

Jim Cirillo notes – 05182001

Jim's Friday evening lecture before Surgical Speed Shooting class held by Andy Stanford of *Options for Personal Security*. Jim was attending the class, as was I.

[The targets we use] are way too big and they're not moving.

Tactics

1. Cover, including incident where cop kept putting his hand in front of his face and the BG wouldn't shoot him. Eventually, another cop came along and shot the BG.
2. Concealment
3. Movement and Distance – Don't go up on scene. If you have to, sneak up.

Knives are more deadly than guns, keep obstacle between you and wielder.

"Did you warn them?"

--A squishy police lieutenant who arrived on the scene of one of Jimmy's gunfights shortly after it was over.

"Yes, but we don't think they heard us because of all the shooting!"

--Jimmy

Never use prone or kneeling except to use cover. [because of ground hugging ricochet effect in urban areas.]

Shoot at feet, if necessary, e.g., Hollywood bank robbery.

00 buck is not always successful.

.30 caliber carbine with hollow point ammo was the most successful.

The NYPD armorer worked on their carbines so they fed hollowpoints reliably.

Jimmy was particularly unimpressed with 12 gauge slugs.

He said he'd seen perps center punched with slugs twice run like rabbits.

Wargame your movements, e.g., think of where to go, etc.

You don't know who's a backup man, take no action, except when they are exiting. [I believe this is in reference to off-duty officers or officers on patrol who happen to be in an establishment when an incident goes down.]

He likes frangible bullets.

High man/low man in narrow corridor.

Preferred handgun – Glock in .357 Sig, .40, .45

Shotgun – Ithaca, 870, Benelli

One inch per yard spread with buckshot in cylinder bore shotgun.

Sights – when you have good lighting, distance, cover.

Geometric Point

Pistol under nose, parallel to ground, pistol out where possible. Pistol held at low ready, bring pistol up under nose

[This is one method he taught for using the pistol during periods when the sights weren't immediately visible. It is also explained in a May 1992 SWAT magazine article I found a copy of.]

Cant pistol to shoot offside barricade, don't switch hands, push knuckles against corner.

Hold shield over head and rotate around to show ID. Could do same thing with wallet.

Sidenote:

I use this method even now. My wallet has a removable card case where I carry my Driver's License and Weapons Carry License. Not being shot by responding officers was high on Jimmy's priority list.

Back of slide technique – fishtail right and left, then up and down. Centered position will get a hit.

Support butt of pistol on car to counteract limp wristing.

Dollar bill methods (2) to demonstrate reaction time (?)
[I don't remember what this note means.]

He made three shots on guy behind counter during his first gunfight; all the hits were on the perp's head but only one penetrated.

He color coded participants, i.e., robbers – brown jacket, white shirt, red shirt. Held off on gray (clerk).

Sidenote:

I translated this concept into numbers (Mr. 1, Mr. 2, Mr.3) during a confusing stage with moving targets at an IDPA State Championship that I shot. It worked well.

Subjects never surrendered once the shooting started. They had to be shot down.

Sidenote of a conversation I had with Jimmy at the class:

"I never came up on a perp who had been killed instantly where his legs weren't crossed."

His hypothesis was that one side or the other of the brain shut off slightly before the other side when they were killed. This would cause one side of the body to crumple first and cause the legs to cross.

He wasn't an M.D. but he had killed at least 41 men, maybe more.

30% Grip

30% Symmetric arms [with] a slight break in the elbows.

30% Slight overbalance [toward front, i.e., nose over toes or shoulders forward of hips]

[I believe this referred to how he described his shooting stance.]

Parachute/Plane analogy of tactical use.

Eye-target line sufficient to get hits. No body alignment possible.

Sidenote:

This foreshadowed my experiences during the National Tactical Invitational the weekend after. When shooting while moving, the whole concept of 'body alignment point shooting' evaporates instantly. No decent hits will result from trying to body index while shooting on the move except within arm's length.

Body flinching – body naturally pushes back against something pushing against it.

Shot is not complete until sights are back on target and trigger prepped. (Follow-through)

Even when shooting PPC at 50 yards, he always shot Double Action.

The goal is a hand size group even when shooting at speed.

Can't afford training time wasted with bad repetition.

--Miyamoto

Elements of Skills

- Combat Marksmanship
- Gunhandling
 - Standard of safety – strive for 100%
 - Raise trigger finger to natural limit of travel
 - Rack slide in raised position
 - Use front of magazine to seat the mag, then rack the slide.
 - Unload the gun by locking slide back, remove magazine, then cycle slide 3 times.

Sidenote:

This is an interesting note I had forgotten. It parallels a conclusion I came to a while ago. The way the industry teaches unloading, i.e., remove magazine first, is wrong and sets gunowners up for a Negative Outcome. I've been advocating locking the slide open first for several years now. Glad to know I'm on the right track.

When gun malfunctions – move

Secure all guns

1-2-3-6 Drill

fire, reset, prep, fire

On revolver, roll trigger through

Move off line, forward to left, yell 'NO'

Assess if fight is over

- Fight!
- Do I need to fight anymore?
- Do I need to fight anyone else?
- Prepare to fight again.

Fight, look around, fade gun back to Sul, then turn 360.

Ready positions – CQ (close quarters), Extended

Other positions – Sul, holster

Move when reloading revolver

5/20/01 review (end of class)

Shoot enough to desensitize

Dryfire to develop trigger control

Stance helps get gun automatically on target

Grip helps control gun – firing hand controls by abutment (death grip not necessary)