

Rangemaster Firearms Training Services
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MARCH 2022 NEWSLETTER

DRILL OF THE MONTH

Throughout 2022 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/> .

SIDE HUSTLE, +P

This is a progression of the February DOTM.

One silhouette target at 6 yards (the length of a large SUV). Target can be an IDPA cardboard, an IALEFI-Q, a Rangemaster RFTS-Q or any silhouette with an 8" circle correctly located in the chest. Only hits in the 8" circle count.

There will be a firing line 6 yards from the target (the length of a large SUV). Two firing points will be marked on this line, 3 yards apart. Call them A and B. See photo. The two blue barrels are the shooting points. Shooter starts at A, holstered, concealed. There will be 8 rounds in the gun (1 in the chamber, 7 in the magazine). Shooter will be holding an empty 50 round 9mm cartridge box in both hands at sternum

height until the signal to GO. (This simulates holding a cell phone.) On signal, the shooter will drop the box, draw and engage the target with 4 rounds. Shooter will then sprint to B, stop and fire 4 more rounds. Shooter will conduct an empty gun reload while moving back to A. There, he will fire 4 more rounds. Twelve rounds total. Time from GO signal to last shot. Par time is 12 seconds.

A run only counts if all 12 rounds are inside the 8" chest circle. If all hits are there, the fastest time wins. Record the time from the GO signal to the last shot. I'm old and feeble and I was able to run this consistently around 10.3 seconds.



I expect you younger, more athletic guys to beat my time. Give it a try and post your results on our Facebook page.



Shotgun Training, Preparing for Success

In 2022 we have several shotgun courses, both for end users and for instructor candidates. There are some things you can do before class to maximize your learning opportunities, make things more comfortable for you, and generally allow you to have a better training experience.

The social or defensive use of the shotgun is radically different than its use in bird hunting or clay pigeon sports. To get the most out of these classes, please follow these directions.

Unless you have already had it shortened, the butt stock of your shotgun is too long. When we say the "length of pull" (LOP) that

means the straight line distance from the trigger to the butt plate. For smaller stature persons, most females, and men under about 5'7" a 12 inch LOP is about right. If you are between 5'8" and 6' tall, a 12 1/2 to 13 inch LOP will probably work fine. The factory length of pull on most shotguns runs from 13 7/8" to 14 1/4", which is just too long. You can replace a butt stock that is too long with a shorter aftermarket stock from Hogue, Mag Pul or Speedfeed, or a gunsmith can shorten your existing stock for a small fee. I recommend the MagPul, which is easily adjustable for LOP.

Your magazine needs to hold at least four rounds. If your shotgun has a plug in the magazine to limit capacity to two rounds please remove the plug before class.

You should have some means of carrying spare ammunition on the gun. A side saddle or a butt cuff are both fine, which ever you prefer. Strongly recommended, not required. A sling is optional, your choice.

Either a pump action or semiautomatic shotgun are fine for this class. The gold standard is the 870 Remington Police pump, or the Beretta 1301 Tactical for autoloaders.

Your barrel length should be between 18 and 22 inches. Barrels longer than 22 inches will be cumbersome and awkward in our context. A shotgun with a barrel less than 18 inches long is a Class III weapon. If you legally possess a short barrel shotgun feel free to use it in class. Have a copy of your ATF paperwork for the short barrel shotgun with you.

You will need birdshot for a lot of the manipulation practice. Please be aware that some really cheap birdshot has zinc or steel shell heads instead of brass and may cause extraction problems in your shotgun. Spending a little more money on quality shot shells is something you will be glad you did. Larger birdshot sizes, like #4 will pattern more like buckshot than will smaller shot like #7 1/2.

You will need a certain amount of buckshot, how much depends on the type of class. We prefer standard load eight or nine pellet 00 Buck. Magnum loads only increase recoil and will beat you up with no advantage. Standard velocity or reduced recoil 00 Buck will do just

fine. Again, cheaper shells will not pattern as well as premium loads. If you want absolute maximum performance I suggest Federal Premium 8 pellet 00 Buck with the Flite Control wad, or the equivalent Hornady load with their Versa-Tite wad.

You will need a cooler with lunch, snacks, and plenty to drink. We will break for lunch at the range. Be sure you have what you need to sustain you through the day.

We look forward to working with you in class. The shotgun is a wonderful instrument, it can be devastatingly effective in trained hands, and shotgun classes are a lot of fun. See you there.

SOUTHNARC ARMED MOVEMENT IN STRUCTURES COURSE: A REAL ESTATE GUIDE FOR THE DEFENSIVE SHOOTER

By Steve Moses

In 1980, I captured a burglar at gunpoint in my darkened living room at approximately 2:00 am in the morning. While most persons would consider the outcome favorable (I did not get hurt or killed, and he went to jail), I was immediately aware afterwards that I had prevailed through sheer guesswork, luck, and either recklessness or an assertive mindset (I am not sure which). I knew immediately that my performance demonstrated a complete and utter lack of skill and knowledge of tactics.

Fast forward some thirty years later, and my combative and shooting skills were improved, but I had gained little in the way of being able to effectively fight as an individual within a structure. This is coming from a guy that is an active member of a multi-precinct Special Response Group in one of the larger, more heavily-populated counties in north Texas. I have completed a number of tactical courses that included SWAT, high-

risk entry, hostage rescue, mechanical breaching, and active shooter response, but none of them covered one-man tactics. Managing threat areas in a 360 degree environment enclosed within a residential or commercial structure comprised of rooms, halls, closets, stairwells, and various other visual impediments is a daunting task for an experienced team, much less an individual. I had never seen a playbook containing appropriate plays for such scenarios. At least, not until now.

Allow me to introduce you to Craig Douglas, a highly respected instructor also known as "Southnarc." Craig combines a cool, analytical intellect and superior communication skills with an extensive background in martial arts, prior military experience, and twenty years in various law enforcement roles that ran the gamut from narcotics to SWAT. I am unable to fully comprehend how this particular combination of physical and mental attributes and prior life history enabled him to develop a teachable system that provides a motivated student the means to understand the problems posed in a world where there exists the possibility of armed bad guys hiding in your house, or worse yet, armed bad guys in your house and amongst your loved ones, but it does. What's more, Douglas will provide his students with tested tactics that may allow a student to manipulate time, distance, cover, and concealment in such a manner as to significantly narrow the window of opportunity a potentially violent adversary has to injure or kill others. Does that mean individual armed movement through a structure is now safe? Absolutely not. According to Craig, engaging an armed intruder or intruders within a structure is one of the most dangerous things that one can do, while recognizing the fact that sometimes that is exactly what one may need to do in order to save themselves or others.

I attended the Southnarc Armed Movement in Structures ("AMIS") course that was conducted at the Rangemaster

academy in Memphis, Tennessee. We used a vacant commercial building arranged for us by Rangemaster founder, Tom Givens.

Class started with a well-articulated lecture that laid the foundation for the remainder of the class. Craig emphasized that the material presented represented a possible "best case" for dealing with one or more threats within a structure, not a "safe method." This is not a "how to" article, and I could probably write a thesis on the subject of AMIS and it would still be no substitute for taking this class. However, I will set out some of the basic AMIS principles for those readers who would rather not simply take my word that this is a class that all of us need to take.

1. Students should view the environment not in terms of what they can see, but in terms of what they cannot see. If you can see it, you can manage it. What you can't see is your problem. A problem can be much easier managed when you are in a position to put a gun on it.
2. Look at edges, not holes. Students should define what they can't see in terms of planes of visual impediments, which can be horizontal, vertical, or diagonal.
3. The greater distance the student has from a plane of visual impediment, the greater the student's field of vision and the less the student has to move to get eyes and muzzle on a potential problem. Students should always seek depth when managing a threat area (note: this was harder than it sounds during force-on-force exercises).
4. Students should conform their shooting platform to the plane of visual impediment afforded. In other words, provide your adversary with nothing more than an eyeball,

thumb, and muzzle during an engagement. This may involve some creative body positions and stances, but makes perfect sense when the objective is to see without being seen.

5. There is very little true hard cover in modern structures. Cover works only when someone else is not willing to take it away from you using effective maneuver. Cover is not static, but a transitional point used to win a gunfight.
6. Students must understand the importance of “up-pacing” and “down-pacing” as necessary. In other words, if a student is unable to clear a threat area completely by slowly “slicing the pie” at maximum depth, then it will be necessary to move dynamically through the threat area in order to minimize both target profile and time spent out in the open.
7. Students should constantly narrow their field of threat to as small an area as possible. It is very difficult to manage the environment when the threat area is more than 45° , and nearly impossible when it approaches 180° . The objective is to spend as little time as possible in a threat angle greater than 45° . I learned to first read an environment, and then as soon as I had cleared everything I could from outside the room or hallway, move dynamically to a new position that permitted me to narrow the area of threat to 90° , and then move again to narrow it to 45° . It was a relief when I was able to narrow my area of threat to nothing more than an open doorway or one remaining closet, because I knew at that time that everything behind me had been cleared, and the chances I would take a shot in the back of the head were much reduced.

8. Positional dominance in certain situations required aggression and willingness to seek cover behind the muzzle of a gun.

Several of the students, including me, had a team background, and we had to learn a markedly different way of searching and entering rooms while operating without support. Supported by a Power Point Presentation that codified basic AMIS principles, Craig explained to us in careful detail the golden rules of working solo in a high-risk environment, and we worked hard for the remaining twenty hours of class time in order to prove to ourselves that we not only understood the principles of AMIS, but could actually apply them successfully in a large office complex containing fellow students armed with Airsoft pistols (as I write this, both of my arms sport multiple purple/yellow bruises as a reminder of failures on my part when I was the "good guy" and the success of my fellow students when I played the "bad guy"). Did I mention that the AMIS course contains a low-light session? Craig first explained the proper use of the handheld light (a strobe feature is very useful for masking your position while searching) and weapon-mounted light (when entering a room dynamically it diminishes our tendency to be backlit and allows us to get two hands on the gun for greater accuracy and control). He stressed the fact that light draws vision and bullets, all the more reason to keep the light used for searching well away from the head and torso. This was driven home when a fellow student who employed the "neck index" method took an Airsoft hit to the neck. Apparently, the opposing shooter took advantage of the "neck index" method to index his front sight on the student's neck. Lesson learned.

The practical exercises were conducted in a large, vacant commercial building replete with a variety of disparately shaped interior offices and a large, open warehouse containing a half-

dozen storage closets. On our initial walk-through, I was initially overwhelmed by the challenges. After breaking the students into four groups, Craig then divided the building into four quadrants, with each quadrant appearing to have been designed by the Devil's architect. For example, upon entering quadrant two, the student was greeted with a large room containing five open, closed, or partially closed doors, each of which led either into a smaller office that contained a small closet, three large storage closets that had to be fully entered in order to clear, or a hallway containing a large storage closet and utility room. The good news: by the morning of day two, I was able to quickly move into a position that allowed me to narrow my threat area from 180° to 90° to 45°, and then systematically clear the route one threat area at a time.

The AMIS course did not ignore the human element of dealing with threats, and we were presented with useful techniques for not only dealing with a violent criminal actor but persons who had indeed trespassed but without criminal intent. Examples of this were the drunken teen-aged boy who got a text from the "hottie" of his dreams who invited him over after midnight when her parents were sleeping but texted the wrong address, and persons who were mentally handicapped or under the influence of drugs or alcohol who had mistakenly entered a residence in which they did not live (older readers may remember that years ago the actor Robert Downey, Jr. ended up illegally entering a home in a similar manner). The point is, just because someone can be shot "legally" does not mean they should be shot.

The course ended with a final training exercise ("FTX") in which each student was tasked with dealing with a scenario that involved multiple bad guys who had made contact with a loved one. The clear intent of the FTX was apparent. Students either demonstrated to themselves that they had successfully

internalized certain basic AMIS principles and were capable of implementing them under stress, or students learned the hard way why adhering to AMIS principles were important. I do not want to give away the course finale, but suffice it to say, students who quickly reduced their threat areas to less than 45° did not end up getting shot in the back. Did it mean that some students were unsuccessful and left ill-prepared to deal with like situations in the future? Not at all. As science fiction writer Orson Scott Card wrote, "The essence of training is to allow error without consequence."

In closing, I would recommend this course to anyone of any skill level with any amount of experience. Trust me, you will never see the world the same.

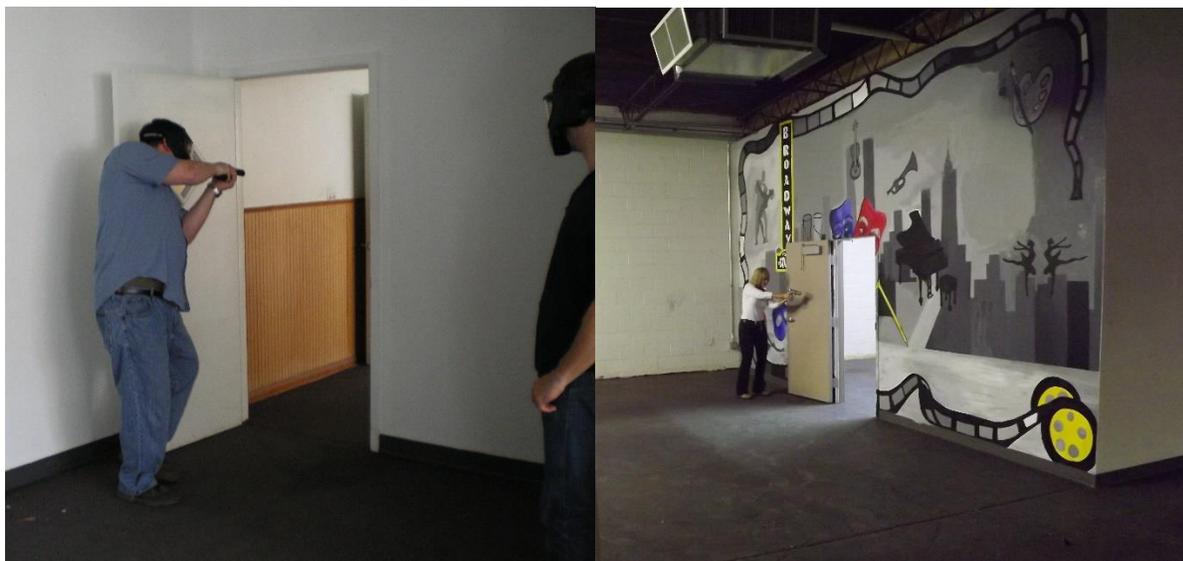
Contacts:

Shivworks (Craig Douglas)

[www. Shivworks.com](http://www.Shivworks.com)

Steve Moses, Palisade Training Group

<https://www.ptgtrainingllc.com/>



UPCOMING TRAINING EVENTS

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>

April 22-24 Defensive Shotgun Instructor, Homestead, FL

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/rangemaster-defensive-shotgun-instructor-development-course-tickets-158241876713>

May 14-15 Intensive Pistol Skills, Echo Valley, WV

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/intensive-pistol-skills-tickets-139271445643> **sold out**

May 20-22 Instructor Course, Yadkinville, NC

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/three-day-firearms-instructor-development-course-tickets-139017879219>

June 1 One Day Practical/Tactical, KR Training

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/one-day-practicaltactical-handgun-course-tickets-158243603879>

June 2-4 Instructor Course, KR Training

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/three-day-firearms-instructor-development-course-tickets-158243774389>

June 5-6 Advanced Instructor, KR Training

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/rangemaster-advanced-firearms-instructor-development-course-tickets-158244107385>

June 7 Historical Handgun, KR Training

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/historical-handgun-tickets-201923216777>

June 24-26 Instructor Course, Johnston, Iowa (indoors)

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/three-day-firearms-instructor-development-course-tickets-144354422965>

