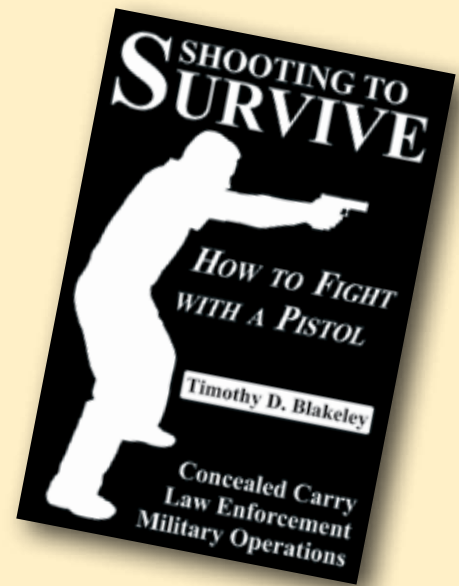


# “Shooting to Survive — How to Fight with a Pistol”

By Timothy D. Blakeley

Reviewed by John Stuckey



Before the Internet, smartphones and wireless connectivity, homes across America used the Encyclopedia Britannica as a reference for almost any topic a curious mind could imagine. In “Shooting to Survive,” Timothy Blakeley has recreated the Encyclopedia Britannica for all things concerning combat pistol shooting. I have seen and read books that discuss handgun basics, others that address tactics, drills and advanced techniques, and books that speak to the importance of mindset and physical preparedness. “Shooting to Survive” encompasses all these topics in one thorough manual that will appeal to novice shooters as well as more advanced operators.

Most readers of *The Tactical Edge* are experienced pistol operators and will likely not find any tactical epiphanies in the first five chapters, which focus on the basics of equipment selection, pistol maintenance and safety. The basics are always necessary and useful, though, and even experienced operators can find value in the review of rudimentary concepts. Those who have expressed an interest in pistol shooting will find these chapters a good starting point in their education.

The chapters “Combat Shooting Phase 1” and “Combat Shooting Phase 2” covered everything from weapon

presentations to complex weapon manipulations while injured. I particularly enjoyed the sections covering the blend between unarmed defensive tactics and combat shooting, which is a critical, but often overlooked, skill set. Movement during combat, including that of the attacker and that of the shooter, is also addressed; another critical topic I find often ignored by all but the most experienced operators.

“Shooting to Survive” includes an adequate number of pictures that illustrate skills, and they are clearly marked and easy to follow. Blakeley also includes several live-fire and dry-fire drills to help develop basic weapon handling skills. My only complaint about the book is that I would like to see more of these drills. Each chapter ends with discussion questions for the reader's review and endnotes with references from notable shooting experts such as Travis Haley, Kyle Lamb and Brian Enos.

Success in battle depends on the ability to shoot, move and communicate, and Blakeley covers the first two in depth. His comprehensive approach is well-organized and should appeal to a broad range of experience levels. It is a sizable manual at nearly 600 pages, but anyone who is willing to devote the time can benefit from “Shooting to Survive.” ■



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## ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Lieutenant John Stuckey is an 18-year veteran of the Pima County (AZ) Sheriff's Department and is currently assigned as the SWAT commander of the Pima Regional SWAT Team.