

JUNE 05

INFORMATION LETTER/UPDATE:

Calendar Changes/Updates Law Enforcement:

- **18-20 July 05** **Beaumont, TX Shotgun/Mech Breach** **Added**

Calendar Changes/Updates Civilian/Open:

- None Noted

IN GENERAL:

I have been busy over the last month and I apologize for this letter being late. I conducted a Shoot House Instructor course in N. Chicago and did an Advanced Hostage Rescue course in Kentucky, sponsored by their State Police. Both trips went well and we had excellent training sites for both areas.

I started this letter in Atlanta, while doing a two-day Tactical Rifle course. The course went well and the weather held out for us. It was a great crew with students from Georgia, North Carolina and Florida.

New Hot Mail Address

I no longer use the paulcsat@cox-internet.com e-mail address and will be using the paulkoko@hotmail.com exclusively in an effort to simplify and expedite communications.

COURSE UPDATE(S):

Tactical Rifle Tune Up (one day):

The Tactical Rifle “Tune Up” course was a success and I plan on doing more in the future. It is easy on the students, the instructor and the pocketbook. We covered, Safety, Zero, 100 prone, 75-50 kneeling and 25 standing. We also conducted speed work at 7 yards consisting of several core drills. The course will provided a solid foundation and a training plan to work from in the future. We were also able to get in some barricade work and moved over to the 100-300 yard long gun range for some steel work. One student, a computer programmer for a local bank was hitting

a 6 x 13" steel chest plates at 200 with his open sighted .223 AR. Needless to say, this was his second class and his confidence level was high.

RANGE UPDATE:

The creek gravel is down. My dozer man has spread creek gravel to the long gun range and the dust is gone. We have several projects we are going to be working on in the coming months.

We will finish and seed the vehicle/mover range this week and start to touch up and push out the long gun range. I am working on the design for the steel mover for the vehicle range.

We are also going to be working on the obstacle course by cleaning the road and making obstacle "pads" for each obstacle. I am looking at 20-25 obstacles when all is said and done. Once this is accomplished, I will start designing and building the obstacles from ones that I have encountered in the past.

TRAINING:

Medical

Most of you know that I do a great deal of driving to all my training venues. With the driving I see a great deal of traffic accidents. I would suggest keeping a basic aid bag in the car should you run up on an accident or if you are involved in one. I have recently rolled up on two "fresh" accidents this year, both with injuries. Simple wound kits, medical sissors and rubber gloves will help out a lot. Besides keeping a kit in your car, carry them on your tac vest or gun bags. This way you can start immediate treatment and not have to run 100 yard to get an aid bag

EQUIPMENT:

VERTICAL FORE GRIPS:

I have read a great deal of controversial remarks about the vertical fore grip on the AR systems. Yes, I am a dinosaur and still use the old horizontal grip. Here is my two-cents worth on the issue.

If you like it, use it. As long as you can make the hits from 0-200 yards, you should not have any problems. I generally have at least 50% of my students remove them and shoot the standards with a slick rifle. I could have a garage sale with all the excess gear students take off a weapon during a course.

As for aiding accuracy, two thoughts come to mind. First, I had a friend who works overseas from time to time, take his off because he would "torque" the gun/barrel on longer shots and it would throw his rounds off.

Second, as for muscle/bone support, it is a muscle support issue when using the vertical grip. Students at then end of several shooting days do become fatigued

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trying to muscle it on all shots. Individuals who wish to use it, should validate it at 100-200 prone, 75-50 kneeling and then 25 yards and in speed work. Also, try it with barricades. If it fails any stage, take a hard look at it.

As for using your weapon as an impact weapon, it can used with either a vertical or horizontal grip. As for the vertical grip aiding in weapon retention, I have not seen this yet. If someone is trying to grab your weapon, you need to wake up and get aggressive. Out of all the Swat folks I have talked to over the years, probably tens of thousands of raids, only one officer has had someone try and grab their primary weapon. I attribute this to a lack of aggressiveness.

In summary, if it works for you, use it. If it only works part of the time, evaluate it and see if it is really worth the money, weight, space and training time to employ efficiently. Just because a few folks from some special ops unit use them, does not mean they all do.

IN CLOSING

Take care and be safe.

Paul R. Howe