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Self-Defense Advice: Consider Your Sources

by Sheriff Jim Wilson
Friday, February 15, 2019

I have gotten to the point where I seldom visit online gun forums, blogs or comments sections. The simple reason is that I have seen a huge amount of bad advice offered about personal defense and firearms. Some of that advice, in fact, is downright dangerous.

The latest piece of dangerous advice was shared with me by a shooting buddy. The nameless "expert" on this particular forum was suggesting that the best defense handgun is a single-action revolver, carried in the holster with the hammer cocked. Yes, with the hammer cocked.

It appears that this particular scribe believes that this technique is very fast and accurate. I would suggest that it can be so fast that the shot may be made before the gun is even out of the holster. In which case, something more than band aids would likely be in order. I won't belabor the point because anyone who knows anything at all about handguns can see how foolish and dangerous such a practice would be.

Another piece of internet advice that got a lot of mileage was the suggestion that people should carry their semi-automatic pistols with an empty chamber. This was touted as the proper technique because some military organizations required it, ignoring the whole issue of response time. While I understand that some folks, for one reason or another,

may not feel safe carrying with a loaded chamber, the obvious solution is to carry a double-action revolver or just get some professional training with a semi-automatic pistol.

While I understand the entertainment value of the various forums and blogs, folks should keep in mind that personal defense is a serious business with serious consequences. It may be difficult to get sympathy from a jury when you tell them that you got your advice and guidance from "Bubba" on some random blog. When I want to check on a defensive technique, I go to known experts in the field, people like Rich Grassi, Claude Werner, Dave Spaulding, Grant Cunningham, Ken Campbell at Gunsite Academy or Clint Smith at Thunder Ranch, to name just a few of the real experts who are out there. Many of these experts even have their own web pages to check out.

Internet columns and print articles published from reputable sources are much different when we submit them to editors who not only check our punctuation and grammar but also read the article to make sure that what we have said is clear and reasonable. Often, this second set of eyes causes us to rewrite something to try to make sure that the reader understands what we are really trying to get at. Here at the NRA, our pieces are often submitted to legal



advisers to further assure that our material is within legal bounds as well. It makes for extra work, but we feel that we have this responsibility to our readers.

Seeking advice and information that helps us to better defend ourselves is a smart thing to do. However, the defensive shooter is well advised to consider the source of the information and to make every effort to use only the best sources. You might want to keep in mind that Ol' Bubba, who advocates carrying a cocked single-action revolver in your holster, is probably not going to be available to testify in your defense.

<https://www.shootingillustrated.com/articles/2019/2/15/self-defense-advice-consider-your-sources/?NRARelatedContent=true>



U.S. Rifle Team Wins Bronze Medal In New Zealand

<https://www.ssusa.org/articles/2019/2/14/us-rifle-team-wins-bronze-medal-in-new-zealand/>

by SSUSA Staff
Thursday, February 14, 2019

Despite difficult wind conditions, the United States Rifle Team had an impressive bronze medal finish in the Palma Match at the World Long Range Championship in Trentham, New Zealand.

This year marked the 31st firing and competition for the Palma Team Trophy for the U.S. Rifle Team. The Palma Match was fired during the last two days of the World Championship. The match includes four days of shooting at 800-, 900- & 1000-yard distances. Seven teams were entered in the Palma Match. The range at Trentham was in great condition, but the wind was another story altogether. Palma Match coaches had their hands full dealing with it.



Each team is assigned to fire on four separate targets, each requiring four line coaches and one back coach. With the skill of every rifleman being some of the best in the world, the winner is ultimately decided by the ability of coaches to read the wind—and the shooter's ability to deliver the shot before the wind conditions shift.

By the end of the second day the Australians had mastered the ever-changing wind conditions, posting the winning score of 7078-773V, thus winning the Palma Trophy and the gold medal. They were followed by the team from the United Kingdom winning the silver medal with a score of 6951-608V. The U.S. team, finishing in third place with a score of 6932-676V, won the bronze medal. Both

the U.K. and the U.S. teams fiercely fought for the runner-up spot, right down to the last shooter. South Africa, New Zealand, Canada and the Channel Islands rounded out the Palma Team Championship leaderboard.

Rifle shooters from over eight countries competed for the Individual World Championship. At completion of firing, it was Australian shooter S.M. Negus declared the winner. The U.S. shooters here fared well—with O. Milanovic and B. Green placing fifth and sixth, respectively.

The next World Championship for Target Rifle will be in South Africa in 2023, where the U.S. will be vying for their 14th Palma Trophy World Team Championship. Should they accomplish this feat, it will be their first win since 1985, out of 32 total attempts.

Special thanks to Walt Walter for his help reporting this story.

ISSF World Cup: 2019 Series Kicks-Off In New Delhi

by SSUSA Staff
Friday, February 22, 2019

There will be 500 shooters representing 60 countries in 10 Olympic rifle and pistol events at the first ISSF (International Shooting Sports Federation) World Cup of the 2019 season, which began Thursday, February 21, at the Dr. Karni Singh Shooting Range in New Delhi, India.

This marks the third time an ISSF match has been held in New Delhi since 2017.

Competitive shooters will face off in 10 rifle and pistol events, and the ISSF says that there will be

wide television coverage of the event. Approximately 78 countries spanning four continents can follow the competition live.

Some controversy has marred the event, however. Indian authorities denied entry visas to Pakistani athletes who were to compete at the New Delhi ISSF World Cup.

According to an ISSF press release dated Friday, February 22, the IOC (International Olympic Committee), following the principle of non-discrimination, made the difficult decision to revoke the Olympic qualification status of the Men's 25 Meter Rapid Fire Pistol event.

(This is the event the Pakistani athletes were going to compete in.)

The IOC has stated that the ISSF has to make a proposal on how the two quotas in Rapid Fire Pistol will be redistributed.

The ISSF is the governing body for Olympic shooting events conducted throughout the world, with 160 affiliated national federations.

Learn more by visiting the ISSF website at ISSF-Sports.org.

<https://www.ssusa.org/articles/2019/2/22/issf-world-cup-2019-series-kicks-off-in-new-delhi/>

ISSF World Cup 2019: No visas to Pakistan shooters



The failure to grant visas to the Pakistani team has resulted in India staring at international isolation in sport. The fate of a few high-profile tournaments that India is scheduled to host hangs in the balance after the International Olympic Committee (IOC) recommended to all global federations that they 'neither award nor hold' sports events in the country until they receive written assurances from the government that participants from all nations will be guaranteed entry.

The India Open badminton tournament in March, the Hockey Series Finals in June and the Commonwealth Table Tennis Championship in July are some of the tournaments in the short term that look likely to be impacted by the advisory. India's bid for the 2022/23 Hockey World Cup along with the intention to host the 2026 Youth Olympics, the 2030 Asian Games and the 2032 Olympics have also suffered a setback following the IOC's ruling, which comes after the Indian government denied visas to Pakistani shooters for the ISSF World Cup in the aftermath of the Pulwama attack.

International Hockey Federation (FIH) CEO Thierry Weil said they will seek further clarity from the IOC before deciding on the future of tournaments scheduled to be held in India.

"We have taken good note of and totally respect the decision of the

IOC taken in full compliance with the principles of the Olympic Charter," Weil said. "We will engage with the IOC to understand and get clarity on the concrete implications of this decision. Only thereafter will we be able to provide any further comments on FIH events planned in India, or for which India is bidding."

The IOC announced late Thursday night that it has suspended talks with the Indian government and country's Olympic Association (IOA) for hosting sports events in the future after it accused the country of violating principles of 'non-discrimination.'

A three-member Pakistani team, comprising two pistol shooters and a manager, was scheduled to arrive in Delhi on Wednesday for the World Cup, which is also a qualifying event for next year's Tokyo Olympics. However, the Pakistani team withdrew after they were not granted visas despite "intense last-minute attempts", according to the IOC.

While there has been no official statement from the Indian government, the International Shooting Sport Federation and National Rifle Association of Pakistan (NRAP) have claimed the visas have not been granted so far because of the terror strikes in Pulwama last week.

The IOC said they also took into consideration the recent incident where India did not grant visa to a boxer from Kosovo for the World Championship in Delhi last November.

"The IOC noted that it was not the first time that such incidents of challenges of entry of international sports delegations have happened in India; the latest of which was the women's boxing team from Kosovo not being able to

attend the AIBA Women's World Championships in November 2018," IOC sports director Kit McConnell wrote in a letter to ISSF president Vladimir Lissin.

Consequently, India have been found guilty of violating the Olympic Charter. McConnell, in his letter, said the situation goes against: "the Fundamental Principles of the Olympic Charter, in particular the principles of non-discrimination and the IOC/Olympic Movement's position, reiterated on many occasions over the past few years, i.e. that equal treatment must be guaranteed for all participating athletes and sporting delegations at international sports events, without any form of discrimination or political interference from the host country."

As a consequence, the IOC was considering revoking all quotas on offer at the Delhi World Cup. But after intervention by India's IOC member Nita Ambani, Olympic Council of Asia honorary life vice-president Randhir Singh, Indian Olympic Association president Narinder Batra and sports minister Rajyavardhan Singh Rathore, the IOC decided to scrap quotas in only that event where the Pakistanis were competing (25m rapid fire pistol).

While India survived an embarrassment at the World Cup, whether the country is allowed to host other events remains to be seen.

<https://indianexpress.com/article/sports/sport-others/international-olympic-committee-sports-events-india-pulwama-attack-pakistan-5597397/>

Trigger Finger Discipline

by Patrick Sweeney
Friday, December 7, 2018

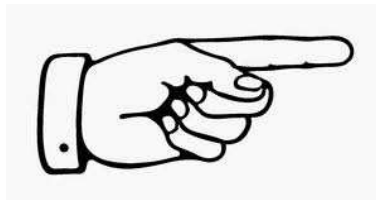
One of The Four Rules covers your trigger finger. As in, your trigger finger ought not be anywhere near the trigger, unless you are actually shooting or going to be shooting. It was not always thus.

A few years ago, I was a gun-handling coach on a movie production, set in the gangster era, and when I arrived at the production site, I had a quick talk with the prop master. The question was simple: what level of verisimilitude were we working at? He had to think for a moment, and then said "fingers off the trigger."

So, we set about teaching the actors how to keep their fingers off the triggers of their gangster guns, despite the custom in that time period being different.

This has gotten to the point that many shooters don't even know what things were like back then. As an example, watch "Saving Private Ryan" and you'll see a lot of the actors keeping their fingers straight. Or substitute any modern war, gangster, police or action movie. I hate to tell you this, but that's not the way things were in the 1940s. GIs did not walk around with fingers straight, mostly because they couldn't. The safety on an M1 Garand is in the trigger guard. On carbines, it is on the front of the trigger guard, and on a BAR, the magazine catch is in the trigger guard. GIs had their fingers in the trigger guard all the time.

But do that on-screen today, and you'll be excoriated, verisimilitude be damned.



Now, movie "magic" and historical accuracy aside, keeping fingers out of the trigger guard is a good thing. So good, in fact, that I don't even mind when I've been singled out about it. And I have.

There is another way, however. That is the "Bent C" position. You see, keeping your finger straight is all well and good, but in some—I'll admit, rare—circumstances, it isn't enough. If you are holding a firearm, and stumble or fall, the sympathetic nervous system clutching you'll do (both hands will clench, at maximum strength) can cause your finger to slip off the frame and onto the trigger.

This is a less than a one-in-a-million chance, but some feel strongly enough about it that they teach the bent-C finger position.

I try to do it, I think it can be beneficial, but I've had to change some times. I've been in classes and tactical training where the instructor thought bent-C so odd as to instruct me to go back to the straight finger. Mostly so they could see if my finger was straight or not. They couldn't tell if the bent-C finger position was on the frame, or in the trigger guard.

Which is the drawback, if there is one, to the bent-C position: others can't tell if you have it right or not, not easily, anyway. The straight finger, they can.

This is a huge sea change from the early days. This was brought about by International Pistol Shooting Confederation (IPSC) competition, where the rule from the beginning was to keep your finger away from the trigger until you needed it there to shoot. It had become such dogma that you simply cannot argue otherwise, which is fine by me, so I won't.

But the important thing to remember is this: a straight finger is a means to an end, not an end in itself. Having a straight trigger finger does not excuse bad habits. Just because your trigger finger is straight does not excuse you from failing to control muzzle direction. It does not mean you can fail to follow other range rules, such as "safe areas," or the required stage procedure in a match.

Not to pick on them in particular, but I see this sometimes in entry teams. There's a stack of officers (on the big screen, or in real life) and packed in so tight, they have muzzles covering each other. Guys, just because your finger is straight it doesn't negate Rule One.

But when I started, fingers inside the trigger guard was normal, because a lot of our fathers (for many readers, your grandfathers) were taught that it was OK.

Times change, be kind when you correct someone, at least the first dozen times or so.

<https://www.american1stfreedom.org/articles/2018/12/7/trigger-finger-discipline/>

Watch this space ...for more interesting firearm snippets

How To Choose a Defensive Firearm Holster



by Sheriff Jim Wilson
Sunday, February 3, 2019

Since people began carrying defensive handguns, just about every carry method that you can imagine has been tried out and put into play. A natural form of evolution has left us with the defensive carry methods that work in the real world. However, it is not a matter of what is popular at the time but, rather, what works best for you. Physical condition, infirmities, dress habits and work habits all come into play when a person is seriously considering the best defensive holster.

Probably the most useful and most common method is carrying the pistol on the strong side hip. The pistol is closest to-and protected by-your strong hand. When drawn, the pistol is brought up and onto target in virtually a straight line. For concealment purposes, the pistol holster is located either just behind the hip bone, or just in front of it. From either position, this can produce a quick draw with some practice.

The length of the usual covering garment dictates whether the pistol should be worn inside the waistband or outside, since concealment is critical. If you choose an inside-the-waistband holster, the pants or skirt ought to be a size larger than you usually wear, in order to allow for the extra width of the gun and holster. If you wear it on the outside, you should be sure that your jacket is long enough to completely conceal even the bottom edge of the holster.

However, some folks may have a little trouble making a comfortable draw from such strong-side holsters. Either due to age or some shoulder injury, some people find it difficult to raise their shoulder high enough to quickly access the handgun. In this case, a cross-draw holster or shoulder holster may be a better choice.

The cross-draw holster is generally worn in front of the hip on the support side of the body (the left side for right-handed shooters, and vice versa). The shoulder rig is worn on the same side, under the arm. And the shoulder rig has the added advantage of also carrying extra ammunition on the strong side, making the shoulder-holster rig one unit for carrying the pistol and ammunition.

Another advantage of the cross-draw holster and shoulder holster is that the defensive handgun is more readily accessible when the shooter is seated (or uses a wheelchair). If you spend most of your day seated behind a desk or behind the wheel of the car, these may be the best choices for you. As an example, I usually carry my handgun on my strong-side hip, but find it difficult to get to when I am all belted in and driving my vehicle. For this reason, when a lot of driving is the order of the day, I nearly always put on a shoulder holster.

One important consideration for the cross-draw and, to a certain extent, the shoulder holster is making sure that the covering garment is fastened so that it won't blow open and expose the handgun. A jacket, only partially zipped or buttoned, works pretty well for this type of concealment. Instead of unfastening the jacket, one simply goes in over the bottom fastener and accesses his pistol.

For a time the small-of-the-back (also called an SOB) holster saw some popularity. This rig holds the handgun in almost a horizontal position behind the hip bone and in the vicinity of the spine. However, while it does conceal the pistol quite well, it has some serious drawbacks. For the seated shooter it is even more difficult to get to than conventional strong-side carry. The worst drawback, however, is that if one falls, or is knocked down, on his back the gun can impact the spine with the potential for causing serious injury.

Another carry method that provides a good deal of concealment is the ankle holster. This rig, usually well padded, straps to the leg at, or just above, the ankle. It is best used with small revolvers and autos, so it can be concealed by the pants. The biggest drawback is that this carry method is rather slow for getting the gun into action. It is worthy of consideration, though, especially for carrying a second gun.

For the new defensive shooter the best bet is to start working with a strong-side hip holster. You should take some training classes using this method to see how it works for you. If it just won't fit into your program as far as concealment, comfort and quick access, you can try some of these other carry methods. Chances are good that one of them will feel very natural, easy to conceal and quick to get into action.

Don't be afraid to experiment to see what works best for you. And don't be afraid to buy quality. Remember, when selecting defensive pistols and holsters, that this is equipment that you may very well have to bet your life on.

<https://www.nrafamily.org/articles/2019/2/3/how-to-choose-a-defensive-firearm-holster/>