

Grassroots: IN THE SPOTLIGHT

written by: Paul Pawela

REDMAN "REALITY TRAINING PROGRAM FOR CIVILIANS"

here is a rather famous quote that goes something like this, "With great power comes great responsibility." Unfortunately, it's kind of sad that these words of wisdom did not come from a famous gun writer or gun instructor; instead, they flowed from the pen of a comic book writer for a popular superhero comic book character which would lead to a multi-million dollar comic book series and movie franchise.

And yet, I cannot think of any better quote that fits the bill for people who take on one of society's greatest responsibilities, as well as the possible consequences that are involved in carrying a concealed weapon.

Unfortunately, for the average citizen who has been indoctrinated into the belief that the state in which they received their carry permit from, sufficed all their own individual training requirements with the common misconstrued thinking, that amount of training for state requirements meets all the training they will ever need. Since many states mandate only one to two hours of training (in my state, it's a mandatory one hour class and shooting one bullet to satisfy state requirements) a responsible citizen would realize that for what it is, it's both a joke and a farce.

So, the next logical question is where do you go to get good training on a limited budget and what training program best suits your needs?

There has been a plethora of gun magazine articles devoted to the subject of "shooting schools" as well as written profiles on individual, well-known shooting instructors. What you might not know is what vested interest that particular magazine has to promote that particular school over another. Many times it simply boils down to money and who advertises with that magazine and who does not. Brace yourself: what I'm about to say may come as a complete shock to many of you.

The majority of shooting schools across the country do not in fact cater to teaching law-abiding citizens, even though the majority make most of their monies off those citizens. Shooting schools are primarily centered on training military and law enforcement personnel. The vast majority of tactics, as well as techniques, taught by those schools have almost nothing in common with lawabiding citizens.

Before going into cardiac arrest, please let me defend that statement. I have personally attended ten national shooting schools (some multiple times), of which I am a certified instructor for six of them. I have attended those schools in three different capacity roles: the first as a solider, the second as a police officer and the third as a regular citizen. Do you know what? There were no differences in any of the materials covered at the different schools regarding lesson plans geared to the clientele those schools were teaching. This is simply wrong.

This is wrong for several reasons. The primary reason being that each student category (military, law enforcement and civilian), by law, has a different set of rules on the use of deadly force requirements, but the shooting schools rarely, if ever, break this down to their students.

The second reason this is wrong is that all you have to do is take a look at the majority of the advertised shooting school's websites and ask yourself how many of those students attending those schools are actually wearing clothes that a normal citizen would wear—from a concealed carry stand point?

In just about every photo those students are wearing BDU-type cargos pants, generally carrying a gun in an exposed plain sight fashion and don't forget the particular firearm they carry either. Some are over-priced 1911's that should be tucked away safely in a display case to be forever admired, or some are high capacity semi-auto's accompanied by three or more magazine pouches with six to eight extra magazines strapped to their person. Now, what normal citizen carries that way? And are we not supposed to live by the mantra—train the way you fight?

As another point of interest: when was the last time you ever saw an instructor have a student on the line with a shoulder holster? How about a purse? Or how about drawing a gun from the pants pocket? They don't because they think that's not a practical way to carry, but for whom? That's right friends, for law enforcement and military that's who. And yet these are the very applications in which ordinary citizens carry their weapons on their person every day.



Instead of a law enforcement scenario, imagine this as a counter carjack scenario.



Learning a defensive tactics skill using the Redman® weapons defense training suit.

Third, the very tactics these shooting schools are teaching to civilians are wrong. Usually, these schools cover the tireless combat shooting triad which is: marksmanship (the shooters ability to hit the target quickly), tactics (the use of position, cover and concealment), and weapon presentation (the draw and handling of the weapon including reloading skills).

What's wrong with that you ask? Most shooting schools have students



Now, imagine utilizing your firearm at real speed under realistic conditions.

shoot thousands of rounds to improve on hitting the target. This is precisely what is needed if you are a tactical operator, but if you're a regular citizen, it's completely unnecessary, due to the fact that when civilians are involved in deadly force encounters it is generally at distances of seven feet to contact distance. At these close distances all the general principals of marksmanship training go right out the window.

Most shooting schools, although they advertise they are going to build on individual's skills, they are really teaching "team tactics." Think about that for a moment. When a student is on the firing line is there not someone to the left or right of them? Does not the shooting instructor teach move, shoot and communicate? Well, who's communicating with whom? The simple truth is that all the shooting schools are built around the tactics of a

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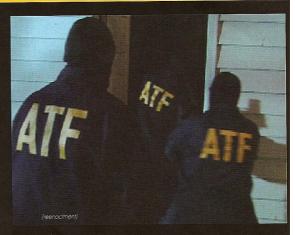
JPFO has exposed phony testing procedures that imprisoned thousands of innocent gun owners.

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The Gang: Using the Law to Destroy Your Freedom and Security video documentary exposes the criminal behavior of BATFE and calls for its abolishment.



What shooting school teaches you to fight on the ground with this much realism?

small military team or, at the very least, a two person law enforcement team. This is because rarely, if ever, do military or law enforcement personnel go after bad guys alone. If on rare occasion they do, those operators are armed to the teeth with primary and secondary weapons with back up knives, grenades (flash bangs), plenty of spare ammunition, etc. Now what civilian has that luxury to have that kind of support when faced with a life-threatening situation?

Relating to tactics, there are generally two ways a citizen engages in a deadly force situation: 1) They interrupt a crime in progress, i.e. home invasion, local store robbery etc. or 2) They are the victim of a crime in progress, i.e. robbery, carjack, attempted rape etc. Therefore, before a citizen can even attempt to go for a weapon there is a huge probability that citizen is going to have to fight their aggressors first before shooting them. Many times there is no time for a citizen to use cover and concealment.

Once again, this is hardly ever addressed at a shooting school, more over shooting schools spend countless hours teaching malfunction drills and tactical and speed reloads. I couldn't even find any documented case of a civilian ever needing to do a reload—ever!

Generally when you are looking to go to a training school, the following checklist of questions is usually a suitable guideline to help assist you in your decision making process:

- . Who developed the training program and what are the instructor's credentials?
- . What is the safety record of the school?
- . Who endorses the programs? You're looking for agency's endorsements, not individuals.
- . What are the certification requirements?
- . How long is the certification valid?

. Will the trainer back you if you end up having to defend the training or the use of the technique, tactic, or product in court?

To me, the latter question is the most important question that should be asked.

While government employees are often sued for excessive use of force—they are almost always covered by their municipality's insurance coverage and rarely held personally accountable even if they were in fact wrong for their actions. That is not the case for civilians. As previously stated, carrying a concealed weapon gives the person great power (literally, what power is greater than the possibility of taking a human life?) but bears the heavy burden of responsibility. That responsibility requires the best training you can get!

One of the best training programs in the world is that of Redman Training®. Every major police agency on this planet has been through a Redman Training he industry. They utilize Redman Training Sear® in the full-spectrum use of forcen-force training that includes, but is not imited to, defensive tactics, correctional acility disturbances (prisoner cell extractions and prison riot training), ground defense, and water survival raining to include lethal force training using approved projectile training rounds ike AirSoft™ and the Simmunitions™ narking round.

The man in charge of the Redman raining Gear program is Dave Young, vho also happens to be the director of pecialized programs for the Redman Division of Northcentral raining echnical College. Dave Young is one of the major power player trainers in he business today. He is a twenty-year reteran of both civilian and military law inforcement and is the chairman of the 'oliceOne.com advisory board, technical idvisor for Force Science Research Center, and is on POLICE Magazine's idvisory board.

Recently, I had the pleasure of neeting up with Dave while he was loing a photo shoot for the new Redman raining Gear catalog. Dave wanted to hare something with me as an exclusive innouncement for Concealed Carry Aagazine. Redman training is working n alliance with Northcentral Technical College and one of the largest martial irts organizations in the country. For he first time they will offer a training program specifically catered to civilians. The benefits of such a combined program ire mind boggling.

First, civilians will benefit from the apportunity to utilize the Redman Training

suns, and I will lell you from the youn personal experiences, I have used every suit available on the market today which includes Fist®, Spear®, Bulletman® and Redman and I can assure you the Redman suit—especially the new Redman Weapons Defense Training suit—is the way to go. I personally own three of the four mentioned suits and I have no vested personal interest other than telling you the truth.

Why this gear is so important? As Police Officers Safety Association's Director of Training, Ralph Mroz, said in one of his books, "In the need for empty hand skills, number one is the foundation of all defensive skills is empty hand skills, number two, no matter what weapons you carry and are trained with, you are still most likely going to have to depend on empty hand skills."

To put it plainly, if you're going to simulate fighting you better make it as real as possible and definitely as safe as possible. Redman Training has a long history of doing both.

The civilian martial arts Redman Training program has five different phases: the belt equivalent to that is white through black. The topics range from learning how to fall, the importance of verbalizations skills, fighting on the ground, defending against clubs, knife and guns, using high level simulations training scenarios utilizing AirSoft training guns, and everything in between.



Two different types of Redman® training gear.

This program will also teach the student how to prepare written statements for the police and how to testify in court.

Once the student completes each training phase they will receive a certification of completion from the NTC Redman Training Division moving toward an advanced degree certificate diploma for "personal self-defense," issued by Northcentral Technical College. Why is that such a big deal you ask? You will have attended and graduated from the only college-accredited personal defense course in the country today. By completing this program you will become instructor certified by Redman to teach the reality self-defense training program. With all those credentials backed by two, well-known training institutions, no one could ever accuse you of not taking the time and responsibility that bears the weight and power you will wield for carrying a concealed weapon.

For more information on the Redman Civilian Training program go to: www.redmantraining.net

Paul Pawela has combined 25 years of martial arts, police and military experience. He is a nationally recognized police, firearms and defensive tactics instructor. Paul was a military certified hand-to-hand combat instructor and is

