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**The West
Orlando
Firearms
Training
(WOFT)
Experience**

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By Rob Orgel

West Orlando Firearms Training (woft.com),
What is it?

WOFT is a 20-acre training facility just over an hour from the Orlando, Florida airport. Several times a year they hold multiple-day training events with the goal of helping every American who understands that bad things can happen to good people. The concept is custom training for any level to help gain the lifesaving tools necessary to avoid or survive a bad situation. This elite training is tailored to each individual or family.

What the Physical Location Has to Offer

There is a live-fire shoot house for room clearing. There is a 100-yard range that is half covered with a classroom with large bay doors that open to allow the group to shoot from inside in comfort of air conditioning and shade. Multiple short pistol bays are set up that allow multiple training stations on the same range. The mess hall is also a training bay offering catered breakfasts and lunches and then is transformed into a “coffee shop” for scenario-based training. Lastly, they have a “Low-Light Room.” This is a large bay where a car or multiple cars as well as any other items can be used to set up training scenarios. This was my favorite training stage of them all. In reality, it’s more than low light, it’s more like NO light. This location can be manipulated in many ways. The ability to add sound, light, distractors, multiple role-players or students makes it like no other. Until you have experienced this type of training it’s hard to imagine what you don’t know.

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Staffing at the Location

The staff made everyone feel like family and this is often said by attendees, but this crew really went above and beyond to make sure everyone was fed, comfortable, and happy!

What Made This WOFT Event Special

The event at WOFT from September 10-12, 2021 had the bonus of being an HKPro (hkpro.com) event as well. What that means is the team of HKPro staff came out to offer specific training on the HK firearms we have come to know and love! This also came with a special treat of seeing some of the more rare and sought-after HK firearms and having the ability to shoot them!

Let’s break down the six stations we had at this three-day event:

1. The Dark Room

This room was run by the owner himself, Philip T. with a staff of a few more for safety and role players. Here you are outfitted with a holster and Ultimate Training Munitions (UTM – utmworldwide.com) ammo. When you enter the dark room, be ready for anything!

2. The 100-Yard Range

This range was run by the original “Mr. HK MP5 Operator,” Tom Dresner. In this block he reviewed the operation and handling of the MP5 as well as full-auto shooting.

3. & 4. The Pistol Bays

One station was run by Derek G. – the official

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competitor for HK – on the topic of red-dot optics on pistols. The other station was run by James W. on the topic of CCW.

5. The Classroom

An armorer's class was taught by Bob S. This came with a bonus history lesson into the incredible story and development of HK. Learning the history was much more interesting than you'd expect. The armorer's class then focused on hands-on maintenance and operation of the HK VP9.

6. The Coffee Shop

Here everyone got to respond to several different scenarios as a group. This gave us a chance to see the chaos and confusion that can take place in these group settings. Some of these events were designed to educate students when NOT to get involved and some of these were robberies gone bad with UTM rounds flying both ways.

Every station covered three hours of real-world information geared to help everyone in their day-to-day lives as well as that potential "bad day." Each station ended the sessions with a debrief from everyone at the station in order to offer improvements in individual actions going forward.

What Does a Normal Training Day Look Like?

In the morning, you meet onsite for breakfast and get to know your group. The group is then led to the dark room that doubles as a briefing room. Here you review the day to come, followed by a 15-minute break as you make your way to one of the six stations. When your three-hour station is finished, everyone heads to lunch in the coffee shop. After lunch you then proceed to another group discussion about the morning training just completed as well as preparation for the afternoon three-hour block. Lastly, one more debriefing and a wrap-up of the day. This format allows all to

share what was gained as each person processes the information.

What Do You Need to Bring?

I showed up with a backpack only! This held my eye and ear protection, basic hygiene gear, and a few changes of range-appropriate attire. This made the flight very simple with no checked bag.

In Summary, What Was it Like?

The WOFT facility has much to offer. Everyone from a first-time shooter to a high-end operator can benefit. Hearing the excitement from the participants of each event inspired me to contact several of them to gain their perspective. Rather than my takeaways, here are the actual clients' after-action reviews:

Yates C. – "For those who are contemplating a trip to WOFT I'll first say this – WHAT AN EVENT! I've posted a lot of content over the past few days and while doing so I've taken some time to reflect. It's no secret that those who provided firearms training are masters of their craft, so here's my take on my experience and training with the WOFT staff specifically:

"Where the rubber meets the road – the ultimate testing ground if you will. The great thing about scenario-based training when done properly is that it is not a 'one size fits all' approach – the scenarios here are catered to match the individual needs of each student. The amenities and the staff are truly exceptional."

Adam G. – "What to say about this event? I mainly went for the HK portions of the event.... I was really surprised and humbled with the training I received. The coffee-house scenarios were a real eye opener! I didn't realize how extremely fast things escalate and your reaction times matter with your split-second decision making in the balance between shooting or running away. If you have never thought about how extremely quick your life can change, and not training to be your



The WOFT training center is on a 20-acre plot where about 50 percent of that is used as a buffer from public access and observation.



The “Low Light Room,” here you will be individually presented with different situations.



The “Coffee Shop” is an indoor/outdoor area where you will be part of several group events.



Live-fire ranges, where you and your family can shoot as a team.

best self might be the difference between life and death for you or a loved one, look up the WOFT website and check out their scenario training. Extremely highly recommended!”

Eric F. – “I’ve been fortunate enough to take a good bit of training over two decades and I can say with no exaggeration that the WOFT HKPro VIP event was the best I’ve ever experienced. It was exceptionally well run from start to finish, extremely safe, and most important – both incredibly valuable and ridiculously enjoyable.

“I took away multiple moments that will stick with

me for a long time, but most specifically several valuable lessons and techniques that I am confident will change not only how I train and how I shoot, but learning that will immediately impact how I perform if I’m ever faced with a situation where I have to defend myself or my family.”

Melanie B. – “I have always believed that a warrior should never rely on one tool. Training to be a well-rounded warrior is a key in preparing for possibly the worst day of your life. It sounds a little extreme for a common civilian to think that way, but the world today is getting more dangerous by the day.”

