



WHY LEARN SIGHT SHOOTING FIRST?

When reading self defense web threads, I occasionally note that advocates for Sight Shooting and Point Shooting say it is best to learn Sight Shooting first.

I find that troubling, because Sight Shooting is NOT used in most all close quarters self defense situations. And it is in close quarters self defense situations where one is MOST likely to be shot or killed.

Those are the facts of the matter as backed up by investigations and studies like the NYPD's SOP 9 study of 5,000+ Police combat cases.

If you know only Sight Shooting and you are faced with a life threat at close quarters, then you likely will end up with nothing in your hand but a lethal noise maker. And that may be more than a problem, it could be terminal.

However, there is a saving grace.

It is that most everyone defaults to instinctive Spray and Pray shooting, and the hit rate will be the norm which is less than 20%. So, unless one is having a very unlucky day, chances are good for survival.

And whether or not the hit rate figure is exact, it acknowledges that Sight Shooting is not or can not be employed in most all CQ life threat situations. Yet seldom does one read of a need for being trained initially in a practical and realistic shooting method for use in CQ situations, namely Point Shooting, which could actually help one survive in such a situation.

Continuing to teach Sight Shooting for use in CQ life threat situations, is like knowing that a certain kind of airbag is faulty, and **most likely will not deploy** in a critical crash situation, but then continuing to install them in cars.

To me that is not only bizarre, but reckless, and just plain wrong.

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Another and simple reason for not teaching Sight Shooting first, is that nowadays, most young people already know how to Sight Shoot.

Our grandsons and their friends Sight Shoot when using airsoft pistols.

Our grandsons did that from the get go. No teaching was needed. They just used the sights, and with good to excellent results at CQ distances.

And as they are typical teens, I suspect that the same is true for most all teens. I attribute that to years and years of watching movies and TV, and playing video games.

I have suggested to them that they try Point Shooting, have told them why, and even showed them how; but with limited success.

Brainwashing via TV works, and tradition and peer pressure rule.

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Another and a practical reason for not teaching Sight Shooting first, is that it is very difficult to use Sight Shooting when moving. And being able to move and shoot in a CQ life threat situation, can be critical to survival.

Those who conduct CQ FOF sessions say point blank, that unless you move, you will be shot or stabbed.

Also, if you move, you can LITERALLY step out of the line of fire or attack.

Getting of the X can give the advantage to you by forcing the threat to respond to your action.

Further, and if possible you should move to the left as:

1. Most people are right handed. So it is easier for them to move left and shoot right, and that also allows you to blade to the threat while keeping the gun "closer" to the threat.
2. Also, under high stress, most shooters will tend to shoot low and to the left (your right), due to grasping and pulling the gun down and around to the left, and/or due to the natural rotation of the wrist at full extension.

So, in a CQ self defense situation, you should move when drawing/shooting.

This of course, goes against what stand-in-one-spot-range-lane shooting (with or without drawing), ingrains in everyone, and is a prescription for getting stabbed or shot.

Where legal, you should practice moving and shooting with an airsoft gun.

LEARNING POINT SHOOTING

Point Shooting does not just happen as if by magic.

But, it is simple and easy to learn, and with little or no training.

And once learned, little training/practice is required to maintain one's proficiency in it.

Point Shooting can be used when Sight Shooting can't: in poor light, when there is no time to use the sights and squeeze the trigger, or when fine motor skills, which are needed for Sight Shooting, are lost to use as will be the case in most all high stress situations.

Point Shooting employs instinctive abilities and large muscle groups which can be used effectively in high stress situations.

That is not the case with Sight Shooting.

In a life threat situation, the mind and eyes of a Sight Shooter will be struggling to do many things at once, some of which may not be able to be done due to environmental conditions, or because of the activation our Fight or Flight response which occurs automatically and uncontrollably in CQ life threat situations.

They include:

1. identifying the threat and making a shoot/no shoot decision,
2. achieving a proper stance, body index, and grip,
3. seeing and focusing on the sights while aiming at a stationary or moving target,
4. holding one's trigger finger aloof from the gun and squeezing the trigger for the first, and every shot taken.
5. and etc..

In contrast, the mind and eyes of a Point Shooter will be free to identify the threat, and as needed, use a simple and effective method of shooting that is not dependant upon the traditional marksmanship requirements such as proper stance, grip, trigger manipulation, plus seeing and coordinating the alignment of sights on the threat.

Some Point Shooting methods do call for body or hand indexing, or positioning the muzzle on an aim point. But as far as I know, they do not require the use of fine motor skills.

Point Shooting methods also can be used effectively in poor light and while moving.

Lastly, Point Shooting is not a bar to using the sights if conditions and circumstances allow them to be employed.

Point Shooting (including AIMED Point Shooting or P&S, which is the simplest of Point Shooting methods), should be the basis of self defense shooting programs.

End.