



Tactical Shooting and Firearms Training Companies

Firearms training schools are built on the principles of marksmanship, tactical awareness, and self-defense. But in the real world, gunfights don't always start with guns drawn. Attackers strike when it's least expected, often within arm's reach, in situations where drawing a firearm may not be immediate or even possible. When the fight is already up close, survival comes down to what you can do in those first few seconds.

This is where Tom's expertise comes in. He is not only the world's most experienced knife instructor, but unlike most knife instructors, Tom is also a firearms instructor. He understands the mindset, strategies, and tactics firearms practitioners rely on, and I know where the gaps in their training leave them vulnerable. Tom's training is specifically designed to integrate seamlessly with firearms training, ensuring that shooters learn how to fight in close quarters when they don't have the time, distance, or opportunity to access their firearm.

Bridging the Gap Between Firearms and Close-Quarters Combat

The reality of self-defense is that most violent encounters happen within five feet or less. Whether it's a criminal ambush, a home invasion, or an attempted disarm, attackers often close the gap before a gun is even in play. At that range, a well-trained assailant with a knife or even bare hands can overwhelm an armed individual before they ever draw their weapon.

As both a firearms and edged-weapons instructor, I've trained thousands of shooters who believed that carrying a gun was enough—until they faced realistic, full-speed, force-on-force training.

A Tom Sotis Seminar ensures students learn how to:

- React effectively when attacked at close range before they can draw their firearm.
- Fight to create space for deploying their weapon without losing control of it.
- Defend against a knife attack with or without a weapon of their own.
- Retain control of their firearm in a close-quarters struggle.

These are critical skills that traditional firearms training alone does not address.

Why Firearms Training Schools Benefit from Edged-Weapons Instruction

For firearms training academies and tactical schools, integrating edged-weapons training is a strategic move that enhances both their curriculum and business growth.



Expand Your Training Portfolio & Revenue Streams

Firearms training schools that offer **integrated close-quarters and edged-weapons instruction** immediately stand out in a competitive market.

- **Attract new students** – Law enforcement, security professionals, military personnel, and civilians are actively seeking training that goes beyond traditional shooting courses.
- **Increase retention** – Once students experience realistic close-quarters combat training, they want more. Offering follow-up courses, instructor certifications, and advanced programs brings them back for continued learning.
- **Gain agency and corporate contracts** – Many police departments, security firms, and executive protection agencies require edged-weapons and weapon-retention training as part of their curriculum.

Adding my seminar to your school's training schedule opens the door to these opportunities.

Weapon Retention & Defensive Tactics for Armed Professionals

Gun disarms, weapon retention, and fighting for control of a firearm should be a top priority for anyone who carries a gun professionally. Most firearms schools teach some form of weapon retention, but very few incorporate the reality of edged-weapon attacks into their training.

Seminar Modules:

- **In-Fight Accessing Vs Chaotic Knife Attacks** - How to safely access your pistol and neutralize your attacker so as not to exchange shots for stabs.
- **In-Fight Accessing Vs Grab-N-Stab Attacks** - How to safely access your pistol and neutralize your attacker during fully committed grab-n-stab tactics.
- **Firearm Retention** - How to use your EDC knife to mitigate the risk of carrying a firearm in populated spaces, and more
- **CQ Gun Vs Knife** - Learn to neutralize a knife attacker and control the angle of discharge while not exchanging shots for stabs
- **Unarmed Knife Defense** - Learn defensive knife tactics and techniques to save your life from knife attacks.
- **Improvised Tools** - Learn defensive tactics using pens, flashlights, handcuffs, spare mags, and other readily available items.
- **Knifework for Gun Guys** – Tom designed this tactically complete one-day knife combatives program on the planet

These real-world survival skills give students the tools to win a fight before they ever draw their weapon.



Improve Decision-Making Under Stress

As a firearms instructor, I understand the tactical decision-making process involved in a gunfight. But under extreme stress, most people default to their training. If they've never trained for close-quarters combat, they freeze when the fight doesn't go as expected.

My program is designed to force students to make rapid, life-or-death decisions by putting them in scenarios where they must:

- Decide whether to draw their gun, use an edged weapon, or go hands-on.
- Counter an ambush where they are attacked before their firearm is in play.
- Defend against a knife attack when they have no time or space to draw.

By training students to adapt under pressure, they become better prepared for real-world violence.

Integrate Knives & Firearms for Tactical Versatility

For students who carry both a firearm and a knife, it's not enough to simply own both tools—they must know when and how to use them together.

An Edged Weapons Seminar teaches:

- Seamless transitions between gun, knife, and empty-hand defense.
- How to deploy a knife when a firearm is out of reach, disabled, or impractical.
- How to use an edged weapon to create an opening for firearm access.

This is **not about replacing firearms training—it's about ensuring that armed professionals are not caught off guard in situations where a gun alone is not enough.**

Strengthen Your School's Reputation & Competitive Edge

Firearms training is evolving. Students today expect more than just range drills—they want a complete self-defense system that prepares them for real-world violence.

By hosting an Edged Weapons Seminar, your firearms school:

- Positions itself as a leader in integrated combat training.
- Attracts law enforcement, military, and security professionals who need comprehensive self-defense skills.
- Gains a reputation for real-world, battle-tested training.
- Creates more revenue opportunities with follow-up training and instructor certifications.



When students walk away from my seminar, they don't just feel more confident in their edged-weapons skills—they realize how much their firearms training **benefits from a more complete understanding of close-quarters combat.**

Host an Edged Weapons Seminar at Your Firearms Training School

Gunfights don't always start with guns. Violence is unpredictable, and students deserve to be prepared for all possibilities.

As the world's most experienced knife instructor and a firearms instructor, I know how to blend edged-weapons tactics with firearms training in a way that makes sense for shooters, security professionals, and law enforcement officers. My seminar bridges the gap between firearms and close-quarters combat, ensuring that students don't just train for the best-case scenario—they train to survive the worst.

 **Contact Tom Sotis LLC today to schedule an Edged Weapons Seminar at your facility.**

Elevate your school's training and give your students the tools they need to fight, survive, and win—no matter the circumstances.