



The Shoot/No Shoot Decision

with Peyton Quinn from www.StressShooting.com

The Worst Shooting Misinformation Out There

"Good guys with guns" go to jail all the time for trying to do the right thing... and making a mistake that gets them imprisoned. The worst misinformation that leads to bad shoot/no shoot decision-making includes...

- Most people have not been realistically trained... or they've never trained at all. Bad decisions flow from this issue.
- Most shooters are fuzzy at best on what the law regarding use of force, and even displaying a weapon, truly is in their location.
- The habits developed on a static, square range shooting paper targets are habits that can get you killed in a real-life altercation.

Displaying A Weapon As A Deterrent?

Many gun owners believe if they just "whip it out" and show their gun to the attacker, he'll stop. But is this legal?

- You MUST understand the law, which is not about justice, but procedures and rules. If you show your gun to an attacker, they could just as easily call the cops and claim you threatened them, or make an anonymous "man with a gun" report that could get you shot by cops.
- If you are not legally justified to use your gun, showing it as a deterrent could get you imprisoned for menacing or brandishing.
- If you are only displaying your gun, but not prepared and justified to use it, courts will construe that as you lacking fear for your life (because you would have drawn your weapon in preparation for using it otherwise.).

Overcoming Obstacles To The Shoot/No Shoot Decision

People don't look for solutions to problems until they experience them.

- Scenario-based training will give you the ability to overcome the psychological and physiological effects of a life-or-death altercation.
- Most people have never drawn their gun and fired on a human target, even in simulation. This is necessary to do it in "real life."

Proving To A Jury You Tried To Deescalate

You must be building your case before, during, and after an altercation, to prove you are not the "bad guy."

- Don't convict yourself by escalating the situation beforehand, or saying something stupid to police afterward.
- Call 911 immediately after an altercation. Keep it short. Ask for an ambulance (for the attacker you've shot) and have your gun on the ground and your hands up when police arrive.

Using Scenario-Based Training To Facilitate Shoot/No Shoot Decisions

There are a number of training techniques that will benefit you in shoot/no shoot decisions.

- Blank guns can get you accustomed to the noise of shooting.
- Learning point-shooting is a valuable skill.
- All participants should share the same goal. Experience is the greatest teacher.