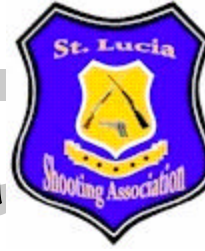


On Target



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Motto: "Shooting Safely and Sensibly"

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Mastering The Draw From Concealment

Carrying a concealed handgun is a responsibility that should not be taken lightly. Part of that responsibility involves mastery of the safe and effective technique of drawing a handgun from concealment.

Most of you already have an appropriate concealment handgun, typically a short-barreled small-to-medium frame semi-automatic or double action revolver, as well as a handgun concealment device, such as a holster, holster purse or fanny pack. Since, for most people, the best combination of concealment, access, speed, retention and safety is provided by a strong-side hip holster or, when clothing makes a

holster impractical, by a holster purse or a fanny pack, this article focuses primarily on the basic techniques from drawing from a such devices.

Drawing From A Holster

Before initiating the draw, you should, if circumstances allow, orient your body in preparation for the shooting position (weaver, iscoceles, modified weaver, etc.) you will use. The greatest stability during the draw is generally achieved with the feet approximately shoulder width apart and the body positioned to achieve a "natural point of aim".

Access The Gun

The first step in drawing a gun from concealment is to access the gun. With the gun carried under a jacket, coat or open shirt, simply extend the fingers of your gun hand, slide them under the front edge of the covering clothing, and then sweep the clothing rearward and

outward, away from holster. Some authorities of past decades recommended putting a handful of change in the strong-side pocket of the coat or jacket, or

taking a quick step to the weak side, to momentarily create more space between the clothing and the holster. Also during this phase of the draw, the weak hand is pulled into the body, toward the centerline of the chest.

Grip The Gun



With the covering clothing out of the way, you can now grip the gun with the strong hand. The grip you acquire should be the same as your proper strong-hand shooting grip, with the gun placed in the "Y" between your thumb and forefinger, your wrist and forearm in alignment, and your strong-hand fingers firmly around the gun butt. Getting a solid initial grip is critical for establishing a proper shooting position and for gun retention.

When establishing your grip, place your trigger finger alongside the frame of the gun, outside the trigger guard, keep the gun's safety on "safe" and maintain your weak hand at the centerline of your chest.

Some holsters have retention devices, most commonly thumb snaps or safety straps. A thumb snap is disengaged as part of the

Remember

- Always keep the gun pointed in a safe direction
- Always keep your finger off the trigger until ready to shoot
- Always keep the gun unloaded until ready to use
- Always treat a gun as being loaded when handling

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natural movement of the strong hand descending to grip the gun. Removing a safety strap usually requires an additional movement of the strong hand before the gun is gripped.



Pull The Gun From The Holster

Next, pull the gun from holster until the muzzle clears the holster top. Keep the safety on, your finger out of the trigger guard, and the weak hand in the

center of the chest.

Rotate The Gun Toward The Target



Once your gun has cleared its holster, use your wrist to rotate the muzzle toward the target. Keep the weak hand close to the body, to prevent it from crossing the handgun's muzzle.

Join The Weak Hand With The Strong Hand



As the gun rotates toward the target, the weak hand joins the strong hand to complete the two-hand grip. In some situations, such as when you're engaging a close range target using

one-handed instinctive or point-shooting techniques, your weak hand will not join the strong hand, but will normally remain in the middle of the chest—possibly to ward off a knife, club or other deadly weapon.

Drive To Sight Alignment

The next step, drive to sight alignment, is accomplished simply by extending your arms (or arm, if you are shooting only with your strong hand) forward with the gun roughly aligned with the target. As the gun goes forward, the safety comes off, your trigger finger enters the trigger guard and you begin to pick up the sights in your peripheral vision.



Verify The Sight Picture

With the gun fully forward, you should verify your sight picture and your target. Focusing on the sights is important not only to ensure an accurate shot, but also to break the tunnel vision you are likely to experience during a violent attack. This is also your final opportunity to decide whether to commit the gun to action.



Fire The Gun

Finally, if you are still faced with a threat to life or limb, fire the gun. Your objective in using the firearm is simply to stop the threat, not to punish or to kill your attacker.

Scan The Area

After there is no longer a threat, either because your assailant was wounded, gave himself up or ran away, you should scan the area for additional threats before reholstering your gun. Lower your gun slightly below eye level, and rotate your entire upper body from side to side as one unit, with the gun always pointing in the direction you are looking. You may also need to retreat to cover. If you are covering a downed assailant, keep him in your peripheral vision as you scan. Don't approach him for any reason, and do allow him to approach you.

Reholster The Gun

Once there is no longer a threat to your safety, reholster the gun. One-handed reholstering can be done with a holster that stays open after the gun is removed, simply by sticking the muzzle into the open holster top. With a holster that collapses after gun removal, the weak hand must squeeze the holster to create a space into which the muzzle can be inserted. Reholstering without looking at the holster is best; if you need assistance to reholster, use a series of quick peeks rather than a prolonged look. When reholstering, keep your finger out of the trigger guard, put your gun's safety on and don't allow the muzzle to cross the weak hand.

Practicing The Draw From Concealment

You should practice to properly coordinate the sequence of steps in drawing a handgun from concealment. If you're drawing from a holster, start without wearing any covering clothing. Add a jacket, shirt, etc. only after you can reliably perform 100 or more flawless draws.

"Dry-fire" practice involves removing all ammunition from the area and ensuring that the gun is empty—that means checking all of the chambers of a revolver's cylinder and both the magazine and the chamber of a semi-automatic.

Once you can draw safely from concealment with an empty gun, go on to live fire practice, again at first without covering clothing. Slow down from the speed you achieved in practice; safety and proper technique are more important than speed. Only after you have fully mastered the draw with live ammunition from an unconcealed holster may you proceed to draw a loaded handgun from concealment.

This article has been reproduced in part from the January 2003 issue of the "American Rifleman" magazine, the official journal of the National Rifle Association of America.

SLSA Now Member of the St.Lucia Olympic Cmte. and International Sport Shooting Federation -ISSF

The association applied for membership with the St.Lucia Olympic Committee during this quarter and was granted a provisional membership.

This provisional membership was based upon the association getting membership in the international body responsible for sport shooting worldwide.

Some research was conducted and eventually the association found and applied to the International Sport Shooting Federation (ISSF) for membership. To date the association is proud to announce that we are currently members of this body and have paid up our membership dues of 1500 swiss francs.

History of the "UIT"

Shooting with the rifle, pistol and shotgun has been practiced in many countries since the Middle Ages. During the 19th Century, however, shooting also developed into a sport: Associations, federations, councils, confederations, unions or organizations were formed in some countries, using different words to describe the alliance of shooters in clubs or the alliance of clubs in local, regional or national organizations.

History books report of shooting competitions in some European countries as early as the 11th Century, but the modern concept of our sport began in the 19th Century with the development of shooting equipment, and several of the present day national federations were formed.

At the first Olympic Games of the modern times in the year 1896 in Athens, nine different sports were placed on the program by the International Olympic Committee, and the shooting sport had the highest number of participants in these first Olympic Games. The first world championship in our sport was organized in 1897 in France, and eight

national shooting federations founded the "Union Internationale des Federations et Associations Nationales de Tir" on 7th July 1907 in Zurich, Switzerland. The concept of an international federation for the shooting sport was first discussed during a six-nation shooting competition in Milan, Italy in June of 1906. There, it was agreed to draft a constitution and shooting regulations. These regulations were intended to define the specification of arms, targets, clothing, firing positions and standardized rules of conduct and organization for the competitions. The athletes, who practice the shooting sport throughout the world, are being reminded that it was the "National Union of the Shooting Societies of France" that had accepted the great responsibility of producing these first drafts of the regulations, and in principle, these drafts are still the basic rules after 100 years of application. The inaugural meeting discussed the choice of language for the conduct of proceedings, and French was chosen, but it was also decided that the statutes and other official documents should also be published in the German language. The French title of the "International Union of National Federations and Associations of Shooting" started to use the initials, UIT.

This Union was dissolved in 1915 during World War I but was reorganized in 1921 under the new name of "Union Internationale de Tir", also using the initials, UIT.

After World War II had started, the activities of the Union were again suspended and then reorganized in 1947 under the new name, "International Shooting Union", using the title in the English language which from then on was decided to be the official working language of the organization. The initials of the International Shooting Union would have been ISU, but our organization had to continue using the letters of its French title, UIT, in order not to con-

fuse it with the initials used in the international sport world by the International Skating Union which was founded in 1892 in Scheveningen and which has used ISU as its official abbreviation ever since.

Today, the International Shooting Union is recognized by the International Olympic Committee - IOC - as the sole supervising body of the international amateur shooting sport for all international competitions. It is presently composed of 157 national federations from 137 affiliated countries.

Major goals of the International Shooting Union are to promote and manage the development of amateur sport shooting in the world and to organize and supervise the shooting competitions and to control all technical facilities at the Olympic Games in cooperation with the International Olympic Committee.

In order to realize these goals, the Union has adopted uniform, technical regulations in the various sport shooting disciplines, whose observance is controlled by licensed judges. This is to guarantee that all sport shooters throughout the world can measure their strength in fair competition under equal conditions at all championships organized by the UIT. Further tasks are the basic and advanced education of trainers and the scientific research of educational and medical fundamentals in sport shooting.

The work is executed by the General Assembly, the Administrative Council, the Executive Committee and the section committees of the individual sport shooting disciplines. The Executive Committee is composed of the president, four vice presidents, the secretary general, the chairman of the Technical Committee and three other members. Apart from the General Assembly, which meets every two years, the most important decisions are made by the

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WHAT'S ON!!!

Don't forget that the Annual General Meeting will be held on September 25th 2003 and it is the duty of every member to attend this event.

Your attendance at this year's AGM is of paramount importance since there has been the creation of some new executive positions with specific roles.

The offices that will be open to nominations at the AGM are as follows: President, Vice-President Training, Vice-President Sport Shooting, Secretary, Treasurer, Public Relations Officer. As usual the Immediate Past President will also serve as a member of the new executive.

The positions of Range Master and Training Officer will be appointees by the new executive and these should be in place by the end of the first executive meeting of the new executive.

Administrative Council which, in addition to the members of the Executive Committee, is made up of the representatives of the continental federations and the chairmen of the individual section committees as well as seven other members.

In 1986, final competitions for the Olympic sport shooting events were introduced according to the traditional program. In the same year, the UIT introduced an Olympic qualification system, in which athletes from all parts of the world could qualify for the Olympic Games. Apart from the world championships and continental championships, international competitions were designated for this qualification system, and the world cup was born. The World Cup Final is the highlight of each world cup season and was conducted for the first time in 1988.

In 1989, the electronic scoring system was introduced for score displays, which did away with the traditional paper targets at the final competitions of the large sporting events. The sport shooting competitions could be witnessed by spectators, and the winners, immediately celebrated. With this development, sport shooting was seen on television for the first time at the Olympic Games in Barcelona in 1992. A new era in sport shooting had begun. The shooting sport had fulfilled the requirements demanded

of a modern, contemporary sport with spectator appeal. At the '96 Olympic Games in Atlanta the UIT certainly enjoyed the best coverage of the finals in all 15 Olympic events by the Atlanta Olympic Broadcasting System which can truly be considered the best television production that our sport has ever received in its history.

Today, shooting sport may undisputedly be regarded as an important pillar of the Olympic Movement and is firmly anchored in the program of the Olympic Games.

"UIT" becomes to "ISSF"

For many years now, our organization has been known to the sport world under its English title, International Shooting Union, using the English language as our official working language. But the International Shooting Union does not use the initials of its name and still uses the word, "Union", since most of the other international sport organizations use or have changed their title to "Federation".

At the General Assembly in Barcelona on July 15th 1998, the UIT President invited the Secretary General to introduce the matter of a change of name from UIT.

The proposal was to change the title of the Union to **International Shooting Sport Federation (ISSF)** in order to conform with almost all the other sporting organisations. It had been considered important to identify our organisation as the governing body of the shooting sport in comparison to military shooting, hunting, or the multiple other uses for rifles and pistols. There had been almost unanimous agreement from member federations, but the approval of the General Assembly was necessary for this change. A vote was taken, and the result was 171 votes in favor of the proposition, 2 against it, and 4 abstentions. The two-thirds majority was thus secured for the change. So the ISSF has now become the official abbreviation.

The Secretary General thanked the delegates for their support and promised that the new Federation would be carried forward with the same spirit which existed in the UIT. The President said that it was in the best interest of shooters and the old Union and hoped that everyone would now look forward to a good future.

Shooting Results—2003 Postal Match

A small group of members from the association participated in the 2003 American Handgunner Postal Match. It is the first time in the history of the association that we have put our skill against other IPSC shooter from around the World.

These results have been forward to IPSC Barbados for posting on the

IPSC website at www.ipsc.org.

It was a fun-filled day and the complete results:

1. Anthony Bristol (135.0000)
2. Ricardo Giraudy (92.3959)
3. Ian Louis (79.8824)
4. Teresa Jean-Baptiste (75.7481)
5. Gregory Jean-Baptiste (67.2650)

6. Charles Serieux (57.3038)
7. Bernard LaCorbiniere (56.2174)
8. Tricia Hughes (49.4789)
9. Lyndon Arnold (30.2492)
10. Celsus Leon (7.6348)

Well done folks!!!