



Fortress Defense Newsletter

Volume 1, Issue 6
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What's New at Fortress

June and July have without a doubt been the busiest months in Fortress history! The fact that we weren't able to send out a newsletter for two months should serve as a proof, and we certainly apologize for that!

Our Instructors were on the road conducting courses in three different states and we also completed our largest training program to date, our 6-day Ultimate Training package!

Starting on June 18th, Fortress took students through the basics of combat pistol, combat rifle and emergency treatment of gunshot wounds, and then finished up on the 23rd with a one day Armed Vehicle Defense Course taught by guest instructor Henk Iverson of [Strike Tactical Solutions](#) ! We had over 35 students during the week and feedback has been nothing but positive from all!

Once again we worked at the [Sand Burr Gun Ranch](#), and we need to thank Denny, Cindy, Ashley and Austin for being such wonderful hosts. There are few ranges in the country which understand what is necessary to train properly with defensive firearms and Sand Burr is one of them!

May you have Victory!
-The Fortress Staff



Student makes contact shot during Level I Pistol portion of our 6-day Training Package



Fortress is a proud sponsor of
The Survival Podcast Podcast

This month's featured articles:

Range Report: Fortress 6-Day Ultimate Training Package

by Frank Sharpe

The Mission of Protection: Prevention of Intentional Injury

by Rick Colliver

One-Day Introduction to Defensive Handgun Saturday Sept. 10th, Rochester, IN

Fortress presents our one-day Introduction to Defensive Handgun Course at the Sand Burr Gun Ranch in Rochester, IN. Perfect for the novice shooter or new gun owner interested in learning the basics of self-defense with a pistol or revolver. Ages 16 and up – women are welcome!

Topics will include:

- Basic safety**
- Range safety**
- Loading/unloading**
- Sight alignment/trigger control**
- Draw from holster**
- Reloading/stoppage reduction**
- Movement off the line of force**
- Fighting mindset**

Cost is \$135 per student.

**Contact Fortress for details and sign up
info@fortressdefense.com**

708-522-8060



Range Report: Fortress 6-Day Ultimate Training Package

By Frank Sharpe



Every now and then we Instructors end up having more fun than should be allowed, and that is exactly what happened two weeks ago in Rochester, IN! Students from five states traveled to The Sand Burr Gun Ranch to join us for 6 straight days of defensive firearms training beginning with [Level I Pistol](#) and running through [Level I Rifle](#), [Tactical Medical](#) and Vehicle Defense with guest Instructor Henk Iverson of [Strike Tactical](#) – what a week!



Class photo of the Fortress/Henk Iverson Armed Vehicle Defense Course June 23, 2011

Much was learned by all who attended, and I'll start with some of the interesting things we observed regarding equipment.

-Foreign manufactured ammunition is simply not to be relied upon for serious purposes. As we've seen in the past, quality control is just not up to proper standards. Most European ammunition is underpowered, and in the case of Sellier & Bellot, not only underpowered but extremely dirty. One student firing S&B in his pistol was unable to finish the first day without a complete field strip and cleaning of his Glock due to the grit and grim finding its way into the trigger mechanism. It is just filthy stuff!

Along with that, we saw one steel cased Wolf pistol round with the primer in backwards. And to be fair, we also saw a round of Winchester "white box" with the side of the case crushed from an improper bullet seating. The lesson here is to inspect every round of ammunition you charge in any magazine or load in any chamber – your life will depend on it!

We also witnessed frustration with steel cased ammunition being run in Western manufactured firearms. Most of it was feeding and extraction issues due to the lacquer coating found on some steel cases. It gets hot turns into a sticky mess inside the chamber which in turn causes failures to extract.

-Holster problems were at a minimum, but we once again note that leather holsters tend to collapse with use and end up being a struggle on the re-holster. We also saw one OWB (outside the waistband) holster rip in half as a student scrambled out of a car during an Armed Vehicle Course drill! The gun and holster portion was left behind in the car; the belt connection and holster base were still with the student. Much to his credit when he reached to draw and found his pistol missing, he instantly drew his knife and stayed in the fight – good show!

We also saw lots of struggle from those who chose to carry under an untucked shirt regardless of holster type. Pistols and hands were constantly getting tangled up in the loose shirt material, so much so that it left us with the opinion that without a new plan those students would not be able to bring a firearm to bear in an immediate defensive emergency. Such carry requires two hands during the drawstroke and all too often both hands are not available during a defensive emergency. Everything in this business is a trade off!

-Rifle issues were slight. We saw a collection of AR15's that all seemed to run well with brass cased ammunition. One student was unhappy with his Rock River "Operator" during our 4 magazine "heat drill." His rifle was factory equipped with an aluminum handguard and by the third magazine he was unable to hold the rifle by the fore end! Our advice was to make the appropriate changes immediately if he planned on using the rifle for serious purposes. We have seen very little with regard to mechanical issues with Rock River rifles; they are as reliable as any other. However, when one chooses to stamp the word "Operator" on the side of a rifle it had better stand up to its name! In this case it would appear that they were selling looks and image instead of a proper battle rifle.

-My own personal DSA/FAL let me down at a moment of truth as I went to demonstrate a drill! I simultaneously had the batteries die on my EOTech and experienced a failure to extract during the same run. When the sight went out I threw the latch on my GG&G quick detach mount, dumped the entire affair off the rifle, and continued on with iron sights - that really is the only option when running optics on rifles like the FAL-style or M1-Carbine since co-witnessing iron sights are not available. After my first shot, the rifle experienced a failure extract which left the bolt seized in place. I ran to the nearest tree and slammed the buttstock into it while operating the bolt. This freed the bolt and cleared the stuck case from the chamber; I continued on. Under combat conditions it is recommended that the butt be slammed on the ground during such a stoppage, but muzzle safety on the range took precedent in this situation.

I've been less than impressed by the EOTech "N" battery models over the years, and this one proved to be equally as unreliable. The batteries were under 6-hours old. I understand that EOTech now claims a 600-hour battery life with their AAA models, but I'll probably never know (unless one falls in my lap) as I won't be buying any of their products anytime soon since my experience with their customer service/support over the years has not been especially gratifying. The EOTech is my favorite optic as far as dot/screen/field of view is concerned, so I certainly hope they improve their customer service in the future. That being said, my next investment in optics will be with Aimpoint as their battery life is a confirmed 1+ year when left on 24/7! This latest EOTech failure has lit a fire for me to begin replacing all of my optics with Aimpoints which I will be doing post haste!

The FAL failure to extract is anyone's guess as the case was kicked out into the weeds and I lubed the bolt up immediately after - no other issues were experienced with it that day, so I chalk it up to dirt.

-The most amazing thing I saw all week was a spent case that reversed and fed back into the chamber of a student's pistol! I've seen such a stoppage many times with live rounds as what is known as the "ketchup bottle effect" happens when (usually a half charged) magazine is struck on the base. This causes one of the rounds in the magazine to flip around backwards and is eventually force fed into the chamber. However, in this instance it was a spent case which didn't eject.

Henk Iverson stopped the class and brought all the students in for a quick learning point. It became obvious to all that this is one of the reasons we carry back-up guns!



Reversed fired case stoppage

The remedy for this is to run a range rod down through the muzzle and dislodge the stuck case. This one took multiple blows against a steel table, and it's certainly not a fix that would happen in the middle of a gunfight!

If you're going to carry a gun, carry two!

Once again I'd like to thank the folks at the Sand Burr Gun Ranch for being such wonderful hosts, as well as Henk Iverson and the Strike Tactical Crew for taking the reins and running a great Armed Vehicle Defense program for us.

All-in-all a very successful week was had and we're looking forward to offering this 6-day course again next year!

-Frank

Women's Self Defense Course

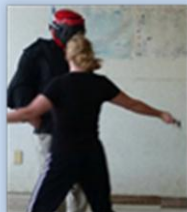
Saturday, Sept 17th, 9am to 1pm, in Crete, IL!

This is a non-firearm class, available to females ages 12, and up.

Cost is \$35 per student

Topics will include: Avoidance and disengagement techniques, pepper spray, kubotan techniques, basic defensive movement, body strike targets, mindset, improvised weapons, The Force Continuum, and much more!

Sign up at www.fortressdefense.com contact us at info@fortressdefense.com



Two-Day Level 1 Pistol

Sat-Sun, Sept 24-25, Rochester, Indiana

Safety, handling, loading, unloading, proper draw (from the holster), sights, trigger control, movement (get off the X!), reloading, stoppage reduction, marksmanship, moving targets, hostage situations, low light/night shooting, and more will be covered in this 20-hour class.

Cost is \$250 per student

Contact us for details and sign up:

708-522-8060

info@fortressdefense.com



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The Mission of Protection: Prevention of Intentional Injury

By Rick Colliver



The Mission of Protection

Unlike traditional security or law enforcement duties, the mission of protection is usually more narrowly focused to prevent specific risks from affecting the protectee. At the basic level, the protective mission can be broken into five critical elements:

- * Prevention of intentional injury
- * Prevention of unintentional injury
- * Prevention of medical emergency
- * Prevention of abduction
- * Prevention of embarrassment

Many of us can instantly recall multiple examples of where security may have failed resulting in a protectee's exposure to the above risks, and speculate as to where intervention by security personnel could have reduced exposure or risk.

Prevention of Intentional Injury

When we speak of intentional injury we include such perils as death, assault or other personal harm (or threat of harm) caused by criminal attack. Such assaults, or AOP's, can occur by means of striking, punching, kicking, thrown objects and, of course, knives, guns and bombs. As we know, almost any object can be turned into a weapon; from a simple ballpoint pen to a pillow used to smother. Since the 1990's, we have added chemical, biological and radiological weapons to our worry list as well. Even though these types of formulae have been with us for many years, most private security managers were not overly concerned about them as risks to their mission. Neither were most public safety executives and community planners, until after the first WTC attack in 1993.

Historically though, in the United States, firearms tend to be the weapon of choice among assassins, with varying degrees of success ranging from complete misses to hits on multiple targets:

On September 5, 1975, Lynette "Squeaky" Fromme was arrested for pointing a firearm at President Gerald R. Ford as he walked through Capital Park in Sacramento California. Though the chamber was empty, the magazine contained four rounds. Following her arrest, she told Secret Service agents that she had ejected the chambered round prior to leaving home that morning. This round was later found in her bathroom following a search.

However, on September 22, 1975, Sara Jane Moore, fired at President Ford from across the street as he exited the St. Francis Hotel in San Francisco. Even though police had confiscated a .44 caliber handgun and more than a hundred rounds of ammunition from her on the day before the incident, Moore was able to take up a position in the crowd approximately forty feet away as Ford emerged from the building. She fired once before being grabbed by bystander Oliver Sipple. The shot missed President Ford, but struck and wounded a taxi driver named John Ludwig. While initial reports indicated that Ms. Moore's shot was misaimed, author Geri Spieler later determined from interviews with FBI personnel that Moore's aim had been true, but the sights on the pistol were off.

The crowd was not as lucky on March 30, 1981 when John Warnock Hinckley Jr., attempted to kill POTUS Ronald Reagan as he emerged from the Washington Hilton Hotel. Hinckley managed to get off six shots in less than four seconds and wounded President Reagan, Press Secretary James Brady, Washington DC Police Officer Thomas Delahanty and Secret Service Special Agent Timothy McCarthy. The Secret Service responded quickly and professionally to the scenario; however Reagan was struck by a ricochet that glanced off the car and made it through the gap between the frame and the armored door of the limousine. Detail Leader Jerry Parr is credited with saving the President's life after noticing pink, frothy blood coming from the President's mouth as they sped from the scene. POTUS was immediately transported to George Washington University hospital where he underwent emergency surgery.

Prevention of Unintentional Injury

As a protection specialist, we have a responsibility for safeguarding our protectee not only from intentional acts of violence, but inadvertent ones as well. When we consider the statistics of traffic crashes alone, we recognize the importance of proper route selection and defensive driving skills.

Many times, our protectees will speak from temporary stages in ball rooms and banquet halls, where the stage has been hastily assembled from risers, three or four portable stairs and thousands of square feet of dark curtain material. Because of the portable nature of this set-up, we expect the back-stage and wings to have low lighting levels, miles of cable that is duct-taped to the carpet in places, and thousands of dollars worth of scaffolding, light and sound equipment pushed into a segmented area of the hall, from which the show operators will work. This is a perfect environment for trips and falls (which is why small tactical flashlights are recommended for all detail members).

Other environments that should cause us to be more cognizant of natural hazards would include outdoor venues after rain or snow. Some of us remember the field day that the media had in 1975 when President Ford slipped and fell as he descended the ladder from Air Force One upon arrival in Vienna, Austria for a state visit. POTUS Ford was a former football player and quite agile on his feet. However, this did not keep the incident from being parodied on late-night television comedy shows.

More recently, on Sept. 19, 1996, presidential candidate Bob Dole was giving a speech in Chico, Calif., took a step forward to shake the hand of a supporter, and fell through a makeshift fence on the stage. Despite the tumble, he was able to walk away from the incident. Again, some less-than responsible journalists turned this into entertainment for the late-night crowd.

Probably one of the most tragic losses of a protectee came on August 31, 1997 in the Pont de l'Alma road tunnel in Paris when Diana, Princess of Wales was killed in a traffic crash. The Mercedes Benz in which she and friend Dodi Al Fayed were riding struck a pillar in the tunnel at high speed. A 2008 court ruling attributed the the accident to grossly negligent driving by chauffeur Henri Paul (toxicology reports indicated a high blood-alcohol content) who was attempting to flee paparazzi.

Prevention of Medical Emergency

Actuaries tell us that the majority of persons over the age of forty five will eventually find themselves in a statistical population that requires more frequent trips to the doctor, access to prescribed medications and diminishing physical skills. When first assigned to a protectee, specialists should become familiar with any medical problems, special dietary requirements or food/environmental/drug allergies so that they can rapidly respond to medical emergencies. Keep in mind that in the United States and many

other countries, access to this information may be strictly controlled by state or federal law. This means that you must be careful how you disseminate or process confidential medical information.

Persons of prominence are human, and thus susceptible to viruses, bacteria, chronic disease and anaphylactic reaction just like any other segment of the population. For example, many of our US presidents and vice presidents suffered from diagnosed asthma, including Calvin Coolidge, John F. Kennedy, Theodore Roosevelt and Walter Mondale. Other leaders have had allergies to food items such as shellfish or peanuts. These allergies, left unmanaged can result in serious complications including the need for emergency surgery to open an airway. Still, the work must go on, and the protection specialist should simply prepare for this element as a part of their normal advance.

Prevention of Abduction

One of the most publicized abductions in recent history occurred on March 16, 1978 as Italian Minister of the Interior (and twice former Prime Minister) Aldo Moro and his five bodyguards were en route to a session of the House of Representatives. Witnesses said that a white Fiat cut in front of Moro's limousine and slammed on its brakes, causing a rear-end collision. Other Red Brigade operatives who had been standing nearby including a team who rode up on a motorbike, opened fire on the entourage, killing the five security agents. After fifty four days of captivity, Moro was ordered into the trunk of a car, told to cover himself with a blanket and then he was shot eleven times. On May 9, his body was found in the abandoned car, which had been left mid-way between the headquarters of the Christian Democratic Party (DC) and the Italian Communist Party (PCI) on Via Caetani.

In 1976, six men entered the Caracas home of William F. Niehaus, Owens-Illinois Inc.'s top Venezuelan executive, pretending to be investigating an auto accident. They bound and gagged his wife Donna and their maid and locked them in the sewing room. Mrs. Niehaus escaped after half an hour with the help of a pair of scissors. The kidnapers injected Mr. Niehaus with a sedative, and took him off to the jungle. The kidnaping was designed to gain international attention for the group's goals.

As a result of this incident, many international corporations began to build executive protection programs and boost their Kidnap and Ransom (K&R) insurance coverage.

Prevention of Embarrassment

When we speak about acts of embarrassment, we tend to think of any action that can publicly demean our protectee. We have to consider not only acts undertaken by the protectee themselves, but also family and friends. When Jimmy Carter was president, the press often found fodder in the acts of his brother Billy. William Alton Carter III was the president's younger brother who helped run the family's peanut business, but his antics were often the lead story in the evening news. While his brother was leading the country, he engaged in behaviors ranging from urinating on an airport runway in front of the press, to leading a total of three delegations to Libya prior to being registered as a Libyan agent, and receiving approximately \$220,000 in loans. The press later dubbed this scandal as "Billygate".

Gary Hart was a Democrat Senator from Colorado, serving from 1975 – 1987. In 1988, he was considered a front-runner in the US Presidential election. However, rumors began circulating that Hart was having an extramarital affair. In an interview that appeared in the New York Times on May 3, 1987, Hart responded to the rumors by challenging the media, "Follow me around. I don't care. I'm serious. If anybody wants to put a tail on me, go ahead. They'll be very bored." The Miami Herald had been investigating Hart's alleged womanizing for weeks before the "dare" appeared in the New York Times. Two reporters from the Miami Herald had staked out his residence and observed an attractive young woman leaving Hart's Washington, D.C., townhouse on the evening of May 2. The Herald published the

story on May 3, the same day Hart's dare appeared in print, and the scandal spread rapidly through the national media. Hart and his allies attacked the Herald for rushing the story into print, claiming that it had unfairly judged the situation without finding out the facts. But, by then the damage had been done. A photograph of Hart, with a young lady on his lap was subsequently published in the National Enquirer. On May 8, 1987, a week after the story broke, Hart dropped out of the race.

Between November 1995 and March 1997, Monica Lewinsky had an intimate relationship with President Bill Clinton. She later testified that the relationship involved oral sex in the Oval Office and other sexual contact but that sexual intercourse did not occur.

In April 1996, Lewinsky's superiors relocated her job to the Pentagon because they felt she was spending too much time around Clinton. Lewinsky confided in a co-worker named Linda Tripp about her relationship with the President. Beginning in September 1997, Tripp began secretly recording their telephone conversations regarding the affair with Clinton. Clinton was later impeached.

Train early and train often!
-Rick

Rick Colliver has served as the global security director for two multi-national corporations with operations in 24 time zones, and has managed protection details in Europe, Africa, Asia and the Americas. He is the course developer and lead instructor in the Principal Protection program at the Ohio Peace Officer Training Academy and is an adjunct instructor in protective operations through several police, military and academic organizations. His book, "Principal Protection; Lessons Learned" is due out in summer 2011.

Questions, comments, have something defense related you'd like to tell us about? Then join us in the Fortress Forum!

[Click here!](#)

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Fortress Defense Consultants
P.O. Box 385
Crete, IL 60417
708-522-8060

Fortress Quote of the Month

"There are not enough Indians in the world to defeat the Seventh Cavalry."

-George Armstrong Custer