

Grandpa G's
*"Way of the
Concealed Carrier"*

*The Concealed Carry Lifestyle
Guide for Our
Modern Day American Samurai*



This book is dedicated to...

**To those who have decided to protect themselves
and their loved one in an ever changing world.**

**To those who took the time to teach me
the ways of carrying concealed
and the thousands of rounds of ammo
we shared together on the range to success.**



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The Concealed Carry Lifestyle
for Our Modern Day American Samurai
by Grandpa “G”

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Contents

ABOUT THIS BOOK..... 16

NOTE TO CRIMINALS 20

THE AMERICAN SAMURAI 23

Grandpa "G's" Concealed Carry Creed © 26

CHAPTER ONE - *The Basics*..... 26

PREPARE BEFORE YOUR FIRST CLASS 27

ALWAYS THINK T.A.N.K. SAFETY © 28

BE AN AMBASSADOR FOR THE REST OF US..... 33

BEFORE YOU CARRY..... 35

KEEP YOUR CONCEALED CARRY SECRET AND PRIVATE 36

NEVER TRUST YOUR MEMORY 39

GRANDPA G’S FIVE RECOMMENDATIONS FOR KEEPING SHARP AND BEING
SMART WHILE CARRYING CONCEALED 41

WHERE TO CARRY YOUR SIDEARM..... 41

GUNS SCARE ME 43

GIVING IT THE FINGER 44

NOMENCLATURE OF A SIDEARM..... 46

PICKING OUT YOUR SIDEARM 48

STOP TOUCHING YOURSELF 51

CHAPTER TWO - *Holsters* 53

HOW TO FIND THE RIGHT HOLSTER.....	54
Grandpa "G's" Quality Holster Guide For the Perfect Holster for You	59
IS THAT A HOLSTER IN YOUR PANTS OR ARE YOU GLAD TO SEE ME?	63
HOLSTER DRAWING & THE CLOTHES YOU WEAR.....	64
HIP CARRY VS. APPENDIX CARRY.....	66
CHAPTER THREE - <i>Heading Outdoors for the First Time</i>	68
FIRST TIME CARRYING.....	69
TUCKING IN YOUR T-SHIRT.....	71
PACKING ON THE WEIGHT.....	72
SPARE MAGAZINES (MAGS).....	73
WALKING THE DOG.....	76
CHAPTER FOUR - <i>Lifestyle Changes</i>	78
BEING THE GREY GHOST IN A DIGITAL AGE.....	79
GETTING INTO THE HABIT.....	81
A CHANGE IN LIFESTYLE.....	82
CHANGING THE WAY YOU DRIVE.....	84
TYPE OF SHIRTS/TOPS TO AVOID.....	85
DON'T TALK GUN SMACK.....	86
ADVERTISING T-SHIRTS.....	87
LIVING A RESPONSIBLE CONCEALED CARRY LIFESTYLE.....	88
GUNS AND CAMELS JUST DON'T MIX.....	90

CARRYING CONCEALED IN YOUR DREAMS.....91

I AM TOO OLD FOR THIS SHIT!!.....93

PREGNANT AND ARMED.....94

CHAPTER FIVE - *Samurai Self Training*.....99

BEING THE STUDENT ARE YOUR FIRST STEPS IN BECOMING A MASTER.....100

DRY FIRE PRACTICE.....102

HOLSTER DRAWING.....108

DON'T STOP READING OR WATCHING VIDEOS.....110

PRACTICING IN THE DARK.....113

REPETITION & RETENTION.....114

GRANDPA G's WARRIOR WORKOUT.....114

OUT FOR A WALK.....117

HOW'S YOUR SIX?.....118

MEDITATION FOR THE ARMED WARRIOR.....119

"NO MIND" SHOOTING.....125

GUNFIGHTING & SPIRITUALITY.....127

KNOW THY SIDEARM.....131

HOLLYWOOD IS NOT YOUR TRAINING INSTRUCTOR.....132

SAMPLE SCENARIOS.....133

THAT ITCHY TRIGGER FINGER.....144

FIRST TIME AT THE RANGE.....145

CHAPTER SIX - <i>Inside Establishments</i>	151
WORKING OUT IN THE GYM.....	152
SHOPPING WITH YOUR SIDEARM.....	153
AT A RESTAURANT.....	154
SIDEARMS AND FURNITURE.....	155
RUNNING OUT OF HAIRCUTS.....	156
ACTIVE SHOOTER TRAINING IN THE WORKPLACE.....	157
CHAPTER SEVEN - <i>Involvement With Law Enforcement</i>	166
WHAT NOT TO CARRY FOR A DEFENSIVE SIDEARM.....	167
YOU DON'T NEED NO STINK'N BADGES.....	168
GETTING PULLED OVER BY THE POLICE.....	170
YOU ARE NOT THE LAW.....	176
IT'S A PAIN IN THE ASS, BUT IT'S THE LAW.....	177
CONCEALED CARRY CARD HOLDER FOR PERMIT.....	180
CHAPTER EIGHT - <i>Have Gun Will Travel</i>	182
TENTS, NATURE, & FIREARMS.....	183
AIRLINE TRAVELING & DECLARING A FIREARM.....	188
BOATING & CARRYING.....	193
CHAPTER NINE - <i>At Home</i>	195
IN THE BATHROOM.....	196
IN THE SHOWER.....	200

ALARMS AND SECURED DOORS.....	203
DO YOU KEEP YOUR FIREARM IN YOUR VEHICLE WHILE YOU'RE AT HOME?.....	206
87 MINUTES AWAY.....	207
CHILDREN IN THE HOUSE.....	210
CHAPTER TEN - <i>Essentials</i>	213
WHAT IS SITUATIONAL AWARENESS?.....	214
WHAT IS CASTLE DOCTRINE, STAND YOUR GROUND, & DUTY TO RETREAT?.....	216
PURCHASING YOUR FIRST FIREARM.....	217
WOMEN PURCHASING FIREARMS.....	220
YOUR EVERYDAY CARRY (EDC) LOCATION.....	222
CLEANING & MAINTENANCE.....	223
THE DAILY ROUTINE.....	226
BUILD YOUR OWN TARGET STAND.....	228
CHAPTER ELEVEN - <i>Tips and Tricks</i>	229
COVER AND CONCEALMENT.....	230
DRAW-CONFIGURATION: INCREASING YOUR DRAW TIME.....	231
SILENCE THAT CELL PHONE.....	237
LOCKING YOUR CAR BEFORE ENTERING.....	238
THROW AWAY PROPS.....	239
SMART SHOPPING IN THE FIREARM WORLD.....	239

DON'T FORGET YOUR FIREARM.....	242
CHAPTER TWELVE - <i>Dressing the Part</i>	248
DRESSING THE PART.....	249
WINTERS AND SIDEARMS.....	250
DRESSING UP & GOING OUT.....	256
HOW TO DRESS AT THE RANGE.....	257
BELTS, CLIPS, & CONCEALMENT.....	258
CLOTHES SHOPPING FOR YOUR FIREARM.....	261
CHAPTER THIRTEEN - <i>What Ifs</i>	267
DROP THAT GUN!.....	268
AFTER THE TRIGGER IS PULLED.....	269
LOST OR STOLEN FIREARM(S).....	275
THE PARANORMAL & FIREARMS.....	276
CHAPTER FOURTEEN - <i>Socializing</i>	279
CARRYING IN SOMONE ELSE'S HOME.....	280
HUGGING AND FIREARMS.....	283
DATING, SEX, FIREARMS, & O-FACES.....	284
BLACK FRIDAY & BEING ARMED AMONGST THE CRAZIES.....	289
CHAPTER FIFTEEN - <i>Things You Should Know</i>	292
FIREARM OWNERS PROTECTION ACT (FOPA).....	293
WARNING SHOTS.....	296

AMMO STORAGE.....	297
YOUR DEFENSIVE AMMO.....	299
FIREARMS AND OFF BODY CARRY.....	300
PURCHASING A FIREARM AS A GIFT FOR SOMEONE.....	302
WHAT KIND OF CONCEALED FIREARM SHOULD YOU CARRY?.....	304
CONCEALED CARRY INSURANCE.....	308
CONCEALED CARRY & GUN SHOWS.....	313
CHAPTER SIXTEEN - <i>Firearm Mentality</i>	315
IT WON'T HAPPEN TO ME.....	316
DON'T GET COMPLACENT.....	317
CARRYING IS A 9-5 JOB.....	319
BEING IGNORANT CAN'T BE AN EXCUSE.....	322
THE SELF-PROMISE.....	323
CONVINCING OTHERS TO CARRY.....	327
KEEPING YOUR COOL.....	328
WHY CARRY? - THERE WILL ALWAYS BE PREDATORS.....	330
15 REASONS WHY YOU SHOULD NOT CARRY A FIREARM.....	333
LAST CHAPTER	336
IT'S YOUR RIGHT!!!.....	337
MY EDC (EVERY DAY CARRY).....	338
RESOURCES.....	343



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PREFACE

Dear American Samurai,

I would like to personally thank you for purchasing this book. It is dedicated to you because you decided to make a life changing decision to carry a firearm to protect yourself and the ones you love. You're following a tradition in American history that dates back hundreds of years. Like many of those before you, the decision was made to carry a firearm to protect oneself against harm. Carrying a firearm is for everyone, no matter your weight, shape, or how athletic you are. Even if you can only lift 10 lbs., you are able to shoot a firearm.

As we have seen in the news, there are some real evil people in this world and those people have no conscience or morals when they decide to harm your or take your life. They know the difference between right and wrong, but they don't act upon it and they really don't care for anyone's welfare, not even their own. This is a reality we see all the time in the news and around us. We hope that it will never happen to us or someone we know, but the reality of it all, it could. And being prepared is going to change the outcome. These kinds of people are very real and if you're not prepared, you or someone close to you can get seriously hurt or lose their life. I am not selling you fear, but a reality check that this can happen to anyone, no matter where in the world they are.

As a child, there was a neighborhood kid that I grew up with who spent many times in juvenile detention for stealing, breaking and entering and amongst other things that go against the grain. He later ended up in prison when he hit the age of 18. When he was released and on probation, I was playing on the steps of a church in the old neighborhood. I recognized him from many years back. He was a cousin of one of the kids I used to hang out with.

We chatted and out of the blue he warned me that there are people who will take your life just for the change in your pockets. He had an empty expression on his face when he said this and claimed to have

seen this himself. It was kind of a weird conversation. I had no idea what he was talking about since I had been a pretty good kid and didn't get into trouble where the law was concerned. I was a teenager at the time and I could never ever imagine a person who would do such a horrible thing, so I pretty much ignored it. I found out later that he burglarized that same church that we sat on the steps together and he ended up in jail again. The reason why I bumped into him that day, he was canvassing the church property to find an entry point.

Not until I got older and those who I shared the same sidewalk with, did I realize what he was talking about. Some people on that sidewalk decided that they wanted what was in my pockets, not caring that I was a person like them; decided to take things from me through force and violence. Those same type of people broke down the door of my grandparents' home, walked into their house and roughed them up for a few dollars. They were smacked around, they tried to defend themselves (unarmed) and got hurt in the process while trying to defend each other. They were defenseless against these young hoodlums.

After living in a rough neighborhood for many years, I gained my street smarts, but no experience in self-defense. Since I did not come from a family with money, I could not follow my dreams, so I joined the military right after my 18th birthday for the GI Bill to pay for my college.

I had seen a lot in my military career, visited many countries and the violence never changed from one place to another. I always walked around knowing that someone wanted what was in my pockets and they would do anything to get it. I had grown up quickly learning new responsibilities and being trained while living overseas. Thousands of miles away from that sidewalk that I once shared with others.

After my military service, I had a great job, made good money and moved out to the suburbs, away from the crime and the gangs in the cities (but remember, there is crime everywhere). Back in the day I was never exposed to firearms (except in the military - but we hardly used them) in a way that made me an expert. I had never owned a handgun until I was in my 50's.

One summer day at work, a group of guys asked me if I wanted to go to the range. I told them that it has been years since I fired a firearm. They said no problem and we met that Sunday morning at the firing range. When I arrived, there was one of those empty wooden spools for

cable, which was being used as a table, which was loaded up with so much hardware, I thought I was back in the military. I couldn't believe what these people collected over the years.

There were rifles, handguns (semi-autos and revolvers) and mouse guns (tiny handguns). I could tell that I was going to get the chance to try them all. And there was a lot of ammo and with everyone's collection of firearms, I knew I was going to have a great experience.

I was told the universal safety rules to make sure I understood them (which I already memorized beforehand for this event so I completely understood what they meant) before I would go out on the range. I was also trained on each firearm before using any live rounds. Each weapon had different safety features and different types of calibers. I did make the mistake of loading the wrong size round into one of the handguns. An easy mistake if you're new to firearms. With so many different types of ammo and sizes, some look pretty close to being the same size.

During our fun time together, I learned that most of my friends from work were already concealed carriers, some carrying for over 15 years. I heard about this "concealed carry" years before in the newspaper when the news media said the streets would be filled with blood (around the turn of the new century) if people were granted a concealed carry permit (of course this headline never came to fruition), but I really never paid attention to it. I was intrigued that you could carry a loaded weapon on your person in the general public, but never gave it any further thought.

So after my exposure to firearms, I decided to research as much as possible about carrying concealed to see if it was something for me.

After reading and watching videos for several months, along with borrowing a replica pistol with a holster from my friend. I learned how to draw and practiced several of the drills found online. After learning more about the crazy world we live in and how violent that it can get, I decided to sign up for a concealed carry class.

My good friend took the time with me at the range and loaned me his 1911 pistol to practice with before taking my first concealed carry class. Researching and learning before my class really benefited me. I felt more comfortable during the training, especially on the range since I was there a couple times in the past week. So certifying on the range was a piece of cake since I practiced beforehand.

I discovered that after an 8 hour class on concealed carry, I believe that some important information was missed, especially the lifestyle of carrying a sidearm. They went through the legal stuff, situation awareness and other information required by state, but I found it lacking in other areas. So after I got my permit, I decided to take notes of my experiences along with what I had learned from the experts on day to day carrying, especially what you might run into outside the house. The material presented inside is invaluable for anyone who is serious about the new lifestyle they have selected and to help them quickly get into the mindset of carrying comfortably.

I wish you the very best in your new endeavors and I hope you learn something new that you can apply to your concealed carry lifestyle.

Be Safe and Carry On!!!

Grandpa "G"

Author and American Samurai



ABOUT THIS BOOK

This book is focused on those who have decided to legally carry a sidearm and it will concentrate on the day to day activities while carrying one on your person. From getting out of bed when starting the day, until the end of the day and going back to bed.

I am going to start out about what this book is not about. This is not a book on how to aim, shooting fundamentals, differences in handguns (single action, double action, revolvers, semi-automatics, etc.), types of ammo that's out there and other topics surrounding firearms.

Since there is already a lot of information out there on these topics, there is no reason to create another book about the same thing that is already available. I would rather go in another direction by providing

information around the lifestyle of carrying concealed, introducing real life situations that you will run into and how to handle them.

This is a book for those who conceal carry a firearm every day, no matter what gender or age they are. It will hopefully answer many of the questions you have about concealed carry. I believe that everyone should be able to defend their loved ones and themselves in this crazy world in which we live in. For thousands of years, violence has existed in one form or another and I don't imagine that it will change anytime soon.

As we have recently started a new millennium, we all imagined a changed world, one of hope and prosperity with the advancements of technology. We thought as a world we matured to a point to remove a lot of violence in our lives. In other words, we thought a lot of this silliness would go away, but in reality things have not changed. Many think as a society, we are digressing instead of moving forward as a whole. The reality of it all, I don't imagine for the next 2,000 years that this would change very much. Like many countries around the world, violence is on the rise, especially in the way of terrorism. People are people and over the generations, society's mindset slowly changes.

September 11th, 2001, was an eye opener for the United States and other countries around the world. The acts of terrorism on our home soil has changed the way we live forever. From shopping malls, schools and Universities, airports, to crowded streets. We have to be more than ever aware of our surroundings and we need the tools to protect ourselves and our loved ones.

In the past decade or so, concealed carry is something new to many of us. In several states, we can now apply for a permit to carry a sidearm on our person. Before it was available to businesses (owners and employees), politicians, the rich and famous (celebrities) to name a few. Over the past decade, much has changed with concealed carry.

Before I got my permit, I decided to do dive into the world of concealed carry and research as much as possible before and after I got my permit and practice many of the techniques learned by others. Since this is a major lifestyle change, you definitely have to be very responsible in your actions. You really need to take this stuff very seriously. If not, you will end up in prison or dead. It's a lot to think about.

There is so much available information, it can make your head swim. And as you become familiar in this area, you will discover misinformation that is out there and you must be careful not take it as gospel on the Internet. Especially in some of the blogs. It just makes me cringe on how people spew so much crap online and those new to this area take their advice. I saw one post saying that shooting someone in the back while they were running away (the assailant was several yards down the street) is a good idea, or firing rounds in the air to warn people is also okay to do. This is horrible advice and it will land you in a jail cell with a new roommate, on a long vacation in hell.

Plus, if you've never fired a gun or have never been around them, then you can easily get lost in all the lingo and get the wrong information from others in this field.

There are also a sea of acronyms describing the same thing around carrying a concealed weapon. Here are a few examples: EDC (Every Day Carry), CCW (Concealed Carry Weapon), HCP (Handgun Carry Permit), GFL (Georgia Firearm License), LTCH (License to Carry Handgun), CHL (Concealed Handgun License), CWP (Concealed Weapons Permit), CFP (Concealed Firearms Permit), CPL (Concealed Pistol License), CWL (Concealed Weapons License), etc. In your state it may be one of these or a different acronym. From here on out, I will just use CCW (Concealed Carry Weapon).

I was never exposed to guns while growing up. No hunters in my family. The only time I saw a gun was with my parents when they bought a revolver for the family business. It was tucked away in the dresser drawer (center top). I happened upon it one day as a child looking for socks in dresser drawer. I just looked at it, never touched it and never thought twice about it. Unfortunately it was not locked up and the folks never gave any training to the children. Not even warning us not to touch it. They presumed that children don't get into things, so they hid it in a drawer thinking we would never find it. We were lucky we didn't play with it and someone got hurt (like my siblings or a childhood friend). The bad thing about it is that many people who do have a gun never lock it up with children around or ever provide proper training about them.

As an adult, I never got involved with handguns until I was in my 50's. I never had an interest until I discovered that several of my coworkers carried and the reasons why they did. Mostly to protect

themselves and their loved ones. When first introduced, I had many weak areas on how to use a firearm, like how it works mechanically, how to do preventive maintenance, what types of ammo there is and what is best for me. It was confusing, but my friends were very patient and took me to the range to teach me. While I was learning (before I purchased my first gun), I kept notes and also purchased several books on the subject of handguns, concealed carry law and about concealed carry. There were very few books that had the basics of how a firearm worked, what the difference was between calibers and what type of gun I should buy. In this book I will not discuss these, but really focus on helping you understand the day to day things you may run into when you carry.

I could not find anything that really introduced me to the basics of carrying concealed. I did not want to take the word of people who taught me, but rather validate what they had shown me. I did not want to get misinformation and if I ever taught someone else, I would be passing along this incorrect info. So every time we went out to the range, whatever I learned, I would research it and sometimes learn something new. Like the difference between a clip and a magazine. These terms are used interchangeably, but are referenced incorrectly.

It can get complicated, especially about what type of sidearm to purchase and what accessories to add to it, like holsters, belts, mag pouches, etc. There is a lot of marketing and selling in this area since it is a multi-billion dollar business, but some of the stuff you purchase, you end up thinking to yourself, did they actually test this out in the field? On a very limited budget, I researched to make sure I bought the right equipment so I would not end up with something that I did not like, or would have to return and lose money on my investment. I love referrals from people who have actually used something they purchased for a while, tested it and it passed with flying colors. Purchasing things in the gun arena can be very expensive and you could end up with many holsters (for example) that do not work for you.

I have taken notes of my experiences since the very first days of getting my permit and purchasing my first firearm and decided to put it into a book format and share it with you. As I travelled with my sidearm, I took note of any problems I discovered, or any tips that would be helpful to my readers. What you will find here are the day to day activities of carrying a firearm in the great old US of A. Daily

things like shopping, going to the barbers/hair dressers, driving on the highway, visiting public restrooms and other activities that we commonly share daily.

I am hoping that the information contained in this book is helpful for those who are new to concealed carry and to those who have mastered it. My goal here is to bring you to a comfort level of carrying in our society without being noticed and how to carry in some abnormal situations. If you're looking for techniques on how to improve your aim, how to defend yourself in different situation, or what equipment to choose, I have left that up to the reader to gain this knowledge elsewhere and to get training.

I have also provided some excellent resources that I and many others have used, some that are used on a daily basis. Like state reciprocity, how to pick a holster, what to do at the airport when you check in a gun, how to pick the right insurance if you do end up using your sidearm to defend yourself, links to videos about self-defense while using a sidearm and much more.

After reading this book from cover to cover you will discover a whole new world and how to work within your environment. I am hoping the information presented here will be of great value to you.

This book is a great resource, but remember, get trained and continue your education in handgun self-defense.



NOTE TO CRIMINALS

Since the general public has access to this book, I just wanted to inform the criminal community about who they are about to rob and try to do harm.

If you read this book thinking that you will learn how to spot concealed carriers out on the streets, think again. I am going to enlighten you on the subject. Why, oh why, would you want to pick such a hard targets known as concealed carriers? If you think age doesn't matter, think again. By the time you're reading this sentence, another elderly person has strapped on their carry concealed handgun. If you think a person in a wheelchair is an easy target, think again. In the past 24 hours, another disabled person has gone through a training

course on how to defend themselves in a wheelchair. They are armed and know how to use it.

If you still don't get it, let me ask you this... How many wars have we gone through in the past 50 years? How many of those people have been trained, especially with a firearm? Millions? Oh yes. Millions. They do not forget their training and many are Special Forces. It doesn't matter their age either. "Once a marine, always a marine". Ever hear that one before? No matter what service they joined, they have been trained and we all look like everyone else. You cannot spot us.

Would you as a criminal take a risk of robbing one of our military veterans? Do you value your life?

Every day, this country has thousands of people who get their permit (depending on their state if they constitutionally carry) to carry concealed. In my state alone, one out of every four people are armed (Concealed Carry Permits). Other states may have more. So your odds of being killed have increased exponentially if you decide to rob one of them. The news media hardly reports on concealed carriers when they stop a criminal using their firearm. If they did, I am sure crime would drop since the criminal element would be informed of the possibility of them meeting their own maker when they take on an armed citizen. They usually eliminate this important part of the story since many news agencies are anti-gunners. So you will hardly hear about it. On a daily basis, someone in this country uses their firearm to protect themselves or someone else.

While you are thinking about harming someone, there will be other concealed carriers nearby. Once you do your dirty deed, you will be full of lead since other concealed carriers will see you as a threat and they will put you down to save the innocent. Or you could take another path and be out with your friends, maybe seeing a movie, or being with your loved ones, staying out of trouble and leaving people alone. Or if you want to risk harming others and thinking that this type of lifestyle will get you somewhere... you will end up in a pool of your own blood, gasping for air as life slowly drains out of your body, while you go through such a horrible, excruciating, painful experience. Is this what you want as a career criminal?

It's going to be around 50% or more of people in this country that will be armed in the years to come. So that's one out of two people who will be carrying. Remember, they are not police officers, so shooting as

a civilian is considered self-defense. Your chances of being shot by an officer is low, but the actual concealed carrier you would be robbing, your chances of losing your life is over 90%. They will be armed and trained for such situations.

With so many people being trained around criminal attacks, your chances of survival are slim. Seriously, if I were you, I'd find another profession. An honest one. You'll live longer, maybe hit your 50's someday and enjoy those you love around you. Being a mentor to others to help give them a better chance in life than you did. To get the chance to grow old and die in your sleep, instead of having a violent death while trying to attack a concealed carrier for a few dollars. Wouldn't you want a better life for yourself? Fall in love and grow old with someone. Maybe have kids of your own that can go to college someday and live a better life.

Why lose your life or do hard time over a few lousy dollars? Even using a fake gun is considered a felony and as concealed carriers, if you draw a fake gun, you will lose your life. Is it truly worth it? You're worth more than that. So put down this book and leave this life of crime and make a better person of yourself and make better choices in your life.

If you wish to continue down the criminal path, then I have four words for you....

"You have been warned!!!!"

If you are part of a terrorist organization, you may have noticed in the news that our citizens are armed and not afraid to defend themselves. They have the same weapons or better than you have. So I highly recommend that you do not attempt any terrorist activity in our country. Concealed carriers have stopped terrorists in the past and they will do so in the future.

You also have been given a courteous warning.



THE AMERICAN SAMURAI

American Samurai (Grandpa G's definition): *a new generation of responsibly armed American's of any age, ability or disability, who have chosen the lifestyle to carry a concealed firearm to protect themselves and their loved ones. This armed-citizen goes through periodic training and education, year after year, living and walking the path, learning the way of the concealed carrier. An armed individual that carries every day (when legally possible) and lives by the Concealed Carry Creed.*

The Samurai warrior originated in feudal Japan hundreds of years ago and even though they were abolished in the 19th century, their spirit lives on. Their stories have been passed down from generation to generation. You've seen them in movies, cartoons, games, books and many other forms which continue to breathe life into these historic warriors.

I find that there are some similarities between the Japanese and the new American Samurai. Like the Japanese, many of our responsibly armed citizens continuously train to defend themselves through education and training. With the advancement in weaponry, instead of a sword fight these days, it's now a gunfight. Instead of unholstering a sword, we use a firearm. Like the warriors of past, we carry our weapon at our sides, ready to be unsheathed when trouble arrives.

Many flavors of martial arts from around the world have migrated to the United States over the decades and some of our American Samurai have been trained in the arts of hand to hand combat to defend themselves. Similar to the Japanese Samurai, they learned from their masters in self-defense, using empty handed skills along with wielding a sword to protect themselves. They used weaponry to defend and they were trained and very well disciplined like most of our responsible armed Americans.

Our 21st century American Samurai are more of an independent kind of warrior. They aren't servants to a Daimyo (a lord), they don't belong to a clan (except to their own families), or participate in a

military cast system like the Japanese Samurai did. I would consider them more of a Ronin; someone who is a wandering Samurai with no lord or master.

The Japanese sword has been the symbol of the Samurai for many years and it is a proud iconic symbol of Japan. The blade and metallurgy have been perfected, the sword is next to impossible to break during combat and it's so sharp, it can sever body part with one swift stroke. Our firearm manufacturers, like the sword-smiths of Japan, continuously improve the quality of their weapons, a trade secret that is passed on from generation to generation - from Master to student.

Now I wouldn't consider all concealed carriers as American Samurais since some think that just having a weapon is all they need and no training or education is necessary beyond that point. They are a separate group of people with a different mindset, one of not wanting to excel themselves in self-defense. They believe their current skillsets are adequate to save them. They lack respect, responsibility, honor and discipline. They would not qualify under the definition of an American Samurai.

But, there are those who go above and beyond just carrying a sidearm, no matter their age, gender, or ability. And they understand that education, practice and training are perishable skills if not used frequently. They do ongoing education, training and daily disciplines to enhance and maintain their skillset. These are the ones that I would label as the American Samurai (aka American Ronin), a modified version of yesteryears Samurai. Since you are reading this book and decided to you continue your education and training, consider yourself one of our American Samurai.

Did you know there were female Samurai? Yes ladies, women who were warriors participated in battles next to their men. At one archeological site, where the battle of Senbon Matsubaru took place, around the 1580's, DNA shows 35 women warriors were buried there. One of many great untold stories in Samurai history. There is also a story of a village that was attacked, where Takeko and Yuko Nakano (they were sisters), risked their lives and fought for their clans independence after they were invaded. So if you wanted to know if there were any ladies who were actually Samurai, now you know. Women over the centuries from all around the world have fought

alongside the men in battle, which I think is pretty awesome and should not be forgotten.

The firearm has leveled the field in the way one defends themselves. And because of this new type of technology, bringing a knife or sword to a gunfight was useless after its invention. Instead of having a Master to learn the way of the sword (which can take years of experience and discipline to master), with a sidearm, you can become proficient in a shorter period of time with the proper training. And you don't have to be in any great physical shape, like the Japanese Samurai.

With a firearm, you can be any age to successfully defend yourself and in almost any physical condition. You could be struggling with a disability, ailment, or be elderly (weak or even frail) and unlike a sword, you can defend yourself with a firearm. Back in those days before the existence of firearms, people were unable to defend themselves with a sword due to their limited mobility and lack of strength. But with a firearm and proper training, now our elderly, disabled or those with medical conditions, can easily defend themselves and take down a life-threatening enemy.

With the advancement in firearms, we have been given the great opportunity to defend ourselves and others and like the Samurai, constant training is available. We can find an assortment of gun-masters who can teach different techniques in wielding a firearm. There is so much versatility today compared to the Samurais of past.

Over the millennia, we still have evil that walks the earth; still robbing, raping, killing and causing harm to the innocent. They have become soulless and more violent than ever before. For thousands of years, the world has not changed much in people needing to defend themselves from those who care not of us and our wellbeing, but instead care in what we possess. But our defenders are a different breed of people, consisting of not just men, but also women of all ages. These people are you and me, honest hard working people trying to live a decent life, trying to fulfill our dreams for ourselves and our families. The world in which we live in has created the American Samurai, defending the innocent against evil.



CHAPTER ONE

The Basics

“The only thing that is ultimately real about your journey is the step that you are taking at this moment. That’s all there ever is.”

Eckhart Tolle



PREPARE BEFORE YOUR FIRST CLASS

There is a lot to know when it comes to firearms and if you have never been exposed to or have had limited time with them, then I highly suggest you learn about it before taking your first class. If you're just going in to take a gun safety or concealed carry class, it would be in your best interest to learn about firearms before your class. Folks sometimes get intimidated by something that is new to them. Like computers. For such a small thing, there is a lot involved with it. The hardware, the software, how it communicates, how it interacts with other computers and basically how to use it. And there is a whole new set of terminology behind it which can get you lost when having conversations with others.

It took almost 4 months of studying about concealed carry, the laws, how a gun works, types of bullets to use, read several books on the subject and memorized the 4 universal firearm safety rules. I took notes in my notepad to reference what I learned or to research more on those topics, watched many videos and read blogs that went back several years about concealed carry. Then when I felt comfortable on what I knew, I took my first concealed carry class. I will share later on about these resources that I thought were really good, some you would benefit from them.

When I took my first concealed carry class, I felt very comfortable in a room of people who were very savvy in this area to those who were completely new to the subject. I understood over 95% of what was being talked about by the instructor and the other 5% I asked questions. It was a very quiet classroom with about 20 people in it. I think some felt intimidated and afraid to ask questions but they felt relieved when someone asked the question that they were thinking of.

I hate to see others who are struggling with any subject. So I would recommend that you pick a date for your class (if a permit is required in your state), go back at least a month or two before it starts and begin learning about the topic. You will definitely feel more comfortable in class and may end up sharing what you learned with your fellow classmates. If your state does not require a permit and you think you need to know more about the topic, then pick a date you will purchase your firearm (if you don't have one). Then go back a month

or so and learn more about the topic. When you think you have a deeper understanding about firearms, drills, the law, etc., then pick up that firearm, go to a range and practice. Either way, you're starting your training and you will have to continue training until the day you have to retire yourself from using a firearm.



ALWAYS THINK T.A.N.K. SAFETY ©

As a concealed carrier, you need to memorize the four universal firearm safety rules. Memorizing is important, but following through and living by these rules will save your life, others and also eliminate death or injuries. Live by these rules. For myself, acronyms help me remember important key points. They help me burn important information into my mind. I can't stress enough how important it is to learn these rules.

I use the acronym *T.A.N.K.* to help me memorize these important rules. Why TANK? It's easier to remember and besides they are pretty cool to drive. They also shoot very large projectiles and the person firing the shots should also be following the same safety rules.

You will find similar safety rules in books and on the Internet, but I will share mine with you below.

4 Universal Gun Safety Rules.

Treat all guns as if they are *always* loaded and when you pick one up, *always* do a physical and visual clearance check for ammo.

Always be sure of your target and what's behind it.

Never point your gun at anything you're not willing to destroy and *always* maintain muzzle discipline.

Keep your finger and objects *off* the trigger and *outside* of the trigger guard until you have acquired your target and have made the decision to shoot.

Let's go through each one:

T*reat all guns as if they are always loaded and when you pick one up, always do a physical and visual clearance check for ammo:*

The reason for this rule is that people forget if they have a loaded a weapon or not. It's true. It also gets harder to keep track when you have more than one firearm. When someone hands you a firearm, even though that person has inspected it, it is also your responsibility to check it. I have seen people do a visual check, hand it off to someone, that person receiving it figures that they don't need to check it and when the trigger is pulled, the gun fires a bullet (remember to muzzle discipline). Never do buddy checks on a firearm (letting the person handing you the firearm to check it for you). Check it yourself when you pick it up or when someone hands it to you. This completely insures it is unloaded. I recently saw a video of a man with a shotgun at the range. He leaned it up against a stand. He walked toward his target, the stand fell down and shot him in the back. Treat all firearms as if they are loaded.

A*lways be sure of your target and what's behind it:*

When you pull that trigger and that bullet leaves that barrel, you are responsible for it. When you are at a range, make sure there is nothing breathing behind that target. We're talking animals (like pets for example) or humans, especially the little ones. You must imprint in your mind that something or someone could be behind that target. For example, there was a shooting in Argentina at a store that was getting robbed. A mother and her child were getting ice cream. They were both unaware of the masked man behind them. The store owner shot at the robber, missing the little girl, but hitting the mother and she was killed in front of her child. The mother was unaware of the events unfolding behind her. The store owner did not follow the rule of making sure of what is behind his target and made a child motherless in less than a second.

Never point your gun at anything you're not willing to destroy and always maintain muzzle discipline:

This rule applies to every firearm, loaded or not. From purchasing a firearm at a gun store to loading your sidearm on the range, always keep that muzzle pointed away from anyone or anything that the bullet will destroy. I remember seeing a gentleman that was having a problem with his laser beam on his pistol and it would not turn on for him. He was at the range trying to troubleshoot the problem. So he pointed the muzzle at his hand and pressed the button to see if the red dot would appear to make sure it was working. When he tested it, he shot himself in the hand. I can't make this stuff up, seriously, this does happen to those seasoned in firearms. He didn't maintain his safety discipline, he became complacent and then put himself in danger and possibly those around him. I am sure he will never forget those safety rules again after he left the hospital, but it costed him a good hand by not following these simple rules.

Keep your finger and objects off the trigger and outside of the trigger guard until you have acquired your target and have made the decision to shoot:

This one of the most important rules of all, keeping your finger off the trigger. Guns do not go off by themselves (it is very rare, but it has happened to some cheap and crappy firearms). The only way they go boom is when the trigger is pulled or if you are re-holstering and something like the edge of a holster itself (poor quality holster) or piece of clothing get caught in the trigger. Many sidearms also have internal and external safeties to prevent accidental discharge, especially when the gun is dropped. That's why you keep your finger away from the trigger and point your finger forward towards the muzzle (you'll see a picture of this later).

People who grab their firearm when they suspect a prowler in their house, with their trigger on the finger, may end up shooting a loved one, themselves, or have an accidental discharge. You may slip, lose your balance, or fall and pull the trigger, before you have even acquired your target. Or someone in your house is binging at the fridge and you already have your finger on the trigger and accidentally get surprised

and the gun goes off. Believe me, this has happened to household members accidentally being shot. That's why we keep our finger off the trigger, until the target is acquired and you have made the decision to shoot.

This one is rare, but it did happen. I wanted to share a story about a man and his dog on a boat. The man was going out to hunt, he brought his faithful friend with him. He had his rifle loaded and on the deck of this boat all ready to go. While driving the boat, he was shot. How did this happen? His faithful friend put his paw on the trigger and the firearm discharged. Can you recognize which rules should have been used in preventing this incident? Keep your paws off the trigger for example? Can you think of any others?

Following these rules will eliminate accidents happening to you or someone else.

Remember, the greatest safety of all is between your ears. Use your brains and common sense. Create a habit of these rules and you won't run into any problems.

Newsflash: "ABC NEWS: Gun brought to St. Paul school by 7-year-old student goes off, no injuries (November 2016)". This just popped up on my screen while I was writing the previous paragraph. This is very shocking to me. How could this happen? As a responsible gun owner, you must keep your firearms locked up so something like this would never happen. You should also train your children about gun safety, even if you don't own a gun since firearms are very common in homes now.

Depending on the age of your child, they should know what to do when they are near a firearm (like leave the room and inform an adult), what to do if they are at a friend's house, especially if one of their friends pulls out their parents gun. Children are curious and most likely they think that it's a toy. If your child gets a hold of your gun, you may be prosecuted to the fullest extent of the law.

Growing up as a teenager, one of my friends was shot in the face with a handgun. His friend was playing with the firearm and did not know it was loaded. The bullet went through his left cheek, through his throat and lodged itself near his right jugular. He was going to play professional football (he was that good), but is now limited to lite duties. The bullet cannot be removed by surgery since it is too close to

his main artery and it could kill him if he hurts his head or neck. He was very lucky to survive.

In the case of the 7 year old, he brought it to school in a classroom full of children, he was showing it off and the trigger was pulled. The bullet went through the floor. It could have been much worse. I am sure legal charges will be filed against the parents. Plus, think of all the news media coverage they will be getting and the friends of the parents whose children were in that classroom. Will other parents continue to be friends with the gun owner? Will the parents allow their children to play with this child ever again? Would the parents of the children in the school file a lawsuit against the family? What does that child think now after taking the weapon to school? What kind of damage has this created for this child? Maybe scarred for life?

It's going to be a real mess and they may be forced to move or have their child attend a different school. This incident has changed their lives forever and it could have been easily prevented. But this gun owner was irresponsible and may end up bankrupt, losing their home and possibly divorced. Don't let this happen to you. Follow the safety rules.

If you never heard of the Eddie Eagle Gunsafe® Program, here is the website to visit to learn more about teaching your children gun safety. EddieEagle.NRA.org

Additional Safety Rules When Passing a Firearm to Another Person

Along with following the universal firearm safety rules, there are others to follow when handing a firearm to someone.

While following the universal rules - TANK (above), include the following below...

- For semi-automatic pistols, always eject the magazine (loaded with ammo or not)
- Rack the slide (upper receiver) to eject the round from the chamber. For revolvers, pass it with the cylinder open.

- Visually and physically inspect the upper receiver (the slide) to be absolutely positive that there is no round inside. For revolvers, check the cylinder for ammo.
- And then pass the firearm, grip first, muzzle pointing down the range, to the other party, while maintaining eye contact with them while the person receiving the firearm uses verbal commands stating that they have control of it (Thanks, I've got it!, for example).
- The party receiving the firearm should always follow the universal safety rules, especially checking to see that the firearm is unloaded. Always assume that it is loaded and double-check it (The "T" in TANK).

Don't let an accidental discharge happen to you. Follow the rules and you'll be just fine.



BE AN AMBASSADOR FOR THE REST OF US

If you didn't know, you are the ambassador of the conceal carry community. Congratulations!!! You now have a great responsibility to yourself and those around you. You'll realize that you're not going to be the average person and having a sidearm with you, puts you into a higher category than those who do not carry. You will have to raise the bar and actually be on your best behavior, if not, you may make a mistake and end up in prison with a felony charge. Again, it is a great responsibility and it's your duty to keep up to date with every changing law in your state or those you visit.

You are now representing millions of people who also carry a sidearm in the US for their own protection.

When I was in the military, every country I visited, I was reminded that I was an ambassador for my country and to basically follow the local laws, stay out of trouble and keep a low profile. If I screwed up, others in that country may not be as forgiving and I could be in some hot water and possibly in the news. Remember Michael Fay? The 18

year old kid from the US who was sentenced to caning in Singapore for theft and vandalism. It turned into international news. And our country had to get involved with that mess. Perfect example of not being an ambassador of your country.

While being an ambassador for the rest of us, you have to be very careful while at home and in public.

While in the military, I used to teach foreign prisons to other military personnel while I was stationed overseas. Since my students were also military, they also needed to know what consequences they would suffer if they decided to step out of line. With proper training, this reduced the amount of Americans in foreign jail cells and prison. But there are those who decided to be dumbasses and commit a crime and end up in prison. Remember that you're an ambassador for the rest of us in the concealed carry community. Get trained and educated on the subject of concealed carry and you'll be just fine.

On a side note, there are those who have been fighting a good fight against those who believe that good people like us should not carry a sidearm to defend ourselves or our loved one. These people who write laws against those who carry would rather keep innocent people as victims. Those who have written these insane laws (like limiting how much ammo you can have), their poor decisions has kept the bad people armed while giving them more rights than those of us who are lawful citizens.

For example, in some states, they do not have Stand Your Ground laws. So this means that someone who breaks into your home, threatens to kill you and you shoot them, you are liable for a lawsuit. No kidding. They can sue you (or their family) and you can end up in bankruptcy court. You can lose a lot, including your home and life savings. A criminal who threatens to kill you and your family has more rights than you do. None of this stuff makes sense anymore, but there was a time where anyone could carry a firearm – no questions asked and those who committed violent crimes actually paid for their crimes. And it was like this for hundreds of years. Times sure have changed.

I would like to personally thank those who have been fighting for our rights to protect our lives so that we can carry concealed to defend ourselves and our loved ones. Someday this silliness will be a thing of the past, but for now, be on your very best behavior and an ambassador for the rest of us.



BEFORE YOU CARRY

Before hitting the streets, make sure you test your Firearm at the range. I have heard of people who purchased a firearm and start carrying immediately. They have no idea what state their sidearm is in since they never fired a round through it. This could be a serious problem if you have to use your weapon and you have no idea what state it's in. Unless you like to take risks and be surprised at what's happening around you and discover it's no longer in your favor.

You're newly purchased sidearm may have a recall, like a malfunction where the ammo constantly jams. My neighbor just bought a new handgun, took it to the range and it failed every 3-5 rounds. Then he found out that there's a recall on it. So go out to the range and make sure you put at least 250-500 rounds of ammo through it. Some folks put over 1,000 rounds to thoroughly test their firearm. If your gun fails a single shot or more at the range, investigate the reason behind it. Is it the ammo you are using, is it the handgun, or is it you? If you think it is hardware problem, seek a gunsmith immediately.

You don't want to start carrying and discover during a firefight that your weapon is malfunctioning. You don't want to fail yourself or others that you care about. So don't carry a sidearm if it has never been tested. If you do discover that you have a faulty sidearm, don't use it for defensive purposes. It may cost you dearly.

So before you decide to carry, you're going to want to keep the number of people who know you have a firearm down to a minimum. As in a game of cards, you don't want to show your hand, but keep your cards close to your chest. You want the element of surprise on your side. Showing your cards (telling those around you that you carry) can make you lose the game. You want to be the winner, especially when the chips hit the floor. People talk. They love to gossip. You don't want someone to challenge you because you carry.

I don't even tell my closest unarmed friends I carry. The only people who know that I carry is those I live with of course and those who are also concealed carriers, whom also don't broadcast to others that they carry. It's nice to know those around you are carrying since you may all be out one day having a good time and someone decides to ruin the fun by using deadly force on you or others. It's nice to know

that someone has your back in case you get hurt or pinned down in a gun fight.

I don't want a situation to escalate when someone who knows I carry makes an announcement to everyone around us that I have a firearm. Especially when trying to de-escalate a situation, or trying to avoid one, then one of my peeps thinks it's a smart idea to threaten someone because they know I have a gun. They think that the other person will back down if they know someone is armed. Let's say there is an argument and it is about to get into a punching match. Next thing you know, someone calls 911 and says you threatened someone with your gun and you had nothing to do with it and your gun may have never left its holster. It's their word against yours. But when police search you and find a gun, you may be going to jail, even though you did nothing.

A friend of mine was hanging out after a movie with one of his closest friends in the theatre parking lot. Someone called the police on them. The officer came by to find out what was going on and asked for ID and my friend produced his driver's license and his permit. His friend of many years had no idea he carried. And that's the way he wanted it. His secret is used for good reason, to protect himself and those around him.

Don't draw attention to yourself. The less people know you carry, the safer you are and those around you.

KEEP YOUR CONCEALED CARRY SECRET AND PRIVATE



What's the big deal in not letting people know you carry?

The more people know you carry a firearm, several risk factors increase around the safety of you and those around you.

When someone knows you have a firearm, there's a greater possibility of events going sideways and we'll go through some of these. For example, there have been multiple instances where people who knew a person who carried a firearm ended up calling the police because they are pissed at them, they didn't like people with firearms, or they just wanted to be dicks about it. They will lie to law

enforcement, saying that you brandished your sidearm and next thing you know, you get arrested for something you never did.

What about those that open carry? Well, I personally shy away from exposing myself in public and for good reason. For one I am a concealed carrier and I don't like to let people know that I carry. I enjoy my freedom and don't want to be bothered, asked questions, or be a target for criminals. Let me explain.

If you decide to open carry, criminals will want your sidearm and will attempt to take it from you. Or if they want to rob a place and they see you with your firearm, they may decide to eliminate you first because you will be a threat to them. An ambush comes quickly and it is never announced. Having your gun out in the open, you basically lost the element of surprise and possibly your life. If you don't have any type of holster retention, then kiss that sidearm goodbye.

I have seen someone open carry at a fast food restaurant, a person came up behind the carrier in line, took their sidearm and ran out the door. The guy didn't notice it for a few seconds, then ran out the door to chase him and the guy fired back at him in the parking lot with the carriers own firearm.

I have heard of people who are totally against those who carry openly and they go into idiot mode and try to grab their gun out of anger to try to prove a point. Someone could lose their life in this situation. Avoid becoming a target.

At the time of writing this book, a man was arrested after an argument with another guy in a car. The guy had a gun in his holster (exposed to everyone), he approached the car and an argument ensued. The carrier walked away to deescalate the situation. The guy in the car called the police and said that he pointed the gun at him. So he was arrested, even though he never pulled out his gun. But the guy he argued with saw the gun in his holster and decided to get even with him by calling the police.

I've heard discussions around Open Carry, like it deters bad people from doing bad things while out in public. You have your sidearm open to everyone and some bad guys walk in, sees you and maybe decide to leave or come back another time with more criminals. The flip side of that, they may see you as a threat and put a few slugs in you so you don't stop them during the robbery. There's money or valuables at stake here and depending if the robbery has been professionally planned, or

just dumb thieves who walked off the street and wanted to take a chance, they both have the same agenda. One may decide taking your life is worth the money. Open carry eliminates surprise which should be on your side and not on the side of those who want to commit crimes. Your biggest advantage is secrecy. Don't throw that away.

I was in the parking lot of a Farm Fleet today (Midwest stores that sell products to farmers) and I saw a woman wearing an OWB (Outside the Waistband) holster with a very large 1911 sidearm. She looked very serious and obviously making a statement. I noticed that she did not bother keeping her head on a swivel (situation awareness). I guess she thinks that she has the upper hand and no one would bother her. I noticed that several people were staring at her with that big gun strapped to her hip.

But in my mind I am thinking that this person is putting herself and others in danger. Anyone can walk up, relieve this woman of her sidearm and either decide to wreak havoc on those around them or just plainly steal the weapon which could end up on the black market or be used in a robbery. I was running scenarios in my head if someone did come up behind her, what would I do? If they did get her sidearm, where is the nearest cover? Do I have my cellphone on hand to make the call and be a good witness? If something did happen, this person is putting me and my family into a situation that could have been avoided.

This person lost her advantage right away (not having her sidearm concealed) and is now the number one target for someone who wants that handgun and they will do anything to get it and quick. Keep the advantage and keep your firearm hidden.

I know people want to make a point by slinging an AR-15 over their shoulder and having their handgun at their side (open carry), just to prove to the public they can exercise their constitutional right. But what's going to happen? People will call the cops. Yeah, you're getting attention now. Maybe you'll be on TV or in the newspapers. Good for you. They will ask you for your permit and licenses and you may refuse since you are not breaking any laws, but guess what? You're wasting their time. Those officers that are there to protect and serve may be needed somewhere else more important than being with you. An accident perhaps where people are hurt, or a concealed carry friend of yours that needs their help because of an incident where he/she were protecting themselves. Don't waste law enforcement's time by proving a

point. We all get it. Let them do their jobs to help others in need. You may save someone's life if you don't waste the time of local law enforcement.

If you think you need to bring awareness about open/concealed carry, then get together with others and do something nice for the community. Feed the poor on thanksgiving, collect toys for children whose parents can't afford them, deliver hot meals to those in need, clean up a park or road, do lawn maintenance for the elderly, work with disabled veterans, etc. Make a statement by doing something really kind towards others. And do this frequently and for years to come. Don't just do it once. You want to continue giving and giving to the community. This can change the perception of how people think about us as a group. Do something really kind for others. This is one of the things we must do as concealed carry citizens, we have to raise the bar higher and set an example for others to follow. Do something peaceful and fun by giving back to your community.

I am not here to tell you that you cannot exercise your 2nd amendment right, but concealed carry will protect you and those around you. Don't put a target on your back. Letting others know you carry will get you attention in the way that you won't expect. Word could spread and criminals looking for a sidearm may start looking for you. This could end up really ugly and you or someone you care about could be in danger. If criminals know you carry they will make attempts to get it away from you either in person, or coming to your home. Remember, avoid conflict at all costs. Don't advertise. Stay concealed and maintain that element of surprise. If you wish to open carry, that's your choice, but not one I would recommend.



NEVER TRUST YOUR MEMORY

This is one of my major personal rules that I follow when working with firearms. I never trust my memory. Sometimes you get distracted, have something on your mind, or you just may forget what state your firearm is. It's like when you forget where you put your keys, or when you are working on something and a tool ends up missing. You have your tools lying around and you just can't find what was in your hands

a few seconds ago. It happens to all of us. I also correlate this with firearms (another tool).

Is the chamber loaded? What state is it in? If you have been working with more than one firearm, do you know which one has a round in it or not?

There will be times where you may have more than one firearm you're dealing with and you may not remember if it is loaded or not. You may have to visit places where firearms are not allowed and you have to leave it at home or in your vehicle, locked in a safe. Do you have a round in the chamber when you put it in a safe? Where you in a rush and decided to just put it in the safe without removing a round? Then after a long day, you come back to your firearm, but do you remember what state it's in?

People do forget, we're all human after all and it gets sketchier when you are dealing with multiple firearms. So always follow the four safety rules every time, even if you think your sidearm is in a certain state (loaded or not). You will experience this, especially when you're in gun free zones. In some states, it has to be locked up and unloaded. Other states are not specific if your firearm needs to be unloaded, but as long it's locked up, you should be good to go. It gets a little crazy when you're traveling through states and getting out of your vehicle multiple times because the law says you have to have your firearm locked up. On these long trips, you may forget if there is a round in the chamber.

So always check your sidearm, no matter if you left it somewhere for a short period of time or not. This will save you from any embarrassment of an accidental discharge and shooting someone. I remember an interview of a gentleman that was in a wheelchair. When he was a teenager, his father always took him shooting. He would display his firearms on his wall when he was not using them. One day this child wanted to take a look at one of them and accidentally shot himself in the neck and was paralyzed for life. His father forgot to remove the ammo from that firearm. He thankfully survived, but this person who shot himself accidentally takes the blame since he did not follow the 4 firearm safety rules.



GRANDPA G's FIVE RECOMMENDATIONS FOR KEEPING SHARP AND BEING SMART WHILE CARRYING CONCEALED

1. **Ongoing Training:** Keep improving your skills by taking classes frequently to increase your knowledge about firearms, safety, self-defense and any other training that will enhance your experience.
2. **Continuous Safety:** Always follow the 4 Universal Rules of Gun Safety.
3. **Invest in Yourself:** Read as much on Concealed Carrying as possible. Read blogs, magazines, watch YouTube videos, talk with others that carry. Things are always changing and there are always ways to improve.
4. **Learn The Laws of Concealed Carry (CC) in Your State:** You are responsible in learning the laws in your state around CC. Check out the laws a couple times a year on that states website for any changes or updates.
5. **Constant Practice:** You've learned many things, now go practice them. Keep your sword sharp and don't let it get rusty. There is a lot of muscle memory involved and this has to be maintained on a daily practice. If not, 3-5 times a week (live or dry-firing) should be good enough, but more is better.



WHERE TO CARRY YOUR SIDEARM

Depending on which hand is most dominant and what basically feels best for you when you draw your weapon, there are several on-the-body places to store your sidearm.

In the diagram below, you will see the human body as a clock. The front of you is the 12 o'clock position, the rear is 6 o'clock, the right hip is the 3 o'clock position and the 9 o'clock position is the left hip.



The body is facing the 12 o'clock position.

There are several places to carry your firearm on your body. At the waistline level, chest/arm level, the ankle, the thigh and your pelvic girdle area (your front pockets). Just remember, the closer the firearm is to your hands, the quicker access you will have.

Our bodies are all different shapes and sizes and this also contributes to where you can comfortably carry your sidearm. Also keep in mind where the muzzle is pointing while in the holster and also when it leaves the holster. For example, if you have a shoulder holster under your arm, most likely the muzzle would be pointing behind you. So if there is an accidental discharge, those behind you would be receiving the bullet. When unholstering your sidearm, the muzzle would no doubt be in the path of your arm (unless you raise your arm). If you accidentally pull the trigger while unholstering, you may shoot your arm and hit a major artery (brachial artery) and bleed to death. Always maintain that muzzle discipline.

If you carry in the appendix area (11 - 1 o'clock position) without a holster (like they show the bad guys doing in the movies), you risk pulling the trigger and shooting yourself in the leg, another major artery (femoral artery). And if you're a guy, chances are good, you'll end up giving yourself a sex change. If you do have a flimsy holster (like the Sticky Holster - one of my favorites), remember that after you draw

your sidearm and you want to put it back into your holster, remove the holster and reinsert your firearm back into that holster. Then slide the holster with the sidearm back to its original position. **DO NOT** slip your sidearm back into your flimsy holster while you are wearing it, you risk the chance of having an accidental discharge.

If you carry a firearm in your pocket, **ALWAYS** use a holster. You risk the chance of shooting yourself when you reinsert the sidearm without a holster, or if you have objects in your pocket with your sidearm, it could pull the trigger. **ALWAYS** use some type of holster that will protect your trigger while in your pocket. And again, after you pull out your sidearm from your pocket, remove the flimsy holster, reinsert the firearm into that holster and put it back into your pocket. You want your trigger covered and protected at all times. If not, you are risking the chance of hurting or killing yourself.



GUNS SCARE ME

I hear comments from people who have not been around firearms and they express that they have a fear of guns. That's one of the reasons why they don't have one. That's completely healthy and nothing to be ashamed of. Yes, you should be scared in some respect and that's normal. This is a deadly weapon which can harm or kill someone. If you don't have some kind fear or caution while handling a firearm, then there will be a time where you will become complacent and don't follow one of those universal firearm rules and something bad will happen.

When you become too comfortable and your awareness drops in handling guns, accidents can happen. I don't wish people to be scared or fearful of guns, but having some kind of stimuli that keeps you alert of the destruction and the deadly force that a firearm can have will maintain your awareness. Keep in mind that this is a deadly weapon, the rules of safety must be present and when you keep this in the back of your brain, no one will get hurt.

It's no different than working with any other tools, like those used in woodworking. Yes, if you're not cautious, you can seriously hurt yourself and loose body parts. Same thing with driving a car, it can be

destructive and can harm or kill someone if you don't follow the safety rules. Or a kitchen knife while preparing food. You don't stand there playing with a sharp knife, you know it can hurt you, your cautious and also know not to run with scissors in your hands.

It comes down to common sense. If you don't have any common sense, then you shouldn't be operating any equipment or vehicle that can be harmful to you or others, especially a firearm.

My point is this, don't be afraid, use caution every time you're around a firearm and never drop your guard by not following the universal safety rules.

If you can do all this, then it's completely safe and you shouldn't have anything to worry about. Yes, I was a little scared at first. I memorized and followed the universal safety rules for firearms, but this fear turned into caution over time and it has been engrained in my soul ever since. It has turned my fear of guns into respect for them like any other tool I have worked with in the past. A firearm is no different than anything else, you just need to proceed with caution to protect yourself and others. By educating yourself on the subject and using common sense you'll be just fine and safe.



GIVING IT THE FINGER

You can tell when people are trained on handguns by the way they hold them. One of my favorite shows is SG-1 (StarGate 1). In this television series, you can tell that everyone has had some sort of firearms training. The soldiers (actors) in the show correctly place their fingers on their firearms, outside the trigger guard. This is rare in Hollywood, since they usually show people with their finger always on the trigger, even your famous cop shows. But at least in this television series, they are putting their fingers in the right position before they're putting rounds on target.

When you have a firearm in hand, you will always keep your finger off the trigger and outside the trigger guard, unless you're going to fire. The example picture (below) is how to place your fingers on a handgun before you decide to fire.



Position for right-handed people.



Position for left-handed people.

Always keep your finger off the trigger and outside the trigger guard until you are sure of your target and ready to fire. When you draw, your finger should always go to this position automatically before you place your finger on the trigger. If do not have your finger outside the trigger guard when you pick up a firearm, you will shoot yourself or

someone else, especially if you're drawing a sidearm out of your holster.



Incorrect way to hold a firearm when not ready to fire.

This position (above) is incorrect if you have not made the decision to shoot. If you put your finger on the trigger when you pick up a handgun or when you draw, your chances of firing an accidental shot is very likely. Remember, you are responsible for EVERY bullet that leaves your gun. Again, ALWAYS follow the universal firearm safety rules.



NOMENCLATURE OF A SIDEARM

As gun owners, we should educate ourselves on the different parts of a firearm. I have provided a couple of pistols showing their nomenclature as an example to help educate you if you're new to pistols. All pistols are not the same, like the striker fire semi-automatic pistols. They will not have a hammer since most of its components are internal, like its safety features.



PICKING OUT YOUR SIDEARM

This is one of the most controversial issues, picking your sidearm. I am not going to tell you what type of sidearm to purchase, but I am going to help you find the right type of pistol you should be looking for. Everyone is different in their needs so there is no one single pistol that will do it all. Just keep in mind that you're carrying to defend yourself in almost every situation possible.

You obviously want to choose a sidearm that will give you plenty of ammo in the magazine. The more ammo the better. If you do ever end up in a gunfight, you obviously don't want to run out of bullets. Get a sidearm that has a minimum of 15 bullets, this would be your best bet. If you're in a state that limits magazine sizes (10 bullets is the max for example), then get the largest size magazine you can carry, but have more than one magazine (if the law allows).

Weight is also important in a sidearm, the lighter the better, but you also want to have less muzzle flip when you pull the trigger. There are sidearms with polymer frames, which helps reduce the weight of the gun.

Grip size is also important. You want a sidearm that fits in your hands, not one that's too small or too large to handle. Comfort is important because you want control of your firearm. If your firearm is too large for your little hands, or your hands are too large for the grip, your accuracy is going to suffer.

Rear sights for semiautomatic pistols are also important. You should be able to use the rear sight to rack the slide on you handgun. When you're in a situation where one of your hands are out of commission and you need to rack the slide on your pistol, you need a rear sight that can catch on a solid object and put your gun back into battery. You want a rear sight that is at a 90 degree angle, so it can easily catch on other objects that are around 90 degrees.



Using counter top to rack the slide to load a round into the chamber.

For example, you can use a table, place your rear sight on that edge, push it down to rack the slide back and put your sidearm back into battery. You can even use your gun belt, your boot or shoe, or any other object that is close to a 90 degree angle and solid enough to rack your slide on. Some firearms don't have enough height on their rear sight to rack it against an object. With my rear sight, I can even rack the slide on my steering wheel and put it back into battery if I the situation calls for it. Make sure the sights you use will not break (plastic for example). I use iron sights so they will withstand the brute force.

Reliability is very important in a firearm. You don't want one that will break down when you need it the most. Do a lot of research on the sidearm that you have an interest in. There are a lot of YouTube videos showing people testing the reliability of different types of pistols. For example, I saw one of a pistol that the gun owner had buried in his backyard, which it was unearthed a few years later. So he unburied it and took it to the range after he poured water through it. They put hundreds of rounds through it and it didn't fail. Others have soaked firearms in salt water, put in a bucket of mud, buried it in sand, and left it in a creek for days and other crazy things. With such torture, some of these firearms still fired rounds. So do your research. A very reliable firearm will be able to shoot thousands of rounds and doesn't fail.

The size of the firearm is also important. You want something that can be concealed and not print through your clothes. The larger the

handgun, the more difficult it becomes to conceal. Look for a compact or subcompact. Printing is when your firearm is showing through your clothes. So if you have it on your hip and you have tight clothing, you can see the outline of your sidearm.

Price is also a key factor for self-defense and daily carry. Don't waste your time spending over \$1000 for a sidearm for self-defense. The reason behind this is that if you are involved with a shooting, your firearm will be confiscated and now the police will have a very expensive tool that they may have for several months or longer. It's best to invest in a sidearm that is reliable and at a price range that is affordable to you. So if you spend \$500 for a defensive gun and it gets confiscated, at least you can go out and get another around the same price and not worry that someone has your \$2000 gun. And now you have to find a replacement for it to continue to defend yourself until they release your confiscated pistol. Are you going to spend another \$2000 to replace the one you had?

Caliber is also something to consider. The smaller the size, the more bullets you can have in the magazine. If you consider a 45 ACP, you might be limited to 9 bullets in the magazine. If you go with 9MM, then you may end up with 15. You also want a caliber that you can afford and one that is readily available at any place that sells ammo. I use 9mm critical defense ammo. It can be found anywhere.

Another thing to consider is the recoil. If you have too much recoil (kickback after you pull the trigger), you may end up missing your target. Make sure there is little recoil as possible so you can get on target.

Is the sidearm easy to operate or is it too complicated? Make sure that you're familiar and comfortable with your sidearm. You don't want something that you have to figure out before you shoot it when you need it most. It should come down to point and shoot when in a stressful situation. This could cost you your life. Some criminals do not know how to use a firearm. Sometimes they'll put the wrong ammo in it, don't know how to put it into battery, can't clear malfunctions, or the safety is on when they try to shoot. Don't put yourself in that same situation. Know thy firearm. Get something simple. Point and shoot is what you're looking for.

Interchangeable magazines is a must. If you decide to carry more than one sidearm, then consider having firearms that are

interchangeable with the same magazine. If you have a compact and a subcompact, make sure that both magazines will fit in both guns.

Let's say that you have a subcompact that has a single stack and a compact with a double stack magazine. During a struggle with a bad guy, your compact (main defense weapon) gets knocked out of your hand and you don't have access to it. You've fired rounds out of your subcompact and have ran out of ammo and you need another magazine. Since your subcompact is your backup gun, you don't have an extra single stack magazine for it. You only have an extra double stack magazine. Will your subcompact be able to accept that type of magazine and get you back into the fight?



Single stack magazine (left) and double stack magazine (right). These two magazine come from different sidearms and would not be interchangeable.

There are handguns that are interchangeable with magazines. I would suggest finding a pair that will work together without any problems if you are going to carry more than one firearm.

If you want a backup gun, get one with the same caliber as your primary in case you have to share bullets.



STOP TOUCHING YOURSELF

Once you've strapped on that firearm, that's it, it's going to have to stay in its safe place. You will be walking around throughout the day

and it will always stay in its holster, unless your life is threatened. You will get to a point where you won't notice it unless you bump into something and it hits it, you put your hands on it over you clothing to support your arms, or someone gets near you and you change positions so no one attempts to grab it. While you're wearing your firearm, just leave it alone. I see people fidget with theirs in public. Don't do this. This will make people curious or alert those who are wanting to invest themselves in a new firearm - your firearm. If you think there is a problem with your sidearm, find a private place and investigate.

If you're constantly touching yourself, you need to find out what the problem is and resolve it quickly. Is the holster or firearm rubbing against you and it's getting your attention? Is it too uncomfortable? Is it pulling down your pants? None of these should be happening. You should have a quality gun belt to hold up you sidearm (if you have your holster attached to it), it should feel comfortable and not digging into your body, or you may need to replace your rig (holster) if it is not doing what it's supposed to be doing. A firearm is nothing to be fidgeting with since it may accidentally discharge.

There was that one young man who was at the Salina Central Mall Theater in Salina, KS. He was dinking around with his sidearm during the movie and it discharged. He shot himself in the leg and he yelled out something like "Oh my god, I shot myself and I just got my concealed carry permit". This is a perfect example. If he was having a problem with his firearm/holster, then he should have gotten up and found a private place (like a bathroom) and took care of it.

A firearm is a deadly weapon and your main concealed carry sidearm should be living in a holster 99% of the time (1% out of the holster for maintenance or range practicing) if you carry daily. You should have complete control of your weapon at all times. It's on you for defensive purposes only, not something you whip out and display to people. Concealed means concealed and it should remain that way. Keep it in your holster at all times and stop playing with it before someone gets hurt.

Again, seek a private location, check out why you keep touching yourself and find a solution right away. You don't want to expose yourself (that didn't sound right) to the public and broadcast that you're carrying a firearm. Keep it concealed and stop playing with it (yep, still sounds funny).



CHAPTER TWO

Holsters

“Life is a journey. Time is a river. The door is ajar.”

Jim Butcher



HOW TO FIND THE RIGHT HOLSTER

I have come up with a list of bullet points on choosing the right type of holster for yourself. I am not going to recommend a particular brand to choose from since everyone is different for what fits for them. But I am going to give you an idea what to look for in a safe holster. There are thousands of holsters on the market, some are alright and some are pretty awesome. Holsters need to be at their very best, meaning, they have to be of top quality to endure the test of time. If you get a cheap one, it may not be safe and could cause an accidental discharge. I understand that you spent a lot of money on your sidearm, but you also need to spend extra money on your holster. Give your firearm a good home to be carried in. Get yourself a really good holster and it will last you a very long time.

To be honest, there is no concrete industry standard on holster retention levels. So you will see different retention levels that have been put out there by different manufacturers. So a retention level 1 for one manufacturer, might be a retention level 0 for another. I am just going to share what I have put together as a standard for this book. It's a great guideline for finding what fits your needs. I am just going to share the basics for those who conceal carry. You will not need anything more than a molded holster for concealed carry, unless you need more retention due to the environment you work in (rock climbing, climbing telephone poles, testing out roller coaster rides, security guard, etc.).

Holsters generally consist of either leather, nylon or a plastic/polymer (like KYDEX) or a combination to make them more accommodating for the carrier. For example, my holster has a combination of KYDEX and leather wings on it which makes it more accommodating and comfortable for the carrier. Nylon is becoming rarer as a whole holster and is not as popular as the plastic/polymer type of holsters. But you might find a mixture of this material combined with leather and other plastics/polymer.

Grandpa “G’s” Concealed Carry Holster Retention Levels:

Level 0: These holsters have no retention what so ever. You can slide the sidearm into them, but if you held it upside down, it would fall out. Nothing is holding the firearm in place. These would be your flimsy holsters.

Level 1: These types are molded for specific firearms (most common for concealed carriers). When you slide your sidearm into them, the tension from the plastic mold for that particular firearm holds it into place. If you turned it upside down, it will not fall out.

Level 2: These types of holsters use a release lever or a top strap that either your thumb or finger is used to release the firearm.

Level 3: These holsters contain additional retentions (top strap, rocking release, release lever, etc.) since the environment these people work in need extra security since they may be dealing with some bad people (common among law enforcement) and want to prevent their firearms from being taken away from them. Or what you’re doing needs a high retention, like climbing or crawling on the ground, since you don't want your sidearm to slip out while performing any of these. Level 3 holsters are for more rigorous activities.

You will find other levels listed by other companies, but for the concealed carrier, these are not needed.

You must find the balance that best fits you. Remember, that if you choose high retention, your ability to present your firearm will add additional time in drawing. If you wish to have the ability to draw quickly, then a lower level holster is what you need. You can't have both. That's why concealed carriers are at a level 1 for low retention and fast drawing.

If you have to carry different types of sidearms that require different holsters, make sure you have the same type of retention for all of them. With muscle memory, if you decide to change things up where one holster is a level 1 and the other is a level 2, your mind might not be able to distinguish between the two during a time of stress. Your mind

may forget that you are wearing a level 2 and your hand is trying to pull the firearm out of its holster, but it has a release lever which is still engaged. Keep the same level of retention if you're switching between sidearms so when you actually have to draw to save your life, you're not wasting time trying to figure out which holster you brought to a gunfight.

When we talk about muscle memory, our muscles actually do have a memory. Your body's muscles, after several repetitions of movement will build a memory around it. For example, a child that learns how to walk, they don't do this automatically after birth, they have to teach their new legs. They have not been programmed to walk yet, so teaching them over and over again builds that muscle memory. Then after a while, you unconsciously know how to walk. It becomes an automatic response. You don't have to teach your legs anymore, you do it so often that the muscle memory takes over. So with drawing a sidearm, you will repeatedly draw from your holster until it becomes automatic. You are teaching the muscles in your hands, arms and shoulders. It will be slow at first (like having new legs) but after constant practice, you'll become an expert.

So you should always practice when you get a new holster before you take it out for a walk. You want to make sure it works and no surprises. While practicing, you may have to make adjustments to the holster. Always practice before you take it out into the public and make sure it's safe to use.

GRANDPA "G's" GUIDE TO FINDING THE PERFECT QUALITY HOLSTER



The old adage "Carrying is supposed to be comforting, but not comfortable" used to be the way when carrying a sidearm. With the advancement in technology, it has totally changed. Carrying a firearm these days are becoming not just comforting, but comfortable. When I carry, I completely forget that I am wearing a sidearm. It fits perfectly and it doesn't pinch me.

I no longer get the old dimple above my waistline from the holster pushing up against my side. Some of us may still have that callus spot on our hip where the holster was digging in. Just today, at a restaurant,

I forgot that I had my sidearm and I took off my jacket (which was covering it) and then I put my jacket on the chair. Then the lightbulb went off in my head "hey dummy, your showing your sidearm", then I quickly put my jacket back on. It was so comfortable, it felt like it was a part of me and I didn't notice until my mind alerted me to it.

Since my sidearm is black, along with the pants and shirt I was wearing that day (the Johnny Cash look), it blended in perfectly and those who looked at me never noticed it. So I didn't worry about someone complaining to the management and then being asked to leave since I would be making their customers nervous.

You want to find a holster that is very comfortable. If you don't, it will be a pain in the ass and you'll just either suffer through it or just leave it at home. No reason to suffer or leave it at home. So let me help you pick out your holster so you can feel both comfortable and comforting while carrying a sidearm.

Here is what to look for in an on-the-body carry holster.

- ***Perfect Fit:*** Avoid generic holsters for carrying. They will not hold the tension and your sidearm can slip out. Make sure your holster is molded for your sidearm. The material should perfectly wrap around your firearm and when you insert it, it should click or snap into place for retention and not feel loose inside your holster.
- ***Safety:*** Make sure your trigger is protected at all times when you carry and safe from accidental discharge when reinserting back into your holster ***You have reached the end of the sample copy.***



Thank You

Thank you for reading this sample book. If you wish to purchase a copy of this book, please visit our website at www.WayOfTheConcealedCarrier.com.



Learn The Art of Daily Concealment

ARE YOU IN THE WORLD OF CONCEALED CARRY OR ARE YOU CONSIDERING THE POSSIBILITIES?

As a responsible armed citizen, your lifestyle is definitely going to change and in this book you'll learn about this new way of life you'll be living every day. Instructors and students will find this an excellent resource for living the life of a concealed carrier. This book will provide tips and tricks, along with feeling more comfortable in carrying a firearm, plus tackling some of the daily things you may run into while being armed. No matter if you're in a constitutional carry state, about to get your permit, or already carry a firearm, this book is for you.

In this book, you'll Learn.....

What is an American Samurai? Why You Should Carry a Round in the Chamber. How to Pass a Firearm to Someone. How to Prepare for the Lifestyle Changes Associated with Carrying a Sidearm. About Sex and Firearms. How to Keep Your Pants From Falling Down in a Public Bathroom While a Firearm is Attached to Your Hip. About What Options You Have While You're Pregnant and Carrying a Firearm. How Not to Become a Target for Criminals. To use the T.A.N.K.® Safety Rules that Will Save Your Life and Others when Handling a Firearm. About Off Body Carry and if it's Worth it. How to use the Ancient "No Mind" Technique from the Orient to Decrease Your Draw Time. How to do the Situational Awareness Meditation to Increase Your Perception Around You. How to Dress for Success before a Gunfight. If You Need Concealed Carry Insurance and What Questions to Ask in Finding the Right Insurance for You. The Concealed Carry Creed.® Additional Information and Techniques to Help You (the Modern Day American Samurai) with Your Day-to-Day Lifestyle of Carrying a Sidearm.

Also Learn the Mistakes of Other Armed Citizens When Using a Firearm by Taking our Quiz of Scenarios Ripped from Actual News Reports.

Fear not and don't panic. Grandpa G's "Way of the Concealed Carrier" starts where concealed carry classes left off. When "G" took his first concealed carry classes to get his permits, he had more questions than answers. Many of the topics discussed in this book were never taught in class but learned from others, training, and through trial and error. In some of these permit classes, they teach you the law along with other concealed carry topics, but they never teach you about the daily lifestyle of carrying a firearm. Carrying a sidearm is no easy task when starting out. But learning more about being a responsible armed American Samurai will help eliminate the many fears associated with this new type of lifestyle you'll be adopting for years to come.

