

Martinelli & Associates
Justice and Forensic Consultants, Inc.



PMSBLACK PMS02RED

DEFENSIVE HANDGUN LEVEL ONE

"STREET SAFE" DEFENSIVE HANDGUN - LEVEL ONE

COURSE OUTLINE

A. WELCOME AND ORIENTATION

1. Instructor Introduction
2. Program Registration
3. Course Rules and Regulations
4. Program Objectives
5. Overview of Safety

B. LEARNING GOALS AND COURSE OBJECTIVES

1. The student will be able to list the Four Cardinal Firearms Safety Rules.
2. The student will be able to describe the methods of safety and legally storing firearms in the home.
3. The student will be able to demonstrate the basic principles of safely handling and firing handguns.

C. FIREARMS SAFETY CONSIDERATIONS

1. The Four Cardinal Rules of Firearms Safety
2. Range Safety Rules
3. Firearms Locking Devices
4. Guns, Kids & Cops

D. BASIC HANDGUN DESCRIPTION AND NOMENCLATURE

- Semiautomatic Pistol
 - a. Single Action
 - b. Double/Single
 - c. Double Action Only

E. HANDGUN AMMUNITION

1. Cartridge
 - a. Centerfire
 - b. Rimfire
2. Components
 - a. Primer
 - b. Cartridge Case
 - c. Propellant Powder
 - d. Bullet

F. BASIC SHOOTING PRINCIPLES

1. Shooting Stance
 - a. Weaver
 - b. Isosceles
2. Master Grip
 - a. Flying Thumbs
3. Sight Alignment
4. Sight Picture
5. Breathing
6. Trigger Press
7. Follow-through

G. LOADING AND UNLOADING PROCEDURES

H. DRY FIRE DRILLS

I. RANGE EXERCISES

J SUMMARY

1. Review
2. Discussion
3. Student Critiques

COURSE RULES AND REGULATIONS

As a student attending this course, you are expected to follow all course rules and regulations.

1. SAFETY FIRST - all techniques shall be practiced at slow or moderate speeds until skills are perfected.
2. Live ammunition will not be allowed in the classroom.
3. Practice ONLY those techniques which are being taught and directed by the instructor.
4. No smoking or eating during training.
5. Report any unsafe condition that you observe to the instructor.
6. Immediately report any cut or injury, no matter how minor, to the instructor.
7. Any open cut or wound must be properly bandaged.
8. Improper conduct or language will not be tolerated.
9. Do not leave the classroom or training area without notifying the instructor first.

I have read and understand the course rules and regulations and agree to abide by them, and I can participate fully in the training program.

Student Name (print)

Date

Student Signature

FOUR CARDINAL RULES OF FIREARMS SAFETY

1. TREAT EVERY FIREARM AS IF IT WERE LOADED AT ALL TIMES.

There are no exceptions to this rule, be extremely serious about it. You must always believe that a firearm is loaded when handling it. "Check It Twice"

2. KEEP THE MUZZLE POINTED IN A SAFE DIRECTION

This rule is the most violated of the four. Due to the short length of handguns, it is extremely easy to point the muzzle in an unsafe direction. Letting this occur is one of the most obvious signs of an incompetent gun handler.

3. NEVER PLACE YOUR FINGER INSIDE THE TRIGGER GUARD UNTIL YOU ARE ON TARGET, AND HAVE MADE THE DECISION TO FIRE

You have more than enough time to "index the trigger finger" on the trigger as you are aligning the sights on the target. By keeping your trigger finger outside the trigger guard, you are being safe, yet can instantly index the trigger finger and fire. You cannot physically line up any firearm on target before you can index your trigger finger on the trigger.

4. BE SURE OF YOUR TARGET AND BACKGROUND 100% OF THE TIME

You must identify the target first. Then you must be cognizant of the area around and behind the intended target.

These four safety rules must form a "safety reflex" that is in place and working all the time. These are all the safety rules you will ever need, memorize them and use them constantly.

RANGE SAFETY RULES

1. Safety is EVERYBODY'S responsibility.
2. All individuals on, or near the firing line will be required to wear the following safety equipment; hearing protection, eye protection (safety glasses) and a ball cap or hat.
3. Listen for, and follow the commands of the instructor at all times.
4. When holding any firearm in your hands at any time (except when firing), the action will be open.
5. Keep the trigger finger out of the trigger guard and straight alongside the frame except when actively shooting.
6. Whenever you stop firing, (even for a brief moment), remove your trigger finger from the trigger, and place it straight along the side of the frame.

I have read and understand the Four Cardinal Rules of Firearms Safety and the Range Safety Rules and agree to abide by them.

Student Name (print)

Date

Student Signature

GUNS, KIDS AND COPS

If you live in California and your gun falls into the hands of any child under the age of sixteen, and anyone is harmed by the use of your gun, you may be criminally prosecuted with felony charges and serve up to three years in State Prison.

Furthermore, should your gun fall into the hands of anyone, and anyone is harmed by the use of your gun, you will likely be sued and perhaps be required to pay a monetary award.

Thus, gun owners, insurance companies, adjusters, attorneys, and underwriters must each be aware of the substantial consequences now facing gun owners who fail to properly secure their weapons.

It is undeniable, because of tragic repetition, that children have a strong attraction to firearms. This virtually magnetic attraction is likely a result of the prolific use of firearms and explosives on television shows, video games, and in movies. Most children, however, have never seen or felt the destruction that real firearms and ammunition inflict. Consequently, they do not understand the grotesque injury and violent death that firearms produce.

It is all too common that we learn of a tragic story where a child injures or kills them self, or another, while playing with an unsecured firearm. In spite of these devastating events, countless gun owners continue to invite disaster by leaving guns and ammunition accessible to children.

To aid in the prevention of death or serious bodily injury to children, California enacted laws which make it illegal to negligently store firearms accessible to children. Adults of the household can be held responsible for the negligent and/or wrongful death of children regardless of whether the firearm was used on, or carried off of the premises.

In California, laws prohibit anyone from "keeping any loaded firearm within any premise which is under his or her custody or control and he or she knows or reasonably should know that a child is likely to gain access to the firearm without the permission of the child's parent or legal guardian." A violation of this law that results in great bodily injury or death is deemed "criminal storage of a firearm in the first degree", a felony. A violation of this law that results in injury, other than great bodily injury or death, the crime is deemed "criminal storage of a firearm of the second degree", a misdemeanor. Criminal storage of a firearm in the first degree, a felony, is punishable by up to three years in the State Prison. Criminal storage of a firearm in the second degree, a misdemeanor, is punishable by up to one year in the County Jail.

This author was retained as an expert witness in just such a case in 1995. In that case, the action arose out of a tragic shooting incident where a fourteen-year old boy shot and killed a fifteen-year old boy with a negligently stored and loaded pistol. The fourteen-year old defendant retrieved a 9mm Beretta pistol that his parents had stored loaded and unlocked beside their bed. The young shooter planned a practical joke on his friend, obtained the gun, removed the loaded magazine and inserted an empty magazine. He did not, tragically, remove the round in the pistol's chamber. He pointed the gun at his friend, pulled the trigger, and fatally shot his friend. It was one life lost and another life ruined.

Most children will play with an available firearm if they have the opportunity to do so. A child's curiosity may cause him or her to disregard a direct order forbidding them to handle a firearm. Even though one child is responsible, his or her playmates may not be. Even the best children are vulnerable to a desire to show off and obtain an available firearm and let others play with it.

To prevent such temptation, and any succeeding catastrophes, gun owners are legally and morally required to safeguard their firearms beyond the reach of children and young adults alike. Never presume a child is too young or too small to pull a trigger. If firearms are kept in the home, everyone residing there must be given safety instruction as soon as possible. The age and extent of this training will depend on the maturity of everybody involved.

Home defense weapons should be concealed where they are obtainable in an emergency, but beyond the reach of small children and inaccessible to inquisitive children and teenagers. A locked cabinet, closet, or drawer is acceptable, but a gun safe is ideal. The higher the storage place, the less likely small children will find the gun. A home defense weapon should always be returned to the same location in the home. Also, all adult members of the family should be made aware of its location, and how to handle it safely.

The dangers of keeping a loaded firearm in the home should be apparent to everyone. If such a practice is undertaken, gun owners should employ any means necessary to insure the safety of their family members and invited or uninvited guests. An inquisitive but untrained person may attempt to examine a loaded firearm and injure or kill themselves or another by unintentionally discharging the firearm. Even people trained in the safe handling of firearms under high stress may become excited and fire without sufficient justification at unidentified threats.

Never, and I mean NEVER, keep a loaded gun near the bed. Half-awake and sluggish people make terrible decisions and even worse marksman. They often shoot themselves or a family member.

The following recommendations may save a life or prevent serious injury and the resulting criminal prosecution or civil litigation:

- * All firearms must be locked in a box, drawer, closet, or safe. Keep the key combination secured at all times.

- * Shoulder-fired weapons should also be unloaded and secured in a locked container.

- * Never store a firearm in a holster or loaded.

- * Treat all firearms as if they are loaded.

- * Commercial gun locks are available for all types of firearms. Use quality gun locks as much as possible. Another effective method for temporarily disabling a firearm is to snap a padlock or handcuff through the trigger guard behind the trigger, or by opening the cylinder on a revolver and secure the padlock or handcuff around the top strap of the frame.

- * Ammunition should be stored in a secure location apart from the firearms, in a cool, dry place to help prevent deterioration.

Even people, like police officers, who carry and handle guns on a daily basis, sometimes exercise poor judgment in the storage of their weapons at home. In fact, people who handle guns on a daily basis are very likely to be derelict in the safe storage of their duty handguns. Even professional shooters and firearm's instructors have experienced gun mishaps. Due to over-familiarity, they may overlook or disregard the basic principles of firearm safety. Firearms, by their nature, deserve and require vigilance one hundred percent of the time. Gun owners must handle and secure their firearms responsibly every day of their life, if they do not, they should prepare to suffer criminal penalties and/or civil penalties. Worse yet, they should plan to spend every day of their life coping with the emotional anguish and guilt for their responsibility in another senseless death.

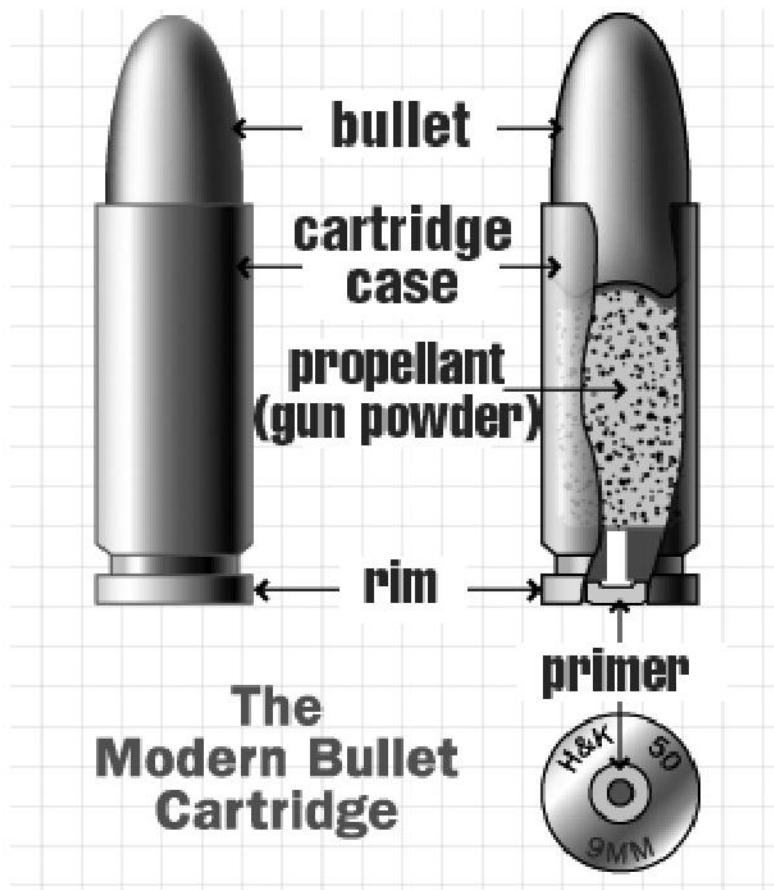
Ken Charles Barger, 47, accidentally shot and killed himself in December, 2004 in Newton, NC. Awakening to the sound of a ringing telephone beside his bed, he reached for the phone but grabbed instead a Smith & Wesson .38 Special, which discharged when he drew it to his ear.

BASIC HANDGUN DESCRIPTION AND NOMENCLATURE



HANDGUN AMMUNITION

One Round



PISTOL SHOOTING FUNDAMENTALS

A. SHOOTING STANCE

1. A position that affords the shooter balance, upper body stability and immediate fluid movement when necessary.

The Iscoceles and Weaver Stances

- a. Generally used when firing a static course of fire



ISCOCELES



WEAVER

B. MASTER GRIP

1. The important feature of the master grip is uniformity. The grip must be the same with each handgun, every time you fire. The grip must be firm with both hands applying equal pressure not allowing the handgun to slip in the hands, and not interfering with the independent movement of the trigger finger. The proper master grip, with firm pressure is critical to ensure the proper functioning of the semi-automatic pistol. Without a firm grip on the pistol frame and locking of the wrist, the shooter may induce a stoppage in the pistol.

2. The shooting hand should be as high as the design of the pistol will allow; this will absorb recoil straight to the rear.

- a. The middle and ring fingers control the pistol.
- b. Placement of the trigger finger is critical. The center pad of the trigger finger must be placed on the face of the trigger to control movement.
- c. The lower three fingers wrap around and grip the stocks.
- d. The shooting thumb is held high on pistols, and curled down on revolvers.
- e. The trigger finger is straight along side of the frame, and the handgun is straight in the hand.

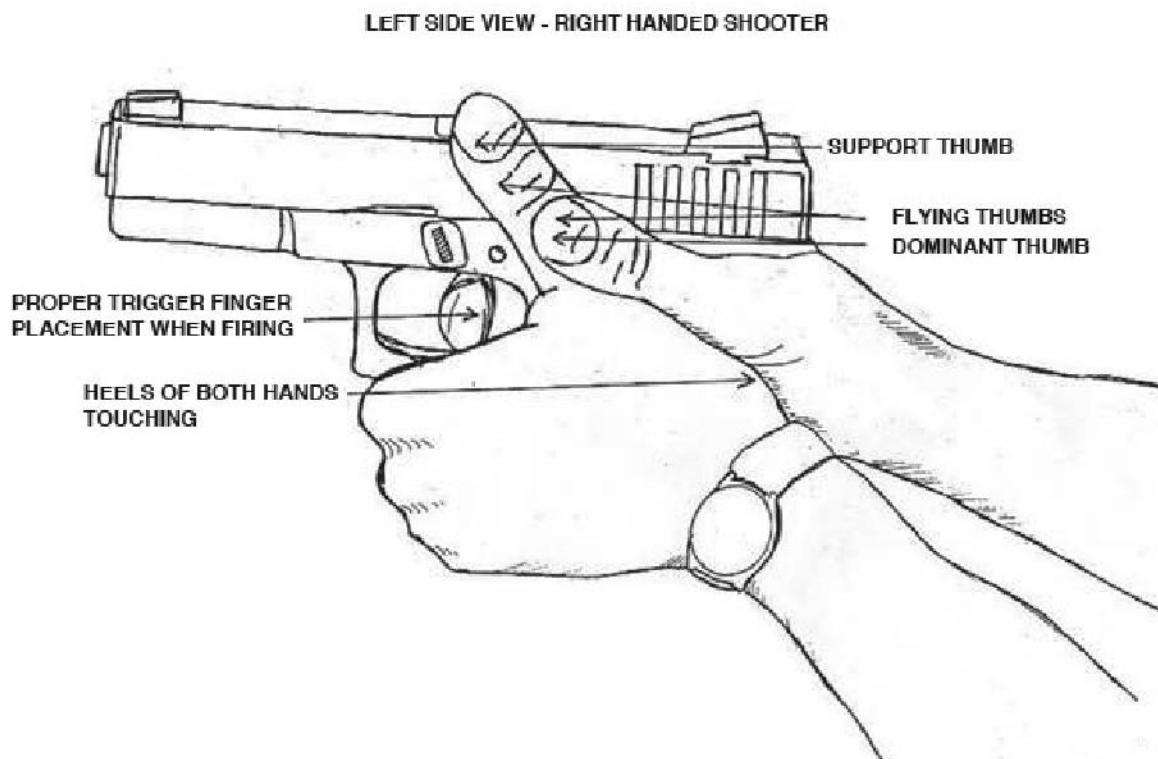
3. The support hand fingers are wrapped over-top of the shooting hand fingers and both hands applying firm but equal pressure with the thumb of the support hand placed on the slide on pistols, and curled down on revolvers.

- a. The shooting hand thumb is placed on top of the support hand thumb when firing a pistol.
- b. The index finger of the support hand is wedged between the bottom of the trigger guard and middle finger for maximum vertical support.

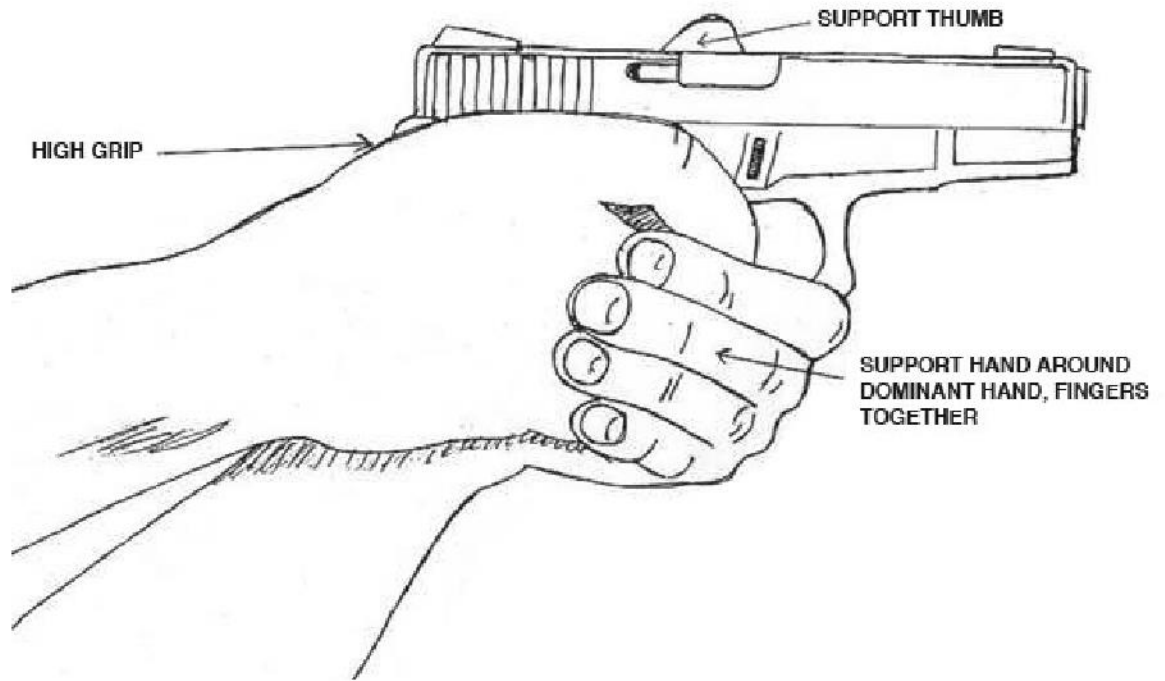
4. The heels of both hands must be touching.

a. The handgun and hand(s) should be rotated 30 to 40 degrees inboard for maximum control of recoil.

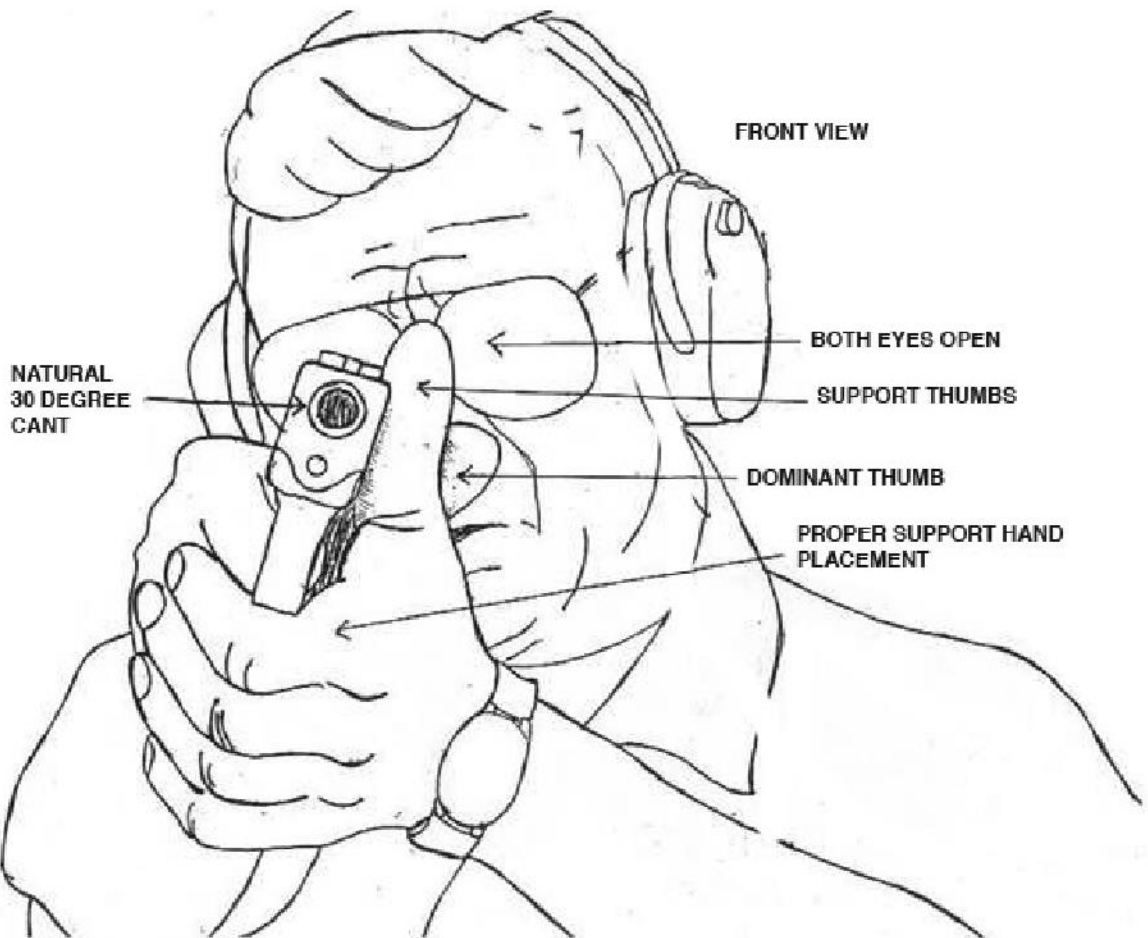
5. The shooter's body from the diaphragm up should press slightly into the handgun.



RIGHT SIDE VIEW - RIGHT HANDED SHOOTER



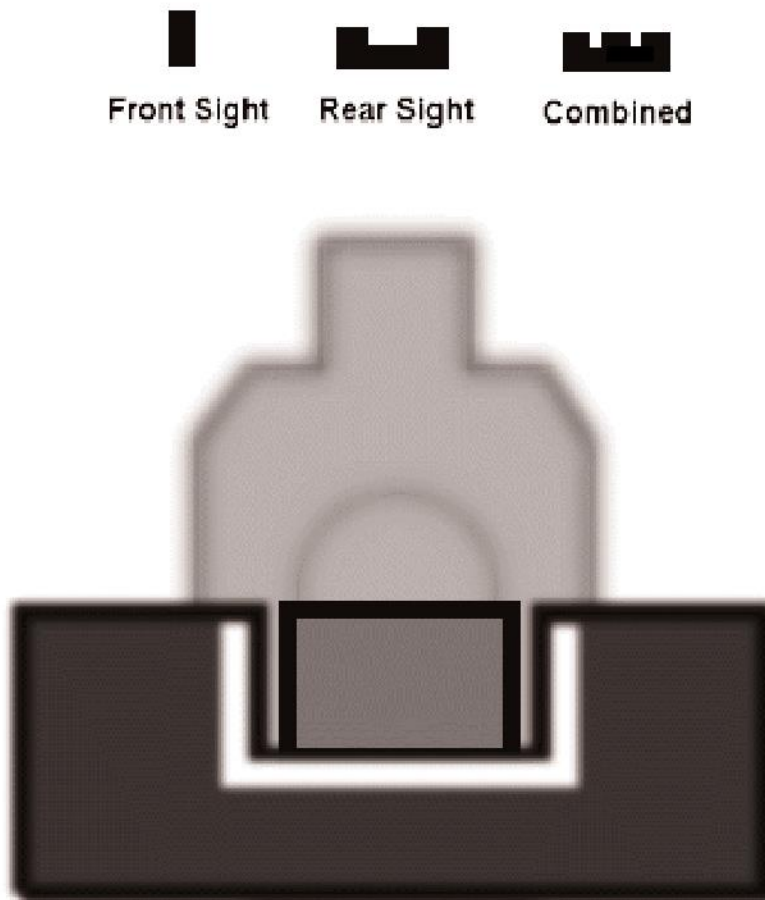
FRONT VIEW



C. SIGHT ALIGNMENT

1. True sight alignment is; "the top of the front sight level with the top edge of the rear sight, with an equal amount of light on both sides of the front sight, as it appears in the notch of the rear sight. Focus must be directed on the FRONT SIGHT, with the rear sight a blur and the target not in focus at all".

2. Of the principles of marksmanship, Sight Alignment and Trigger Control are the most critical. You must train to master them both. This is very difficult to train-in, as the overwhelming urge is to focus on the target. Proper training and practice will give you the ability to focus on the front sight, with both eyes open, and smoothly press the trigger in a timely manner.



D. SIGHT PICTURE

1. Simply stated, "The rear sight, front sight and the target precisely aligned". The key to correct combat sight picture is to focus on the front sight with both eyes open, when the action begins and while it is occurring. You must force yourself to do two things for each and every shot fired:

- a. Look directly at the front sight (through the rear sight).
- b. Press the trigger smoothly, but in a timely manner.

2. Both eyes, if at all possible, should be kept open. If you close one eye you will reduce your peripheral vision by 50%, destroy your depth perception and diminish available light.

E. TRIGGER CONTROL

1. Trigger control is the slow steady pressure on the trigger with the trigger finger until the pistol fires.
 - a. Hardest to teach and difficult to master
 - b. Number one shooter error and the element most likely to disturb sight alignment
 - c. Flinching and jerking the trigger can be controlled with repeated "dry firing" drills
2. Trigger control is more of a cerebral dilemma than a physical one,
 - a. Must have command of emotions before physically controlling movement
3. Trigger control is broken down into two phases;
 - a. Controlling movement to the rear - independent action of the trigger finger steadily pressing the trigger straight to the rear
 - b. Follow-Through - is the art of continuing rearward pressure on the trigger through the recoil cycle.
 - c. When recoil has ended, controlling the forward movement of the trigger until trigger reset has taken place, usually an audible click
 - d. The trigger finger must maintain contact with the trigger from beginning to end of the firing sequence
4. For the shooting novice, putting all this together can feel a bit stressful. The body tends to become tense, and the tendency is to hold the breath. Be conscious of your breathing. R-E-L-A-X. When you are ready to shoot, let your breath out, and at the point just prior to where you are ready to draw breath again, press the trigger.

LOADING AND UNLOADING THE SEMI-AUTOMATIC

1. Initial Loading - A term used for the administrative act of loading the pistol, in a safe manner, executing several steps that will reduce the potential for a negligent discharge.
2. Slide Locked Open - This method has two advantages, allowing you to check the pistol visually and physically to ensure that the pistol is ready to receive ammunition and allowing the fully charged magazine to be fully seated.
 - a. Point the pistol in a safe direction
 - b. Keep trigger finger straight along side of the frame
 - c. Lock the slide to the rear
 - d. Visually and physically check the magazine well and chamber to ensure that the pistol is ready to receive ammunition.
 - e. Insert a fully charged magazine into the magazine well and pull on the floor plate to ensure the magazine is fully seated.
 - f. Grasp the rear grooves of the slide and pull the slide fully to the rear allowing the slide to fly forward, do not ride the slide forward, chambering a round.
3. Slide Forward
 - a. Point the pistol in a safe direction
 - b. Keep the trigger finger straight along side of the frame
 - c. Insert a fully charged magazine and pull on the floor plate to ensure the magazine is fully seated.
 - d. Grasp the rear grooves of the slide and pull the slide fully to the rear allowing the slide to fly forward, do not ride the slide forward, chambering a round.

B. Unloading Procedures

1. Several negligent discharges occur due to improper unloading procedures. Unloading any firearm is an administrative function requiring extreme caution and attention to what you are doing.

- a. Keep trigger finger off the trigger and straight along the frame.
- b. Point the pistol in a safe direction
- c. Remove the magazine from the magazine well
- d. Pull the slide to the rear and eject the chambered round onto the ground, and then lock the slide to the rear.
- e. Physically and visually inspect the chamber and the magazine well to ensure the pistol is unloaded.

SAFETY NOTE: When ejecting the chambered round, never place your hand over the ejection port or attempt to catch the cartridge. This could allow the cartridge to fall back into the ejection port, causing a serious problem damaging the pistol, magazine and shooter.

COLOR CODES OF AWARENESS

CONDITION WHITE:

No perception of danger; "The possibility of being attacked is so remote that I will take no precautions with regard to my personal safety." In white, one is unprepared, and when attacked, will be eliminated.

CONDITION YELLOW:

Relaxed awareness; "I may have to use force, up to and including deadly force in order to save my life." If asked your location at any time, you could give it. If asked who is behind you, you could answer without looking. You are not actively looking for danger, but know it could occur.

CONDITION ORANGE:

Unspecified Alert; "Something Is Wrong! I see a danger signal and sense imminent peril. I have concluded from his words and/or actions that he intends to do me injury forthwith and that I am in imminent deadly danger. I am concerned only with my immediate physical survival. I will use that type and degree of force that is reasonable and necessary, and I will use it with vigor and precision. Your sensory antennae are out. You are aware of cover that can be taken by you or your opponent, and of the lanes of potential movement.

CONDITION RED:

ARMED ENCOUNTER, LETHAL ASSAULT IN PROGRESS; "He is attacking! This fight cannot be avoided or evaded. All possibility of defusing the situation has evaporated. I have reached the last resort. There is nothing left to constrain me from using force.

CONDITION BLACK:

PANIC, MISDIRECTED FRENZY, PARALYSIS; You are being attacked and your mind has gone blank. You are unable to make a decision. Be it lack of training, lack of preparedness, or complacency. To survive, you must gain control of the situation and act accordingly, using force up to and including deadly force.

Martinelli & Associates
Justice and Forensic Consultants, Inc.

OFFICE: 951-719-1450

FAX: 334-460-6175

EMAIL: Code3Law@martinelliandassoc.com