED. Newhall, California, April 6, 1970. Four young Highway Patrol officers were murdered while in pursuit of two armed suspects. The incident initiated major changes to police training, with an emphasis on officer safety.]

One popular question is: What is the appropriate long arm for self-defense? John Farnam (DTI) presented "The Urban Rifle: The AR and its Alternatives." John concludes pithily that the AR-15/M4/M-16 platform in 5.56 is a terrible battle rifle, but a pretty good gun for civilian usage. Civilians don't need a 600-yard rifle for the most probable applications. It's not perfect

but John thinks perfection is the enemy of "good enough."

Paul Gomez discussed "Immediate Trauma Management." The purpose is to keep you, or an injured partner or spouse, alive until professional medical help arrives. Paul mentioned that tourniquets are not harmful. That idea is based on faulty research from World War One, and has since been discredited.

Several talks concerned violent behavior, and the aftermath of engaging in a shooting incident. Skip Gochenour, the guru of the National Tactical Invitational, discussed violent criminal behavior. William Aprill, a licensed psychotherapist, discussed violent criminal actors who are at the top of a violent food chain, and use violence quickly and efficiently. Minor interactions may be seen as disrespecting them, and even an existential threat. Thus, if you hesitate and provide no instantaneous compliance, you have morally offended them, and have put yourself at serious risk.

Hany Mahmoud, a Dallas/Fort Worth LEO and trainer, enlightened us about Islamic Terror Groups with an overview

of their history and goals. One needs to understand the development of the Middle Eastern mindset and the differences between sects, tribes, and the different players to understand the threats to us and their amelioration.

Two presentations focused on legal aspects for defensive gun usage. "Reducing Firearms Instructor Liability" was the baby of Marty Hayes, president of the Firearms Academy of Seattle and founder of the Armed Citizens Legal Defense Network. Instructors and students need a legal plan as well as learning tactics. In a similar vein, Massad Ayoob gave a talk on "Shooting Incidents and Aftermath Management." Mas gave a simple set of instructions to use after an unpleasant interaction.

Saving the best for last? My presentation was entitled: "Modern Psychology and Firearms Usage." Many issues of concern to gun owners have been researched in the behavioral sciences. First discussed was the issue of what would hurt you in court. The internet, and the popular gun press have discussed whether a type of gun, ammo or appearance could be detrimental if

you go to trial on a defensive gun usage. Psychologists have conducted jury simulations on weapons issues and their influence. The premise is that weapon appearance, your behavior and gender (plus their interactions) can prime negative or aggressive thought in a jury to your detriment. The more the jury sees or handles a gun, the worse for you. In my work, stimulated by an article by Massad Ayoob, we posed the scenario of a home owner who confronts and kills a burglar holding the family VCR. Various weapons were used in different conditions (there was no ranting about evil guns, just factual presentations). The bottom line was the homeowner who used an AR-15 was treated more harshly in our mock juror judgments. Women "jurors" were more negative and—fascinatingly, women "jurors" judged a woman AR shooter most negatively. Gender stereotype violation seems active here. Based on my work, a police officer fellow NTI practitioner did an experiment in a police traffic-stop training exercise. The issue was whether the officer conducting the stop would use discretion over a minor firearms storage violation. It turned out that the passenger with an AR-15 was more likely to be "arrested" than one carrying other firearms. So empirically, it's clear now that weapons type can influence decisions in legal matters. We are not saying to not to use an efficacious weapon, but you and your attorney should know that this factor is out there. Other issues we researched were whether getting firearms training could be detrimental to you in a mock jury scenario. It depended if the jurors were gun knowledgeable or not, with the expected direction.

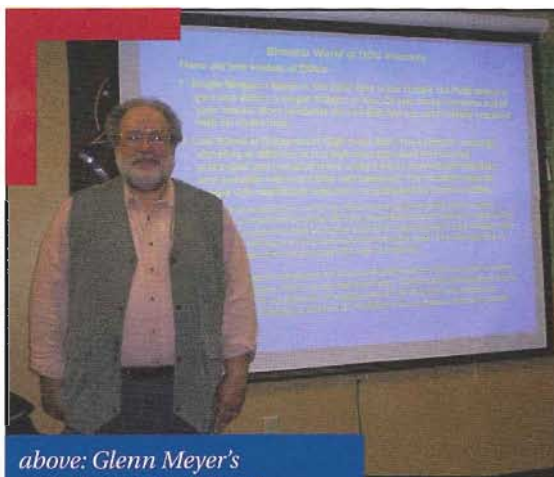
We touched on the rationale behind FOF training. FOF, scenario, and simulator training leads to better real world performance for police and civilians. FOF aids in more efficient use of working memory, boosts confidence that you know how to act in an emergency, and gives you germane heuristics and schemas (plans) to act when the world goes to Hell. The use of reactive targets in the Mumbai exercise makes you deal with failures to stop. People have a built in quick fear activation circuit through the amygdala, a part of the brain involved in

emotions of fear and aggression, which can activate a freeze response. This is evolutionarily useful in the woods, but not in a modern violent incident. Stress inoculation from FOF exercises gets you off the X. As John Farnam says, "you don't just dither." Realistic training can reduce legal liability as one could articulate why they took a particular course of action. The Mumbai exercise had exploding bombs and dim lights. As in real life, shoot targets were mixed in with no shoots. In dim light and with multiple distractions, participants were expected to avoid shooting the innocent bystanders while taking out the terrorist targets with solid hits to the upper center chest or head.

I ended with a discussion of stress disorders, especially PTSD. It hasn't really been looked at with the aftermath of civilian DGUs. However, one

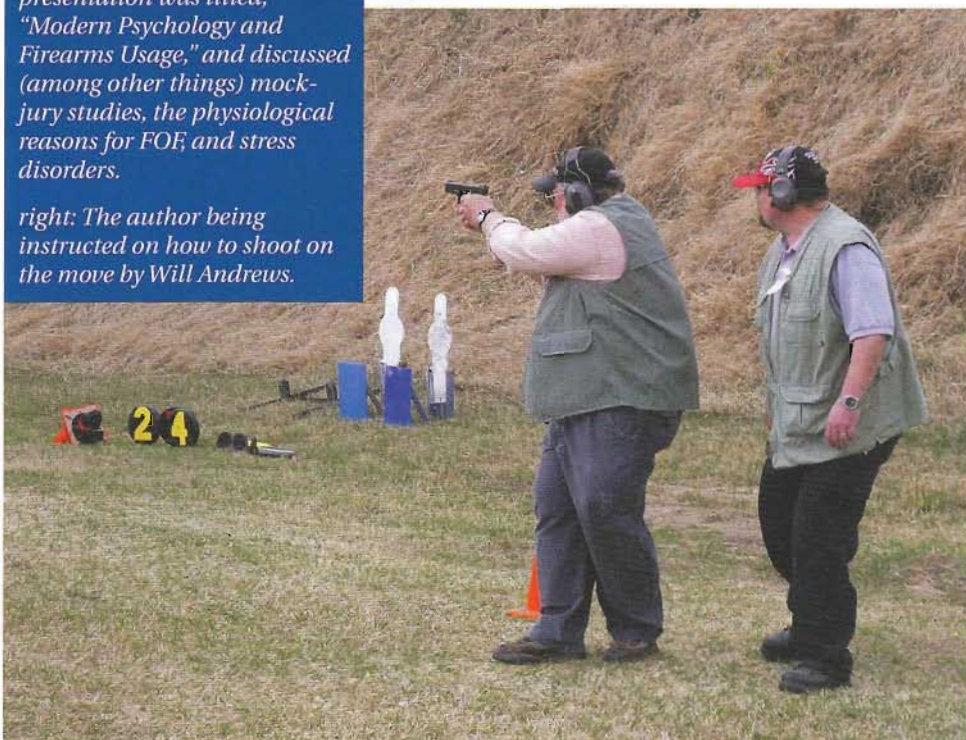
should be aware of stress syndromes if one is unfortunate in this regard.

So what does a psychologist use at the Polite Society? A second generation Glock 19 with Trijicon fiber optic night sights, and a Glock 26 or SW 642 as a backup gun, Spydercos and a Surefire. The Glock had no problem knocking down the Hard Head Ted targets from DVC in the Mumbai test. I overheard somebody saying, "I should have used a bigger gun" when the targets were stubbornly still standing. Tom Givens replied that you could take them down with a snubby if you actually hit them in the upper chest or the noggin. Oops! How did I do in the competition? There were 91 scored competitors. I was 48th. The scores ranged from about 90 (good) to about a 1000. Mine was 182.88. OK for a psychologist and fat old guy among the trainers and practitioners, I suppose. ■



above: Glenn Meyer's presentation was titled, "Modern Psychology and Firearms Usage," and discussed (among other things) mock-jury studies, the physiological reasons for FOF, and stress disorders.

right: The author being instructed on how to shoot on the move by Will Andrews.



[Glenn Meyer is a psychology professor at Trinity University in Texas. Specializing in perception and social cognition of aggression, he has trained with Massad Ayoob, Karl Rehn at KRTraining, Tom Givens, OPS, Insights and Steve Moses. Meyer has participated several times at the National Tactical Invitational and Polite Society.]