

**JUNE 06**

**INFORMATION LETTER/UPDATE:**

**Calendar Changes/Updates Law Enforcement:**

- See TC web site for details

**Calendar Changes/Updates Civilian/Open:**

- TBD

**IN GENERAL:**

**TRAINING:**

**Texas Tactical Police Officers Association (TTPOA) Annual SWAT Competition:**

My facility and Nacogdoches has been selected to host their annual SWAT competition in September 2006. I was honored last year to be a judge at the event when it was hosted in Houston, Texas. It was a class act with tactical teams from all over Texas.

The range is shaping up and at last count there are 15 teams signed up. We are doing a work day on 21 June to build the O course.

As I have stated before, if you planning to attend and compete, come in shape with your weapons zeroed. I promise you challenging and fair events.

**Tactical Rifle Instructor:**

After conducting my last Tactical Rifle Instructor course in Dallas, I have decided to modify my rifle standards in several areas. First, in the next class I am going to require all shooters to qualify with iron sights prior to shooting optics. I will be flexible on this, but want to ensure that instructors can practice what they preach.

I see problems when instructors immediately go to optics and don't work with irons. One is that when they teach new students, they often don't know how the sights

operate or which way to turn the knobs to get a proper zero. They are basically unfamiliar with the gun.

I am also going to make the time requirement for the one shot drill to one second (1). I will take the two shot drill to 1.25. My goal is not to push them faster than they can see their front sight and still make a hit. I think this can be accomplished with this time requirement.

Finally, I tried compressing the course into five-days and I ran into several problems. One, the human body can only take so much of the heat and still absorb information. Also, we need the extra day to rehearse assigned classes and as important, to rehearse the demonstrations. Students will remember and practice the last thing they see and if you do a bad demo, you will leave permanent impression on a students mind. This will take more time and effort to correct on the line.

### **COURSE UPDATE(S):**

**None noted**

### **RANGE UPDATE:**

I just finished my last bit of dozer work for the competition. We put in several culverts, bladed some ground for parking, and cleared a few more shooting bays. We also widened the upper entrance road and added some creek gravel to allow two cars to pass.

I have sprinkled seed on the bare ground and will hit it with a few tons of fertilizer in a couple of weeks. Hopefully it will rain a bit and things will take off.

I also put 100 cats and Bluegill in the pond and have started feeding them on a regular basis. I have been spot checking their progress and they seem to be doing fine.

### **EQUIPMENT:**

#### **POF Uppers:**

Thanks for all the e-mails and input on the POF uppers. I am still working the issue and will take pictures and post when I find an adequate solution.

#### **Eagle Plate Carriers:**

I have been watching students and friends run with strictly chest plates for some time. I was able to obtain some plates and an Eagle plate carrier and really like the system.

It provides me with lightweight rifle protection that vents much better in the Summer. I may end up with a Winter and Summer vest, but I am not sure for now. I

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am going to look at some side plate protection in the future and will try to have one piece of gear that will do both. I like the idea of having rifle protection

I have attached an Eagle M14 pouch to the left side as I am wearing it. It will accommodate mags, flash bangs or other items. I am still playing with its position to ensure that I can get into all my shooting positions.



## **IN CLOSING**

### **Book**

My final version “Leadership and Training for the Fight” is in its final edit, has been sent to the printers and should be out in a few weeks.

Three major changes were included. One was an overall grammar and spelling edit of the work (a few of you out there will be happy). The next was a new edition commentary. Finally, James Williams helped me track down the quote that was originally attributed to Bill Gates. I made contact with Microsoft during my initial writing in an effort to track it down, but they were of little help. They failed to confirm or deny Bill Gates authorship.

## **ACCEPT RESPONSIBILITY FOR YOUR LIFE**

Subject: Points from "*Dumbing Down Our Kids: Why American Children Feel Good About Themselves But Can't Read, Write or Add,*" by Charles J. Sykes

He talks about how feel-good, politically correct teaching created a generation of kids with no concept of reality and how this concept set them up for failure in the real world.

Rule No. 1: Life is not fair. Get used to it. The average teen-ager uses the phrase "It's not fair" 8.6 times a day. You got it from your parents, who said it so often you decided they must be the most idealistic generation ever. When they started hearing it from their own kids, they realized Rule No. 1.

Rule No. 2: The real world won't care as much about your self-esteem as much as your school does. It'll expect you to accomplish something before you feel good about yourself. This may come as a shock. Usually, when inflated self-esteem meets reality, kids complain that it's not fair. (See Rule No. 1)

Rule No. 3: Sorry, you won't make \$40,000 a year right out of high school. And you won't be a vice president or have a car phone either. You may even have to wear a uniform that doesn't have a Gap label.

Rule No. 4: If you think your teacher is tough, wait 'til you get a boss. He doesn't have tenure, so he tends to be a bit edgier. When you screw up, he's not going to ask you how you feel about it.

Rule No. 5: Flipping burgers is not beneath your dignity. Your grandparents had a different word for burger flipping. They called it opportunity. They weren't embarrassed making minimum wage either. They would have been embarrassed to sit around talking about Kurt Cobain all weekend.

Rule No. 6: It's not your parents' fault. If you screw up, you are responsible. This is the flip side of "It's my life," and "You're not the boss of me," and other eloquent proclamations of your generation. When you turn 18, it's on your dime. Don't whine about it, or you'll sound like a baby boomer.

Rule No. 7: Before you were born your parents weren't as boring as they are now. They got that way paying your bills, cleaning up your room and listening to you tell them how idealistic you are. And by the way, before you save the rain forest from the blood-sucking parasites of your parents' generation, try delousing the closet in your bedroom.

Rule No. 8: Your school may have done away with winners and losers. Life hasn't. In some schools, they'll give you as many times as you want to get the right answer. Failing grades have been abolished and class valedictorians scrapped, lest anyone's feelings be hurt. Effort is as important as results. This, of course, bears not the slightest resemblance to anything in real life. (See Rule No. 1, Rule No. 2 and Rule No. 4.)

Rule No. 9: Life is not divided into semesters, and you don't get summers off. Not even Easter break. They expect you to show up every day. For eight hours. And you don't get a new life every 10 weeks. It just goes on and on. While we're at it, very

few jobs are interested in fostering your self-expression or helping you find yourself. Fewer still lead to self-realization. (See Rule No. 1 and Rule No. 2.)

Rule No. 10: Television is not real life. Your life is not a sitcom. Your problems will not all be solved in 30 minutes, minus time for commercials. In real life, people actually have to leave the coffee shop to go to jobs. Your friends will not be as perky or pliable as Jennifer Aniston.

Rule No. 11: Be nice to nerds. You may end up working for them. We all could.

Rule No. 12: Smoking does not make you look cool. It makes you look moronic. Next time you're out cruising, watch an 11-year-old with a butt in his mouth. That's what you look like to anyone over 20. Ditto for "expressing yourself" with purple hair and/or pierced body parts.

Rule No. 13: You are not immortal. (See Rule No. 12.) If you are under the impression that living fast, dying young and leaving a beautiful corpse is romantic, you obviously haven't seen one of your peers at room temperature lately.

Rule No. 14: Enjoy this while you can. Sure parents are a pain, school's a bother, and life is depressing. But someday you'll realize how wonderful it was to be a kid. Maybe you should start now. You're welcome.

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Take care and be safe.

Paul R. Howe