

**ATSA STUDY GROUP
August 16, 2008**

**RangeMaster Video
Concealed Carry**

The ATSA Study Group reviewed a just released DVD video from RangeMaster on Concealed Carry at the August, 2008 session.

The material is presented by Tom Givens, owner and operator of RangeMaster in Memphis, Tennessee. The video is the first in what promises to be a series of tutorial productions on various aspects of practical applications of weapons craft in domestic encounters with violent criminal actors.

The DVD is a tutorial in that it is not meant to be a substitute for actual study of the material presented under the guidance of a competent coach. The function of the production is to serve as an orientation to material for those who have yet to attend individualized training and as a review system for students once they have completed formal training with a recognized full-time trainer/coach.

TOM GIVENS

Tom's personal history as preparation for his comments on the subject of concealed carry is realistic and about as good as it gets. He has been a competitive shooter from high school. He has extensive experience with IPSC and IDPA.

He has spent decades as a police officer and has carried a sidearm daily throughout his adult life. He has studied the craft of using firearms in lethal encounters under much of the "old guard", (Col. Cooper, et al) as well as many of the current practitioners of our study.

He formed RangeMaster in 1996 and has trained tens of thousands of students interested in taking their responsibility to competently resist encounters with VCA. Since that time, he is aware of about 50 of his students being involved in domestic lethal encounters with VCA where

shots were fired. All but two prevailed. Those two came to their respective encounters unarmed. There is good evidence that Tom's tutelage is much more than effective.

Tom's style is direct and straight forward. He has little time for "whiz bang" technique or "gizmo's and gadgets". He avoids the temptations of the "guru syndrome". His focus is on giving his students the skills to return to their families at the end of a day when evil unexpectedly came their way.

CONCEALED CARRY

In keeping with Tom's personal operational philosophy, his first DVD is simple, straight forward and direct. The topic is concealed carry in a domestic environment. (Domestic refers to encounters with in the U. S.) Such encounters are sudden, unexpected, immediately violent and most commonly at short range. There is no time to go to another location and fetch a weapon. What is not readily accessible on the person is of no value. Hence, the need to go about in public with a concealed weapon to repel such encounters.

THE DVD

The DVD is divided into subject sections. The first section introduces Tom, his credentials and his rationale for his approach to the subject matter.

The second section is a discussion of the "safety rules". Tom, of course, uses the tried and true "universal four rules" promulgated at Gunsite under Col. Cooper. Actually, these "rules" are not rules at all, but rather a set of layered and dove-tailed behaviors that are designed to assure that a weapon does not discharge except as the result of a conscious decision by the operator and cause no injury that is not intended.

Similarly, the administrative handling of weapons is covered.

In short, these “safety rules” are really a set of behaviors that must be hard wired into the Practitioner’s ritual of handling weapons. They are, in effect, primary competency skills. If they are not automatic, the Practitioner is not competent to handle a weapon.

The discussion moves through weapons selection, transport system selection and cartridge selection. The message is simple. Full-sized guns firing powerful cartridges are just as easy to carry all day as diminutive sized weapons with under-powered cartridges if the transport system is wisely chosen. A well chosen transport system makes quick and immediate access to the weapon possible whether seated or standing.

The criterion for weapons selection is straight forward. It must be reliable and simple to operate.

Throughout the video Tom has male and female students demonstrate presentation and live fire techniques with the variety of transport systems he discusses.

Tom also discusses and demonstrates the presentation, sight acquisition and engagement techniques he teaches for concealed carry in a methodical and easy to follow fashion.

SUMMARY

The RangeMaster first entry into the tutorial DVD market is concise and well done. Those who are considering concealed carry should acquire a copy for review before taking a class. Those who have attended a class should acquire a copy as review material.

Visit RangeMaster.com for information on RangeMaster offerings including this DVD.

Concealed Carry for Self Defense is available for \$34.95 plus \$3.00 shipping. To order, call 901-370-5600.