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Episode #332 Show Notes

Low Light Shooting: Tips, Tricks, & Tactics

JEFF ANDERSON

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Jeff Anderson spent ten years in light infantry in the military and is a combat war veteran. Most of Jeff's military service was spent with the 10th Mountain Division – an elite light infantry force of highly trained warriors specially trained for warfare under all conditions – arctic, jungle, desert, mountains, urban terrain – you name it.

After 10 years of military training in additional elite infantry units around the world, Jeff began working as a security consultant and executive protection specialist for private clients and the entertainment industry, eventually earning his industry recognized Certified Protection Professional (CPP) designation. Later, he went on to instruct hand-to-hand combat and weapons combat and eventually organized a unique combatives association focused on all areas of survival, called The International Society Of Close Quarter Combatants (www.ISCQC.org).

Jeff's work has been published in several magazines and expert blogs and his manuals and survival combat training DVDs have long been best-sellers. As the Editor in Chief of Modern Combat & Survival, a publication of the ISCQC that provided focused training strategies for all areas of survival for men and women of all walks of life, Jeff determined the next step: the lifestyle brand **Warrior Life**. To learn more about *Warrior Life* and the way of life it promotes, [visit us online](#).

RICH NANCE

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A 2nd degree blackbelt and Police Defensive Tactics Instructor, Rich Nance has fine-tuned the science of weapon disarmament. Rich's techniques have been selected for use by the American Society of Law Enforcement Trainers and are credited with saving at least one soldier's life in combat. For many years, Rich Nance has been employed as a full-time Police Officer (and currently holds the rank of Sergeant). In addition to his patrol duties, Rich is a Weaponless Defense Instructor, Impact Weapon Instructor, Firearms Instructor, and S.W.A.T. team member.

Rich is a member of the American Society of Law Enforcement Trainers (A.S.L.E.T) and was selected as a 'primary instructor' at the 2006 ASLET International Conference in New Mexico. There he and Weapon Acquisition & Retention Tactics (WARTAC) co-founder, David Hallford taught their Beating the Blade seminar to law enforcement personnel from around the world.

Rich began studying Shudokan Karate at age 12 and holds the rank of Nidan (second-degree blackbelt). In 2004, Rich and David Hallford founded WARTAC to provide unarmed counter-weapon tactics to citizens as well as law enforcement, military and security personnel. Rich helped develop the WARTAC weapon retention system, which enables officers to maintain control of their firearm during close quarter combat.

Through his martial arts training, Rich spent countless hours attempting commonly taught firearm, knife, and club disarm techniques. He finally concluded... there must be another way! A simpler, more streamlined system that anyone can learn quickly! The result of his efforts is WARTAC, a weapon disarm and retention system that you can count on in the chaos of a real-life weapon assault.

Low Light Shooting: Tips, Tricks, & Tactics

featuring Rich Nance from <https://www.WARTAC.com/>

Self-Defense In Daylight Vs. Self-Defense In Low Light Conditions

There are differences both psychologically and physically when fighting in low light.

- Crime tends to happen in the dark because it's easier to ambush people and get away with crimes.
- There's a psychological component; it's like a little kid being afraid of the dark. We take so much information in through our eyes that darkness creates anxiety.
- There may be physical threats in the dark.
- Operating armed in low light is an art.
- Start by looking at what we use light to do — utility, navigation, target location, and most importantly, threat identification.
- You can also control someone with bright light directed into his eyes, combined with strong verbal commands. This gives you a very real advantage.
- Blinding someone interrupts their thought process. This helps you when giving commands.
- Disrupt their vision with the light and overwhelm them by giving commands. It causes them to focus on what you're doing, rather than planning what they're going to do.

Choosing A Flashlight For Low-Light Fighting

What features should you look for?

- You should have both handheld and weapon-mounted lights.
- A weapon-mounted light lets you get a two-hand grip.
- A handheld light lets you search without pointing the weapon, and it's a good backup.
- You want something bright and simple to operate. Durability is also critical. Surefire and Streamlight are both good brands.
- Size matters for personal defense. You want something you can carry in your pocket.
- Avoid lights with lots of modes; you want it to operate very simply so it gets bright as quickly as possible.
- Tailcap operation with a pressure switch lets you control the duration you're illuminating.
- For weapon mounted lights, it's best not to have to put your hand in front of the barrel to put it on and take it off.
- You need to be able to reach the activation switch without a lot of rearranging of your grip. The weapon light must be robust.
- Light/laser combos are good to help you see and help you aim.

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Mistakes To Avoid When Training For Low-Light Self-Defense

You should learn in a well-lighted environment so you can practice and master these techniques.

- Even something as relatively stress free as shooting at a paper target should be practiced in good light first.
- Some techniques with the flashlight could cause you to “muzzle” your off hand holding your light.
- Airsoft is a great way to train safely.
- Don't be married to any of these techniques. There are pros and cons to all of them, including when you're maneuvering with the light and the weapon.
- People often illuminate when there's no need to. That helps the “bad guy” to locate you. Be judicious in your use of light.

Tactical Living Habits To Develop For Low-Light Conditions

Have a light with you at all times!

- A flashlight is an illumination tool, but it's also a weapon.
- You can use it for striking.
- You can carry it almost anywhere.
- Pen-style lights are also effective for striking.
- Make sure your light is robust and can stand up to striking.
- Be able to “read light.” Pay attention to shadows and lighting conditions. Are you back-lighted? How can you put yourself in the shadows to become less of a target? This is like learning how to use cover.
- A lot of people downplay the tactical advantage of shining a bright light in someone's face. Disrupting an adversary's eyes really helps you in a “tactical” situation.

- You can train tactically, daily, in non-tactical environments, just by being more aware of the light where you are.

3 Low-Light Fighting Drills

You can start practicing right now.

- Using airsoft (or at the range), illuminate the target.
 - Challenge the target and/or shoot.
 - Turn the light off and MOVE.
 - We do not want leave the light on at all times because he'll track the light, but if you turn off the light and move, he will probably shoot where you were.
 - Move laterally or at an angle, not straight forward or straight back.
- Another drill that is safer to do with airsoft is to face downrange at a target. Have a training partner shine a very bright light in your eyes. Then draw and shoot.
 - You can compensate for losing your night vision by shining a bright light of your own on the target.
- Try clearing a malfunction or reloading your gun while you're holding your light.
 - Learn to overcome those challenges.

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