## LOW-LIGHT HOME DEFENSE Handgun/flashlight tactics that work! By Rick Miller Combat Handguns, April 1994

One favorite topic that is often repeated in the shooting press concerns the choice of weapons for home defense. The scribe in question will discuss the options available in great detail. This will generally run the full spectrum of shotguns. carbines and handguns, as well as proper ammo for each. Seldom, however, will other related subjects be brought up as part of the overall picture. Other topics of importance that come to mind include tactics in the home (have a game plan.) keeping two guns ready instead of just one and acquiring a good sturdy flashlight such as the type used by the police.

First of all, you, your spouse, and children should devise a game plan to cover an intruder in the house. Ideally, everyone should congregate in the master bedroom or other safe place, where the defense weapon is stored. If that is not possible, the children should be instructed ahead of time to lock themselves in their bedrooms in case of emergency, while you sort the situation out, and your spouse calls the police.

The best course of action (if possible) is to remain barricaded in the bedroom, call the police, and let them handle the situation. The most dangerous thing you can do is to personally conduct a search of the house. If there is indeed an intruder present, a confrontation is almost guaranteed. Of course, if there are family members in other parts of the house, you won't have much choice but to go to their aid. Sometimes there is no "best" solution. When I am not at home, my wife has standing instructions to stay in the bedroom in the event of an intruder. The first order of business is to acquire one of the house pistols, secondly to lock the bedroom door, and only then to call the sheriff or dial 91 1. She is then to stay put, if at all possible, and to let the deputies handle the situation. This way the intruder must come to her through a locked door. If he breaks through, she will be prepared, and should have the advantage.

For home defense I prefer a good handgun of adequate caliber (nothing less than .38 Special or 9mm Parabellum.) Action type is optional, either revolver or auto will do. It is important that all people in the house who might have to handle it, be checked out in its use. This includes safe handling and basic marksmanship.

My personal choice is the Colt .45 Auto loaded with Federal HydraShok ammo. A good auto is more efficient than a revolver, and the .45 Hydra-Shok is a proven stopper. Your choice might be different. but the important thing is that you know how to use it.

I prefer the handgun over rifle or shotgun for home defense, for several reasons. The pistol or revolver is handier and quicker in tight quarters, and cannot be taken away from you as easily as a long gun. Shotguns kick too hard for some people, and most centerfire rifles have way too much penetration for indoor use, not to mention flash and blast.

Why do I recommend TWO pistols in the night stand? It is simple. If you MUST search the house, the second weapon is for your spouse to use. If you confront the intruder and you lose, the rest of the family won't be defenseless. It is a good idea to make the second gun of similar type and caliber to the first, to avoid confusion in time of stress.

Speaking of equipment, have you given any thought to a good flashlight? There should be one located by your bed, or wherever the house gun is stored. A surprising number of folks never give this any consideration. Don't buy a cheap \$1.98 "bargain" at the local hardware store. In certain situations that flashlight can be very important. Spend a few extra bucks for a good one, one that won't let you down when the going gets rough,

There are a lot of sturdy flashlights on the market, but I prefer the type designed for police use. They are machined from aircraft grade aluminum, use rubber Orings to seal out moisture, and are quite rugged and dependable. I like the size that takes four "D" cell batteries. They are not too big, and can double as a weapon in a pinch. If you want a smaller and handier size, they are available in two and three cell versions. You can't go wrong with a brand name such as Mag-Lite or Kelite. Expect to pay between \$20.00 and \$30.00. It's not a bad idea to have one in each of your cars as well.

If you suspect an intruder in the house, and you feel a search must be made, it would be best initially to keep the house lights OFF. Should the lights be turned on, the intruder will be immediately tipped off that he has been detected. If he runs, that is all well and good. But if he has a more sinister purpose in mind, you have made his task easier. With the lights on, he can easily see the layout of rooms and furniture. With the lights off you have an advantage. Here is where the flashlight comes

As you SLOWLY search the house, keep the flashlight turned OFF. If you walk around with it on, as is done in the movies and on TV, you advertise and pinpoint your location. Keep it off until needed, then flick it on briefly AFTER aligning the pistol and light where you think the intruder is standing.

## Harries Flashlight/Handgun

Here is how it is done, using the technique developed by Bill Smith, a veteran practical shooter. Hold the pistol in a normal grip with the shooting hand. The weak hand holds the flashlight with the lens towards the heel of the hand, and the middle or little finger on the button switch. Cross the hands so that the BACKS may be pressed firmly together. Coupled with the natural hollow formed by the wrists in this position, the hands are solidly locked together. Let the tube of the flashlight rest along the forearm of the gun hand for guidance.

With the pistol held thusly and down at the ready, this position may be held quite awhile without fatigue. With practices of violent bullies be spared? So that they can continue to destroy the lives of the defenseless? Gun control would make it easier for wife-beating and child abuse to continue unchecked. I would rather see such brutes dead than see women and children with no alternative to submission.

Gun ownership is vital right. Handguns are an essential form of self-defense for the lower class of society that doesn't have the personal armies and suburban fortresses of the upper class. Private gun ownership serves as a powerful check on police and other pigs who terrorize minorities, on the expansionist desires of foreign governments as well as the encroachments of our own state, and on the ability of men to systematically abuse and exploit women and children. Gun ownership gives people the real option of resisting an authority that becomes too oppressive to bear. As such, it is a valuable tool for ensuring personal freedom.

In short, gun control is \class\ legislation. It is an attempt by the elite rulers of society to disarm the weaker class and make them submissive to their will. In the near future, leading liberals \and\ conservatives will likely set aside their minor political differences for the benefit of their combined class interest, and enact legislation restricting the ownership of weapons of self-defense. They will succeed in this, too, unless opponents of gun control expand their base of support to include the traditionally liberal constituency of the underclass: the poor, minorities, and women. These groups have the most to lose from gun control, and the most to gain from the right to unrestricted gun ownership.