



DRIVE TO SURVIVE!

By Kim and Glen Edmunds, Glen Edmunds Performance Driving School

Photo by By Kim and Glen Edmunds

Fleet managers in developing countries need to realize how installing a properly trained driver in a vehicle can save them large sums of money and affect their bottom line. Improperly trained drivers can cause unnecessary wear and tear on their vehicles resulting in excess costs.

Several years ago, Glen Edmunds and his wife, Kim, were followed home by a group of would be car-jackers armed with AK47's. They didn't realize they were being followed until it was too late. They managed to escape, but several shots were fired at them and it left them traumatized. During the ordeal they felt completely powerless and lacked any skills or knowledge in how to deal with a carjacking incident in a proper manner.

Glen's background as a professional rally driver helped him escape this potentially dangerous situation, but what about others? Glen and Kim decided that they wanted to do something to help other road users avoid a similar situation.

During this time it also became obvious that driving standards in Kenya were on the decline. Kenya has one of the highest road fatality rates in relation to vehicle ownership in the world and Glen and Kim recognized that there was a specific need for advanced driver instruction in Kenya.





Although Glen is a professional racing driver with over 30 years experience in the motor sport industry and a regular finisher in the top 3 places in the Kenya National Rally championship, having two prestigious Safari Rally wins under his belt, he still needed proper credentials behind him to teach students. So he enrolled in the Bondurant School of High Performance Driving in Phoenix, Arizona where members of the CIA, FBI, Delta Force and others of that ilk are trained in anti-carjacking techniques, counter terrorist driving tactics and other advanced driving skills.

also observed that when drivers were faced with an emergency situation their lack of skills exaggerated the problem. Low competence levels combined with the increasing number of vehicles on the road and bad road conditions makes driving in Kenya and other parts of Africa very hazardous.

With over 3,000 people killed annually on Kenya's roads, GEPDS adopted the slogan *Drive To Survive!* in order to bring awareness to the county's growing dilemma. *The Drive to Survive!* campaign

“ Driving from A to B is the most dangerous task any of us will do, particularly in this part of the World.”

After graduating from Bondurant and returning to Kenya at the end of 2002, he and Kim, opened the first school of its kind in the Africa region, Glen Edmunds Performance Driving School (GEPDS).

They immediately recruited Vic Preston, Jr. a local rally celebrity as a second driving instructor. Vic has raced for more international rally teams than any other pro racing driver in history and was three times Kenya National Rally Champion. Glen's overseas training combined with both his and Vic Preston's racing backgrounds accumulate into a unique blend of knowledge and skills that are passed onto each student.

It didn't take long for the GEPDS instructors to realize that most local drivers coming through the school didn't have a firm foundation in the fundamentals of driving. It was apparent that they were not receiving a comprehensive driver education. They

was designed to reduce the increasing number of road fatalities and develop safer and more responsible drivers. A rigorous marketing campaign that includes regular e-mails sent out with driving tips and updates on course schedules so that the general populace becomes aware that a school such as GEPDS is available. The GEPDS website also has useful information on local conditions and tips on driving.

Local companies approach GEPDS regularly, asking for help in sourcing good drivers. It is apparent that proper driver recruitment procedures need to be implemented as part of the standard fleet management systems. GEPDS helps companies, by offering a comprehensive driver evaluation, whereby companies and individuals can send potential employees for professional screening before employment is offered. This saves companies time, money and, of course a lot of stress and hassle.



Fleet managers in developing countries need to realize how installing a properly trained driver in a vehicle can save them large sums of money and affect their bottom line. Improperly trained drivers can cause unnecessary wear and tear on their vehicles resulting in excess costs. Examples are unnecessary tyre, clutch and brake wear, gearbox and engine overhauls, chassis and body damage caused by accidents and excessive fuel consumption.

Many companies have sent their drivers to GEPDS for driver training over the past few years and have seen very positive results. Peter Veal, Managing Director from Syngenta East Africa reports the following:

Driving from A to B is the most dangerous task any of us will do, particularly in this part of the World. Yet it is one, which we take pretty lightly. At Syngenta, safety of our employees and their families has been a major concern and throughout the whole of the Europe, Africa and Middle East region, our driving record has been a major area for improvement. In 2004 and 2005 Syngenta East Africa featured on our regional report as one of the countries with the most "incidents". Determined to improve, we sent all drivers and their spouses to attend Glen Edmunds Performance Driving School courses. Since that time more than 12 months ago, we have had zero incidents to report. I attribute this improvement to the driver training and particularly the general awareness skills taught at this course. We will continue to send new starts and existing employees for refreshers on a needs basis and I would have no hesitation in recommending this course to individuals and corporate alike.

Peter Veal, Managing Director, Syngenta East Africa

Embassies and NGO's are avid supporters of the driving school as well. Adam Wood, the British High Commissioner said the following about the Performance Driving Incorporating Anti-carjacking Techniques Course:

The British High Commission has been sending staff on this course since 2004, soon after it began, and all have come away better equipped to deal with the challenges facing us on the roads in Kenya today. Being aware of the dangers and how to avoid them can make the difference between life and death. I have no doubt that incidents have been prevented, and will continue to be, as a result of this valuable course.

Adam Wood, British High Commissioner

GEPDS also conducts mobile training units and has successfully conducted Security Driver Training in Somaliland for the Presidential Detail and National Immigration Agency on behalf of the British Government. GEPDS are currently in Southern Sudan on assignment teaching members of the Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA) in various driving disciplines.

Company Profile

GEPDS provides driver training and consultancy services both domestically and internationally, for a variety of individuals and organizations – from humanitarian & relief workers, embassy officials and staff, drivers for security companies, to corporate executives, to chauffeurs wanting training in VIP protection and women who want to better protect themselves and their children from criminals while mobile.

Their unique courses are specifically designed for the conditions and threats in developing countries. The courses were created by Glen Edmunds, owner and senior instructor of GEPDS, after intensive training with the Bondurant School of High Performance Driving (USA), and STOOF International (Jordan). The courses have been refined in the field over the years and their easy to learn techniques have proved successful for thousands of drivers on the African continent.

Our Instructors

All of our instructors are highly qualified professionals with over 60 years combined training experience in Africa. Many come from racing backgrounds and have extensive knowledge in every aspect of driving. They are fluent in both Kiswahili and English and have successfully used interpreters in international trainings. They also have experience in teaching in conflict-affected regions.

The School

GEPDS is based in Nairobi, Kenya, the international hub for sub-Saharan Africa. Their specially designed training facility is situated just eight minutes drive from Jomo Kenyatta International Airport. This facility is the largest vacant, sealed surface in Nairobi. This offers specific and unique training opportunities in a safe, secure, private environment.

The 4WD off-road courses take place on a specially designed track on twenty-five acres of private land just 30 minutes drive from the city centre.

Contact us

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DRIVE TO SURVIVE! COURSES

GEPDS offers driving courses in various disciplines and can also custom design courses and programs to assist companies and individuals reach their full potential.

Security Courses

**PERFORMANCE DRIVING
INCORPORATING COUNTER CAR-
JACKING TECHNIQUES**
(1 Day)

Car-jackings, armed attacks, and road crashes are escalating problems in developing countries. Enhancing your awareness and survival skills is a must! Learn the proper mindset for early detection; carry out effective threat and risk assessment analysis, understand profiles of carjackers and who they target; how to hand over your vehicle if necessary, and develop skills to survive a hostage situation. Driving skills are practiced emphasizing vehicle control in emergency situations and attack scenarios.

**ADVANCED COUNTER
CARJACKING VEHICLE/BARRI-
CADE BREACHING**
(2 Days)

This course equips students with advanced evasive driving techniques to counter carjacking situations safely and effectively. Understanding route planning, choke points, safe havens and surveillance techniques along with barricade breaching are all essential components. Reactions to incidents such as a hijack, roadblock and ambush are practiced to ensure consistency and a conditioned response to a given situation through hands-on practice in "real life" scenarios.

**THREAT - THE HOSTILE
REGIONAL ENVIRONMENT
AWARENESS TRAINING
COURSE – AFRICA SPECIFIC**
(5 Days)

International NGO's, UN agencies, consultants, diplomats, missionaries, journalists and businessmen often find themselves in remote areas, facing harsh climatic conditions, amongst a hostile or poor population and with limited lifeline support. The aim of this five day course is to cover a range of essential survival skills to ensure that personnel deploying to remote and dangerous parts of Africa are equipped to counter a variety of likely scenarios and to ensure optimum chances of survival. Modules include: Regional Brief, Personal Preparation & Planning, Emergency First Aid, Field Communications, Air Support, Threat Scenarios, Vehicle Use, and Understanding Boats and Water Security.

ARMOURED CAR TRAINING
(3 Days)

Learn the proper mindset and safe handling of an armoured vehicle in all types of terrain. Understanding the differences between driving a regular car and an armoured car is crucial. Exercises emphasize weight transfer, proper braking techniques, proper cornering, collision avoidance and skid control. The syllabus also includes security awareness, understanding vehicle attacks, surveillance and counter surveillance techniques.

4WD Courses

**4WD "ON" ROAD
DRIVING COURSE**
(1 Day)

Although many people own or drive a 4WD vehicle they spend the majority of the time on tarmac (sealed surfaces) traveling at high speeds. Many people "roll" vehicles and don't understand how to avoid such an incident. Driving a 4WD is completely different than driving an ordinary 2WD vehicle and not knowing the difference can be very dangerous. This hands-on, detailed course is a must for all 4WD vehicle users.

**4WD "OFF" ROAD
DRIVING COURSE**
(2 Days)

4WD Training at its best! Are you unsure about when to engage 4WD or differential lock? This training course shows you how to get the best out of your 4WD in a safe controlled environment. Exercises include accident prevention, obstacle awareness and recognition, stall recovery, hill ascent and descent, wheel printing and more. Join us for a fun day out at our specially designed track and learn what your own 4WD vehicle is capable of!



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Training Packages

THE ESSENTIAL DRIVER TRAINING SECURITY PACKAGE (5 Days)

This course is specifically designed for drivers that work in areas in developing countries that have a high security risk.

Days 1 & 2 Drive to Survive!
Day 3 Performance Driving Incorporating Anti-carjacking Techniques
Days 4 & 5 Counter Carjacking & Vehicle/Barricade Breaching

ADVANCED DRIVER EDUCATION AND COLLISION AVOIDANCE TRAINING (5 DAYS)

Basic all around training for those wanting to become better, safer drivers equipped to face the ever increasing hazards on Africa's roads whether on sealed or unsealed surfaces.

Day 1 Basic Mechanics Course Including Vehicle Inspection
Days 2 & 3 Drive to Survive!
Day 4 4WD "On" Road" Driving Course
Day 5 4WD "Off Road" Driving Course

Defensive Driving Courses

DRIVE TO SURVIVE! COURSE (2-5 Days)

This course is designed to reduce the increasing number of road fatalities and develop safer and more responsible drivers. We find that many drivers in developing countries are lacking in basic principals of safe driving. This course goes "back to basics" and builds a firm foundation of proper skills that are reinforced by driving with our professional instructors. Emphasis is put on understanding driver attitude and responsibility, hazard awareness, space management, reversing, proper braking, pedal control and collision avoidance.

Mechanical Courses

BASIC MECHANICS COURSE (1 Day)

Are you tired of feeling inadequate when the car breaks down and you don't know what to do? No matter what car you drive, this course will give you the necessary skills to carry out emergency roadside repairs. Theory is followed with practical demonstrations and exercises.

Glen Edmunds Performance Driving School also offers the following courses:

*Domestic & International Mobile Training Units
Anti-carjacking Seminars
Women Only Courses
Teenage Defensive Driving
One on One Instruction
Driver Evaluation
Team Building Days
Skid Car training on location*

NB! Women Only Courses are designed especially for women and include a guest lecturer that discusses rape and rape prevention.