

Private Security Armed Professional Student Manual

Contents

Section 1: General Firearms Safety

- **Cardinal Firearms Safety Rules**
- **What Is Acceptable Gun Handling?**
- **What Is Not Acceptable Gun Handling?**
- **Firearms Safety in the Home**
- **Guidelines for Firearms Safety in the Home**
- **Mental and Emotional Safety**

Section 2: Responsibilities of the Armed Officer

- **You Must Answer these Questions**
- **What Are Your Responsibilities as an Armed Officer?**
- **The Armed Private Security Instructor in Court**

Section 3: Use of Force

- **Oregon Law**
 - **Definitions**
 - **Statutes**

- **Becoming the Aggressor**
- **How Do You Avoid Using Excessive or Unjustified Force?**
- **The Determination of Use of Force Matrix**
- **Criminal Penalties for Unlawful Use of Deadly Force**
- **Civil Penalties for Unlawful Use of Deadly Force**

Section 4: Decision Making Responsibilities

- **The Decision Making Process**
 - **Understand the Armed Mission**
 - **Know the Facts**
 - **Obtain Information**
 - **Review Past Experience**
 - **Understand Means, Opportunity and Intent**
 - **Consider the Totality of the Circumstances**
 - **Give the Threat Clear, Understandable Commands**
 - **Examine Alternatives**
 - **Justification versus Necessity**

Section 5: After Using Deadly Physical Force

- **The Immediate Aftermath**
- **Recommended Post-Shooting Actions**

Section 6: Decision-Making Scenarios

Application of decision-making process to a potentially deadly force situation.

- **Scenario #1: Possible Burglary at Warehouse**
- **Scenario #2: Shop Lift at Department Store**
- **Scenario #3: Off Duty Stop at Convenience Market**
- **Scenario #4: Cash Delivery to Mall**
- **Scenario #5: Suspicious Customer at Bank**
- **Scenario #6: Car Rams Main Gate**
- **Scenario #7: Silent Alarm at Private Residence**

Section 7: Thinking about Tactics

- **Mental Conditioning for Surviving Violent Armed Encounters**
 - **Awareness**
 - **Color Code of Awareness**
 - **Stay Focused on the Mission**
 - **Be Decisive**
- **Basic Tactical Principles**
 - **Understand, Recognize and Use Cover and Concealment**

- **Movement**
- **Maximize Distance from the Threat**
- **Barriers**
- **Use Your Senses**
- **Avoid Being a Target**
- **Communicate and Obtain Assistance**
- **Safe Retreat**

- **Specific Tactical Issues**
 - **Ready Positions (Low Ready, Close Ready and SUL)**
 - **Warning Shots**
 - **Shooting at Vehicles**
 - **Center of Mass**
 - **Standard Response**
 - **Multiple Assailants**
 - **Body Armor**
 - **Use a Safe Holster**
 - **Retention Holsters**
 - **Moving Threats**
 - **Moving Under Fire**
 - **Safely Retreating with the Gun in Hand**
 - **Scanning (After-Action Response)**

- **Tactical Marksmanship Skills**
 - **Firing from Kneeling Positions**
 - **Instructional Points for the Kneeling Position**
 - **Low Cover Kneeling: One-Knee Down**
 - **Low Cover Kneeling: Two-Knees Down**
 - **One-Hand Firing**
 - **Firing with the Strong Hand Only**
 - **Transitioning to the Support Hand**
 - **Firing with the Support Hand Only**
 - **Close Quarter Firing**
 - **Close Quarter Unsighted Firing**
 - **Close Quarter Sighted Firing**
 - **Movement**
 - **Movement to the Rear**
 - **Movement to the Side**

Section 8: Nomenclature and Inspection

- **Basic Components of the Revolver**
- **Double-Action versus Single-Action Firing**
- **To De-Cock the Revolver**
- **Inspection: Revolver**

- **Revolver Serviceability Check**
- **Basic Components of the Semi-Automatic Pistol**
- **Semi-Automatic Pistol Action Types**
- **Inspection: Semi-Automatic Pistol**
- **Serviceability Checks**
 - **All Semi-Automatic Pistols**
 - **Specific Semi-Automatic Pistols**
 - **Single action pistols with thumb safety**
 - **Single-action pistols with grip safety**
 - **Pistols with slide-mounted safety/de-cocker**
 - **Pistols with Magazine Safety**
 - **Pistols with a Glock-type trigger safety**
- **Modifications to Handguns**

Section 9: Care and Cleaning of Your Weapon

- **Reliability**
- **General Guidelines for Care and Cleaning**
- **Gun Cleaning Safety**
- **Revolver Cleaning Procedure**
- **Semi-Automatic Cleaning Procedure**
- **Care of Ammunition**
- **Inspection of Ammunition**

- **Cleaning Ammunition**

Section 10: Low Light Shooting

- **General Flashlight Use Guide**
 - **Purpose of the Flashlight**
 - **Have a Flashlight**
 - **Keep the Flashlight in Your Possession**
 - **Hold the Flashlight in Your Support Hand**
 - **Avoid Over-Use of the Flashlight**
 - **Avoid Illuminating Other Officers**
 - **Use, Turn Off, Move**
 - **Light/Darkness General Guideline**
- **Flashlight Firing Techniques**
 - **Flashlight and Gun Held Separately**
 - **FBI High**
 - **FBI Low**
 - **Flashlight and Handgun Held Together**
 - **Harries Technique**
 - **Side By Side Technique**
- **Belt Flashlight with Tail-Cap Switch**
- **Gun-Mounted Lights**
- **Low Light Firing without the Flashlight**

- **Reloading and Clearing Malfunctions**
- **Firing around Corners with the Flashlight**

**Range: Fundamentals of Tactical Handgun
 Marksmanship**

- **Tactical Handgun Marksmanship**
- **The Fundamentals**
 - **Grip**
 - **Stacked Thumbs**
 - **Thumbprint on Thumbnail**
 - **Stance**
 - **Modern Isosceles Stance**
 - **Weaver Stance**
 - **Sighting**
 - **Sight Alignment**
 - **Sight Picture**
 - **Point of Aim**
 - **The Master Eye**
 - **Shooting with Both Eyes Open**
 - **Flash Sight Picture**
 - **What About Laser Sights?**
 - **Trigger Control**

- Trigger Finger Contact
- Managing the Semi-Automatic Trigger
- Managing the Revolver Trigger
- Breathing
- Important Marksmanship Concepts
 - Hold
 - Arc of Movement and Accepting the Wobble
 - Follow-Through

Range: Gun Handling Skills

- Gun Handling Skills Necessary and Critical
- Sequence of Training
- Perfect Practice Makes Perfect
- Dry Practice Safety Protocols
- DPSST Semi-Automatic Pistol Handling Techniques
 - The Duty Belt and Holster
 - Holster Retention Levels and Characteristics
 - Location of the Holster and Magazine Pouch
 - Components of the Draw
 - Common Errors in the Draw
 - Speed of the Draw
 - After-Action Response

- **Re-Holstering**
- **Before Loading or Unloading the Handgun**
- **Administrative Loading the Semi-Automatic Pistol**
 - **Cycling the Slide**
 - **Overhand Method**
 - **Slingshot Method**
- **Administrative Unloading the Semi-Automatic Pistol**
- **Locking the Slide to the Rear**
- **Empty (aka Combat) Reload**
- **Partial (aka Tactical) Reload**
- **Executing the Tactical Reload**
- **Reload with Magazine Retention**
- **Speed Reload**
- **Malfunction Procedures for Semi-Automatic Pistols**
 - **Malfunction Types**
 - **Phase 1 Malfunction Drill**
 - **Phase 2 Malfunction Drill**
 - **Instructing Malfunction Drills**
 - **Set-up the Phase 1 Malfunction Drill**
 - **Set-up the Phase 2 Malfunction Drill**
- **DPSST Revolver Handling Techniques**
 - **Revolver Handling Safety**
 - **Lowering the Hammer on a Cocked Revolver**

- **Location of the Holster and Speed-Loader Pouch**
- **Administrative Loading the Revolver**
- **Administrative Unloading the Revolver**
- **When Loading Fewer than All Chambers**
- **Empty (aka Combat) Reload: Revolver**
- **Partial (aka Tactical) Reload: Revolver**
- **Executing the Tactical Reload**
- **Malfunction Procedures for Revolvers**

Range: Dry Practice and Live Fire Lesson Plan

- **Dry Practice Session**
 - **Critical Dry Practice Safety Requirements**
 - **Read before Conducting Dry Practice**
- **Conducting Dry Practice Training**
 - **Sequence of Dry Gun Handling Skills Introduction**
 - **Trigger Management Briefing**
- **Live Fire Training Session**
- **Conducting Live Fire Training**
- **Live Fire Exercises**
 - **Exercises 1-17**
 - **Practice Private Security Qualification Course with Briefing**

Armed Officer's Training Manual

Section 1: General Firearms Safety

Learning Goal: The student will understand his or her personal responsibility for the safe handling and use of firearms. The student will know the four Cardinal Safety Rules and understand how these rules are applied and practiced on the job, at home and on the range.

A firearm is a powerful tool that is instantly capable of causing death or serious physical injury. Like any tool the firearm has no consciousness or sense of right and wrong. It can harm both the innocent person and the wrong-doer. It is the moral duty of the user to handle, carry and use the firearm with safety and constant regard for its inherently deadly nature.

There are four *Cardinal Firearms Safety Rules* that govern the safe use of firearms at all times and in all circumstances. These rules apply wherever you may be around firearms: on the job, on the range or at home. There is not a one set of rules for the range and a separate set for the field. Failure to conscientiously follow these rules in the office, in the home or in a high risk situation can and has led to the injury and death of security officers, their family members and citizens.

All Guns Are Always Loaded

Treat all firearms, loaded and unloaded, with respect and in accord with the other Cardinal Rules. Do not fall into the trap of a “double standard” for unloaded guns. This trap waits for the officer who disregards the safety rules by allowing the muzzle to point at others or placing the finger on the trigger because he or she “knows” the gun is unloaded. You may hear such an officer say, “Don’t worry. It’s unloaded.” You should handle any firearm on the premise that it is loaded and capable of firing. Following this rule will prevent needless tragedy and “I didn’t know it was loaded” excuses. ***It is always your personal responsibility to ensure the safety of yourself and others any time you handle a firearm, even an obviously unloaded one.***

Never Allow the Muzzle to Point at Any Person or Thing You Are Not Willing to Destroy.

In order to injure, kill or damage a firearm must be pointed at a person or thing of value. Following this simple rule would eliminate the potential for killing and maiming other persons or breaking valuable property. The short length of a

handgun makes it easy to quickly change the direction the gun is pointing from a safe to a dangerous one. It is frequently violated when officers are moving around each other in field situations. Also, persons, who have been around firearms in a casual or uncontrolled setting, tend to be less careful about the direction the gun is pointing. Sometimes officers will rationalize violation of this rule because the firearm is not loaded. See Rule #1. Consciously and vigilantly control the direction your gun is pointing. There is no excuse.

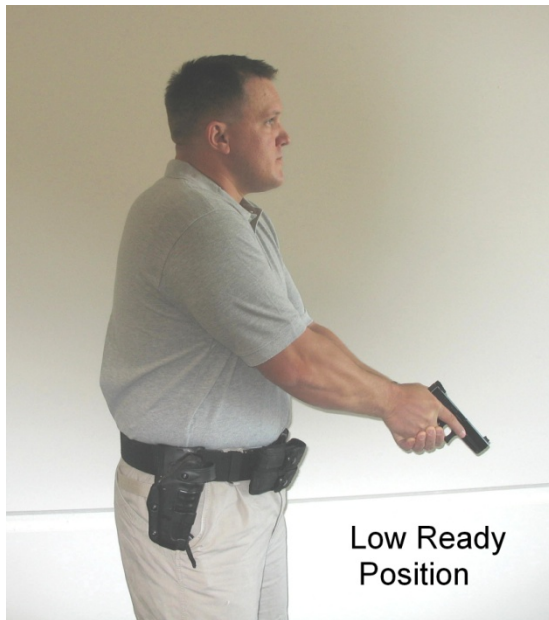


Fig. 1-1



Fig. 1-2

Keep Your Finger Off the Trigger and Outside the Trigger Guard Until You Are on Target and Have Made the Decision to Shoot.

This rule is critical to safe gun handling, but it is very commonly violated. Having your finger on the trigger makes you extremely likely to fire when you do not intend to. The stress of a high risk encounter, a stumble, a startle or a sympathetic reaction to the non-shooting hand can cause the trigger finger to exert enough pressure to fire. The fingers will clench when a person is startled, falls, is under extreme stress, or is fighting a threat for control of the weapon. Even under the lesser stress of range training officers will unconsciously keep their fingers on the trigger and apply substantial pressure. This is unacceptable. Many officers have injured or killed themselves and others because they did not have the training or professionalism to keep the trigger finger out of the trigger guard until they were ready to fire. Keep in mind that you could mistakenly violate the other rules, but observing this one would definitely prevent death or injury. Observing and

practicing this rule on the range is an absolute requirement to successfully pass this course.



Fig. 1-3

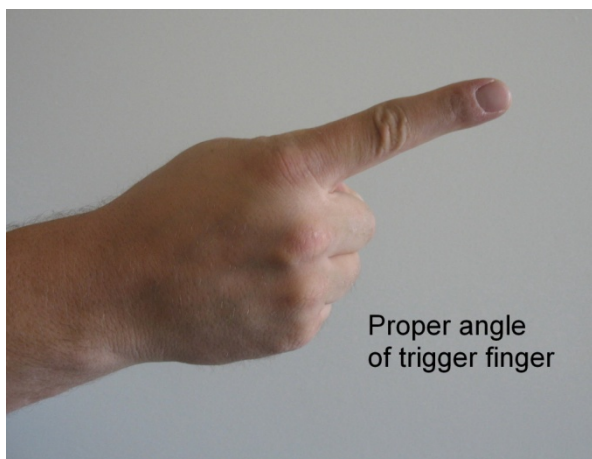


Fig. 1-4

Be Certain of Your Target, Backstop and Beyond

On the job you are responsible for every round that you fire. Even if you are firing in defense of your life, you must identify the person you are engaging as an actual and immediate deadly threat. Just because a person is armed does not automatically make them a threat, nor does it justify shooting that person. An armed person may be a plainclothes police officer, a security officer or a citizen. It is up to you to make certain that a person is an actual threat. In the dark use your flashlight. Use a verbal challenge to help identify a questionable person.

Handgun ammunition has the ability to penetrate the exterior and interior walls of many buildings, and continue on with enough power to injure or kill. If you must shoot inside a building, do not consider walls of sheetrock, sheet metal, plywood or other common siding to be a safe backstop for your bullets. There may be innocent, unseen persons on the other side of that wall. You must know that any bullet that might miss or over penetrate will not endanger innocent, seen and unseen persons close to or directly beyond the threat. Even in a gunfight it is never acceptable to fire at motion or sound. ***Always remember, if you shoot another person accidentally, you may be charged with a crime.***

On the range every shooter is personally responsible for every round he or she fires. Do not fire until you have personally verified that you are firing on the correct target, no person is down range (forward of the firing line), and that the bullet will impact in safe containment area like an earthen berm or bullet trap. A firing range

is a safe shooting environment only if every shooter takes personal responsibility for the safety of persons on the range or residing near the range. Some ranges have a low backstop, and it is not uncommon for poorly aimed bullets to travel over the top of the backstop. Such bullets will leave the range at an upward angle and have the ability to travel over one-half to one mile with enough remaining energy to wound or kill.

When you shoot, even in defense of your life, you are responsible for the safety of others. When in doubt, do not shoot!

What Is Acceptable Gun Handling?

Safe gun handling requires that the handgun should **ONLY** be in one of the following conditions:

Being Cleaned or Maintained

Firearms require care and cleaning. In this condition the handgun is unloaded and is under your direct control while cleaning and maintenance are carried out. If you are distracted from the cleaning/maintenance job at hand, secure the gun. Do not leave it unattended.

Holstered or Stored

The handgun is secured in a gun safe, locked case, cabinet or box. It may also be carried in a holster under your direct control.

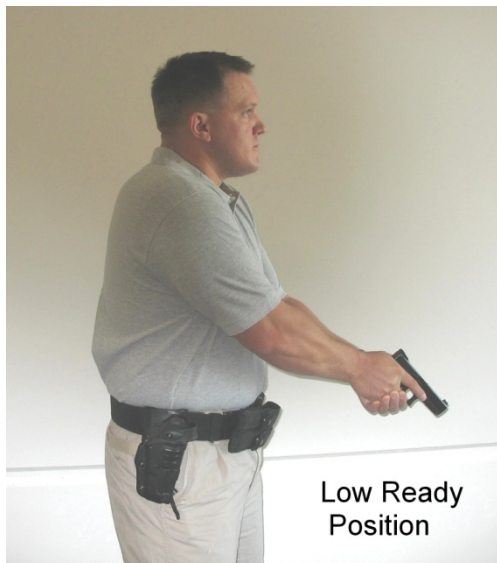
Ready Position

The handgun is held in a low ready or SUL position in anticipation of use. The trigger finger is straight along the juncture of the frame and slide.

Fig. 1-5



Fig. 1-6



On Target

The sights are on a specific target and you are engaging or about to engage. If you are on target and intend to fire, (as opposed to holding a threat a gun point) your finger will be on the trigger.



Fig. 1-7

Continuity of Fire

Gun handling related to keeping the handgun ready to fire (i.e. administrative loading and unloading, reloading, clearing malfunctions.)

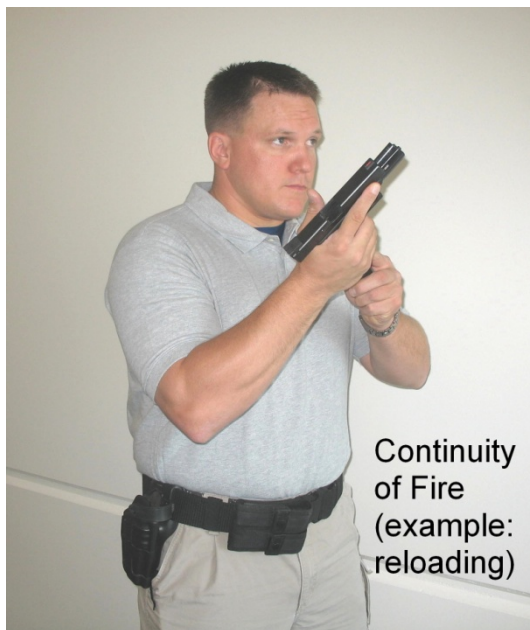


Fig. 1-8

Training

Gun handling, dry practice and live fire exercises conducted in a planned, structured and safe training environment.

What Is Not Acceptable Gun Handling?

It is never acceptable to handle a handgun in the following manner:

Dangling

You are holding the handgun in a relaxed, casual manner, and you are NOT engaged in doing any of the activities that are acceptable gun handling. If you do not have an immediate use for the handgun, put it away.

Brandishing

You are waving the handgun around or using it as a pointer. Use your fingers to point. Put the gun away.



Fig. 1-9



Fig. 1-10

Hollywood Ready

This ready position was a favorite on 1970's television police dramas. The pistol is held close, next to your face. This technique was only good for getting the gun in the same camera shot as the actor. In reality it blocks the shooter's peripheral vision and places the muzzle perilously close to the shooter's head. Also, it places the pistol in a very disadvantageous position should a threat attempt to take it away from the officer.

Unsecured

No firearm should be left unattended or out in the open for any reason. You have a moral and legal responsibility to maintain constant control over that weapon. If you leave a firearm unattended or unsecured, you run the risk of a child or an unauthorized person accessing it and causing themselves or others death or injury. You could be held civilly and/or criminally responsible, and you would have to live with your mistake the rest of your life.



Fig. 1-11

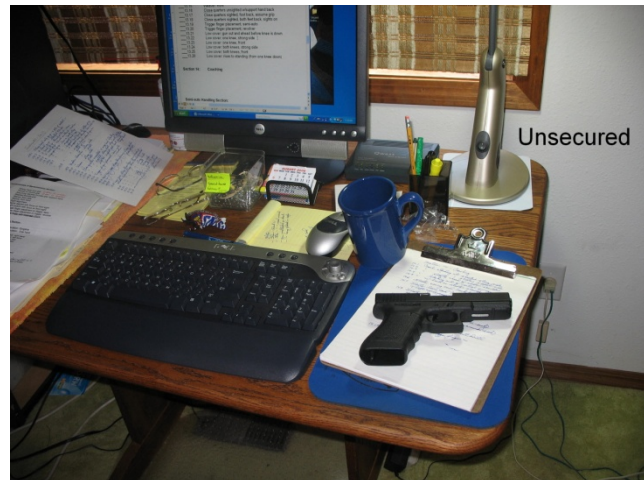


Fig. 1-12

Firearms Safety in the Home

While the four Cardinal Safety Rules certainly apply at home, firearms safety in the home will focus primarily on safe and proper storage. In your home you may not be the only person who might have access to your gun. Even if you and the members of your household are trained and responsible, neighborhood children, visitors, or relatives may have access to your gun if you keep it at home. Guns hold a powerful attraction for the curious and untrained. An unsecured gun in the home is a disaster waiting to happen, and you are personally responsible for preventing it.

You do have some options in managing this problem:

- a) **Leave your gun at work with your employer.** Many employers do not allow officers to take the gun home, but others give you a choice. If you cannot safely store the gun at home, ask your employer about safe storage at work.
- b) **Install a deadbolt on a closet door and routinely place the holstered gun in the locked closet as soon as you arrive home.** Only you and other responsible adults should have access to the key.
- c) **Purchase a small lockable gun box or safe to which only you have the combination or key.** Again, routinely place the gun in the safe and lock it.
- d) **Obtain and use a trigger lock or bore lock.** These are commonly available in sporting good stores, and many law enforcement agencies will provide them free for the asking.

e) Educate your family and children about gun safety to minimize their risk not only at your home, but also if they should encounter a gun while in another's home. Children can be effectively taught gun safety if they are old enough to understand your instructions and the concept of death, and can be reasonably expected to be responsible for their actions. It will be up to you to determine if your children meet these criteria and mature enough for this level of responsibility.

Guidelines for Firearms Safety in the Home

a) Firearms stored in the home should be unloaded, under lock and accessible only to trained responsible persons. Ammunition should be stored separately under lock.

b) When unloading the firearm in the home, do it routinely in a location away from family and where a negligent discharge would not harm persons or valuable property.

c) If a firearm is kept loaded for self-defense, it should be under lock. A practical solution to the problem of security versus quick access is to purchase an electronic or mechanical combination lockbox, and then dry practice (with an unloaded gun) deploying the gun quickly. The added expense and effort is well worth the enhanced safety and peace of mind.

d) If your children ask about your handgun or are curious, take the time to show them the unloaded gun and the proper way to handle it so no one is endangered. Many professional trainers have found that this controlled and non-mysterious introduction to firearms safety defuses much of the child's natural curiosity. Whether or not you support gun ownership, it is beneficial for children to receive instruction on what to do if they encounter an unattended gun, especially in some place other than home, like a friend's house. The answer is to get away from the gun quickly and tell an adult.

e) Cleaning or other handling should be conducted in a place that is relatively private and free of family members and other distractions.

f) Keeping a firearm in a vehicle, whether locked or not, invites theft. A reasonable solution (and often the only legal solution) is to keep the gun in a combination locked box or safe and remove it to secure storage after each day's travel.

Mental and Emotional Safety

Firearms and alcohol/drug consumption do not mix. Alcohol and drugs impair judgment, which is a critical faculty for the armed private security officer. It is irresponsible and potentially criminal to carry a firearm when under the influence of alcohol or drugs. As general guideline, the armed officer should not carry a firearm on duty within twelve hours of consuming alcohol. The armed officer should ask his or her employer for specific policy guidance in this area.

The same prohibition exists for armed officers taking prescription or over the counter medications that are labeled with warnings that advise against the operation of machinery, or carry warnings against sleepiness.

The armed officer should avoid carrying a firearm on duty when extraordinary events in his or her personal life cause the officer to experience high levels of emotional stress. This type of stress may cause the officer to be distracted or make poor use of force decisions. This is the same reasoning that recommends not driving or operating other potentially dangerous machinery when emotionally upset or distracted. The officer should contact his or her employer to discuss specific concerns.

Section 1: Review

1. **What are the four Cardinal Firearms Safety Rules?**
2. **Who has the personal responsibility for the safety of others whenever a firearm is handled? Does it matter if the firearm is unloaded? Why not?**
3. **Describe what is not acceptable gun handling. Provide examples.**
4. **Explain why an armed officer is personally responsible for every round he or she fires.**
5. **Is it ever acceptable to accidentally shoot another person? What could be the consequences?**
6. **Describe how you currently do or plan to safely store your duty handgun. How do you (plan to) restrict access to children and unauthorized adults?**

Armed Officer's Training Manual

Section 2: Responsibilities of the Armed Officer

Learning Goal: The student will understand his or her personal responsibilities and moral obligations in making deadly physical force decisions. The student will understand the importance of sound judgment in identifying and considering the use of non-deadly force options prior to using deadly force. The student will be able to identify the elements of proper preparation as an armed private security professional.

Your initial, and perhaps most important, responsibility as an armed private security professional is to thoroughly understand the serious nature of your potential use of deadly physical force. Being armed gives you the instantaneous ability to take a human life. This is a grave and profound responsibility that is entrusted to only a relative few members of society such as law enforcement officers. The firearm that you carry has only one purpose: to defend your life or the life of another from an immediate threat of death or serious physical injury. Once you have made the decision to fire and the bullet is on its way, you cannot call it back. The results of your judgment, good or bad, will be forever, and you will be held to account for your actions.

You Must Answer These Questions:

Before (not after) you accept the responsibility of carrying a gun as an armed private security officer, you must examine the following questions and decide if you are willing to shoot and, if necessary, kill if the situation demands it. If you have doubts or a sense of indecision, then you are not prepared to carry the gun in the performance of your job.

Are you willing to shoot and possibly kill someone who threatens your life or the life of another person?

This decision is critical to your ability to safely and effectively carry out your role as an armed officer. You must think about and resolve this question before accepting the responsibility of carrying a gun and potentially using it. You must be willing to shoot and, if necessary, kill if the situation demands it. When the deadly confrontation occurs, it will be too late to decide whether you can or cannot shoot. Failing to make this decision now will place you and the people you work with in danger. You must decide now. Your employer cannot do it for you. Neither can family, friends or advisors. This is your decision and yours alone.

Are You Capable of Making an ON-THE-SPOT Decision to Use Deadly Physical Force?

Generally life or death situations occur suddenly and do not give an officer much time to prepare or think out his or her response. You must be able to assess the situation, and make a sound, defensible decision based on the information you have at that time.

Do You Thoroughly Understand the Law on the Use of Deadly Physical Force?

The law allows the use of deadly force in legitimate self defense within very strict limitations. You must study and know the legal requirements for the justifiable use of deadly force. If you do not or cannot completely understand the law, then you are not prepared to carry a gun.

Can You Live With Your Decision After Injuring or Killing a Person?

Your decision to shoot may have been completely justified under the law, but long after others have forgotten the incident, you will have to live with that decision. Depending on your personal belief system you may wish to seek counseling and advice on the moral implications of using deadly force to protect innocent persons.

What Are Your Responsibilities as an Armed Officer?

Continue to Seek Out and Take Effective Training

Effective training will help you clearly understand the serious nature of the use of deadly physical force, and it will help you develop sound judgment in assessing non-deadly force options that must be considered before using deadly force.

Your training will give you an understanding of the criminal and civil penalties that you may face for misusing deadly force.

Proper training will provide you with the foundation for safe and competent gun handling and marksmanship.

You Must Accept Personal Responsibility for Your Decisions and Action

It is vital that you understand and accept personal responsibility for your use of force decisions. This responsibility demands that you thoroughly know and understand the legal limitations placed on your use of deadly force, and that you always consider what lesser alternatives or options are available before using deadly force. Law enforcement officers are frequently presented with situations

that could justify the use of deadly force, but most of the time they find other, non-deadly means. Just because you CAN shoot, does not mean that you SHOULD shoot. The community and the courts will hold you strictly accountable for your decision to shoot. You must be able to explain how and why your decision was necessary and proper.

You Must Understand that an Armed Private Security Officer Does Not Have a Duty to Act

The armed private security officer has a different and more limited role than the sworn law enforcement officer. The law enforcement officer is empowered by the state to investigate crimes, make probable cause arrests, and take action to protect life and property. The law enforcement officer has a sworn duty to act when confronted with unlawful behavior or resistance to a lawful command.

In contrast, the armed private security officer is considered a private citizen, and as such has no duty to act when confronted with unlawful behavior or resistance. The armed private security officer may decide to observe and report criminal behavior rather than attempt to arrest, detain or use force.

Unless there is an immediate and unavoidable deadly threat, the armed officer should consider alternative actions like retreating to a safer position and calling for police assistance. Remember, the law may allow the use of force or deadly force in certain situations, but it is never required.

Some armed private security officers hold law enforcement commissions as full-time or reserve law enforcement officers. This law enforcement authority may not be utilized while the officer is employed as a private security officer.

You Must Be Prepared

The mere act of carrying a gun does not mean that you are properly prepared to use deadly force. Being prepared means that you have gained the mental maturity to know that the gun is not there to enhance your authority or make up for your personal insecurities. You understand that the gun is a powerful tool that can be useful in protecting you and others in life and death situations. The gun does not make you a bigger or better person; it does require that you be a more responsible person.

1. Being prepared means that you have thought about your ability and willingness to use deadly force. It means that you have made the conscious decision that you will shoot, if necessary, to protect human life.

2. **Being prepared means that you know how to make good decisions and that you will consider available alternative actions before using deadly force.**
 3. **Being prepared means that you have invested the time and effort to gain and maintain proficiency with your handgun.** There are no shortcuts to safe gun handling and accurate shooting. Carrying the gun without the ability to use it safely and effectively is irresponsible and foolhardy.
-

Section 2: Review

1. **What critically important decision must every private security officer make before carrying a firearm on duty?**
2. **What questions must a private security officer answer before assuming the responsibilities that accompany carrying a gun on duty?**
3. **What are your responsibilities as an armed officer?**
4. **What is a "duty to act"? Explain how the duty to act of a sworn law enforcement officer differs compared to the actions taken by a private security officer.**

Armed Officer's Training Manual

Section 3: USE OF FORCE

Learning Goal: The student will know the limitations placed on the use of physical force and deadly physical force by a private citizen or armed private security officer. The student will understand that an armed private security officer possesses no law enforcement powers, and is considered a private citizen with no duty to act when confronted by unlawful behavior. The student will understand how to avoid becoming the aggressor. The student will also understand the criminal and civil penalties associated with the misuse of deadly force.

OREGON LAW

Oregon law allows a private citizen to use force in self defense or the defense of another person. Oregon law considers the armed private security officer to be a private citizen, and therefore subject to the same limitations on the use of force, both physical and deadly. It is necessary for the armed private security professional to possess a fundamental knowledge of Oregon law concerning the use of force by private persons. ***Under Oregon law the armed private security officer is NEVER REQUIRED to use force.***

Definitions

Deadly Physical Force means physical force that under the circumstances in which it is used is readily capable of causing death or serious physical injury. ORS 161.015(3)

Serious Physical Injury means physical injury which creates a substantial risk of death. ORS 161.015(8)

Reasonably believes... means that the person carrying out the force is acting on knowledge that he or she believes at that time to be true, and that an ordinary and reasonable person (i.e. a juror) would also believe to be true under the circumstances.

Statutes

An armed private security officer may be justified in using physical force during the confrontation or apprehension of a suspect, or in responding to an attack. Oregon law allows the use of necessary physical force in such circumstances, but

generally deadly physical force is not permitted except as a last resort and only to protect human life.

161.209 Use of physical force in defense of a person. Except as provided in ORS 161.215 and ORS 161.219, a person is justified in using physical force upon another person for self defense or to defend a third person from what the person reasonably believes to be the use or imminent use of unlawful physical force, and the person may use a degree of force which the person reasonably believes to be necessary for the purpose.

What does ORS 161.209 mean?

It means that a private citizen can use reasonable physical force (less than deadly force) to defend him or herself from an attacker who is using physical force.

1. Physical force is force that is not likely to result in death or serious physical injury. Generally this would mean an attack with empty hands or no weapons involved.
2. The private citizen or armed private security officer could respond by using reasonable force such as defensive tactics controls, a chemical weapon like Cap-Stun TM, an electronic weapon or stun gun, or a baton.
3. Physical force is also reasonable if it is the minimum degree of force necessary to cause the threat to stop the attack or be placed under physical control.

It is very important to understand that Oregon law places restrictions on the use of DEADLY PHYSICAL FORCE

ORS 161.219(3) states that a person is not justified in using deadly physical force upon another person unless the person reasonably believes that the other person is using or about to use deadly physical force against a person.

What does ORS 161.219(3) mean?

1. It means that you may use deadly force (i.e. a firearm) only if you reasonably believe that another person is using or about to use deadly force against you.
2. It means that you must base your belief on the knowledge you possess at the time of the attack, and that such knowledge would lead a reasonable person to the same conclusion.
3. It means that your use of deadly force is justified only as long as the attacker is using or about to use deadly force against you. Once the attacker stops using deadly force, you must stop using deadly force.

DPSST recommends that private security officers use deadly physical force only:

1. **In defense of the officer's own life** (to prevent someone from causing death or serious physical injury to the officer.)
2. **In the defense of another person's life** (to prevent someone from seriously injuring or killing another person in the officer's presence.

It is very important to understand that deadly physical force (using a firearm or other deadly weapon) is NOT justified to stop a suspect who is running away from you, attempting to steal or destroy property, or disobeying an order.

Becoming the Aggressor

You become the aggressor when you use force that is not justified in the first place, or after there is no longer a need to use previously justifiable force. Oregon law provides no defense or justification for the use of force by the aggressor.

ORS 161.215 states that a person is not justified in using physical force in self defense if:

The person using the force provokes the use of unlawful physical force by another person with the intent to cause death or physical injury to that person; or

The person is the initial aggressor, (except that the use of physical force upon another person under such circumstances is justifiable if the initial aggressor withdraws from the encounter and effectively communicates to the other person the intent to do so, but the latter nevertheless continues or threatens to continue the use of unlawful physical force.)

This means that you are NOT justified in using physical force if you provoke a fight, or start a fight, or continue a fight when the circumstances do not justify the use of force.

For example, if a private security officer teases or taunts a trespasser into fighting, then the use of force by the officer is not justified.

In another example where a person attacks an officer, if that person stops using force, retreats or surrenders, but the officer continues to use force against that person, then the officer's use of force from that point forward is not justified. At that point the private security officer is using force unlawfully and has become the **AGGRESSOR**.

Being the AGGRESSOR means using EXCESSIVE or UNJUSTIFIED FORCE.

How Do You Avoid Using Excessive or Unjustified Force?

The armed private security officer can avoid becoming the aggressor in a use of force situation by:

1. **Knowing when it is lawful and proper to use force.**
2. **Considering and, if possible, using alternatives to the use of force.**
3. **Using only the degree of force necessary to stop the attack or control the threat.**
4. **Reducing the level of force if the threat stops using force, retreats or surrenders.**
5. **Understanding the *Determination of Force Matrix* and using it to help make sound, defensible use of force decisions.**

The Determination of Force Matrix

The ***Determination of Force Matrix*** is a conceptual model that helps private security officers understand what the proper level of force or alternate action should be in response to an attack or in trying to overcome resistance. It is also helpful in avoiding becoming the aggressor.

The ***Determination of Force Matrix*** is often expressed as a chart that shows the level of resistance by the threat, from low to high, and the corresponding level of appropriate force or action by the officer. At the lowest level of resistance the threat may refuse to comply or offer verbal resistance. The officer would reasonably respond by calmly talking to the threat, getting information, asking the threat to comply, providing choices, and calling for assistance.

Maybe the threat resists by punching, kicking or attempting to escape. The officer could reasonably defend him or herself by using non-lethal techniques: restraining techniques, pepper spray or impact weapons. If the threat's resistance is lethal (uses a firearm or other lethal weapon like a knife or club, uses a non-lethal weapon or any object in a lethal manner, or attempts to disarm the officer), then the officer could reasonably respond with deadly force.

The ***Matrix*** also allows downward movement. As the officer gains control and/or compliance and the threat reduces or stops using force, then the officer's level of force is reduced to a level appropriate to maintain control over the threat.

Always keep in mind that your primary goal in a violent or potentially violent situation is to defend yourself or other persons from the threat

Oregon Department of Public Safety Standards and Training
ARMED PRIVATE SECURITY PROFESSIONAL

DETERMINATION OF FORCE MATRIX	
Resistance - What the Threat Does	Response - The Officer's Force Options (*Officer Has No Legal Duty to Take Action)
<p style="text-align: center;">Presence</p> <p>Resistive Presence Verbal Resistance Refusing to Comply</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Presence</p> <p>Communicating Gathering Information Verbal Requests - Persuasion Giving Choices and/or Setting Limits Giving Directions Verbal Warnings (Or may retreat if safe and practical)</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Resistance</p> <p>Static Resistance Refuses to Leave Balks/Dead Weight</p> <p>Active Resistance Struggles/Pulls away Attempts to Escape</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Physical Control</p> <p>Defensive Tactics Restraining Techniques Pepper Spray</p> <p>(Or may retreat if safe and practical)</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Non-Lethal Attack</p> <p>Ominous Resistance Physical Assault Punches, Kicks, Bites Throws Object Wrestles Bear Hugs, Holds Down</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Serious Physical Control</p> <p>Defensive Tactics Restraining Techniques Punches, Kicks Focused Blows Pepper Spray Impact Weapons Electronic/Stun Weapons</p> <p>(Or may retreat if safe and practical)</p>
<p>Lethal Attack</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Attack with any object or weapon used in a lethal manner - Attack with unarmed force likely to cause death or serious physical injury - Attempt to Disarm Officer - Attack with a dangerous weapon, deadly weapon or firearm 	<p>Deadly Physical Force</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Force using any object or weapon used in a lethal manner - Unarmed force likely to cause death or serious physical injury - Firearms <p>(Or may retreat if safe and practical)</p>

04-2008

and/or control the situation. You, as a private security officer, will need to use enough force to stop or control the threat. You should not try to equally match your force to the threat's resistance. You should use just enough greater force than the threat, but not deadly force.

Example: You confront a recently fired employee in your client's place of business. You ask this person to leave, but he refuses. You call for police assistance, and you continue to talk and attempt to gain compliance. After you have talked to this person for several minutes, he finally complies and leaves the premises.

You have responded to this person's low level of resistance with a correspondingly low response on the **Matrix**: being present in uniform, asking for compliance, giving direction, and getting help on the way.

Example: Now let's take the same situation, but when you initially confront this person, he attacks you with punches and kicks. It is not possible to respond effectively with presence and verbal requests. You should immediately move to an appropriately higher level of force. You respond with force greater than his, but less than deadly force. Such force may include (but is not limited to) pepper spray, defensive tactics control techniques or impact weapons.

If he stops the attack and backs away, you would properly reduce your force to a level that allows you to maintain control or keep the threat away from you. For instance, if you opted to use pepper spray, you would stop spraying, but you would be ready to use it again if the threat resumed his attack.

Example: Let's look at this same situation again. In this case you confront the person, but before you can say anything, he draws a handgun from under his jacket and points it at you. It would be reasonable for you to believe that you are in immediate danger of death or serious physical injury. Your response is to move immediately to deadly force on the **Matrix**. You would not be required to attempt to stop his attack at a lower level on the **Matrix**.

Criminal Penalties for Unlawful Use of Force

It is a criminal act to use physical force or deadly physical force without justification. ***Even if you are justified in using deadly physical force to defend your life, you may be prosecuted (and/or held civilly liable) if you injure or kill innocent persons.*** The armed private security officer who uses deadly force, or threatens to use deadly force when it is not justified or, if justified, endangers or

harms innocent persons, may be prosecuted and convicted of the following crimes:

Menacing (ORS 163.190): A person commits the crime of menacing if by word or conduct the person intentionally attempts to place another person in fear of imminent serious physical injury. Menacing is a Class A Misdemeanor punishable by up to one year incarceration.

For example, if an armed private security officer, who is not acting in justifiable self-defense, draws or points a firearm at another person and threatens to shoot or kill that person, the officer may be charged with the crime of menacing.

Recklessly Endangering (ORS 163.195): A person commits the crime of recklessly endangering another person if the person recklessly engages in conduct which creates a substantial risk of serious physical injury to another person. Recklessly endangering another person is a Class A Misdemeanor punishable by up to one year incarceration.

An example of Recklessly Endangering is an armed private security officer firing at a threat (with or without justification) with an innocent person in the line of fire or in dangerously close proximity to the threat. The innocent person does not have to be killed or injured to complete the crime. If an innocent person is hit by the officer's gunfire, then the crime could elevate to criminal homicide or felony assault.

Pointing a firearm at another (ORS 166.190): Any person over the age of 12, who, with or without malice, purposely points or aims any loaded or empty pistol, gun, revolver, or other firearm at or toward another person within range of the firearm, except in self-defense, commits the crime of pointing a firearm at another. Pointing a firearm at another is an Unclassified Misdemeanor.

Assault in the First Degree (163.185): A person commits assault in the first degree if the person intentionally causes serious physical injury to another by means of a deadly or dangerous weapon. Assault in the first degree is a Class A felony punishable by twenty years in prison.

Criminal Homicide (ORS 163.005): A person commits criminal homicide if, without justification or excuse, the person intentionally, knowingly, recklessly or with criminal negligence causes the death of another human being.

Types of Criminal Homicide:

1. **MURDER (ORS 163.095):** Person acts **intentionally** (has a conscious objective). Murder is an unclassified felony punishable by life imprisonment.
2. **MANSLAUGHTER II (ORS 163.125):** Person acts **recklessly** (is aware of and consciously disregards a substantial and unjustifiable risk). Manslaughter II is a Class B felony punishable by up to 10 years imprisonment.
3. **CRIMINALLY NEGLIGENT HOMICIDE (ORS 163.145):** Person acts with **criminal negligence** (fails to be aware of a substantial and unjustifiable risk). Criminally Negligent Homicide is a Class C felony punishable by up to 5 years imprisonment.

Civil Penalties for Use of Deadly Physical Force

Even if you are justified in using physical force or deadly force to defend yourself or another person, you and your employer may be sued in civil court for damages by the person or family of the person you used force against.

The person suing (plaintiff) must establish by the preponderance of the evidence that he or she was harmed; that you were the cause of the harm, and that you acted recklessly and outside the law. Civil liability exists whether or not you were convicted of a crime.

Your defense is usually based on facts surrounding your decision to use deadly force: the plaintiff's actions placed you in fear for your life or another's life; you acted within the law and in defense of yourself or another person.

Before you begin employment as an armed private security officer, you may wish to meet with your employer and discuss how you will be defended against lawsuits, who pays for your defense, and how judgments entered against you will be paid.

Section 3: Review

1. **A private security officer is, under Oregon law, never required to use force. Why?**
2. **Explain the difference between physical force and deadly physical force.**

- 3. Explain the difference between how a private citizen and a private security officer may use deadly force in self-defense.**
- 4. ORS 161.219(3) allows a private citizen to use deadly physical force in self defense. How does this statute restrict the use of deadly force by private citizens?**
- 5. May a private security officer ever use deadly physical force to stop a suspect who is running away, who is stealing or destroying property, or who is failing to obey an order? Why?**
- 6. How can a private security officer become the aggressor when using force? How can the officer avoid becoming the aggressor?**
- 7. If a private security officer must use deadly physical force (i.e. gun fire) to defend his or her life, what are the officer's responsibilities to nearby innocent persons?**
- 8. Could an officer be prosecuted for injuring or killing an innocent person while shooting at a deadly threat?**
- 9. Name three types of criminal homicide.**

Armed Officer's Training Manual

Section 4: Decision Making Responsibilities

Learning Goal: The student will understand that legally and morally justifiable use of deadly force decisions must be made instantly and correctly taking many factors into consideration. The student will understand that legally and morally justifiable shooting decisions require that the armed private security professional devote prior thought, study and decision-making practice.

The Decision-Making Process

Most everyday job-related decisions, both great and small, are made by understanding your private security mission, obtaining information, reviewing past experience, comparing options and alternatives, and then using this input to choose a course of action. The process for making use of deadly force decisions is similar, but the stakes are much higher.

Understand the Armed Mission

Effective protection of the client requires the armed private security officer to observe, report and coordinate assistance. The armed officer has no statutory duty to protect by direct intervention, and, in any case, that is not the reason why the officer is armed. The armed officer carries the gun because a threat may perceive the officer to stand between him and the threat's objectives (access to the site, theft, escape), and is willing to attack and kill the officer. Also, carrying out the responsibilities of observing and reporting may place the officer in harm's way. The gun is a deterrent to the threat, and a ready means of self defense.

Know the Facts

Beyond knowing that you are dealing with a potentially dangerous person, the actual facts surrounding the encounter may be unclear or confusing. Most use of force incidents share this characteristic. You may not immediately realize that you are under attack. Your initial contact with the threat may seem routine and innocuous. Since weapons may not be readily visible or may be purposely concealed, the threat may be difficult to identify as a dangerous person. This scarcity of hard facts will require that you be aware and constantly working to gain more information to clarify the situation.

Obtain Information

You must be able to identify the threat as a danger to you or another person. This is straight forward when the person produces a gun and points it at you.

But what if a third person tells you someone is armed and threatening to do harm? Deadly force cannot be justified using second hand information. You need to see that the person is actually a deadly threat.

To help you identify a person as a deadly threat, you must ask and answer these questions:

1. Is the threat armed?
2. Could the threat be armed?
3. What kind of weapon?
4. What is the threat doing?
5. Is the threat endangering innocent persons?
6. Has the threat harmed, or is the threat about to harm innocent persons?

Review Past Experience

Reviewing your past experiences and/or training is vital in making sound deadly force decisions. Ask yourself if this current situation is similar to situations you have handled before, or discussed and practiced in training. How did you respond and handle those situations? Were you able to use alternative actions, or did you have to use deadly force?

Understand MEANS, OPPORTUNITY and INTENT

These three requirements, MEANS, OPPORTUNITY and INTENT, MUST be met to justify the use of deadly physical force. All three requirements must exist at the same time.

1. ***The MEANS exist for person to cause you or another person serious physical injury or death.***

This usually means that the person has a weapon. The weapon could be a gun, a knife, a club, a piece of pipe, or a wood 2X4. However, some people have the strength or ability to injure you with their hands and feet. Multiple unarmed attackers may be able to overwhelm your defense and seriously injure or kill you. You must realistically assess your physical ability to defend against a larger, better trained (martial arts) or younger opponent.

2. *The OPPORTUNITY exists for another person to cause you or another person serious physical injury or death.*

Is this person in a location, position or at a distance that will permit him to harm you or another person? A man armed with a knife is not an imminent threat when he is 100 yards away, but if he approaches within twenty feet, he will be able to attack and kill you within two seconds. At 100 yards this man does not have the opportunity to harm even though he has the means (the knife). At twenty feet he does have the opportunity because he could carry out an attack before you could respond. A person armed with a firearm may be a deadly threat at a great distance. He would not need to get close to cause you serious physical injury or death.

3. *You reasonably believe that a person has the INTENT to seriously injure or kill you or another.*

This means that this person's actions are directed at you or another in such a way that leads you to believe that the person may inflict serious physical injury or death. For instance, a man, walking toward you carrying a shotgun, has a weapon (MEANS), is within 20 yards and can see you (OPPORTUNITY). However, unless he points the shotgun at you, and unless you reasonably believe that he intends to do you harm (i.e. threatens to kill you), INTENT does not exist. Assessing the **totality of circumstances** will help you determine if INTENT exists. Let's say that you are on duty at a plant, and you observe an employee take a shotgun from the trunk of his car. The employee may be simply transferring it to a friend's car for an after-work trip to the range. Or, he may be heading into the plant to seek revenge for losing his job. You must evaluate the totality of all the circumstances and actions, as well as the employee's demeanor and response to your questions or commands. All of these factors will help you determine if this person intends to place you or another in jeopardy.

Consider the Totality of the Circumstances

In addition to **MEANS**, **OPPORTUNITY** and **INTENT** the decision to use force is influenced by one or more factors that a reasonable person must consider. Every use of force situation is different, and these influencing factors will vary from one

incident to another. Factors can combine to place you in a disadvantageous position that may require increased force. Other factors may indicate the use of lesser force or taking alternative action if circumstances are weighted in your favor (e.g. a small sixty year old woman punches a fit, thirty year old officer).

- 1. Is there an age difference between you and the threat that would place you at a disadvantage?** A teenager has about twice the stamina of a middle aged person.
- 2. Is the threat clearly bigger and stronger than you?**
- 3. Is there a difference in physical fitness between you and the threat?**
- 4. Does the threat display or use martial arts skills?**
- 5. Are you out-numbered?** Is there one of you and four of them?
- 6. Does the threat have immediate access to a weapon like a knife or gun?** Are there common items that could be used as a weapon? This factor is a very serious concern in your use of force decision.
- 7. Who has the high ground or position of advantage?**
- 8. Do you have cover available?**
- 9. Is there an obstacle between you and the threat?**
- 10. Do you have a clear path of retreat?**
- 11. Do you or the threat possess any special knowledge that would give one of you an advantage?** Do you know this particular threat? Does he usually carry a weapon? Does he have a history of violence?
- 12. If you are hurt or exhausted, how much longer can you defend yourself?** Are you able to summon assistance from law enforcement or other security officers? How long will it take for them to arrive?
- 13. Does the threat appear or act intoxicated? Alcohol and drugs may alter a person's perceptions and judgment. Some drugs may give a person a boost in physical strength.**

14. If you are not able to stop or control the threat, who may be injured by the threats actions?

It is reasonable that a disparity in age, fitness, gender, physical size or skill level may require that an officer use more or less force to control a situation or defend against an attacker. It is reasonable that a single security officer without back-up may have to use more force to defend against multiple threats.

Give the Threat Clear, Understandable Commands

Does the threat understand who you are and what you want him to do? In some instances you may have the opportunity to de-escalate a potentially deadly situation by giving clear verbal commands. Identify yourself. It is not reasonable to expect that someone will follow your orders if you are not in uniform or they cannot see who you are. The proper form of self identification is a matter of your employer's policy, but here are some choices:

"Security Officer"

"Security"

"Private Security"

"Armed Security"

You **MAY NOT** identify yourself as a law enforcement officer, police officer, peace officer, public safety officer or deputy sheriff. When working for a private employer, even if you hold a reserve police officer commission, or you are deputized by the county sheriff, you must identify yourself as a private security officer.

If the person is moving or attempting to escape, the proper commands include **"STOP!"** or **"DON'T MOVE!"** If the person continues to move away, you MAY NOT use deadly physical force.

If a person is threatening you with deadly force, and you have time, you must issue a command like:

"Stop or I'll shoot."

"Drop the gun/knife/weapon, or I'll shoot."

If the threat is immediate, and you are in the process of defending yourself, you do not have to issue a command. Your commands must be clear and repeated until the threat complies. Avoid the use of profanity and slang terms like "freeze".

Examine Alternatives to Force

- 1. Is this use of force worth the risk of injury to yourself or the threat?**
 - 2. Is there anything you can do now to safely de-escalate the situation or break contact with the threat?**
 - 3. Is this the reasonable amount of force necessary to control the threat?**
 - 4. Does the threat have the opportunity to comply with your commands?**
 - 5. Is force, physical or deadly, your only option, or can you take another action without placing yourself at unacceptable risk?**
-

Section 4: Review

- 1. Explain the meaning of MEANS, OPPORTUNITY and INTENT. Provide an example of each.**
- 2. Describe some of the factors that must be taken into consideration when considering the totality of the circumstances.**
- 3. Give an example of the voice commands you would use to confront an armed threat.**
- 4. What are some of the alternatives to force that an armed officer should consider?**

Armed Officer's Training Manual

Section 5: After Using Deadly Physical Force

Learning Goal: The student will understand the need for caution in dealing with the threat, responding law enforcement and by-standers after a use of deadly force encounter. The student will be aware that he or she may experience a wide range of emotional and perceptual responses after a life or death confrontation.

The Immediate Aftermath

The immediate aftermath of a self defense shooting can be chaotic and emotionally confusing if the armed private security professional has not given thought to his or her response. You should expect and be ready to encounter a bleeding, and, perhaps, dying threat, distraught by-standers, shouted accusations and witnesses. Due to your natural survival response you may not remember firing your weapon or hearing its report. You may be experiencing “tunnel vision” in which your senses and thoughts focus solely on the threat to the exclusion of other activity around you. You may feel elated to have survived and, at the same time, guilty for harming another human being. Law enforcement psychologists know that these reactions are normal and to be expected.

Always remember that this immediate aftermath is a very dangerous time. The threat may not be out of the fight and could still pose a danger to you and others. You may be wounded, but you should be mentally prepared to remain alert and in readiness to continue the fight if necessary. Additional unidentified threats may be a danger, and you must be looking for them and ready to engage if needed.

Recommended Post-Shooting Actions

Think about the following recommended post-shooting responses and visualize yourself carrying them out in a calm and professional manner.

- 1. Get behind cover and observe the threat until you are reasonably certain that the threat is no longer a danger.** A weapon in the threat's hand would be an indicator that he or she may still be capable of harming you or another person.
- 2. Once you have established that your attacker is no longer a threat, summon medical assistance and administer first aid within your training and ability.** Be aware of blood-borne hazards.

3. Notify law enforcement (911) immediately. The police will be responding to a “shots fired” call. You should expect them to be very cautious and to approach with weapons drawn and ready. The police will not know who you are, or which side you are on. A mistaken identity shooting is a real possibility if precautions are not taken. This caution is especially critical in plain-clothes assignments.

4. If possible holster your weapon when the police arrive on the scene. Under no circumstances should you turn or otherwise point your gun in the direction of the responding officers. Keep your hands clearly away from your holstered gun. This is especially important if you are not in uniform. Your identification should be in your hand displayed palm out. Always follow the orders of the police even if that means submitting to a high risk procedure (being proned out and handcuffed). The main goal is to stay calm, to make no suspicious or sudden movements, and let the police sort out the situation.

5. Cooperate with the police, but remember that you do not have to talk to them or give a statement without an attorney’s advice. If you choose to not answer questions or give a statement, be prepared to be detained or arrested based on the information that the police officers have at that time. Be as calm as possible and do not resist.

6. Be prepared to surrender your weapon and other personal items including clothing.

Before you begin work as an armed officer, you may wish to speak with your employer about what legal assistance will be provided to you in the event of a shooting. You should also ask about the availability of counseling to help you deal with your emotions and perceptions following a deadly force encounter. A skilled counselor can help you understand your reactions, and help you reconcile negative thoughts or feelings. It would be a good idea to see a counselor whether your employer provides one or not.

Section 5: Review

1. What are the priority post-shooting actions the private security officer should take?
2. What should the private security officer do with his or her firearm before the police arrive on the scene? What should the private security officer never do with the firearm as the police arrive on the scene?
3. Describe how the private security officer, who has just used deadly force, should interact with the police.

Armed Officer's Training Manual

Section 6: Decision-Making Scenarios

Learning Goal: The student will practice decision-making by reading the following scenarios and writing a brief description of how the student would respond and why. The student will develop a basic understanding of how to apply the decision-making process to potentially deadly force situations.

The scenarios that follow may be typical of those you encounter on the job in real life. Project yourself into each scenario and in the space allowed write a description of the proper action or response you would take and why you would take it. In each scenario make the decision to shoot or not shoot.

Scenario #1

You are a lone armed security officer patrolling a warehouse on the night shift. The warehouse is located in an industrial area, and it contains electronic equipment including televisions and stereos. It is 3:00 AM when you hear noises in an area of the warehouse and you move to investigate. You approach the area cautiously and observe two men stacking cartons near a door. The door appears to have been forced open. Both men hear you approach and turn toward you. Their hands are empty and they do not move in your direction.

WHAT IS YOUR RESPONSE?

WHY?

Is there a better course of action?

What are your alternatives?

Scenario #2

You are an armed plainclothes security officer in a department store. You have followed a suspicious acting woman in the store for about ten minutes, and during that time you have observed her place several items of merchandise in her large purse. She passes the check stand without paying and quickly walks toward the parking lot. Just outside the store you identify yourself and ask her accompany you back into the store. She refuses and continues to walk away. You identify yourself again and indicate that you are placing her under citizen's arrest for shoplifting and that she must await the arrival of the police. She ignores you, and you place a hand on her arm to detain her. At this point the shoplifting suspect attacks you with her hands, striking and scratching you in the face. The suspect then turns and runs away. You order her to stop, but she continues to flee.

WHAT IS YOUR RESPONSE?

WHY?

Is there a better course of action?

What are your alternatives?

Scenario #3

You are an armed private security officer on your way home from work. You are still in uniform and you have your duty belt and weapon on. It is 1:00 AM, and you decide to stop at the all-night market for a deli sandwich. As you park your car, two masked men back out of the store with guns in their hands. The store is well lighted, and you can see the clerk behind the counter with her hands high in the air. You do not have a radio or cell phone with which to call for help. The gunmen see you, turn and point their guns toward you.

WHAT IS YOUR RESPONSE

WHY?

Is there a better course of action?

What are your alternatives?

Scenario #4

You are an armed armored truck security officer delivering cash to a store in a busy shopping mall during business hours. As you and your partner officer carry the cash to the store entrance, a man steps out of a store as you walk by and pulls a baseball bat from under his coat. He hits your partner in the head, knocking him to the ground. You have the cash bag in hand as the man now turns toward you ready to swing the bat.

WHAT IS YOUR RESPONSE?

WHY?

Is there a better course of action?

What are your alternatives?

Scenario #5

You are an armed security officer assigned to guard a bank lobby. In the event of a robbery your post orders are to trip the alarm if possible, and not attempt to apprehend or engage any robbers. You notice that one of the tellers is glancing toward you and he looks frightened. A customer is standing at his window. As you move toward the teller to determine the problem, the customer turns, and you see him reach under his jacket as if drawing a gun. At this point you are standing five feet from the threat.

WHAT IS YOUR RESPONSE?

WHY?

Is there a better course of action?

What are your alternatives?

Scenario #6

You are an armed security officer assigned to guard the main gate at a storage facility. Your job is to identify people and vehicles going in and out of the gate. Your orders include denying access to unauthorized persons. A car has pulled up to the gate, and the driver is unable to show the proper identification or give you a good reason to allow entry. You refuse this person entry and have not opened the gate. You order the driver to leave.

The car begins to back away, but the driver suddenly shifts into low gear and rams the gate, which partially opens. The driver backs the car and turns the wheels in your direction and accelerates at you. Your only protection is the sheet metal guard shack.

WHAT IS YOUR RESPONSE?

WHY?

Is there a better course of action?

What are your alternatives?

Scenario #7

You are an armed and uniformed security officer patrolling a private residential area at night. Dispatch notifies you that there is a silent intrusion alarm at a home nearby. The dispatcher says that the resident of the home is on vacation and is not expected to return for at least another week. You respond and leave your patrol car to investigate the outside of the residence. You notice that no lights are on in the house. As you walk around the house checking doors and windows, you come to the back door, which you find to be unlocked, but not forced. (Note to Instructor: Pose this same scenario, but have the officer find the door forced open. Discuss the advisability of entering a possibly burglarized residence and not knowing the status of the threat.) You can see no activity within the house, but you decide to go inside to see if the house has been burglarized. Using your flashlight you go from room to room. As you move down the hallway toward the sleeping quarters, a man steps into the hall from one of the bedrooms. He is holding something in his hand, which appears to you to be a gun.

WHAT IS YOUR RESPONSE?

WHY?

Is there a better course of action?

What are your alternatives?

Armed Officer's Training Manual

Section 7: Thinking About Tactics

Learning Goal: The student will understand how common sense, mental preparation and sound tactics can improve an officer's ability to survive and prevail in a deadly force encounter. The student will also understand how proper tactics can reduce the need to use deadly force in certain situations.

The armed private security professional must understand and be able to apply simple tactics that are based on common sense, and have proven effective in armed confrontations. The armed officer must also learn and practice awareness of what is or could be happening in his or her environment. This mental preparation and a working knowledge of tactics is an equally important partner with safe gun handling, competent marksmanship and a thorough understanding of when deadly physical force is justified and necessary. Good tactics may often help the armed officer resolve a potentially deadly situation without resorting to gunfire. In those instances when shooting is unavoidable, sound tactics can save lives.

Mental Conditioning for Surviving Violent Armed Encounters

Awareness

Many potentially violent situations can be averted by maintaining awareness of who is in your immediate environment, and what is happening around you. If you can maintain the proper degree of alertness and be aware of possible dangers, you will be able to respond more quickly and effectively. It will help you avoid over-reacting and using unnecessary force. Your ability to see trouble coming has as much effect on the outcome of a violent encounter as any other factor. The problem for most armed private security officers (and law enforcement officers) is remaining alert and aware while fighting boredom. Even in very dangerous locales deadly force encounters are relatively uncommon. The armed officer must maintain situational awareness without appearing suspicious, rude or hyper-vigilant.

Color Code of Awareness An effective tool for maintaining a useful and sustainable level of mental readiness is the concept. The Color Code was originally developed by members of the 82nd Airborne Division in World War II, and was subsequently adapted to personal defense by Jeff Cooper in the 1960's. The

code is characterized by four levels or “conditions” of awareness and readiness. Each condition is denoted by a color.

The first level is **CONDITION WHITE**. In Condition White you are not actively aware of what is happening in your surroundings. You are absorbed in your own private thoughts without giving meaningful attention to the persons around you and what they are doing. Most persons are in Condition White when they are sleeping or in what they consider a secure and safe environment, like the home. Condition White is a potentially disastrous mindset for the on-duty armed officer. While many people go about their daily lives in Condition White, the armed officer can not afford to disengage from the realities of his or her work environment. In Condition White the armed officer experiences a time lag while he or she becomes aware of the threat, decides that it actually is a threat, and begins to react. This time lag is deadly. The threat will have the initiative, and the officer’s reaction will be far behind, maybe too far to act in time to save his or her life. The armed security officer needs an on-duty mental condition that provides tactical awareness and is easily maintained for during the work shift.

While on-duty you should be in **CONDITION YELLOW**, the proper readiness condition for the armed officer. In Condition Yellow you are mentally relaxed, but aware of your surroundings and alert to anything that is unusual or suspicious. In Condition Yellow you realize that you may have to use deadly force to save your life, but you do not know when, how or even if that threat may materialize. Your demeanor is friendly and professional, but you are observing the people in your environment, noticing their actions, and picking up on subtle behavioral clues that might suggest something is not right. Condition Yellow is exactly the mental state in which an armed private security officer should operate. The officer is aware and ready, but calm and in control.

When the armed officer notices that someone or something may be a potential danger, the next level of mental readiness is **CONDITION ORANGE**. In Condition Orange you seek information, investigate and determine whether an actual danger exists. You are ready to use force, deadly force if necessary, and you have a specific potential threat. It is fairly easy to move from Condition Yellow to Condition Orange, but it is difficult to shift from Condition White to Condition Orange. As an example, you are on duty in a shopping mall in August. You are in Condition Yellow: relaxed, but aware. You notice a man in a heavy overcoat. You observe that he stops intermittently and touches his side. You transition into Condition Orange because the heavy coat is unusual for the hot weather, and in your training and experience frequent touching of a garment often indicates that

the person is carrying a concealed weapon. In Condition White you are merely **at** the mall, thinking about the weekend. Even if you do notice the individual in the coat, you are not thinking about what it might mean. If trouble does erupt, you will not be prepared. Your response will be slow and unsure.

CONDITION RED means that you are justified and ready to shoot if necessary. You have determined that the person may be a deadly threat. You are seeking and using alternatives to deadly physical force, but you are prepared to fire if there is no other safe and reasonable course of action.

If the situation de-escalates and the person leaves without incident, you can then move back to Condition Yellow: relaxed watchfulness.

Stay Focused on the Mission

Anytime anyone, private security officer, law enforcement officer or private citizen, confronts a possibly dangerous situation, there is an element of apprehension. This apprehension is natural and can be a good and useful tool for the armed officer. It is nature's way of preparing you to deal with a threatening situation. It can help you react faster and more decisively. Experiencing apprehension or even fear should not mean freezing in place and being unable to effectively respond. Apprehension is best controlled and utilized by keeping the objectives of your security mission clearly in view.

Remember what you are trying to accomplish. An open or forced door does not require a room to room search, nor does an armed threat mandate a gunfight. The armed private security officer protects by observing, reporting and coordinating assistance. Focus on getting this basic job accomplished. If you think an armed confrontation is imminent or necessary, then try to get help doing it. Manage doubts and fears by performing your duties properly. If, in the course of performing those duties, you must fight for your life or someone else's, then do it. You should realize that dealing directly with the dangerous or deadly threat is not your primary job. It is just something that might happen while you are carrying out your primary responsibilities: observing, reporting, and coordinating.

Be Decisive

Remember that decision you made before assuming the responsibilities of an armed officer that you would be morally and ethically prepared to use your firearm to protect yourself or another person from a deadly assault? If the time comes that you must protect yourself (or another person) from an imminent and deadly attack and have no other alternative, then act immediately and fight to win. The only

moral and ethical reason for using deadly force is to STOP the threat from killing you or another person NOW. This can not be done half way. Hesitation in the face of a deadly attack can be fatal. If deadly force is necessary, use it with the intent to stop the threat IMMEDIATELY.

Basic Tactical Principles

The common sense approach to tactics is embodied in a relative few basic principles. Every armed private security officer must know and practice these proven concepts.

Understand, Recognize and Use Cover and Concealment

Use of cover is a basic tactical principle and is critical to surviving gunfire assaults. ***Cover can be defined as any object that will stop a bullet.*** While your gunfire may stop or divert the threat from his attack, only cover has the ability to stop his bullets from hitting you. Placing an object of cover between you and incoming bullets is always a good idea.

Understanding effective cover is critical. What is cover from one type of firearm may not protect against fire from other, more powerful arms. A stack of wood or a masonry wall may provide protection from handgun bullets, rim-fire rifles and most small shot fired from a shotgun, but it will not reliably stop high-power rifle fire. High powered rifle calibers will penetrate objects that normally stop handgun bullets. While tree trunks, telephone poles, and certain parts of automobiles (engine block, metal wheels or axles) may offer effective cover against handgun bullets, such objects are not total proof against rifle fire. Thick trees, street curbs, heavy steel (like mailboxes and fire hydrants) and concrete are better, but not perfect cover against rifles. ***Both the exterior and interior walls of most residential construction will usually not stop handgun bullets.***

Vehicles appear to offer substantial cover, but passenger cars and light trucks are mostly air inside. The poor cover provided by automobiles is well illustrated by the damage inflicted on police cars and police officers in the 1997 North Hollywood bank robbery shoot-out.

Concealment is any object that can hide you, but is not capable of stopping bullets. Brush, shrubs, sheetrock walls, wooden office or residential doors, and vehicle doors are examples of concealment.

Concealment cannot protect you from incoming fire, but if the threat cannot see you, then he or she may not be able to hit you with gunfire. Also, observation from

concealment may allow the officer to control a situation and avoid using deadly force.

The main concern for the armed officer is to not confuse concealment with cover. Humans tend to erroneously believe that if they are hidden, they are protected. If we cannot be seen, we cannot be harmed. To some extent this is true. If a threat cannot see you, then his gunfire will be less accurate or he may decide not to shoot at all. However, the armed officer should not depend on concealment to approach the same protection as even poor cover. For instance, taking cover behind a hollow core door could be fatal.

Soft body armor provides a kind of portable cover, but the armed officer should not depend on it as a sole source of protection. The primary role of soft body armor is to increase the officer's survivability when the assault is immediate and sudden, and there is no opportunity to take cover. If the armed officer has some warning or awareness of a pending attack, then he or she should move to cover. Soft body armor then augments conventional, stationary cover.

It is important that the armed officer practice recognizing cover and using it to best advantage. It is a good idea to locate objects on or near your post or patrol route that would provide useable cover.

In most situations the armed officer should seek cover that retains the officer's ability to keep the threat in view. The ability to see the threat from a cover position allows you to know what the threat is doing and respond appropriately. Losing sight of the threat is dangerous. If you cannot see the threat, he or she may move to a position that would expose you to gunfire, or attack your position directly.

The armed officer must shoot from cover in a position that keeps as much of the officer's body behind the cover as possible. You should practice shooting positions from cover that minimize exposure to incoming gunfire. It is easier to see the threat and minimize exposure by staying several feet behind the cover. A shooting position that is in close contact with the cover ("hugging") requires that you expose more of your body to see and shoot, and it makes movement and manipulation of the handgun more difficult.

Fig. 7-1

Fig. 7-2

A corner can conceal a threat. There are two basic techniques for determining if there is an unseen threat around a corner. "Slicing the pie" visualizes a danger



point like a corner as the center of a circle. The shooter stands back from the corner and slowly edges into the unseen area by "slicing" off a small arc of the circle at a time. If the shooter believes that a deadly threat exists in the unseen area, then the handgun is in a ready position.



Fig. 7-3



Fig. 7-4

Another useful technique is called the “quick peek”. The quick peek is simply a fast look around a corner to see if a threat is present. Sensibly, only the eye on the leading side should be exposed, and the officer should stay back from the corner itself. Once a threat is seen, the officer should maintain cover, keeping the threat in view and ready to shoot if necessary.

Stairways can conceal a threat and are difficult to safely move up and down. If it is necessary to move up or down a stairway, treat it like you would a “horizontal” corner. Slowly approach danger points (landings, overhangs) in short movements, clearing the unseen area a little at a time.

Fig. 7-5

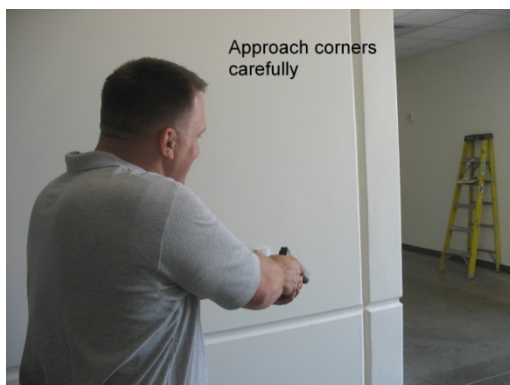




Fig. 7-6



Fig. 7-7

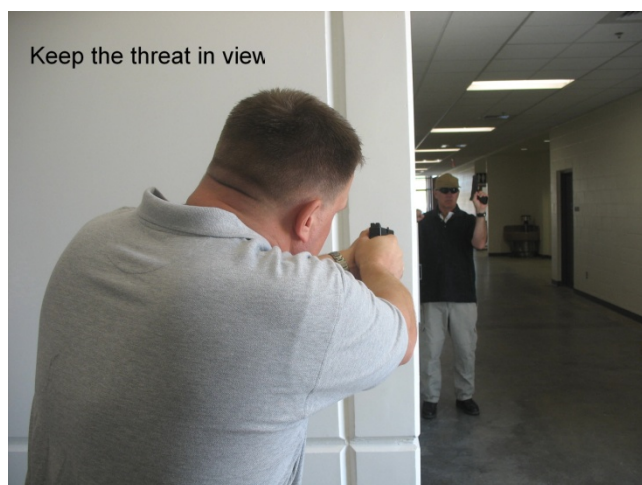


Fig. 7-8



Fig. 7-9

Movement

You reduce the threat's ability to hit you by moving. While most range training is conducted from static, standing positions, dry practice can be devoted to movement away from and to the side of the threat as the handgun is drawn and presented on target. This movement is called "moving off the line of force". The line of force is the threat's natural commitment to attacking you, a stationary target, straight ahead. Moving off this straight-ahead line of attack causes the

threat to react and adjust to your actions. This reaction takes time, and you can use that time to bring your weapon into action and get behind cover. Do not make yourself an easy target.

Maximize Distance from the Threat

You gain a tactical advantage by keeping distance between you and the threat. Stay as far back from the threat and potential danger points as possible. You may have to move or retreat to gain that distance. For example, if you have located a deranged person with a knife and are calling for assistance, maintain distance so you can react to a possible attack. Reporting a break-in does not require that you stand right by the point of entry. Standing off a sensible distance will give you some warning of danger. Most criminals are not trained marksmen. Distance makes it harder for them to shoot and hit you.



Fig. 7-10

Barriers

A barrier is, in tactical terms, any object that creates an obstacle to the threat's movement. A barrier prevents or delays an assailant from making contact with you. In this sense, barriers are a kind of cover that stops or delays people, but not bullets. This is especially important when the threat is not openly armed, or is armed with an edged or impact weapon and must close with you to inflict injury. Threats, who appear unarmed, will often attempt to get close to an officer before initiating an assault. Always try place yourself so that some barrier is between you

and the possible threat or where the threat could appear. Examples of barriers are furniture, a packing crate, a large planter, a fence or a vehicle. Some barriers can serve as cover if they will stop incoming bullets.

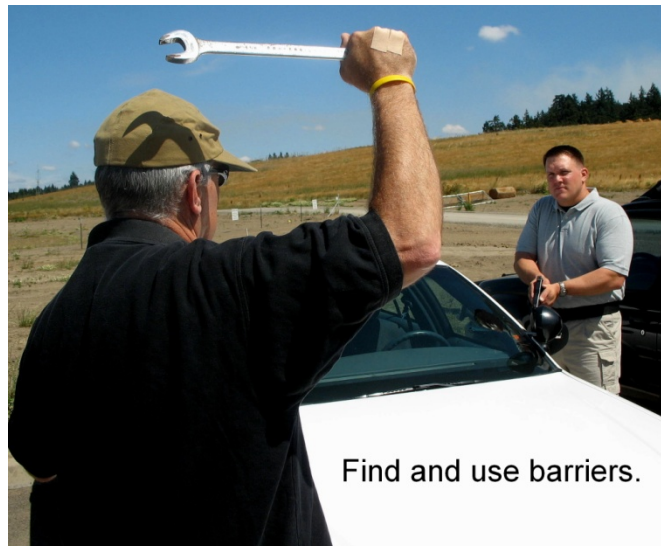


Fig. 7-11

Use Your Senses

You can not effectively deal with a potentially deadly attack if you are not aware of the threat in time to respond. While your eyes collect much of the information you need about your surroundings, other senses, especially hearing and smell can detect a threat. The actions of the threat that give away his or her presence are called ***target indicators***. A hidden threat may give target indicators by inadvertently displaying a piece of clothing, a body part, a part of a weapon or may make a slight noise while moving. You may see the reflection off a pistol or smell alcohol or cigarette smoke. This early detection may give you the time to take cover or retreat.

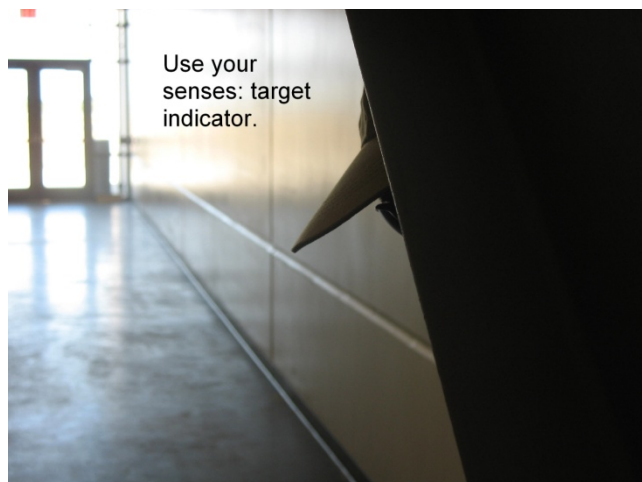


Fig. 7-12

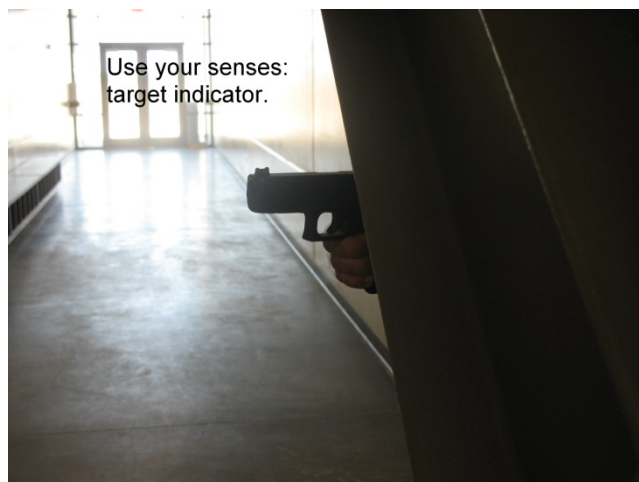


Fig. 7-13

Avoid Being a Target

If the threat cannot see or find you, it will reduce the opportunity to attack you. Avoid standing out in the open. Minimize or avoid using your flashlight. Often armed officers will mistakenly stand in a lighted space, when it would be safer to seek concealment in a shadowed or darkened area. Avoid movement that rubs your clothing or equipment against a wall. The scraping noise is easily heard and identified.



Fig. 7-14

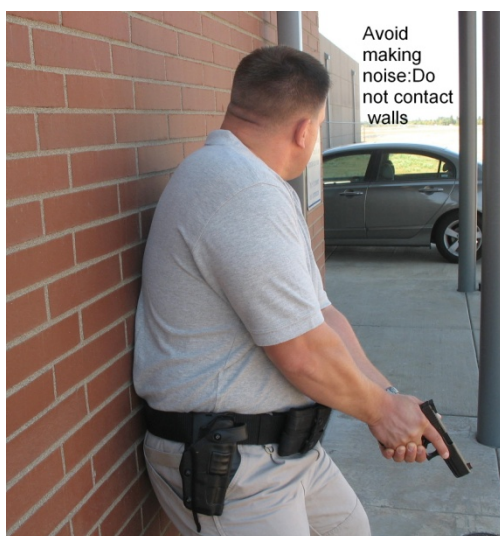


Fig. 7-15

When you check an open door, avoid standing in the doorway. The doorway may be your only option for entering or observing into the room, but standing there and looking around makes you an easy target for a hidden threat. This problem is

known as the “fatal funnel” effect. If you must enter a room, get out of the funnel quickly. If you need to look into a room, stand off to the side of the doorway.

Communicate and Obtain Assistance

Several decades ago law enforcement trainers identified a common, but dangerous pattern among some veteran police officers. They called it the “John Wayne Syndrome”. This terminology referred to the famous actor’s Western movie roles in which he always overcame the bad guy (or bad guys) alone and without any help. After years of single-handedly dealing with tough criminals and always prevailing, many officers developed a sense of invulnerability, which contributed to many officer deaths. The armed private security officer should take heed from these hard learned lessons and seek assistance in handling possibly dangerous persons and situations. It is also vital to communicate with assisting officers, both private security and the police, and provide them with clear and understandable information.

Safe Retreat

If a retreat can be accomplished in relative safety, it can be an effective way to remove the threat’s OPPORTUNITY to cause harm. If you believe an armed confrontation is imminent, and only property is at risk, retreat, if safe and practical, can be an effective alternative to force. Retreat can create time and distance for the armed officer to summon assistance. Retreat may also be the necessary and wisest alternative when the threat holds a clear advantage in strength or numbers. On the other hand, there must be a safe place to retreat to.

Retreat can present ethical and moral questions. If your retreat would contribute to the loss of another person’s life, then you must decide if that is a morally acceptable option.

Specific Tactical Issues

Ready Positions

In defensive situations you may need to have the handgun out of the holster, in your hand, and ready to use. These uses may include covering the threat at gunpoint, moving with the gun in hand, or being ready to deal with an imminent attack. When the handgun is in your hand and you are under adrenalized, it is imperative that you control the direction the gun is pointing at all times. Using a proper Ready Position will help you control muzzle direction at such times.

Ready Position Safety Concerns

In any ready position you will keep the muzzle pointed in safe direction. Despite the unsafe gun handling seen in Hollywood movies and television police dramas, it is never acceptable to let the weapon point at any non-threat. In a defensive situation this means that you will not allow the muzzle to point at any person unless you have decided that it is necessary to shoot to defend your life or the life of another.

Trigger finger discipline is extremely important in assuming a proper ready position. If you do not intend to fire, the trigger finger must be straight, angled up, and well out of the trigger guard. It is not acceptable to be in a ready position with your finger in the trigger guard.

An unsafe and inefficient position often portrayed in the cinema is the "muzzle up" carry. In this position the muzzle is held up and next to the shooter's head. This mode of carry is not endorsed by any current law enforcement training because of its many liabilities:

1. There is considerable risk of shooting yourself in the head.
2. It is difficult to precisely control the direction of the muzzle.
3. If you stumble or fall, it is difficult to control muzzle direction, and more likely that the gun may discharge in an unsafe direction.
4. It is slower to bring a gun down on target than it is to bring it up to your line of sight. In bringing the gun down gravity pulls the sights past the point of aim, adding movement and wasting time.
5. If the threat attempts to take the gun away from you, your ability to retain control of the gun is hampered by the muzzle up position.

Low Ready Position

The low ready position overcomes most of the problems noted above. The muzzle is pointed down at the ground at an approximately 45 degree angle away from your body. Pointing the handgun in this downward direction minimizes the danger of negligent discharges, and provides an unobstructed view of the threat. Should you need to fire, it is fast and simple to bring the gun up on target. Always remember, however, that even Low Ready can be unsafe if you allow the muzzle to cover another person. For example you are following another officer as you

descend stairs. In that case you should angle the muzzle down and to the side away from the other officer.

SUL Position

SUL is a type of low ready that is useful, but requires proper instruction and practice to employ safely. SUL position has all the advantages of the traditional Low Ready position, and is arguably better adapted to controlling muzzle direction in very close quarters or crowded conditions. The salient safety point in SUL is to keep the wrist bent and the muzzle depressed downward at all times.

Close Ready

Close Ready is useful when you holding an armed and dangerous threat at gunpoint for several minutes while awaiting the arrival of law enforcement. If your arms become too tired to hold the gun up, you can bring the gun into Close Ready to relieve the fatigue. In close quarter encounters Close Ready also allows you to maximize the distance between your handgun and the threat.



Fig. 7-16

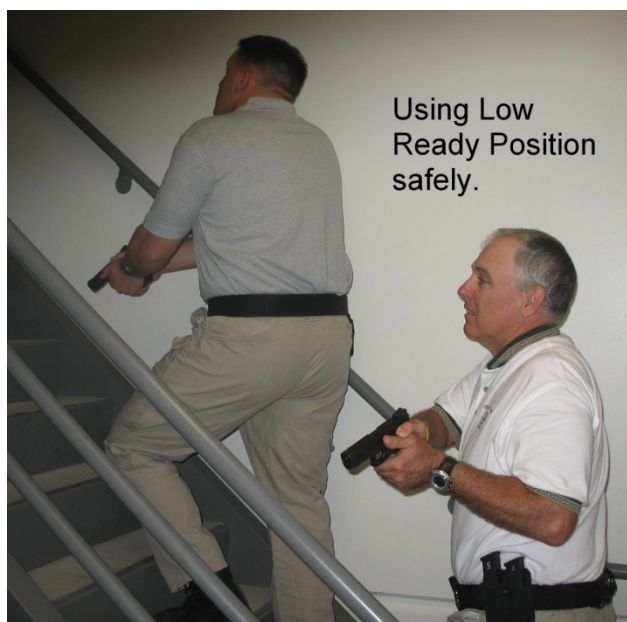


Fig. 7-17



Fig. 7-18



Fig. 7-19

Warning Shots

Generally, warning shots are ineffective, potentially dangerous, and are not recommended. A warning shot is especially dangerous if fired into the air. Do you know for certain where it will fall? If you are in immediate danger of death or serious physical injury, time is precious and any shots you fire must be directed at stopping the threat. Warning shots do not usually stop an attacker intent on killing you, and firing a warning shot for anything less than a deadly attack may be unlawful (Recklessly Endangering). Because warning shots are not fired at a person or in a definitely safe direction, they are almost always in violation of the Four Cardinal Safety Rules, especially "Be Sure of Your Target, Back Stop and Beyond."

Shooting at Vehicles

Shooting at a vehicle is not usually effective in stopping the threat. There may be situations in which a moving vehicle is used as weapon against you. Usually the best tactic is to move quickly out of the vehicle's path and take cover behind a substantial barrier. It is difficult to stop a moving vehicle with any small arms fire, and even more so with a handgun. A moving vehicle will continue moving for considerable distances even with its engine and tires shot out. You may be justified in shooting the **driver** of a moving vehicle who is using it to assault you. Also, you may be justified in firing on someone who is firing at you from a moving vehicle. Remember that if you disable or kill the driver, the vehicle will likely continue moving, out of control and possibly causing the death or injury of others. Your decision to shoot must be based on your immediate need to defend yourself or another person, and this decision should be your best alternative available.

Center of Mass

The usual advice given to armed officers is to shoot for the "center of mass". In this sense center of mass means the largest area of the threat's body visible to the shooter. Shooting for the center of mass gives the armed officer the fastest and most accessible point of aim and allows the greatest accuracy error while under the stress of combat. It minimizes the chance of missing and reduces the possibility of hitting an innocent person. In center of mass shooting there is no definitive aiming point like a ten-ring or bullseye. The shooter must quickly determine threat's largest visible body area and fire. The center of mass for an adult human fully facing you would roughly be an imaginary six inch wide "pipe" in the center of the torso running between the nipples and the navel. Center of mass shooting is best practiced on the range using realistic, humanoid-type targets without visible scoring rings.

The dynamics of a gunfight do not always provide a classic, fully facing threat. If the threat turns suddenly or is using cover, the largest visible area may be greatly reduced in comparison to the typical police-type target. In this case the officer shoots for the ACM. While the distance between the officer and the threat may be very short, the reduced ACM will require a higher degree of marksmanship and precision. Always use the sights to maximize accuracy.

Fig. 7-20

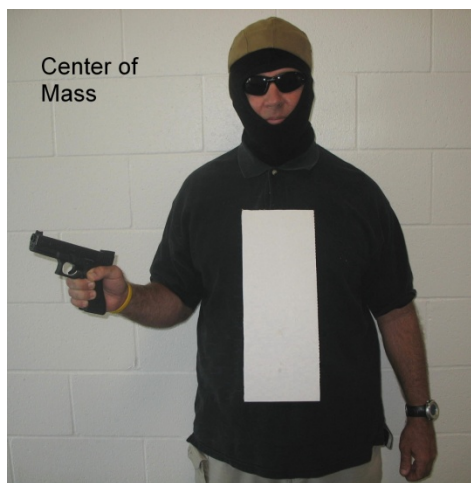


Fig. 7-21



Standard Response

In a life or death confrontation the armed officer should fire rounds to the center of mass until the threat stops the actions that place the officer or another person in danger of death or serious injury. In practical terms this means that the threat ceases his or her attack on the officer. At that point the armed officer should take cover and issue commands to control the threat. The officer should stay behind

cover and not approach a downed assailant until it is determined that he or she is no longer capable of causing harm. If the threat, even if wounded, resumes his or her deadly attack, then the officer is justified in shooting if no other alternative is available.

Multiple Assailants

Law enforcement and armed private security officers are more frequently finding themselves confronted by multiple armed assailants. The primary weapon against multiple threats is officer awareness. The officer is often killed by an undetected second or "back-up" threat. It is also important to understand the guidelines for engaging multiple threats with gunfire. While every situation will be different, the general guideline is to engage the closest threat (if unarmed or armed with a knife or impact weapon) or the more heavily armed threat first. This general rule is subject to change based on the relative danger posed by each threat's weapon and proximity (e.g. a knife at three feet versus handgun at 50 feet).

Body Armor

One of the armed officer's greatest assets is the faithful use of soft body armor. Soft body armor gives the officer the chance to survive the initial gunfire, react, move and effectively retreat or return fire. There are two caveats to the tactical benefit of body armor. First, it must be worn every shift in every season. Body armor left home because it is hot and uncomfortable cannot save lives. Second, the officer must mentally prepare to react and take action if he or she is fired on and hit. While body armor may save an officer from the initial attack, failure to react immediately can result in injury or death.

Use a Safe Holster

At a minimum a proper holster for the armed private security officer should be constructed of quality leather or synthetic materials and be specifically fitted to the make, model and barrel length of the officer's weapon. The holster should have a loop or other attaching device that affixes it tightly and securely to the gun belt. Avoid older model holsters that expose the trigger. These holsters invite a negligent discharge during the draw. The holster should cover the trigger guard, and possess a retaining strap, thumb-break or other positive retention feature. The holster for uniformed duty should be carried on the officer's strong side with the barrel in line with the trouser seam. This carry mode provides quicker access to the gun during the draw, assists a smooth, continuous presentation (draw), and is easier to defend against a take-away attempt. **It is important to remember that there are no "good, cheap" holsters.** Be sure to check your company's policy concerning acceptable duty holsters.

Retention Holsters

A true advancement in officer safety is the modern retention holster. FBI studies suggest that 20-40 percent of police officers are killed with their own handguns. This frightening statistic has fallen in recent years because of the advent of retention holsters and weapon retention training. The retention holster can assist the armed officer in resisting the efforts of a threat to take the gun out of the holster and use it against the officer. As with soft body armor, the armed officer should train in retention techniques. Simply carrying the handgun in a retention holster will not guarantee against a gun take-away.

Moving Threats

A threat that moves and fires at the same time is usually not very accurate. Frequently, the best tactic will be to take cover. However, the armed officer may encounter a situation in which the threat is moving and simultaneously firing at the officer or other persons, and the officer must engage the threat to save lives. Within 30-40 feet the officer should aim for the center of mass, moving the sights with the threat. It is imperative that the officer be absolutely sure of the target, the back stop and beyond. It is never acceptable to endanger innocent persons regardless of the threat's actions.

Moving Under Fire

If you are under fire and you must move (to cover, for instance), look at the point you are moving to, note any obstacles in your path, and then move out as quickly as you can until you reach that location. Running in an erratic pattern will make it more difficult for the threat to hit you. Generally, do not attempt to fire while you are moving. Accuracy will be very poor and you might endanger other persons. Shooting on the move effectively is a skill that requires instruction, coaching and a lot of practice. The armed private security officer is usually best served by moving to cover without delay, and then firing, if necessary, from a stable position.

Safely Retreating with Gun in Hand

If you encounter a deadly or potentially deadly threat, you may decide to retreat with the gun in hand, ready to respond to an attack. Assume a low ready position with the trigger finger outside the trigger guard and alongside the frame. Look quickly to your rear and locate any obstacles or other threats. Look at the threat (or the threat's likely location). Take a large sliding step back with the gun side foot followed by a small step with the support side foot. Repeat this movement until you reach cover or move out of danger. Take very quick (less than one second) looks over your shoulder as you move, but keep your focus on the threat.

Scanning (After-Action Response)

After shooting, stopping and making certain that the assailant is out of action, you should look quickly to each side, and, if possible, behind you to check for other attackers (multiple assailants). This scanning action will help you overcome "tunnel vision", which is the natural inclination to focus your attention on the threat and not recognize what is happening in your peripheral vision.

Section 7 Review

1. **Explain how the color code of awareness helps the private security officer mentally prepare to survive a deadly force incident.**
2. **What is the definition of "cover"? How are cover and concealment different? Why should the private security understand this difference?**
3. **What are common items that might provide cover against gunfire? How resistant is a residential dwelling (house) to handgun bullets?**
4. **How does maximizing the distance from the threat work to the officer's advantage?**
5. **Warning shots are not recommended. Why?**

Armed Officer's Training Manual

Section 8: Nomenclature and Inspection

Learning Goal: The student will know the components and understand the operation of the service revolver and semi-automatic pistol. The student will understand the importance of inspecting his or her handgun to ensure that it is operational and ready for duty.

Basic Components of the Revolver

The service revolver is comprised of the following main components:

Frame

Includes the trigger and trigger guard, the rear sight, the hammer, firing pin, cylinder latch, and other action parts.

Barrel

Includes the front sight, the rifled bore comprised of lands and grooves, and the muzzle.

Cylinder

Includes the extractor, extractor rod and yoke/crane.



Fig. 8-1

Double-Action Firing Versus Single-Action Firing

The service revolver may be fired in two modes:

Double-Action

The shooter moves the trigger directly to the rear through a relatively long and heavy pull. This long and heavy movement of the trigger partly revolves the cylinder and aligns a cartridge with the rear of the barrel. Simultaneously, the hammer is cycled to the rear of its arc and released, firing the cartridge.

Single-Action

The shooter cocks the hammer (moves it to the rear against spring pressure until it catches the hammer notch), and then exerts a light pressure on the trigger to fire the revolver.

The armed officer may encounter a loaded and cocked revolver and may have to unload it. This situation requires heightened safety consciousness due to the very light single-action trigger pull. The officer should identify a safe direction and back stop to point the revolver during the de-cocking and unloading. This can be a structural part of the building, the ground or a heavy object like a bookcase. All persons should be moved from the area.

TO DE-COCK THE REVOLVER

Pick the revolver up with the trigger finger well away from the trigger guard, and point it in the pre-selected safe direction. Place the support hand thumb between the frame and the cocked hammer, pull the hammer fully to rear, and hold it there while pressing the trigger. Keeping the trigger to the rear, lower the hammer partially and then take the finger off the trigger. Then lower the hammer all the way down. The cylinder can then be opened and unloaded (Removing the finger from the trigger re-engages the internal safeties. If the hammer slips while the trigger is held to the rear, the internal safeties are disengaged and the revolver could fire.)



Fig. 8-2



Fig. 8-3



Fig. 8-4

INSPECTION: REVOLVER

Before Inspecting the Revolver

1. Point the revolver in safe direction.
2. Unload and check three times to ensure that it is unloaded.
3. Remove all live ammunition to another area before inspecting.

Revolver Serviceability Check

(Bold type indicates corrective action. Armorer repair indicates repair should be performed by a qualified armorer or gunsmith. Factory repair indicates that the repair should be performed by the manufacturer.)

1. Check the overall condition and for visible damage, rust or dirt. **(Clean. Armorer repair.)**
2. Check the stocks for looseness or damage. **(Tighten stock screw or replace damaged stocks.)**
3. Check the exterior of the barrel for bulges by running the thumb and index finger along the barrel from rear to front. The rear shoulder of the barrel is not a bulge. Check the muzzle for nicks or other damage to the bore. **(Factory repair required.)**
4. Inspect the interior of the barrel (bore) for obstruction. **(Remove obstructions like cleaning patches or fouling. Difficult obstructions may require armorer or factory repair.)**
5. Inspect the front and rear sights for looseness or damage. **(Armorer repair.)**
6. Inspect the hammer nose (firing pin) for damage or breakage. **(Armorer repair.)**
7. Inspect the recoil plate (firing pin hole) for fouling or damage. **(Clean. Armorer repair.)**
8. Check that the extractor rod moves in and out smoothly without binding. **(Armorer repair.)**
9. The extractor rod may unscrew on Smith and Wesson revolvers. Check for tightness. **(Armorer repair if loose.)**
10. Check the cylinder and its chambers for fouling or damage. The front of the cylinder should be free of fouling. The undersurface of the extractor and its recess in the rear of the cylinder must be free of any fouling, small particles or oil. **(Clean.)**

11. Check that the cylinder opens and closes smoothly without any binding. **(Armorer repair.)**
12. Check all screws for tightness. Be sure to use properly fitted screwdrivers.
13. Check the action for smooth function by dry firing in double-action mode. The trigger should move smoothly to the rear and forward without hesitation or excessive pull weight. The cylinder should carry up to the next chamber and lock in place. **(Armorer repair.)**

Basic Components of the Semi-Automatic Pistol

The semi-automatic pistol is comprised of the following main components:

Frame

Includes the trigger guard, trigger, safeties, de-cocker (SIG-type), hammer, grips, magazine well, magazine catch (release), ejector and slide stop.

Slide

Includes the front and rear sights, recoil spring and guide, extractor, firing pin and decocker (Beretta-type).

Barrel

Includes the chamber, locking lugs, bore and rifling.

Magazine

Includes the magazine body (tube), feed lips, base plate, follower and magazine spring.



Fig. 8-5



Fig. 8-6



Fig. 8-7

Semi-Automatic Pistol Action Types

Single-Action

Pistol must be manually cocked before firing, and is carried hammer cocked over a loaded chamber with thumb safety engaged.

Double-Action

Pistol is carried with the hammer down on a loaded chamber. Pistol is fired by a long, heavy pull of the trigger for the first round, and then a short, light pull for each subsequent round.

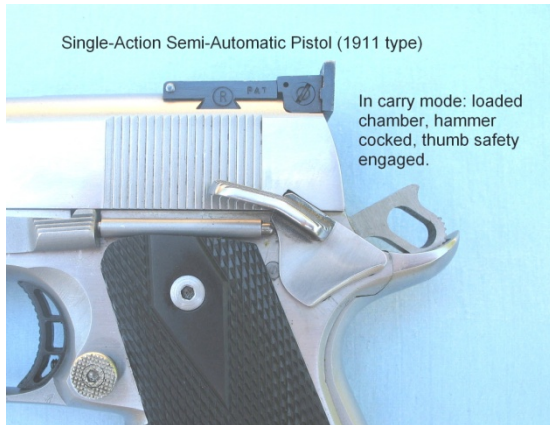


Fig. 8-8

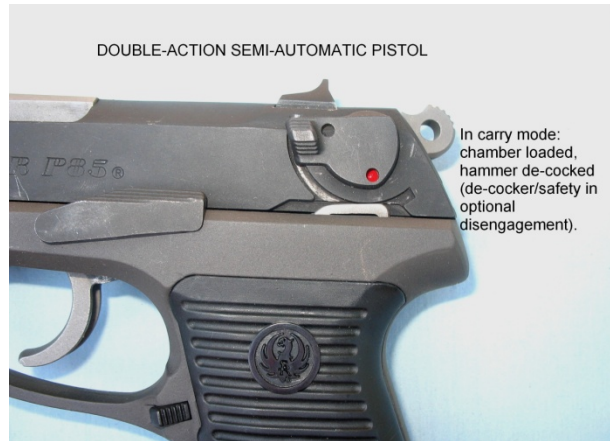


Fig. 8-9

Double-Action Only

Pistol is carried hammer down on a loaded chamber. Pistol is fired by a long, heavy pull of the trigger for each round.

Striker Fired (Glock-type)

Trigger pull retracts the striker against spring compression and then releases the striker for each round fired.



Fig. 8-10

INSPECTION: SEMI-AUTOMATIC PISTOL

Before Inspecting the Semi-Automatic Pistol

1. Point the pistol in a safe direction.
2. Unload the pistol (remove the magazine, retract the slide to unload the chamber, lock the slide to the rear, look and feel with a finger that the magazine well and chamber are unloaded. Do this three times.
3. Unload the magazine.
4. Remove ammunition to another room or area before inspecting.

Serviceability Checks

ALL SEMI-AUTOMATIC PISTOLS

(If a pistol fails an inspection point, have the pistol inspected and repaired by a qualified gunsmith or armorer.)

1. Dry fire and hold the trigger to the rear. Pull the slide to the rear and allow it to almost close. Release the slide. It should go into battery.
2. Slide forward and hammer down. Insert unloaded magazine. Aggressively pull the slide to the rear and release. Slide should lock open.
3. Press the magazine catch and hold it in. Steel magazines should drop free. Polymer magazines may partially eject.
4. Check the extractor for damage.
5. Check the sights for looseness or damage.
6. Check the slide for small cracks near the ejection port.
7. Check the slide for smooth back and forth movement on the frame rails without binding.

8. Check the exterior of the barrel for bulges, cracks and damage at the muzzle.
9. Check the interior of the barrel for obstructions, fouling and scratches.
10. Check the stocks (grips) for looseness, cracks, chips or missing screws.
11. Check each magazine:
 - Dents, cracks at the top of the back plate and deformed feed lips.
 - Looseness on the base plate or cracks in the base plate welds.
 - Base plate is properly engaged and secure on magazine body.
 - Magazine locks up properly in magazine well.
 - Magazines fall free, or are removed with minimal effort (Glock).
12. Check the frame:
 - Ensure that the ejector is in place and not damaged.
 - Cracks near the slide stop hole or notch.
 - Damage to the trigger guard and the magazine well opening.

SPECIFIC SEMI-AUTOMATIC PISTOLS

(If a pistol fails an inspection point, have the pistol inspected and repaired by a qualified gunsmith or armorer.)

Single-action pistols with thumb safety only (Colt 1911, Browning High Power)

1. Cock the hammer. Engage the safety lever.
2. Pull the trigger. The hammer should not fall.
3. Disengage the safety lever. Pull the trigger. The hammer should fall.

Single-action pistols with a grip safety (Colt 1911, Springfield XD)

1. Cock the hammer.

2. Pull the trigger without depressing the grip safety.
3. Hammer should not fall.
4. Pull the trigger while depressing the grip safety. The hammer should fall.

Pistols with a slide-mounted decocker/safety lever (Beretta, S&W)

1. Insert an empty magazine if equipped with a magazine safety (S&W).
2. Cock the hammer. Trigger finger clear of the trigger. Press the decocker/safety lever down. The hammer should fall.
3. Pull the trigger. The hammer should NOT cycle and fall.
4. Push the decocker/safety up. Pull the trigger. The hammer should cycle and fall.

Pistols with a frame-mounted decocker lever (SIG, H&K)

1. Cock the hammer. Press the decocker down. The hammer should fall.
2. Pull the trigger. The hammer should cycle and fall.

Pistols with a magazine safety (S&W, Browning)

1. Insert empty magazine. Cock the hammer.
2. Pull the trigger. The hammer should fall.
3. Cock the hammer. Remove the magazine.
4. Pull the trigger. The hammer should not fall.

Pistols with a Glock-type trigger safety

1. Cycle the slide.
2. Move the trigger to the rear without depressing the trigger safety. The striker should not fall.
3. Depress the trigger safety and pull the trigger. The striker should fall.

Modifications to Handguns

The armed private security officer should avoid modifications to the service handgun unless the work is done by the factory or a factory certified gunsmith. If the officer is involved in a shooting, non-factory modifications may create liability for the officer and his or her employer. This liability risk is especially likely when the trigger pull is lightened in an attempt to make the handgun easier to shoot. The plaintiff's lawyer can claim that the officer acted negligently by carrying a handgun with a "hair trigger" that was more prone to a negligent discharge. It is generally acceptable to enhance the officer's control of the weapon by installing after-market grips that are in general service with law enforcement agencies.

Section 8: Review

1. What are the four steps that must be taken before inspecting any handgun?
2. Why is a light trigger pull a liability risk?
3. Why should the service revolver always be fired in double-action mode?

Armed Officer's Training Manual

Section 9: Care and Cleaning

Learning Goal: The student will understand that regular care and cleaning of the duty handgun helps ensure reliable operation in a life threatening situation. The student will be able to identify the proper cleaning procedures for revolvers and semi-automatic pistols.

Reliability

The primary reason for proper care and cleaning of an armed officer's duty handgun is ensure that it will fire when and if it is needed to protect the officer's life. A handgun is a fairly simple machine, but like any machine, it requires some attention and maintenance for reliable operation. Even modern ammunition produces firing by-products or fouling, which can cause a handgun's mechanism to bind and eventually stop working. The daily carry of a handgun exposes it to heat, cold, moisture, perspiration, dust and other contaminants that can act in concert to prevent the handgun from firing when needed. The professional armed private security officer realizes these facts, and takes personal responsibility for the proper cleaning and lubrication of his or her duty handgun.

General Guidelines for Care and Cleaning

- 1. Handguns should be cleaned after every firing, or, if the handgun is not fired, at least every month.** Cleaning may be necessary more frequently depending on climate and working conditions.
- 2. Handguns should be inspected by a qualified, factory trained armorer at least once annually.**
- 3. Check with your employer regarding disassembly.** Detail stripping should be avoided.
- 4. Clean your handgun in a place where other persons will not interrupt you or gain access to your handgun.**
- 5. Ensure that your handgun is unloaded before cleaning.**

Gun Cleaning Safety

The four Cardinal Safety Rules apply every time you clean your duty handgun. You must safely unload your gun prior to cleaning or disassembly. Note that some semi-automatic pistols (like the Glock) require that the user pull the trigger in order to disassemble the gun. This means that the user must have safe back stop to unload the pistol, point it and pull the trigger before disassembly.

1. Remove all ammunition from the gun and immediate area. The gun must be unloaded, the magazines emptied, the duty belt and speed-loaders or magazines removed from sight and reach. Verify that the gun is unloaded by looking and touching. Place your smallest finger in the chamber of a semi-automatic pistol. It is possible for a mechanical defect to allow a cartridge to remain in the chamber.

2. Permit no distractions during the unloading and cleaning process. If you are interrupted during the unloading or cleaning, you must go back to go back to the beginning of this ritual to verify again that the gun is unloaded. Interruptions may lead to an accident. These interruptions include taking phone calls, watching television, having visitors or children come in. What often happens is that the gun is loaded at some point just before or during the interruption, and the user does not remember that the gun is loaded when he or she returns to it after the interruption. The user of the gun then treats the gun as if it is unloaded (a violation of a Cardinal Safety Rule!) and negligently fires it.

3. Make a conscious switch to *Cleaning Mode*. Tell yourself out loud that the gun is unloaded for the purpose of cleaning.

4. You must have a safe, bullet-stopping aim point if you will dry fire the gun during the disassembly, cleaning and re-assembly process. Soft body armor works well in this role. The gun should only be pointed at something you are willing to destroy.

5. Once you have cleaned, re-assembled and loaded the gun, make a conscious mental switch. Say out loud: "The gun is loaded and will fire if I pull the trigger." You must impress on yourself that the gun is loaded and ready to fire. This action will help you remember that the gun is "hot" should you be interrupted. (At least two highly trained federal officers have shot themselves in recent months while handling or cleaning their handguns. In each case the officer assumed that the pistol was unloaded, when the officer had in fact loaded it not long before the incident.)

- 6. When the handgun is re-assembled, you should safely store it immediately whether it is loaded or not.** The gun should be holstered or cased, and removed from sight and reach. If you leave it lying around, there will be a subconscious temptation to pick it up and dry fire. You think that you will remember, but many have not.
- 7. There are no shortcuts to gun safety.** If you follow the above ritual every time, you will avoid a negligent discharge and possibly a tragedy.



Fig. 9-1

Revolver Cleaning Procedure

BARREL

1. Attach a properly fitted bore brush to the cleaning rod. Place a few drops of bore cleaning solvent on the bore brush (a CLP product like BreakFree™ is useful as a solvent, lubricant and preservative). Working from the muzzle, push

the bore brush completely through the barrel and then completely pull it out. Repeat six to eight times. (Avoid pushing the rod so hard that it slams against the recoil shield.)

2. Attach a slotted tip or patch puller to the cleaning rod and push a dry cotton or flannel patch through the bore several times. It will "mop" up the CLP and fouling, and will come out very dark and dirty. Follow with another dry patch to ensure that the bore is dry and free of CLP.

3. Use a weapons cleaning brush (toothbrush-type) to clean the back of the barrel or forcing cone, under the top strap, the recoil shield, around the firing pin hole and the muzzle. Wipe thoroughly with the dry cloth.

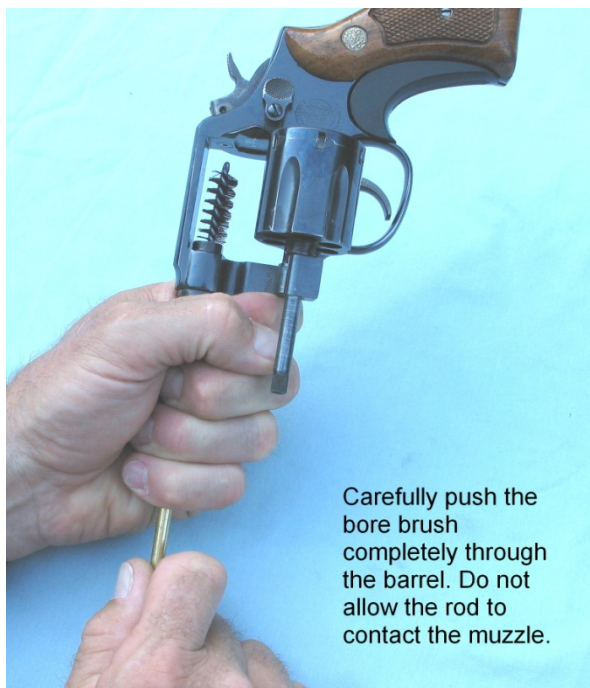


Fig. 9-2



Fig. 9-3



Fig. 9-4

CYLINDER

1. Clean each chamber (or charge hole) like the barrel above. Be certain to wipe each chamber dry with a clean patch. Excessive solvent (CLP) left in the chambers can deactivate the primer and powder charge.
2. Brush off the face of the cylinder. Do not use a steel wire brush. Wipe with a dry cloth.
3. Clean under the extractor and its recess in the cylinder. A small, clean paint brush is useful. **DO NOT ALLOW ANY CLP TO REMAIN UNDER THE EXTRACTOR.** It will attract debris and fouling, which can bind the cylinder to a stop.

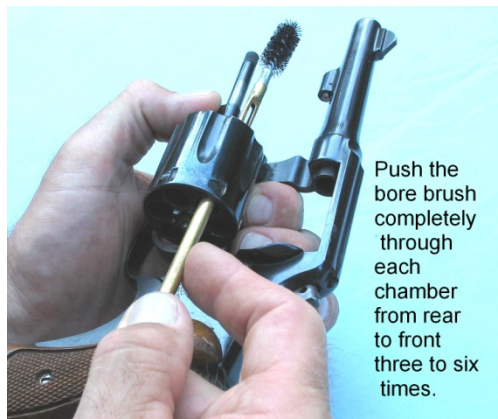


Fig. 9-5



Fig. 9-6



Fig. 9-7



Fig. 9-8



Fig. 9-9

FRAME

1. The recoil plate or shield should be brushed well. Special attention should be given to the hammer nose, hammer nose bushing hole and bolt pivot hole to ensure that no residue is left in these areas. Wipe with a dry cloth.
2. Brush the rear sight and any recesses on the exterior of the frame.



Fig. 9-10



Fig. 9-11

YOKE

1. Brush the yoke (crane) and wipe with a dry cloth.
2. Apply a small drop of CLP to the extractor rod and work the rod back and forth.

STOCKS

1. Remove the stocks and thoroughly brush the frame underneath. Rust and dirt will accumulate.
2. Before re-installing the stocks on Smith and Wesson revolvers, check the strain screw. It must be tight to ensure reliable primer ignition.

LUBRICATION

1. Revolvers require little lubrication. Over-lubrication attracts dirt and fouling, and can cause the action to become sluggish and produce misfires.
2. Apply a small drop of CLP (tip of toothpick) into the frame in front of the cocked hammer and in front of the trigger (in cocked condition).

3. Wipe all external surfaces with a dry, clean cloth.

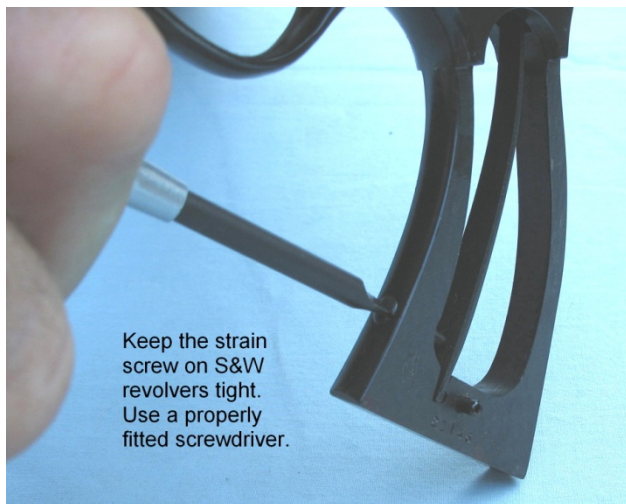


Fig. 9-12



Fig. 9-13



Fig. 9-14



Fig. 9-15

Semi-Automatic Cleaning Procedure

BARREL AND CHAMBER

1. Clean with a properly fitting bore brush. Place a few drops of CLP on the bore brush and push it completely through the barrel from rear to front several times. Wipe out the brushed bore with two dry cotton or flannel patches.
2. Use a brush and CLP to clean all powder residue from the barrel ramp, locking lugs, muzzle and adjacent surfaces.



Fig. 9-16

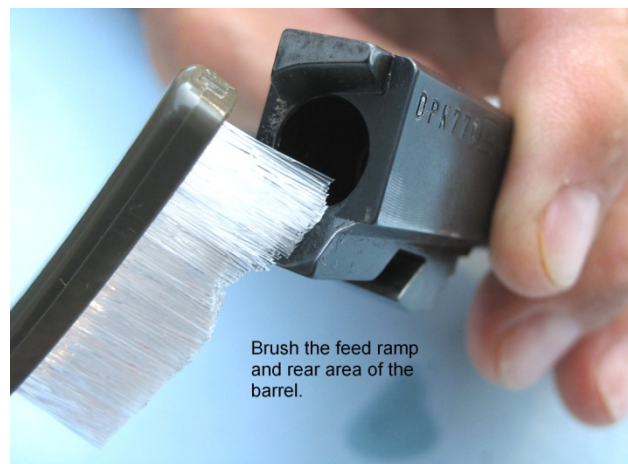


Fig. 9-17



Fig. 9-18

FRAME

1. The interior of the frame should be brushed out using a small paint or chip brush. A can of compressed air is useful in removing residue.
 2. Brush the slide rails free of residue and fouling.
 3. Brush the ejector free of fouling.
 4. Wrap the cleaning rod with a clean cloth to clean the interior of the magazine well.
 5. Wipe the exterior and accessible interior portions with a clean, dry cloth.
- Fig. 9-19

Fig. 9-20

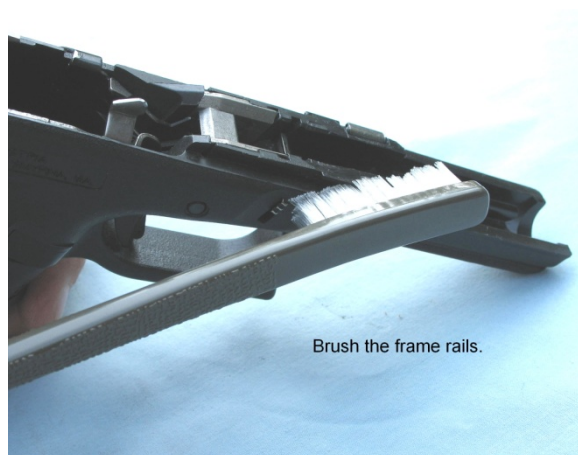
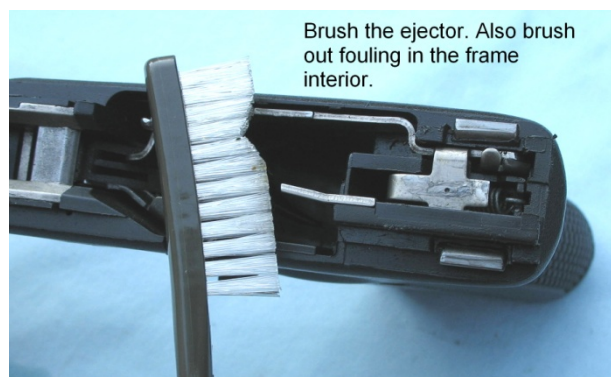


Fig. 9-21



Fig. 9-22

SLIDE

1. Brush out the grooves that engage the frame rails.
2. Brush the breech face and firing pin (striker) hole. Keep the slide oriented muzzle down so that fouling and debris do not fall into the firing pin hole and then into the firing pin channel. This can cause a sluggish firing pin or striker and subsequent misfires.
3. Brush under the extractor hook. Be careful to remove all fouling and residue particles.
4. Use a small paint brush or chip brush to brush out the interior surfaces of the slide.
5. Lightly brush the front and rear sights using a soft nylon toothbrush.
6. Wipe all interior and exterior surfaces with a clean, dry cloth.



Fig. 9-23



Fig. 9-24

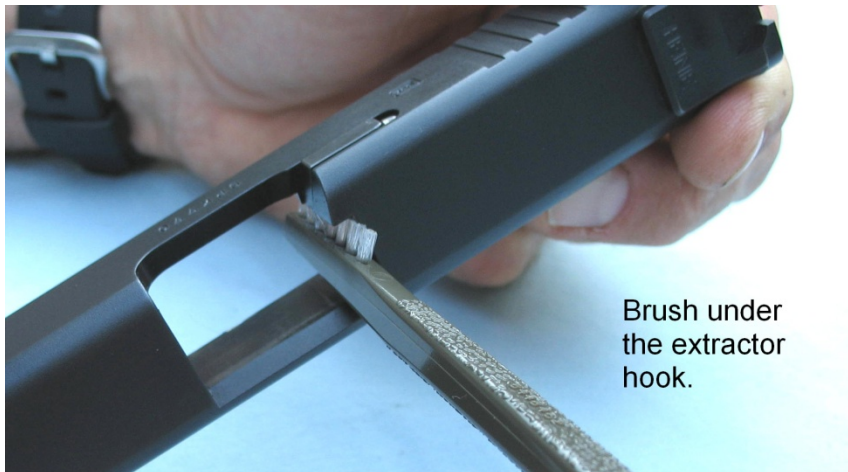


Fig. 9-25

MAGAZINES

1. Magazines can be primary causes of malfunctions. It is helpful to number your magazines to isolate any that may be causing malfunctions. Do not carry a faulty magazine on duty.
2. Magazines should be disassembled and cleaned periodically or when subjected to very wet or sandy conditions. Check with your employer before you do this. Follow the magazine disassembly procedures in your pistol's owner's manual.
3. The exterior and interior surfaces of the magazine should be cleaned and wiped dry. Do not oil the interior of the magazine. The magazine spring may be wiped with a lightly oiled cloth.



Fig. 9-26

LUBRICATION

1. Semi-automatic pistols require some limited lubrication.
2. One drop of CLP should be applied to the exterior of the barrel and rubbed over all surfaces. Ensure that the locking lugs receive a small drop of lubrication.
3. One small drop of CLP should be applied to each frame rail.
4. One small drop of CLP should be rubbed on the interior bearing surfaces of the slide (these are the surfaces that have the finish worn off).
5. Wipe the entire exterior surface of the pistol with a clean, dry cloth.



Fig. 9-27



Fig. 9-28



Fig. 9-29



Fig. 9-30

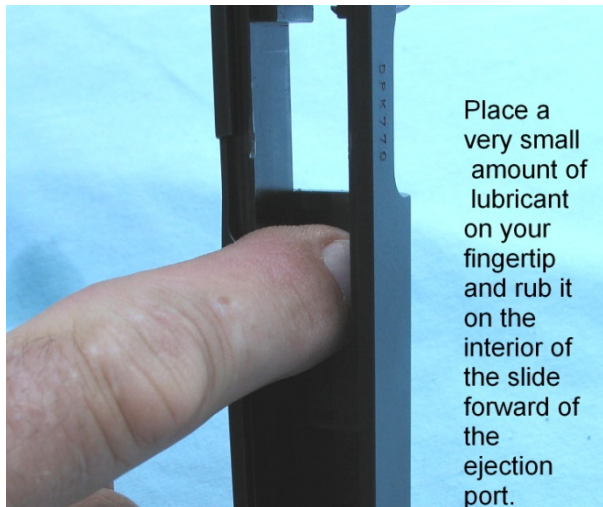


Fig. 9-31

Care of Ammunition

GENERAL CONSIDERATIONS

- 1. Use only factory manufactured ammunition on duty.** Factory manufactured, new ammunition has passed many reliability and safety inspections, and helps defend the armed officer from allegations of excessive or malicious force. Generally, the brands and types of ammunition in use by local law enforcement agencies is a good selection guide. Reloaded ammunition from a reputable supplier may be adequate for practice, but should never be carried as duty ammo.
- 2. Prior to carrying a new type or brand of ammunition, you should test it in your semi-automatic by firing rounds from all your duty magazines.** All rounds from all magazines should fire and operate with 100% reliability.
- 3. Duty ammunition should be changed out on an annual basis.** The old duty ammunition, if in good condition, can be fired in practice or qualification.
- 4. Your employer may specify a particular brand and/or type of ammunition, and you should follow that direction.** If you substitute your employer's ammunition with your own preferred ammo, you may face personal liability in the event of a shooting.

INSPECTION OF AMMUNITION

1. Visually inspect every round of duty ammunition before carrying it on duty. New manufactured ammunition is generally of very high quality, but defects may escape detection at the factory.

2. Check each round:

- Check that each round has a **primer properly seated flush** with the base of the cartridge.
- Check **for cracks, dents or splits** in the case body.
- Check for bullets that are **seated more deeply or shallow** than others.

A cartridge with any of the above defects should be rejected.

CLEANING AMMUNITION

1. Ammunition should be wiped off with a dry, clean cloth.

2. Do not oil, wax or apply any coating to ammunition. This could cause failures to fire.

3. Store ammunition in a secure location in the factory container or a container specifically made for ammunition. Temperature extremes and dampness should be avoided.

Section 9: Review

- 1. What is the primary reason for proper care and cleaning of the service handgun?**
- 2. What steps should be taken to ensure safety before the handgun is cleaned?**
- 3. Why should the private security officer carry only factory manufactured ammunition on duty?**

Armed Officer's Firearms Training Manual

Section 10: Low Light Shooting

Learning Goal: The student will understand that positive identification of a person as an immediate deadly threat is more difficult in low light conditions. The student will understand how the General Flashlight Rules can enhance officer safety and effectiveness in low light conditions. The student will learn that the flashlight's primary purpose is to provide the armed officer with information, and that the secondary purpose of the flashlight is to assist low light shooting accuracy.

The majority of law enforcement and private security operations are conducted during night hours or low light environments like warehouses, attics and basements. Even armed private security officers working daytime shifts will eventually encounter dark conditions, often in an emergency situation. Over 70% of law enforcement shootings occur in low light conditions.

Low Light Environments Present Special Problems for the Armed Officer

It is much more difficult to see if a person is armed and presents an immediate threat. ***Especially in low light conditions, you must positively identify the person as an armed threat before using deadly force. Shooting at a person you have not identified is never permissible.***

It is more difficult to fire accurately. Manipulation of the flashlight and handgun during firing and reloading also require training and practice. Like a handgun, mere possession of a flashlight does not mean that an armed officer is competent in its use. Effective flashlight technique requires thought and preparation.

GENERAL FLASHLIGHT USE GUIDE

The General Flashlight Guide provides basic guidelines on the effective use of the flashlight in a defensive environment. Like any guidelines, there are exceptions. The armed officer must use sound judgment in applying the following rules and techniques.

Purpose of the Flashlight

Humans can see in dark or low light conditions, but not very well. The primary purpose of the flashlight is to allow the armed officer to see better in dark or low light situations. While a flashlight cannot provide the quality of daylight or even good indoor lighting, it can help the armed officer gather enough information about a person to determine if that person is armed and presents an immediate deadly

threat. It is important to understand that the flashlight may or may not enhance an officer's ability to shoot accurately in low light. In some instances holding a flashlight while shooting may compromise an ideal shooting grip, but the advantages of light outweigh the gun handling issues.

Have a Flashlight

1. Carry a flashlight at all times on duty. If you are working a night shift or a low light environment, the full size duty flashlight should be your primary light. During daytime hours a small belt light will prove useful when working in situations that are dark or have restricted access.
2. Carry an extra flashlight on your person. Any experienced private security or law enforcement officer can tell you that even the most reliable flashlight will fail when you have the most need of it. Law enforcement trainers caution officers that "Two is one, and one is none." Think about it.

Keep the Flashlight in Your Possession

1. Always keep the flashlight on your person and under your control.
2. Avoid laying the flashlight down to do a task. First, place it back in its holder or ring. If the flashlight rolls away or falls, it will be difficult to find in the darkness.

Hold the Flashlight in Your Support (Non-Gun) Hand

Keep your strong hand (gun hand) free in case you have to fire.

Avoid Over Use of the Flashlight

1. Avoid activating the flashlight and leaving it on continuously while you search or carry out other tasks. The continuous light will quickly drain the batteries, and can attract hostile fire.
2. Hold the switch partly down to turn the light on momentarily. Releasing pressure on the switch allows you to turn the flashlight off instantly.
3. "Pulse the switch." Turn the flashlight on for no more than two seconds. Observe, and then turn the flashlight off. Pulsing the switch will allow you to see, and reduce the threat's ability to follow your movements.

Avoid Illuminating Other Officers

1. Take care to direct your flashlight away from other officers. Your light can make them easy targets for the threat, and gives away their position and yours.

2. Use ambient light (indirect light from other sources: street lights, vehicle lights, parking lot lights, moonlight, other officer's flashlights) for general observation. Save your light for specific observation. Be a "light vulture."

After Firing or Using the Flashlight Turn It Off and Move

1. While your flashlight helps you see the threat, it can attract hostile fire from the threat or an accomplice. Once you have seen what you need to see, turn it off.
2. Practice moving immediately after you use the light or fire. Even a step or two can prevent the threat from hitting you if he fires at the last known location of your light.

The Light/Darkness General Guideline

1. This guideline is intended to give the armed officer the basic concept for using the flashlight in typical low light environments. It should not be accepted as a strict rule. A specific situation may dictate a different approach to using the flashlight.
2. Most low light environments have areas of darkness or shadow, and areas of relative light. If you are in a dark area, do not use your light, but use the darkness for concealment. Look into the lighted areas. You can see fairly well without a flashlight, and you will stay concealed from the threat.
3. If you are in a lighted area, you have no concealment in the darkness. You are already easily seen by the threat. Move to cover, and use the flashlight to illuminate the shadowed or darkened areas.

FLASHLIGHT FIRING TECHNIQUES

Flashlight firing techniques can be separated into two categories:

- **Firing with the flashlight and handgun held separately:** These techniques are usually employed when the armed officer is searching or generally observing, and is suddenly confronted by a threat and must fire immediately.
- **Firing with the flashlight and handgun held together:** These techniques are usually employed when the armed officer has located a threat and has time to get into position.

Firing with the Flashlight and Handgun Held Separately

The most commonly used techniques were developed by the FBI several decades ago. These techniques are adaptable to most large and small flashlights, and they are currently still taught by most law enforcement academies.

- 1. FBI HIGH:** This technique is useful for searching or general observation in situations where the officer is looking down or into a lower area like high grass or down a staircase. A benefit of this technique is that it positions the light away from the officer's center of mass. It is also adaptable to all types of flashlights including small belt flashlights with end-cap switches.
- 2. FBI LOW:** This technique is useful for searching or general observation on level terrain or in situations where the officer is looking upward. It also places the light away from the officer's center of mass. It is best adapted to full size flashlights with the switch on the barrel or head. It can be awkward for some officers to employ this technique with small, belt flashlights with end-cap switches.



Fig. 10-1



Fig. 10-2

Fig. 10-3



Fig. 10-4



Firing with the Flashlight and Handgun Held Together

There are three basic techniques that hold the flashlight and handgun together or in close proximity to each other. The purpose is to approximate the steadiness of a two-handed firing grip and provide improved recoil control. One of the three techniques is specific to small belt flashlights with end-cap switches. Each of the following techniques works best when teamed with one of the FBI techniques. While the following techniques can be used for general searching and observation, they can be fatiguing. The FBI techniques require less muscular effort, and are best used for searching/observation role. The officer can then transition to the appropriate flashlight/handgun technique when a specific threat is confronted.

1. HARRIES TECHNIQUE: This technique can be assumed as the handgun is drawn from the holster, or the officer can transition into it from the FBI HIGH technique. It steadies the officer's firing platform and provides fairly good recoil control. **The HARRIES TECHNIQUE is very useful when the officer must fire around cover from his strong side.**

It is important that the officer extend the handgun on target first and then bring the flashlight wrist under the gun wrist. **Placing the flashlight on target first and then extending the handgun will allow the muzzle to cross the officer's gun hand! This is improper and very dangerous.**

Fig. 10-5



Fig. 10-6



Fig. 10-7



Fig. 10-8



Fig. 10-9



Fig. 10-10



Fig. 10-11

2. SIDE BY SIDE TECHNIQUE: This technique can be assumed as the handgun is drawn from the holster, or the officer can transition into it from the FBI LOW technique. It is quick to assume, and it tends to place the beam high in the threat's eyes. **It is also useful when the officer must fire around cover from the support side.**



Fig. 10-12



Fig. 10-13

3. BELT FLASHLIGHTS WITH TAIL-CAP SWITCH: Because of the location of the switch in the tail-cap, these smaller flashlights are best used with the FBI HIGH and HARRIES TECHNIQUE. If the tail-cap switch protrudes enough, the officer can use a technique known as the ROGERS or SYRINGE TECHNIQUE. If the tail-cap switch does not protrude, the officer can use the SIDE BY SIDE VARIATION. **These techniques are also useful when firing around cover from the officer's support side.**

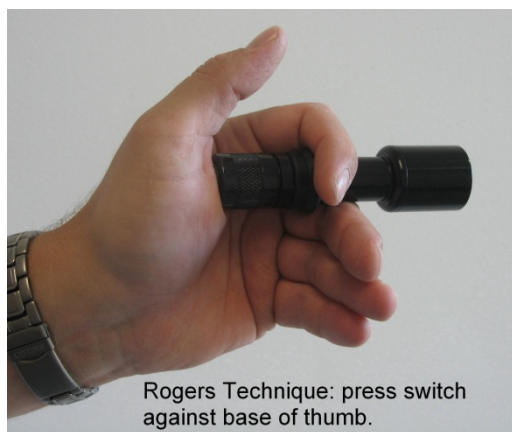


Fig. 10-14



Fig. 10-15



Fig. 10-16



Fig. 10-17



Fig. 10-18



Fig. 10-19

Gun Mounted Lights

There are various light systems that can be attached to the frame (dust cover) of semi-automatic pistols. Like any technology gun mounted lights have both advantages and disadvantages for the armed private security officer.

Advantages

1. The light is always available on the handgun.
2. Normal firing grip and technique can be used, which enhances speed and accuracy.
3. One hand controls both the gun and the light, leaving the other hand available for other tasks.

Disadvantages

1. **The handgun is automatically pointed at anything or person which is illuminated by the light. Any person illuminated by the gun mounted light will be at gunpoint. If that person is not a verified deadly threat, the officer will have violated the law (Pointing a Firearm at Another). This factor is a major disadvantage for the private security officer, who may legally point a firearm at another person only if that person is a deadly threat.**
2. The gun mounted light is restricted to situations in which the armed officer has identified a person as a deadly threat, and has the justification and necessity to use deadly physical force.
3. The light should be carried mounted on the handgun at all times, which will require a special holster. If the handgun and light are carried separately, the light is mounted as the need is perceived. It must then be dismounted before the handgun can be holstered. If the armed officer must defend him or herself with less lethal force, it will be difficult if not impossible to re-holster the gun in a fighting situation.

Low Light Firing without a Flashlight

A trained armed officer can effectively engage and hit a threat in low light conditions without the aid of a flashlight. The light from streetlights, buildings and vehicles can provide enough light to use the sights and hit. Without the flashlight, however, it is difficult in low light conditions to determine if a person is armed and presents a deadly threat. Firing without the aid of a flashlight will probably be restricted to situations in which the threat is already firing on the officer and there is neither time nor need to employ the flashlight.

The effectiveness of firing in low light conditions without the flashlight can be enhanced making the sights more visible to the shooter and/or employing low light specific techniques:

1. Equipping the handgun with (tritium) night sights.
2. Painting the front sight with white or luminescent paint to make it more visible.
3. Using the instance of muzzle flash to verify alignment of the sights.
4. Aligning the sights against a lighter background, and then moving that image on to the target.
5. Using stance directed fire (unsighted) at close ranges.

Reloading and Clearing Malfunctions

1. Turn the flashlight off and move. If cover is available, use it.
2. If your flashlight is full size, place it high under your strong arm with the lens facing forward. If your flashlight is a small belt light, it can be difficult to retrieve from under your arm. An alternative is to place it in a pocket or in its sheath or holder.
3. After reloading or clearing the malfunction retrieve the flashlight and assume one of the flashlight firing techniques.



Fig. 10-20

Firing around Corners with the Flashlight

It may be necessary for an armed private security officer to fire around the corner of a building or, if the officer is moving or retreating, to observe around the corner and be ready to fire if necessary. It is important that the armed officer expose as little of his or body as possible to the threat. An accepted method of clearing a corner is the "slice the pie" technique. To slice the pie the officer places him or herself in a low ready position at least three or more feet from the corner and then moves in small arcs around the apex of the corner. Each arc or movement exposes an additional slice or area to the officer's view.

It is important that the beam of the flashlight enter the exposed area slightly ahead of the gun. This will prevent the light from "splashing" off the cover and impairing the officer's vision. The Harries Technique works best when clearing a corner on the officer's strong side (right side for a right handed shooter), and the Side By Side Technique works best when clearing a corner on the officer's support side.



Fig. 10-20



Fig. 10-21

Section 10: Review

1. Why does a low light environment present special problems when encountering a possible threat?
2. What does "Two is one and one is none" mean?

3. Generally, an officer concealed by dark shadows should not turn the flashlight on. Why?
4. What is the legal issue if a gun-mounted light is improperly used to illuminate non-threat persons?