

## **Training After Action Report – Sept. 22, 2012**

I instructed a Concealed Carry Course at the Accuracy Shop LLC in St. Amant, LA. We were fortunate that the weather allowed us to do the class work under a huge carport. I set up the A/V equipment while the host, Mrs. Kalynn Martinez, got all of the students signed in and the finances in order.

All of the students were given their syllabus, reference pages and copies of the laws that govern concealed carry and justifiable homicide. I introduced myself to each of the students and I returned to my place up front and silently prayed for a safe and honorable class.

I then went through the preliminary procedures of the formal introduction with Mr. Bobby Martinez introducing himself and I. I gave a brief bio on myself and then reviewed some safety procedures, breaks and course objectives.

We then began the course work. I always begin by reminding everyone of our responsibilities as gun owners. We then begin talks about the concealed handgun permit and the requirements to acquire it in Louisiana.

Once we have reviewed the training and requirements needed to acquire a CHP. I like to spend a little time reviewing some firearm facts. We discuss the numbers from the National Safety Council and from the FBI. It is interesting to note the reactions of students when they see these facts. Most are not surprised that firearms are one of the lowest causes of accidental death as mentioned in class. Although, most are astonished to learn of the numbers of violent/forcible felonies that occur each year.

We then begin the students thinking process by asking a few provocative questions. Once their brains are stirred, we lead into Open Carry vs. Concealed Carry. This usually dispels objections that would normally occur later in the class.

After a brief discussion of OC/CC, we dive into firearm safety and information. It is here where we sometimes see experienced shooters begin to "tune out". We have to work hard to keep everyone actively thinking by asking questions that keep them involved.

Then we begin discussions of ammunition. In this class, we had 4 inexperienced shooters. I could see them taking copious notes through the components of firearms and they did the same through the ammunition section. I was able to slow down

enough through these sections so as not to lose them in the language. They caught on well and absorbed the information and we went for our first break.

Returning from break, we begin to review some BASIC defensive handgun skills. These are some very general, elementary procedures necessary for defending yourself inside your home. Then we discuss action plans for what to consider outside the home. I typically end this section mentioning the need for practice and learning. I even give them a list of other shooting schools which I have confidence that they will learn from.

We then turn our attention back to the CHP. We use this opportunity to begin to discuss our permit duties and responsibilities. We discuss the permit responsibilities as dictated by the law. We also review all prohibited locations. In this section, we are able to make some things clear and other things, such as the legal precedent for a bar, always remains slightly cloudy. We continue the discussion to include the definition of Negligent Carrying of a Firearm and conclude with some final thoughts on responsibilities. Then we take another break.

Back from break, we dive into the use of deadly force. The first thing we review in detail is Justifiable Homicide. This discussion usually drums up plenty of discussion and today was no different. All discussions were intelligent with questions that were thought through. We then begin to talk about violent encounters and what goes on in our psychology.

Even though I don't discuss all of the information we cover in class here in the AAR, this section brings our many thought provoking question and answer periods. It is usually the lengthiest sections of discussion. Today, there was only moderate participation during this section. As always, we end this section with some key phrases we should use after a violent encounter. In retrospect, we take a break after this section and this would be a great opportunity to pass out my business cards with those phrases printed on the back.

After this break we dive into mindset. It is my job to get the students to begin looking at things in a different light. This is another thought building section which usually garners many different responses. Today, it was refreshing to hear after the class how much this helped the students. Several had not even considered many of the things that we discussed.

Once we ended our discussions on lots of different points of interest, I ask the question that usually makes folks wiggle in their seats. Today's class acted as expected. Many squirmed, while others nodded their heads in approval. Before going to break, we

discussed some non-lethal methods and devices which always get some giggles as I tell stories on myself.

Returning from our last break, we review reciprocity. This portion typically stirs more discussion, particularly in regards to open carry. My discussing it early on in the class reduces the objections greatly.

We walk through the application to help them complete it correctly. Then we discuss some concealed options. We review holsters, bags/purses, clothing and practicing.

We then explained the importance of child access prevention. The student absorbed this, but it brought up no debate. We reviewed our handgun shooting positions and I always close with a tip on shooting/clearing in the dark.

In closing, this course went a little longer than normal. I believe this was due to the inexperienced shooters needing more time during the handgun and ammunition sections. We may change the way we present that material in the future. Once we did the shooting aspect, everyone was grateful and edifying of the instruction. We have realized as well it is necessary to have a check list of materials that we must have prior to beginning class to ensure a smooth delivery and range experience.

John 'Hoss' Edwards



**HOSS Firearm Training**