



## Self-Defense Ammunition – A General Introduction

---

# Black Star Defense Indy - Legal Disclaimer

- The information provided does not, and is not intended to, constitute legal advice; instead, all information, content, and materials available are for general informational purposes only. Information presented may not constitute the most up-to-date legal or other information. This presentation may contain links and references to third party information. Such links are only for the convenience of the audience.
- Attendees should contact their attorney to obtain advice with respect to any particular legal matter. No reader, user, or browser of this information should act or refrain from acting on the basis of information on this site without first seeking legal advice from counsel in the relevant jurisdiction. Only your individual attorney can provide assurances that the information contained herein – and your interpretation of it – is applicable or appropriate to your particular situation. Use of, and access to, this information or any of the links or resources contained within the site do not create an attorney-client relationship between the reader, user, or browser and website authors, contributors, contributing law firms, or committee members and their respective employers.
- The views expressed at, or through, this presentation are those of the individual author(s) writing in their individual capacities only – not those of their respective employers, organization, or committee/task force as a whole. All liability with respect to actions taken or not taken based on the contents of this presentation are hereby expressly disclaimed. The content on this posting is provided "as is;" no representations are made that the content is error-free.

# Handgun Ammunition - Components and Differences

## Practice ammunition (aka Range Ammo)

- This type of cartridge is usually lead, full metal jacket (FMJ), or copper washed projectiles that are a round bullet shape.
- These are less expensive to purchase because the ammunition manufacturers produce millions of them, therefore keep the cost per cartridge down.
- These projectiles if shot into the soft tissue of the human body will usually exit that body with enough energy to possibly injure or kill the person behind someone in the line of fire.
- As the name indicates, these bullets have a core (usually made of lead) that is fully surrounded by a copper jacket. Because copper is harder than lead, these bullets tend to penetrate very well; because they do not expand, however, there is relatively little transfer of energy or damage when compared to other bullet designs.
- FMJ bullets offer great penetration, but don't shed a lot of energy or create a lot of shock, which are important to stopping an attack. In a self-defense situation, over-penetration is not desirable due the increased risk of collateral damage to any bystanders that may be in the path of the bullet.
- This type of bullet or projectile is usually not recommended for self-defense because of the inherit features.

# Handgun Ammunition - Components and Differences

Typical Range ammunition



# Handgun Ammunition - Components and Differences continued

## Defensive ammunition

- Defensive rounds or jacketed hollow points (JHP) are specifically designed to use for self-defense and offensive use.
- Over the years, engineers have worked to develop high-quality self defense ammo that combine the deep penetration of jacketed bullets with the high levels of energy transfer and shock created by an expanding lead bullet. The goal is to accomplish all this without over-penetrating through the target.
- The most successful defensive bullet design has historically been the jacketed hollow point, or JHP. These bullets have a lead core that expands and transfers energy, as well as a partial copper jacket that controls the expansion of the lead for deep penetration. The lead nose of the bullet has a hollow tip that initiates expansion upon impact, the copper jacket slows that expansion, and energy transfer and penetration are balanced.

# Handgun Ammunition - Components and Differences

Typical Self Defense Ammunition (JHP)





# Handgun Ammunition - Components and Differences

Typical Self Defense Ammunition Expanded after Impact



# Self Defense Handgun Ammunition – Criteria and Considerations

- What makes a good self-defense load? The short answer is it should meet and pass the FBI's stringent testing protocol. The FBI requires that ammunition penetrate ballistic gelatin between 12-18 inches with the following requirements:
  - penetrate bare ballistic gelatin 12-18"
  - penetrate gelatin 12-18" covered in layers of heavy denim
  - penetrate gelatin 12-18" with steel in front of it
  - penetrate gelatin 12-18" with wall board in front of it
  - penetrate gelatin 12-18" with plywood in front of it
  - penetrate gelatin 12-18" with safety glass in front of it
- As you can see, if a load performs well in the FBI test protocol, it will offer the best performance for you no matter what conditions you find yourself in. Most popular loads on the market can meet these standards.



# Self Defense Handgun Ammunition – Criteria and Considerations continued

It is recommended that your every day carry (EDC) magazines are loaded with JHP ammo. NOTE: You probably won't ever have to use it. However, you want an adequate supply because you will slowly use it up by following two best practices:

- 1) About every 6 months to one year (assuming your not involved in self defense situations and consume that ammo), you should use your loaded self-defense ammunition at the range to run some drills. Rotating your ammo ensures it is ready for use and allows for a scheduled performance with your handgun. This practice verifies the JHP ammo functions with your firearm without issues.
- 2) Don't unload and reload the same round over and over again. This could lead to bullet setback and cause an overpressure issue with the ammo. So you should develop personal rule such as *"if I load and unload a cartridge more than twice, I will shoot that bullet at the range next visit"*. You'll likely go through possibly a single bullet of your self defense ammo per range trip using this method. Just be sure to load up a fresh one when you leave the range.

# Self Defense Handgun Ammunition – Criteria and Considerations continued

Example of “Bullet Setback”



# Self Defense Handgun Ammunition – Summary

- A consistently expanding self defense round is an attackers worst enemy. When a hollow point projectile impacts a target, the hollow cavity causes the bullet to deform or “mushroom” resulting in greater internal damage to a living target after impact. The expansion of a HP bullet creates a large wound channel, leaving devastating effects. Rounds that have a better rate of expansion typically penetrate less than rounds that do not successfully expand. This explains why FMJ ammunition generally isn’t considered a great choice for self defense, no real expansion takes place.
- Self defense ammunition can be looked at like an insurance policy. You want something reliable that you can depend on when you need it most. Food for thought, if you wouldn’t trust your home or car with a low quality insurance policy, why would you trust your life with ammunition that might not perform when needed?

# Handgun Ammunition Tragedy – A Real World Example



Ryan Askew (Lake County Sheriffs Dept. / Post-Tribune)

# Handgun Ammunition Tragedy – A Real World Example

- Retired Lake County cop Ryan Askew begged his partner to shoot as a psychiatric patient, who had just beaten a nurse, choked Askew to near unconsciousness inside a Munster hospital early Tuesday morning, prosecutors said.
- A patient, identified as Jamal Williams, 22, of Lansing, Illinois, was beating a nurse when the two security officers arrived and tried to pull the patient away from the nurse.
- The security guards were overpowered, the release said, and Williams had Askew in a chokehold. Williams lifted Askew off the ground and continued striking him.
- In the middle of the violent struggle, Benny Freeman, another retired Lake County cop who was working security with Askew, opened fire. Freeman fired shots, striking Williams in the head and Askew in the arm and chest, Carter said.
- The rounds ultimately killed both Ryan Askew and the psychiatric patient, Jamal Williams.

# Questions?

