



Training Minute - Trigger Control

Trigger control is a critical part of successfully engaging a target. Watch lead Tiger Valley instructor T.J. Pilling demonstrate the basics of trigger control [here](#).



Elm Fork Wednesday Night Classes

Tiger Valley ran two Elm Fork classes in July, an "AK Operators" class and an "Advanced CQB Pistol" class.

Students in the AK class were treated to a special presentation by Ray Velasco. Velasco, a frequent contributor to the "[Weaponology](#)" television program, discussed the history of the AK and special variants.

Our August 6 "[Immediate Action Medical](#)" class is full and we're not accepting any additional students.

Registration is now open for our next offering of this class on September 3rd. You can either pay [online](#) or mail a check to our office address. A Tiger Valley instructor will explain the tactical side of dealing with tactical medical situations and an ER Doctor will brief students on the basics of stabilizing the victim. The course includes a blow-out medical kit that all students will take from the class. The course is \$85, including the medical kit, and runs from 6:30 PM to 9 PM.



On August 20, we're having "Combat Match & Training". Arrive with your carbine (with sling), handgun, ammo, and safety gear. We'll be putting everyone through a series of pre-designed scenarios on the timer. With our instructors providing lots of feedback to participants, this will be a laid-back and fun event as well as a great learning opportunity. As is always the case for our Wednesday night classes, shooters of every experience level are welcome and encouraged to attend. No pre-registration is required for this class, just show up and shoot.



Upcoming Precision Rifle Training

Learning the art and the science in making accurate long-distance shots is one of the many great skills taught by Tiger Valley. We have two precision rifle classes coming up, a [3-day](#) class in September and a [5-day](#) class in October.

Both classes will be taught by Tiger Valley lead instructor T.J. Pilling. T.J. served as designated marksman for the Garland Police Department and participated in various military programs, including Marine Corps and Army Sniper Schools. Excellent instruction is a vital portion of training, as practice doesn't make perfect - perfect practice does.

Our Waco facility offers a 27-position, 1000-yard, zero-angle military style range complete with pit service.

Pit service provides the shooter precise and rapid feedback on their shot placement at long distances and is another critical portion of precision rifle training.

This can be seen in our [video demonstration](#).

If you have interest in attending but lack a precision rifle, let us know. We have a variety of gas and bolt operated weapons that we can provide. This also lets you evaluate a particular weapon system before an expensive purchase. Just give us a call to work out the details. Students can also stay on-site for \$20/night at our bunkhouse, complete with air conditioning, showers, and a kitchen facility.

For those interested in the classes and would like a bit of completely optional homework to help prepare, we recommend [Shooter Ready](#) software, which was covered in a [previous newsletter](#).

Sectorization, the Common Language of Snipers

by T.J. Pilling

Sectorization is the terminology that allow snipers, assault team members and command post communicate with each other. Having accurate descriptions of suspect location, window opening and movements is critical during high-risk situations. There are several types of terminology used in sectorization, but we will cover one type at this time.

When looking at a building, be it large or small, during a special threat situation, it is important to get the description of the objective disseminated in an accurate manner. When looking at a building the front is always listed as side #1 and other sides listed in a clock like manner through #4. The side they face, one through four, lists all side facing those directions. Floors of the building are listed using the alphabet A-Z with the roof being "A". All openings on each floor, door windows or



anything someone could look or shoot out are list again with numbers, left to right. The description, 1B1 would be front side, top floor first opening from the left.

During the last sniper match we gave a quick sectorization class that was followed by a hands-on shooting sceneraio. Shooters were looking at a mini-city reduced to one inch to three foot scale. Eight buildings were present having two to five stories. Shooters had to develop range cards and use sectorization to describe the location of hostiles in the buildings. The hostiles they were to engage with rifle fire were Army men, the type commonly purchased from Wal-Mart.

This was no easy shot. An Army man is a 1/2 MOA shot side to side and a little over 3/4 MOA high in the body. Most shooter were humbled during this portion of the competition, none making all the shots. If you want a challenging target, you can't beat the fun of a cheap Army man shoot, 55 targets for \$1.19. Good shooting.



What's your Stance???

by Wayne Dobbs

[Last month](#) we began this series of discussions on the fundamentals of pistol shooting and I hope you guys discerned that I believe that a correct and subconscious execution of the fundamentals of any motor skill or performance is absolutely critical to achieving success. This is especially true when shooting under some kind of real (or artificial) pressure. Right now, the "motor skill" we're concerned with is shooting a pistol well. To further define our collective frame of reference, we're going to say that we want to know what we need to be absolutely successful in using a pistol in defense of our lives or the lives of people we wish to protect. This goal is likely the toughest standard we can work towards and so, if we're competent in fighting for our lives with a pistol, shooting a pistol match, handgun hunting or casual plinking should be a piece of cake.

As we proceed, I want you to consider firing a pistol well to be the same as building a solid structure. And, in keeping with that, we're going to build our house from the ground up, starting with the foundation. This month's topic is an "important" one of the fundamentals – stance.



A stance that's used in the combative firearms arena must provide several advantages for the user. This immediately places demands on the combative stance "method" we select that hunting, target shooting, plinking and other non-life threatening shooting activities do not. So to begin, the stance we use in combative pistol work must provide mobility. If you've ever been in any kind of fight, from a playground-shoving match to boxing, mixed martial arts, small arms fire or full-blown, military large unit combat then you know that you must be mobile. Gluing yourself down to one solitary spot on the map will almost guarantee that you'll get the snot knocked out of you in the fist fight and lose all your forces and equipment in the big military one! The mobility of individuals in a conflict is a stone necessity. If you don't believe that and think that you should "stand and deliver" then consider this: if we were having a rock throwing fight at 10-15 feet, would you stand still and let me pelt you or would you vigorously move about and make yourself a tougher target? We've all been in some kind of scenario like this and only somebody riding the "short bus" stands still! Mobility is your friend and a requirement of a good stance.



The next thing our stance must do is provide a stable firing platform for our weapon. Concurrent with the idea of stability is to provide a natural index of the weapon on our threat target so that we don't have to be steering or muscling the gun onto our target. Now I will agree that sometimes we have to muscle a gun if we're presented with an odd angle problem, especially while we're confined (think about being inside a car with the threat outside), but if we're on our feet, with room to move, the last thing we want to have to do is intellectualize driving a gun to the target and keeping it there. Competitive rifle shooters call this concept "natural point of aim" and it's fully achievable with a pistol once you know what you're seeking. This level of stability and index will enable you to fire fist-sized groups on a 15 feet target WITH YOUR EYES CLOSED once you learn the technique. How's that for a confidence builder? This is NOT point shooting, but is simply allowing your stance (and grip, which we'll cover later) to aim the pistol for you without having to use your brainpower to do so.



Now having considered all the things we require of a stance – mobility, stability and natural weapon control, which stance do we chose? Here's where we can get into arguments about the Weaver stance, the Isosceles stance, the dynamic Isosceles stance, Center Axis Relock and Lord knows what else! I'm going to suggest that you let your needs drive the selection and not worry about what we call it. It's a waste of trees and/or bandwidth to engage in those arguments. After all, it's fighting, not a matter of faith, religion or philosophy!

When we build our stance, we need front to back and side-to-side stability. That means your feet are likely going to be about a shoulder width apart or a bit more (for side to side stability) with the strong foot trailing the weak side foot slightly to meet the fore and aft requirement. This simple orientation of feet gives us 360-degree stability and mobility. Next, since we're going to be managing recoil, our weight should be displaced forward to provide a mass advantage against the rearward impulse that the pistol will deliver to your body, especially in rapidly delivered shot sequences. Finally, we need to get the pistol between our master eye and the target. We do that with a solid, centered, and most importantly, a neutral grip on the pistol. We'll cover grip as a separate topic and that is a fundamental that I consider a "critical" one. So, we have our feet set and our weight displaced forward. I describe this as follows: unlocked knees in front of ankles, shoulders in front of knees and your nose in front of your toes. If you'll study the photographs, you'll see examples of what I'm talking about. If you take the pistol out of my hands, you can basically replace it with a ball glove, a tennis racquet or put on a football helmet and pads and we're ready for athletic "conflict". This stance is a universal athletic and action stance and it's no accident that it works extremely well for fighting, since that's what folks have been doing with it for years!



When a new (or old) shooter tries this type of stance the first time, I often see them forget the fighting basis of the stance and start locking their knees, standing completely erect, keeping their feet square or getting their body bladed completely sideways to the threat. Give them a surprise push from any point on their "compass" and we see them on their butts! If they try to shoot a string of several shots, we see them rolling back on their heels and having to stop to rebuild their stance and grip. This is a sign that we don't have a "believer" yet! It's critical to learn how to establish dependable balance and mobility in any dynamic skill and shooting for your life certainly qualifies. It's easier to teach this and do it than it is to write about it, but if you're serious about operating a pistol at high speed in defense of your life, you need to know how to establish and use a stable and mobile stance. Failing to do this in a fight results in static shooters that we call "bullet magnets" or ones that end up on the ground with no mobility. Neither one of these conditions portends for a bright future!



Next time, we're going to talk about those bumps on top of your pistols...some folks call them sights.

If you have feedback or suggestions about these articles, feel free to email me at wayne.dobbs@yahoo.com.

Honorable Mention - "The Last Patriot"

"[The Last Patriot](#)" is a fast-paced and entertaining thriller by author Brad Thor. Scot Harvath, the hero and lead character from his past books makes a return, though reading the earlier novels certainly isn't required.

Amongst the intrigue and gunfire, you will notice familiar gear being utilized and the author certainly has a friendship with many in the tactical firearms community. It's a fast read and a perfect escape from the summertime heat in Texas. Highly recommended.



Previous Newsletters Available Online!

Check out our previous newsletters for fantastic training videos, equipment reviews, and special articles. Find them [here](#).

Upcoming Events

August

- 6 [Immediate Action Medical \(Elm Fork\)-CLASS FULL](#)
- 11-28 State Department Contractor
- 20 [Combat Match and Training](#)

September

- 3 [Immediate Action Medical \(Elm Fork\)](#)
- 12-14 [Level 1 Precision Rifle \(Waco\)](#)
- 15-19 [Rifle Instructor \(Waco\)](#)
- 20-21 [Team Sniper Match \(Sponsored\)](#)
- 22-26 SWAT School (Waco)
- 27-28 [Level 1 Pistol \(Elm Fork\)](#)
- 27-28 [Level 1 Carbine \(Waco\)](#)

October

- 11 [Bug Out Drill](#)
- 13-17 [Level 1 Precision Rifle \(Waco\)](#)
- 18-19 [Level 2 Carbine \(Waco\)](#)
- 24-26 FCSA Regional Match (Waco)



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