



# DEC. 2021 Newsletter

## DRILL OF THE MONTH

Throughout 2021 we will be running a Drill of the Month in each edition of the newsletter. The goal is help motivate folks to get to the range and actually shoot their defensive weapons, and to have some fun in the process. Each month we'll post a drill or a short course of fire. You are encouraged to go to the range, shoot the drill, and then post your thoughts and a photo of your target on the Rangemaster Facebook page, <https://www.facebook.com/groups/rangemaster/> .

## 5 YARD ROUND-UP

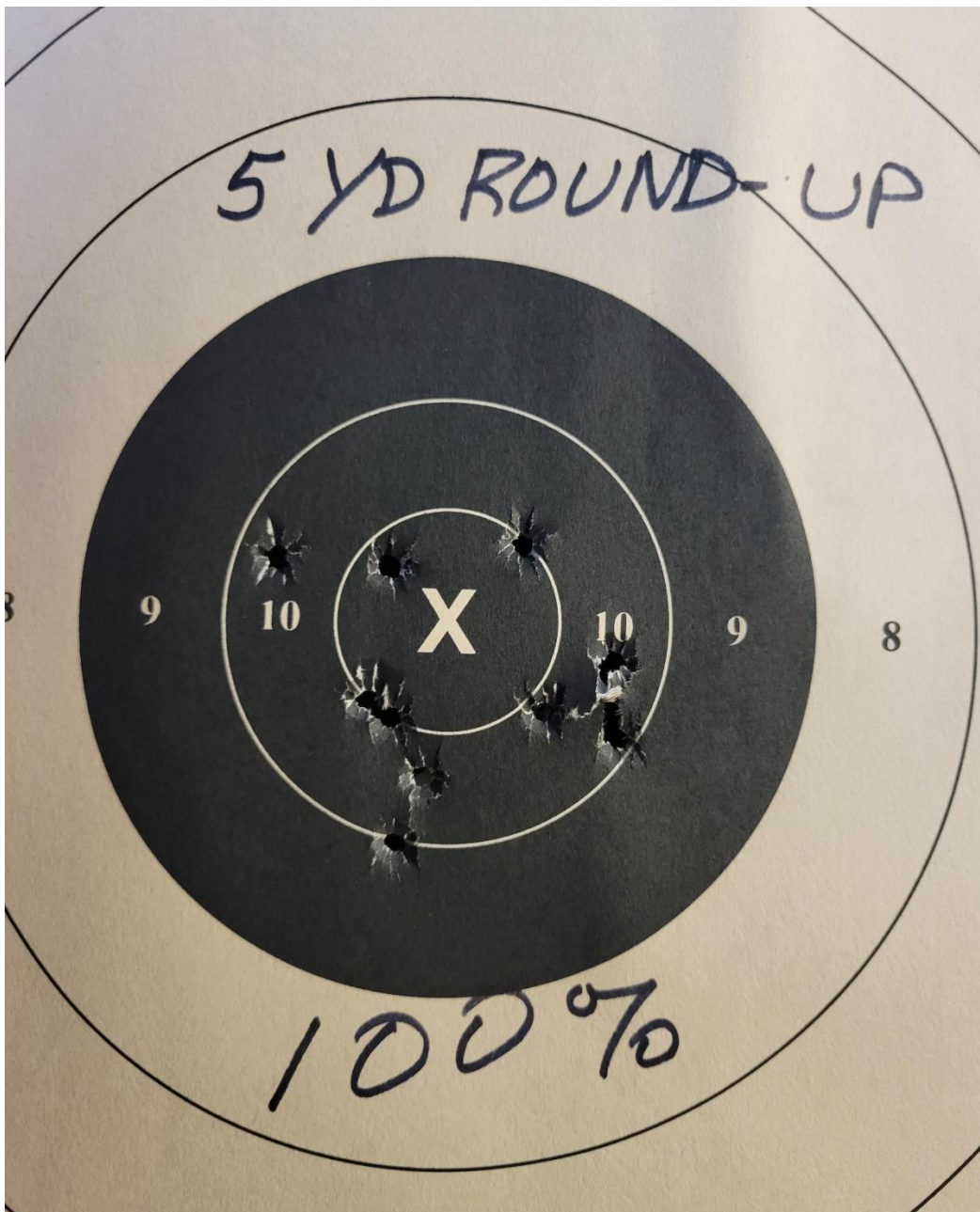
Designed by Justin Dyal

Fired at 5 yards, B-8 repair center. Time limit for all strings is 2.5 seconds.

- 1 round from the holster, from concealment.
  - 4 rounds from The Ready, both hands
  - 3 rounds from The Ready, dominant hand only
  - 2 rounds from The Ready, support hand only
- 10 rds total, 100 points possible

Deduct 10 points for overtime shots. Rounds that hit outside the 7 scoring ring count as misses.

If you can score 95 or above on this, cold, you have good, solid close range skills.



# Competition in Class?

After one of our Instructor Development or Advanced Instructor Development courses, we see a lot of posts and photos on social media showing folks winning challenge coins, or Top Gun certificates, or bragging about their score on a particular drill. To someone who has not attended one of these courses, it could appear more like a match or competition than a training course. Nothing could be further from the truth.

In both of these courses, fully 50% of course time is spent in the classroom on academic subjects. Of the other half of the course, spent on the range, each student is shooting only half of that time. The other half of the time he is coaching, and coaches several different shooters in the course of the class. Thus, only 25% of the course revolves around bringing each individual's shooting skill up, the rest is focused tightly on building skill as a coach and instructor.

I have found that friendly competition during that 25% of the time spent actually shooting really helps to keep the students focused, introduces them to working under pressure, and highlights any deficiencies in their technique so that their coaches can identify and correct those deficiencies. People just tend to work harder when something is at stake, whether it is a challenge coin or just bragging rights among classmates. These are the real reasons for the various awards. Besides, it keeps the process fun, and people learn better when they are having fun.



## **Modern Police Training, Unrealistic Expectations**

The Force Science Institute recently reported on a study conducted by several researchers who used the Dallas Police Department as an example of a modern, big city police department's firearms training and field performance. The researchers were shocked at how poorly the DPD officers did in actual shootings in the field, a reaction generally shared by members of the public at large when they find out how dismal typical police performance with firearms really is, as opposed to the Hollywood movie/TV version of how cops shoot.

The mindset of the researchers can be summed up by this quote from their study: "although the amount- and quality- of firearms training received by officers over the last century has improved considerably, there appears to have been little improvement in shooting accuracy". Implicit in that quote is an assumption that today's officers get a lot of firearms training, and that the training received effectively prepares them for armed conflict. Wrong!

First, their findings. From 2003-2017 the Dallas Police Department had 231 Officer Involved Shootings (OIS). A number of these involved multiple officers, so to get a better picture of individual performance, the researchers discarded those and looked only at incidents in which a single officer fired at a single suspect. They found 149 OIS's that met that criterion.

They looked at hit rates in two ways, "incident level" and "bullet level". On an "incident level" basis, they found that officers got at least one hit, regardless of the number of rounds fired, in about 54% of the shootings, just barely over half of the time.

However, on a "bullet level" basis, they found that out of 354 shots fired, there was only a 35% hit rate. One half of all officers missed with every shot they fired, including one officer who fired 23 misses and no hits. This means that six out of every ten shots fired was a miss. How does this happen?

Let's look at this "amount-and quality- of firearms training" in Dallas, which is actually a very representative sample. Officers qualify with their firearms once per year. That's right, once. The course of fire they "qualify" on is a joke, essentially a sobriety test for anyone with any skill at all with a gun. I, or any other competent private sector trainer, could take a brand new shooter, with no prior training or experience, and have them pass this

course of fire at the end of one day of range training. DPD officers receive “firearms training” once every two years, consisting of 50-100 rounds of firing in exercises and scenarios. That’s it.

Now, let’s take someone who does not know how to drive a car. We’ll give them a few days of driving instruction, but only at very low speed in the empty parking lot, with no traffic. They will then not drive at all for a year. After a year, we’ll have them drive the car from Point A to Point B on the parking lot, again with no traffic. Then, again no more driving once they leave the lot. Some nine months after that, they will be directed to respond to a life threatening crisis by jumping in a car and roaring off at 120 miles per hour on an expressway filled with traffic. Think they would do well? That’s exactly what DPD does with their officers when it comes to firearms.

The bottom line is, most police departments don’t care if their officers can shoot well. They don’t care about the officers’ welfare nor about the public’s safety. “Qualification” once per year has been consistently held to be inadequate by U.S. courts, yet it is still the standard in many areas. “Training” every two years is criminally negligent, but that’s “good enough” for these agencies.

Learn from this example. Whether you are a law enforcement officer, or Joe Citizen with a carry permit, the agency you work for or who issued your license is NOT responsible for your life. You are! Seek out competent training. Make time for relevant practice. Handle your emergency life saving equipment often enough to obtain and maintain proficiency with it. Remember that recency trumps almost everything in retention of motor skills, so get to the range more than once a year. One day you may be very glad you “exceeded the mandated standard”.

## **Snubby Accuracy**

The untrained often refer to a two-inch barreled .38 Special revolver (snubby) as an “arm’s length” or “across the card table” gun. Claude Werner is an admirer of the snubby, and he comments that “It’s only an arm’s length gun if you are incompetent”. I tend to agree.

The revolver pictured here is a S&W Model 12, the aluminum frame lightweight version of the M&P, six shot K-frame. This one has the hammer spur removed to prevent snagging during a concealed presentation; gun rendered double-action only; the chambers are lightly chamfered to ease reloading; the cylinder latch was replaced, making the use of speedloaders easier; and it sports a set of Grashorn elk stag stocks and a Tyler grip adaptor.

Not long ago I took the little blaster to the range. I fired 20 rounds of Federal Gold Match 148 grain wadcutters at a single B-8 bullseye target, as follows:

5 yards, 1 shot from the holster, 2.5 seconds

5 yards, 4 shots from the ready, 2.5 seconds

5 yards, 3 shots from ready, dominant hand only, in 2.5 seconds

5 yards, 2 shots from ready, support side hand only, in 2.5 seconds

10 yards, 5 shots from ready in 5 seconds

10 yards, 5 shots from ready in 5 seconds.

That's 20 shots, for a maximum possible score of 200. My score was 195. That would be credible performance with a semiauto service pistol, so I'm happy. Why not take your snubby out and see what you can do on this drill?





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## Gun Control Mythbusting

In the gun control debate, as in most things, the truth is this: maybe 10% of the population wants to completely eliminate your right to self defense. Maybe 10% are adamantly opposed to all infringements upon your right to self defense. The 80% in the middle don't care a lot one way or the other.

What we have to learn to do is to educate and guide the 80% in the middle, so they do not elect those who would strip us of our rights. The anti's have done a much better job of using propaganda and outright lies to influence

the 80%. We need to counter those lies with facts, any time this subject comes up with your friends, co-workers, etc. Here are some facts.

**Internet Gun Sales Must End!** Yes, you can go to Gunbroker.com and other sites and make a deal to purchase a gun from an individual or a dealer in another area. No, that gun cannot be sent to you directly. The gun must be shipped to a federally licensed gun dealer in your state, then you fill out a 4473 and undergo a background check as if you were purchasing the gun from that dealer's inventory. Failure to follow this procedure is a Federal felony, with huge fines and prison time. This has been a Federal law since 1968, 53 years, pre-dating the internet.

**We must close the "Gun Show Loophole"!** Another imaginary problem. Persons "engaged in the business of selling firearms" are required by Federal law to have a Federal Firearms License (FFL). FFL holders who sell guns at gun shows are required by Federal law to keep elaborate records of every sale; have every purchaser fill out a Form 4473; and obtain a NICS background check on every purchase, just as if the sale took place in their brick and mortar store. Violations are a Federal felony, carrying huge fines and significant prison terms. Guns used in crimes and subsequently seized by the police are called "crime guns". The US Department of Justice did a study of crime guns and found that only about 1% were obtained at gun shows. Of course, that means that 99% WERE NOT.

**There is an epidemic of "assault weapon" deaths.** No, look at the FBI Uniform Crime Report for 2018, for instance. That year more people were murdered with claw hammers and similar tools than with "assault weapons". More people were murdered by use of hands and feet as impact weapons than by all types of rifles combined.

**Semi-automatic guns are new technology and are too dangerous.**

Semi-automatic firearms have been around since the late 1880's. I have a Savage .32 Auto handgun that holds 11 rounds of ammunition. It was designed in 1905 and entered production and civilian sales in 1907. My specimen was made in 1915, 106 years ago. I have a Winchester Model



1907 rifle, which is a semi-automatic rifle with a detachable high capacity magazine. It was introduced in 1907, as an improved version of a model produced in 1905. My example was built in 1928. I have a semi-automatic shotgun designed by John Browning in 1899. My example was built in 1927. I could go on, but you get the picture.

**Letting civilians carry guns will result in all sorts of needless violence.** Wrong. The exact opposite is true. States that have high rates of carry permit holders have significantly lower crime rates than states which do not. In addition, permit holders are the most law abiding segment of the population. Texas has a million CHL (Concealed Handgun License) holders, and the state tracks them very carefully. This is from an official Texas government report:

“On January 1, 1996, the Texas Concealed Handgun Law went into effect. This law states that the Texas Department of Public Safety (TXDPS) “shall issue” a concealed handgun license (CHL) to any Texas resident who meets the application requirements for character (background check) and training. This is an analysis of arrest data for Texas concealed handgun licensees that was performed on data from the subsequent years of 1996 – 2000. A comparison was made with the arrest data for the entire Texas population for the same time period, showing that, on average: male Texans who are over 21 years old and are not CHL holders are 7.7 times more likely to be arrested for commission of a violent crime than male Texans with a CHL; and female Texans who are over 21 years old and are not CHL holders are 7.5 times more likely to be arrested for commission of a violent crime than female Texans with a CHL. Of the violent crime cases that have been adjudicated, approximately 26% of CHL holders who were arrested were convicted, and 44% are cleared of the violent crimes for which they were arrested.”

**We need an Assault Weapons Ban!** Such a ban was in effect under Federal law for a ten year period. Among other things, it limited magazine capacity to ten rounds. Various organizations, from the Centers for Disease Control to the U.S. Department of Justice studied the effect of the ban for

that ten year period. They all concluded that the ban had absolutely no effect on crime or violence.

All of these positions are verifiable facts. Use this information to help counter the outright lies used by those who would take away our most basic civil right and human right- the right to self preservation. The upcoming mid-term elections will be crucial to keeping your rights.

## **UPCOMING TRAINING EVENTS**

**Jan 14-16**      Master Instructor Course, Nashville, TN (indoors)

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/master-firearms-instructor-development-course-tn-tickets-101240194146>   **sold out**

**Jan 27-28**      Advanced Instructor, Homestead, FL

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/advanced-firearms-instructor-development-course-tickets-158239523675>

**Jan 29-31**      Master Instructor, Homestead, FL

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/master-firearms-instructor-development-course-tickets-158239738317>

**Feb 18-20**      Instructor Course, Buford, GA (indoors)

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/three-day-firearms-instructor-development-course-tickets-144505007367>

**Feb 26-27**      Combative Pistol, Ruskin, FL

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/rangemaster-combative-pistol-tickets-158241463477>   **sold out**

**Apr 1**            Defensive Shotgun, Bandera, TX

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/one-day-defensive-shotgun-course-tickets-151327991095>

**Apr 2-3**          Advanced Firearms Instructor, Bandera, TX

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/advanced-firearms-instructor-development-course-tickets-151327172647>

**Apr 4**              Defensive Revolver, Bandera, Texas

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/defensive-revolver-course-one-day-tickets-151327852681>

## Tombstone, Arizona

