



CONTROLLED CHAOS ARMS

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Tactical Rifle I – AAR via Dave L.

I attended the Tactical Rifle 1 course of training offered by Controlled Chaos Arms over Father's Day weekend. I wrote this review for a prepper group I'm a member of, and thought folks here might be interested.

Training Review

Controlled Chaos Arms - Tactical Rifle 1

Controlled Chaos Arms is a custom firearms maker and purveyor of basic-to-elite training in firearm employment based in Baxter, Iowa. Most of their training takes place at Big Springs Range Complex near Searsboro, Iowa, about 12 miles south of Grinnell.

Tactical Rifle 1 teaches the theory and application of basic Close Quarters Battle (CQB). Topics covered include a refresher in basic rifle operation, proper tactical mindset, and the skills and drills necessary for winning CQB engagements.

Rick Largesse is the training director at Controlled Chaos Arms, and the person who conducted the Tactical Rifle 1 track of instruction I attended. You can read his bio on the CCA web site linked in the "Resources" section.

My training experience: This was the first non-military tactical firearm training I've taken. The standard prerequisite for this course is Basic Rifle Operation, but persons with law enforcement or military experience can have the requirement waived. Having had 14 years of military experience, I bypassed the prerequisite - and wish I hadn't. We tend to think we're better at things than we actually are, and Rick spent more time getting me up to CCA standard than I think he would have liked, although he was gracious about it. Even with the refresher and special attention, I caught myself violating some of the basics throughout the course. I personally recommend Basic Rifle Operation before taking a tactical track, regardless of your previous experience and how solid you



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think you are. I intend to take it before I attend Tactical Rifle 2.

After the first day basics review, we zeroed our rifles at 50 yards, firing from prone. Rick is expert at analyzing tiny positional details that can have a detrimental effect on one's accuracy, and suggested several modifications to my stance that produced instant and considerable improvements. After we were zeroed, we reviewed the basic shooting positions - prone, sitting, kneeling and standing - and fired several rounds from each. Rick then ran us through a timed drill shooting from each position to set a performance baseline. Once the baseline was set, we did several more runs of the drill, pushing for speed and accuracy improvements.

Next we moved closer to the targets for drills that demonstrated sight over bore aiming adjustments. Sight over bore is the delta between where a bullet impacts on the target relative to the distance you sighted in. For example, being sighted in at 50 yards, you need to adjust your point of aim when you're closer to, or farther away from the target to hit the bull's-eye. Following sight over bore, we went through various speed and accuracy drills from varying distances and with varying designated targeting goals.

Next we went through rapid reloads. There are two types of reloads in a CQB situation - administrative, where your magazine is empty and you have to reload to continue the fight, and tactical, where your magazine isn't empty, but a lull in the fight allows you to switch to a full magazine. Administrative reloads are unconcerned with the status of the empty magazine, you let it drop to the ground and reload as quickly as possible. Tactical reloads dictate that you retain control of, and access to the partially empty magazine - you may need those rounds later. Rick showed us multiple techniques for accomplishing this goal quickly.

Saturday afternoon was dedicated to fighting from and through cover. There were wooden barriers with notches and holes that simulated levels of cover one might encounter during a fire fight. The holes were positioned such that they simulated shooting through windows or under a car. These drills were physically challenging, as they involved sprinting for cover, changing position to fire from different types of cover, and shooting accurately with your weak hand. I discovered that I can actually hit a target shooting left-handed around a barrier from varying uncomfortable positions. It was exciting! Unfortunately, I pulled a hamstring during this part of the training while doing



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a hard sprint for cover, and it hampered me for the rest of the course.

Sunday was devoted to learning various ways to effectively fight while on the move. We learned to fight while walking forward, backward, parallel to the targets and while sprinting to different points of a figure 8. We also learned transitioning from the rifle to the sidearm. The transition drills really pointed out for me that selection of one's sidearm is critical. I took my Delta Elite to the course, and had difficulty managing the controls and hitting targets. My performance with the DE was poor enough that I've decided to switch to a Glock 9mm as my preferred combat oriented sidearm.

Conclusions: Based on my first experience, I highly recommend Controlled Chaos Arms for your tactical training needs. The training is realistic, challenging and conducted in the most professional way. My instructor was knowledgeable, accomplished and patient. The cost is considerably less than comparable training I looked at prior to enrolling in this course, and removes the travel and lodging burden imposed by out of state courses for Iowa residents. It still qualifies as a good value for those attending from out of state.

Pre-training considerations and recommendations: Prior to taking any challenging tactical course, you should consider your firearm proficiency level and personal fitness. Be sure you select the proper level of training based on an objective analysis of your skills. To get the most of your training, I strongly recommend pursuing a vigorous physical fitness regimen at least a month prior to the course that incorporates sprinting.