



YAVAPAI FIREARMS ACADEMY, LTD.

**Customized Training in
Smallarms Manipulation,
Marksmanship, & Tactics**

"To rely on rustics and not prepare is the greatest of crimes; to be prepared beforehand for any contingency is the greatest of virtues."

Sun Tzu
500 B.C.

TRAINING FOR THE STREET

Training Philosophy

Yavapai Firearms Academy provides training encompassing gunhandling, marksmanship and tactics, the 3 basic elements of surviving a defensive confrontation.

Using a firearm for DEFENSE implies REACTION to an existing threat, not an INITIATION of an action. Therefore, it is our opinion that the most crucial elements of defensive training are QUICK, REFLEXIVE gunhandling and MENTAL CONTROL. While marksmanship training is certainly necessary, it must be combined with tactics and street practical target systems and situations to allow any possibility of surviving a real-world confrontation. No one can guarantee perfect hits under stress, so training should not emphasize this aspect to the exclusion of the others. Reflexive gunhandling and mental control will leave your mind free to concentrate on SHOT PLACEMENT AND TACTICS.

To this end, we use a variety of target systems, and shooting is performed from various tactical body positions; the drills, however, are not of a strenuous physical nature. Training exercises are done from a tactical perspective. Any pressure applied to the student comes from within him/herself. While stress drills are utilized to attain maximum trainee performance on the range, the object of the exercise is to find your *individual* maximum potential by the end of the class - not during a later life-threatening confrontation! We, therefore, do not use a stopwatch on the range, but for *your* benefit, what *you* put in, *you* will get out of the courses.

Weapon Restrictions

We do not place restrictions on the type or caliber of weapon used in our classes. We firmly believe that a student should take the class with whatever weapon and "carry" system he/she will be using once he/she leaves the class. It is inadvisable to train with one type of weapon but use another in a stress situation. While we feel that .380 should be the smallest caliber considered for defensive pistol work, if you will be using a smaller caliber gun, bring it! A hit with a .22 is a lot better than a miss with a .45.

Course Expectations

- Expect a relaxed, friendly atmosphere in which to train with your firearm.
- Expect to expend only that amount of ammunition required to properly learn and perform an individual drill. We believe that quality is more important than quantity. Once the class is performing a drill without major problems, we will continue on another subject. A drill, once learned, is “perfected” as the course progresses.
- Expect to have time taken to find causes of and the cures for any marksmanship problems one may have. We will gladly work during breaks, after class hours, etc. to help an individual student with such problems.
- Do NOT expect to have a bull’s-eye style marksmanship. We run DEFENSIVE courses, NOT target shooting courses. If you are putting the shots through the same hole at all times, you are giving your opponent too much time. HOWEVER, this is NOT to say that it is permissible to “spray” the shots. They must be contained within the appropriate vital zone and in an acceptably tight group.
- Do NOT expect to simply go from short to long distances. As the current average distance for a confrontation is about 7 feet, we have opted to keep the majority of our training close-in and compound the problems rather than worry about distance. For example, Stage I Handgun courses will generally not go beyond 15 yards.
- Do NOT expect to be forced into a certain style of shooting or body position. We recognize that each individual is different in physique, capabilities and life-style. While we feel we can justify the use of certain styles and positions, and will ask a student to at least try these, we permit a student to use any position that will allow him/her to achieve consistent marksmanship and not compromise their safety.
- Do NOT expect to be told that we offer the best training available. While we obviously feel that we provide good, sound and experienced training, there is never only one way to do something. The instructor does NOT know more about your life-style than you do! We suggest that a person goes to every school that he or she can afford and make up their “toolbox” from everything offered. Don’t forget, if you don’t agree with *anything* you have been shown, you have learned something.
- You will get what we believe to be a sound basis in the fundamentals of “GUNFIGHTING” - marksmanship, gunhandling and tactical thinking.
- You will have an understanding of your marksmanship problem - if one exists - AND HOW TO CONTROL IT.
- Drills will have been done from a tactical perspective, WITH EXPLANATIONS GIVEN. You will have been encouraged to begin thinking of not only your shooting in this way, but other aspects of your life as well - don’t intentionally give the assailant(s) the edge!
- You will NOT get a panacea. No course, no matter how good it is, can teach you in a matter of days what it takes years to learn. All courses are only beginnings - the rest is up to you.

Course Background and Prerequisites

YFA does **NOT** maintain a home range in Arizona. We have, instead, elected to hold our courses in various areas of the country. In this way, the student will incur less cost and time taking a class. Our schedule reflects areas of the country from which we have received repeated inquiries. However, classes can be set up for individual groups in their home area with a minimum of 12 students.

Our courses are based on a minimum of 12 students and a maximum of 18. We limit our classes this way in order to give students the maximum benefit. In a class of 12-18, the student receives personal attention plus the opportunity to learn from problems that other students may encounter. With less people, one loses the benefit of observing others' problems, a big factor in the learning process. For maximum training benefit, courses are conducted with single relays, split relays, one-man drills, and a mix of 2, 3, 4, 5, & 6-man "teams". This results in optimal gain with minimal down time. If circumstances so dictate we can arrange for private or larger classes.

Courses are normally of 2 or 3 days duration, though 5 day 2-weapon classes are also available, as well as courses tailored to the client's request. With the exception of the Reed's Indoor Range courses, one day courses are scheduled **only** as refreshers for previous students unless exceptional circumstances so warrant. Each course runs approximately 7-8 hours per day on the range and a dim-light session is also included (range permitting).

Our Stage I courses are a prerequisite to our Stage II courses. In requiring this, we are recognizing that teaching methods, philosophy and physical drills performed differ from school to school. It is only fitting that a student should already be familiar with the practices of a particular school from which they wish to take an advanced course, and this is to the student's advantage. If special arrangements are made to bypass this prerequisite, it is with the understanding that since it is an advanced course, it will be the *student's* responsibility to pick up the training in the event they encounter a drill they have not had before - the other students will already be familiar with that drill!

Course Offerings

TACTICAL HANDGUN – STAGE I



Designed to create reflexive gunhandling, competent marksmanship and tactical thinking, this course encompasses shooting from a ready position, the drawstroke and shooting from the holster, shooting from various tactical body positions, loading, unloading and reloading, malfunction clearances, shooting on the move, moving targets, dim light and flashlight shooting and weapon retention. A short course of instruction on the utilization of backup guns is included for those who have opted to carry 2 pistols.

Ammunition requirement is 500 rounds, and 50 rounds for a backup pistol if used.

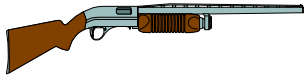
TACTICAL HANDGUN - STAGE II



This course starts by assuming the student is capable of performing all exercises done in the Stage I course **ON DEMAND**, including the ability to operate a backup pistol (for those clients who carry two pistols. Prior training in backup pistol techniques is mandatory for those wishing to operate two pistols in this course). After a brief review, the course continues by compounding the problems encountered in the Stage I class, adding such elements as target angles, vital zone definition under stress, one-handed acquisition and operation, increased speed and longer distances, multiple moving target and dim light/flashlight scenarios. Stage I Handgun is a prerequisite to this course.

Ammunition requirement is 800 rounds, plus 150 rounds for a backup pistol if used.

TACTICAL SHOTGUN - STAGE I



As with the Stage I Handgun, this course is designed to create reflexive gunhandling, competent marksmanship and tactical thinking. In addition it places strong emphasis on learning what the shotgun will, and most particularly WILL NOT, do. The importance of patterning the shotgun properly is discussed at length. The course also covers ammunition selection, loading and unloading, reloading and ammunition selection while involved in a shooting scenario, shooting from several ready positions and various tactical body positions, dim-light and flashlight shooting, shooting on the move, moving targets, multiple targets and weapon retention. Transition to a pistol is covered for those clients who have taken prior pistol training.

Ammunition requirement is 400 Birdshot, 50 Buckshot and 70 Slugs. Fifty (50) rounds of Pistol ammunition is required if the client wishes to participate in the Shotgun/Pistol transition portion of the course. A sling or carry strap on the weapon is MANDATORY for this course.

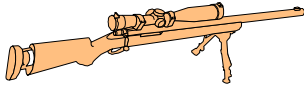
TACTICAL SHOTGUN - STAGE II



Building on the skills learned in Stage I, the course compounds the problems, adding target angles, vital zone definition under stress, one-handed operation, transitioning to a secondary weapon, increased speed and longer distances, multiple moving targets and dim light/flashlight scenarios. Stage I Shotgun is a prerequisite to this course.

Ammunition requirement is 400 Birdshot, 50 Buckshot, 75 slugs and 100 Pistol rounds (for transitions). A sling or carry strap and flashlight attached to the weapon in some manner is MANDATORY for this course.

TACTICAL RIFLE/CARBINE



This course is designed for quick, accurate, close-range shooting as opposed to precision sniper shooting. Topics include loading and unloading, shooting from several ready positions and various tactical body positions, use of the shooting sling, transitions to a secondary weapon, shooting on the move, moving targets, dim-light shooting, barricades and transitions to a handgun. Either iron sights or glass optics is applicable. Unless this course is custom-tailored client-specific, a handgun is required for this course, with prior pistol training on arrival mandatory.

Ammunition requirement is 600 rounds, plus 100 Pistol rounds for transitions. A sling is MANDATORY for this course.

H.I.T.T. (High Intensity Tactical Training)



Due to customer demand, YFA instituted its High Intensity Tactical Training program (H.I.T.T.) in 1991.

This program is comprised of a custom-tailored course utilizing any of the above three weapons and emphasizes tactical problem solving. Prior YFA class attendance is advisable as a prerequisite for this course, as the H.I.T.T. program is of an advanced and demanding nature.

HOME DEFENSE TACTICS



While the best and most intelligent way to handle a home break-in is to get away if possible or at least to stay in one location, call law enforcement and not move from that spot until officers arrive and take care of the situation, it is recognized that this is not always possible. If a family member is in potential danger, one may have to move to the person's location to protect him/her, and/or be capable of operating in unison as a "team". Extensive discussion of tactical methods will serve to alert the student to hazards he/she may encounter. Session hours will vary to allow the inclusion of night searches. The basic principles discussed will also suit the lone patrol officer or two-man patrols who seldom have little choice in whether they can advance into, or withdraw from a danger area. The course is offered in a 2-day format with minimal or no shooting, or a 3-day format with one day of shooting instruction.

PROBLEM SOLVER



Everyone has a problem with shooting from time to time, but some have a persistent problem that no amount of practice seems to help.

For example, one may shoot consistently to the right or left of center, or have a problem with flashlight shooting or shooting from kneeling.

Seldom is one of the most frequent solutions - to adjust the sights or have expensive gunsmithing performed - necessary. And the most common solution - "cheating" by holding on the right side of the target to hit the center if you shoot to the left, for example - is never desirable, particularly in a street fight where the target is moving and changing size and shape.

While similar in overall structure to our Stage I course, the emphasis of this class is on diagnosing and correcting such problem shooting. As such, the course is geared towards those who have done a limited amount of shooting and who are comfortable with the manipulation of their weapon but who acknowledge some form of marksmanship problem. This course would be of particular benefit to those who need to qualify

regularly with their weapon but have a difficult time doing so, or for someone with a persistent, baffling problem.

It could also be beneficial for instructors who wish to polish their diagnostic and corrective skills.

Teaching the basics of marksmanship is easy, but diagnosing marksmanship problems is a science. At YFA we pride ourselves on being unique in that we can and do provide the latter service, as well as instilling in our clients the harsh reality of REAL WORLD smallarms survival techniques.

Ammunition requirement for the Problem Solver course is dependent on weaponry.

Law Enforcement Courses

In addition to the above courses, which are also offered in a format restricted to law enforcement/military only and are designed to take into account the special restrictions and conditions under which such personnel must operate, the following specialty courses are also offered:

SUBMACHINE GUN



The submachine gun course is limited to law enforcement and military personnel only, and due to the nature of the use of the gun emphasizes team tactics. Topics include mode and selection of firing cycle, use of the sling, shooting from various tactical body positions, shooting on the move, moving targets, loading, unloading and reloading, dim-light and flashlight shooting, transition to a secondary weapon and team drills. Ammunition requirement is 1500 rounds.

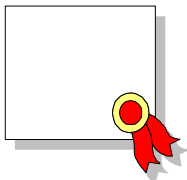
Advanced rifle and submachine gun courses are tailored to an individual client's or group's needs, and as such are offered by special arrangement only.

M.O.T.O.R.
**(Motor Officers' Tactical
Operations and Response)**



Due to the design and operation of their vehicle, motorcycle officers have an inherent difference in their capability to react to a deadly force threat from that of an officer operating a patrol car. The goal of this course is to provide the motor officer with tactical vehicular operation and options while utilizing a firearm in his/her defense. Topics include cover and concealment, live fire from a moving motorcycle - left and right-handed - dim-light/night session, and discussion of a low-cost mechanical modification to allow left or right-handed throttle operation. Due to the specific nature of the range needs for this course, it is scheduled on request only. It will be assumed that all participating officers are proficient in the handling of their vehicle, and an additional injury waiver to this effect will be required. Ammunition requirement is 450 rounds.

**LAW ENFORCEMENT
INSTRUCTORS**



This course is offered for officers who are now or may become smallarms instructors. While personal shooting ability will benefit from the class, the emphasis is placed on instructional methods and techniques. This being the case, the individual shooter will be firing less than he/she would in a non-instructors course, and this should be understood in order to receive maximum benefit. Certification will indicate completion of the course and weapon(s) used but will NOT certify the individual as an instructor. Ammunition requirements will vary according to the weapon(s) utilized.

If potential needs will not be accommodated by any of the above classes, custom courses can be arranged.

A full list of required equipment and range information will be sent upon registration for a course.

**YAVAPAI FIREARMS ACADEMY, LTD.
APPLICATION FOR TRAINING**

1. Please reserve _____ space(s) for me in the class(es) indicated:

Date: _____ Date: _____

Location: _____ Location: _____

Weaponry: _____ Weaponry: _____

2. I enclose my deposit of \$200.00 per space. I will pay the balance of my tuition upon registration. (Please make checks payable to YAVAPAI FIREARMS ACADEMY, LTD.) I understand that if I must cancel out of a class I will receive a full refund if I give at least 45 days notice. If I give less than 45 days notice I will forfeit my deposit, or it will be held by YFA as deposit for a future class. Payment in full is due at the course start.

3. I agree to abide meticulously by all safety procedures required of me and I understand that my instruction may be terminated at any time during the course if I fail to cooperate with safety requirements. I further agree to sign a statement releasing YAVAPAI FIREARMS ACADEMY, LTD. from responsibility for any injury I may sustain during the training program.

4. I agree to sign a sworn statement that I have never been convicted of any crime, at any time, in any jurisdiction.

5. In signing this application, I certify that I will be at least of sufficient legal age at the time of the class to possess the firearm, or will be accompanied by my parent or legal guardian.

NAME (Please print) _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Telephone _____ (Business phone) _____

Email _____

Make, model and caliber of weapon you plan to bring _____

Signature _____

Please return completed application to: YAVAPAI FIREARMS ACADEMY, LTD.

PO Box 27290, Prescott Valley, AZ 86312 . Phone (928) 772-8262

Louis Awerbuck worked for Colonel Jeff Cooper at the original Gunsite Ranch as Chief Rangemaster until 1987, where he attained the title of Shooting Master. With over 30 years instructional experience, he was a contributory adjunct instructor to the Marine Corps Security Force Bn Atlantic combat smallarms program and an adjunct firearms instructor for the Central Training Academy, Department of Energy. He has trained in the civilian and police firearms field and has instructed military personnel from various United States bases including Special Forces units. He has taught Police Shotgun through Glendale Community College, Glendale, Arizona.

NRA Police Certified, a member of the International Association of Law Enforcement Firearms Instructors (I.A.L.E.F.I.), the International Law Enforcement Educators and Trainers Association (I.L.E.E.T.A.), and the National Tactical Officers Association (N.T.O.A.), he has authored four books - "The Defensive Shotgun", "Hit or Myth", "Tactical Reality", and "More Tactical Reality" - co-produced the videos "The Combat Shotgun", "Only Hits Count" and "Safe at Home", and is Tactical Consultant and a contributing author to SWAT magazine.

He served in the South African Defence Force and was a state level pistol and shotgun competition shooter in South Africa.

References available on request.

All business conducted on a confidential basis.

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