



## **APRIL 2022 NEWSLETTER**

### **DRILL OF THE MONTH**

Throughout 2022 we will be running a Drill of the Month (DOTM) 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/>.

### **6/5/4 Drill**

You will need a cardboard backer or target, to which you will affix three objects: an approximately 8" diameter paper plate; a standard business card; and a 3X5 card (see photo). This drill is shot from five yards, drawing from concealment.

On signal, draw and put 2 rounds into the paper plate, two rounds into the business card, and 2 rounds into the 3X5 card, in that order, all in 4 seconds or less. That is 6 shots, at 5 yards, in 4 seconds, hence the name, 6/5/4 Drill.

**This drill requires a fast concealed carry presentation, and an adjustment of firing cadence to match the target size. You will have to shoot very quickly on the paper plate in order to have time to engage the smaller targets. The business card requires a bit of precision. Then, you have to speed back up on the 3X5 to make the time limit. So, this drill covers a lot of skills in just 6 rounds. Give it a try and post your results.**



**I recently ran this drill a few times. Drawing from concealment, IWB behind the hip, my best two clean runs were 3.81 and 3.83 seconds. If I tried to push harder, I wound up missing one of the 3X5 shots. From The Ready, I was able to clean it in 2.85 and 2.72 seconds. What's your best time?**

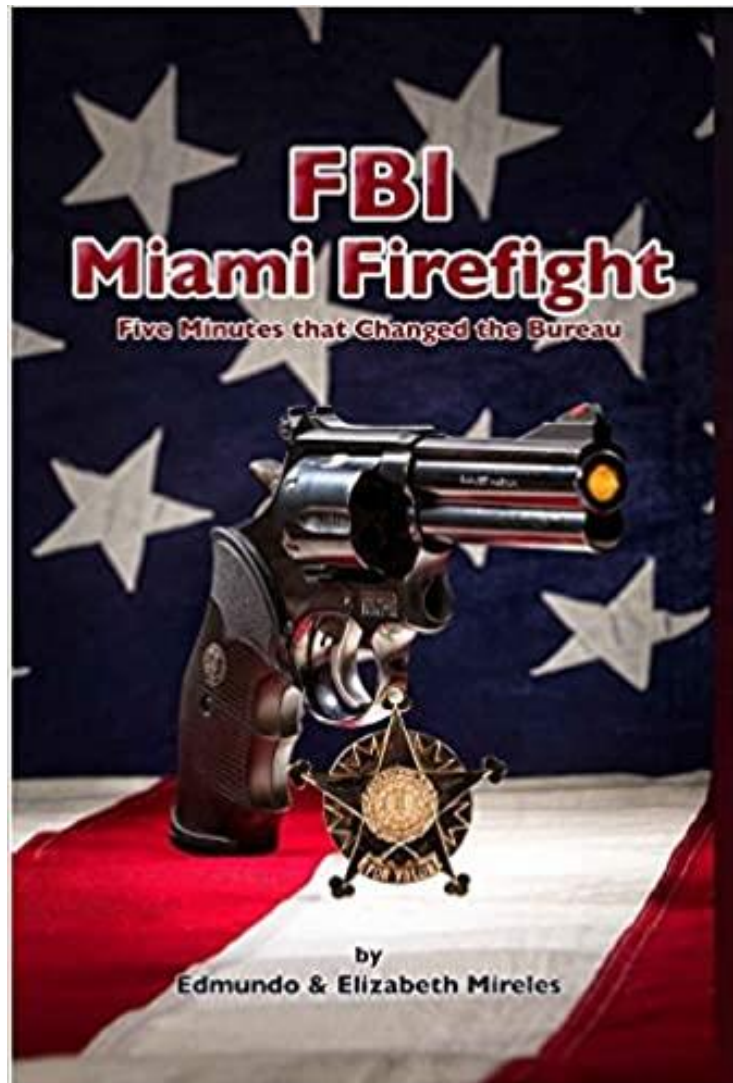
## **April 11, 1986 The Miami FBI Firefight**

April 11 will mark the 36<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the infamous FBI gun battle in Miami between Bad Guys Platt and Matix and a squad of FBI Special Agents. This was a true watershed event in modern firearms training and doctrine. This was the single event that jump-started the transition from revolvers to semiautomatic pistols in American law enforcement; re-emphasized the importance of long guns for planned events; and resulted in the high performance ammunition we take for granted today.

Ed Mireles was one of the Special Agents engaged in this fight, and actually wound up killing both of the offenders, despite having his left arm shot to pieces and having received a grazing rifle round to the head. I hosted Ed in Tampa for a four hour lecture on his first person account of the fight, and it was fascinating. You can get the same information from Ed's book about the incident, available on Amazon in both printed and Kindle formats. Highly recommended.

**FBI Miami Firefight**, Five Minutes That Changed the Bureau

By Ed Mireles and Elizabeth Mireles



## **HOME INVASIONS, KEY POINTS & REMINDERS**

There are 8 to 8.5 million residential burglaries every year in the US, according to both the FBI and the Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS).

In 2017 there were 126 million households in the US. There were 1 million burglaries of **occupied** homes. That's a 1 in 126 chance in a single year of a break-in while you are at home. To counter this:



Install deadbolt locks and use them. **LOCK YOUR DAMN DOORS!**

Dead bolts must be at least one inch in length to be effective.

Wooden door frames will require much longer screws and a much longer (taller) strike plate to give any real security. Much better are steel doors in steel frames.

Install exterior motion sensor lighting. Night lights, or a few lamps on timers indoors are an excellent idea.

Install a burglar alarm and use it, especially when asleep.

The purpose of locks, cameras, alarms, lighting, and dogs is not to keep bad men out—**none of them will do that**. Their purpose is to give you enough warning to arm yourself and get involved before it is too late.

"Violets are purple,  
Your blood is red.  
You left your door unlocked,  
Now I'm standing by your bed."

## **Do What You Can!**

Lynn is 67 years old. A few years ago, she had to have a screw emplaced in her left arm to anchor a tendon in place. It has bothered her ever since. A couple of years ago she broke her right wrist very badly (she is right handed). That wrist now has two metal plates and 9 screws holding it together. Thus, she can't shoot much at a time, so when she can she takes a break from coaching and jumps in on the line in class for 100 rounds or so. That's about all she can manage.

Despite these limitations, in recent classes she shot the Casino Drill clean under par ,at 19.08 seconds, and passed the Master Firearms Instructor Course qual course at 95%. It would be easy for her to say, “It hurts to shoot, I’ll just quit doing it”. Instead, she does what she can, when she can, to keep her defensive skills sharp.

Ammo shortages, limited time, family obligations, jobs, etc make it difficult to practice, I get that. You’ll simply have to carve out some time and do enough work to keep your skills at a useable level. Be like Lynn.



### **Money Can't Buy Me Love (nor skill, for that matter)!**

If, like me, you teach defensive firearms use every week, you see this played out over and over again.

“If I just buy the newest RDS (red reticle, green reticle, circle reticle, closed emitter, magic) I’ll be able to shoot so much better.”

**“If I get a better quality barrel installed in my gun, I’ll shoot so much better.”**

**“If I buy the new (Walther, H&K, Herfenderfer Special) like the influencers, I’ll be able to shoot so much better.”**

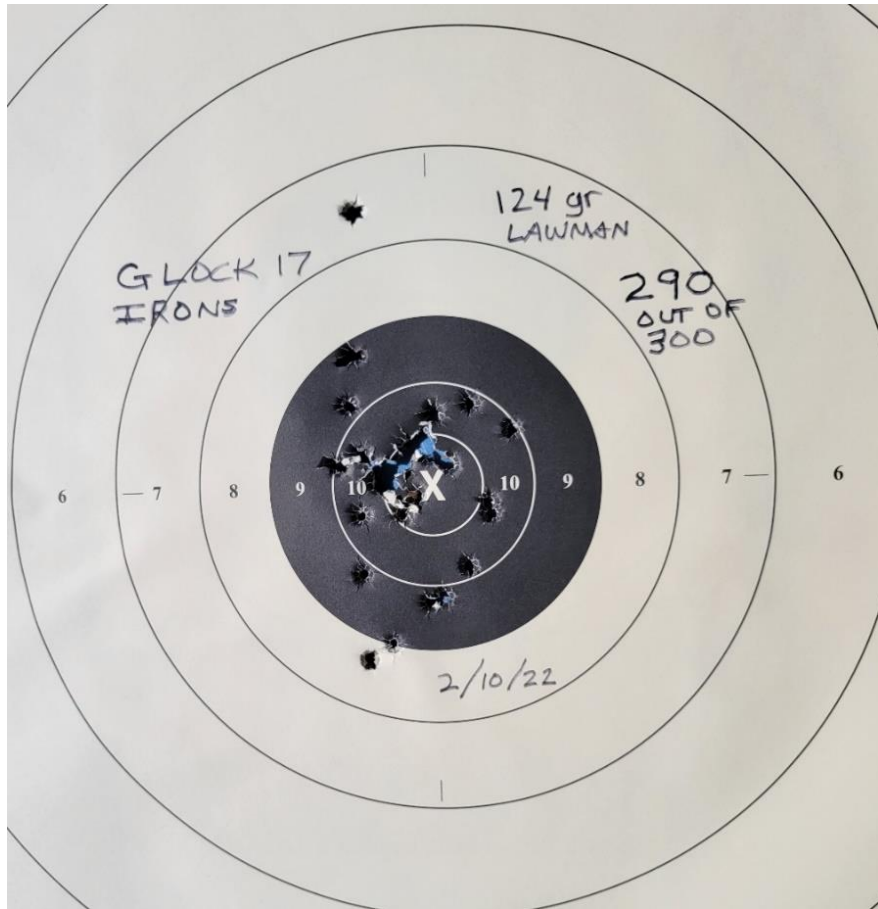
**Unfortunately, what that never ending quest to buy performance results in is a long term plateau of mediocre skill. There are no short-cuts or magic beans in this business. A better quality barrel can benefit you IF you have an exceptionally crappy factory barrel (it happens) or if you are highly skilled enough to outshoot the accuracy potential of your factory barrel (much less likely). Same for other gizmos.**

**I’m 70 years old, with 70 year old eyes and busted up hands. My training gun is an almost stock Glock 17, with a grip reduction (for my girl size hands) and plain steel Heinie fixed iron sights. My rear sight is plain black, and my front sight is painted a bright orange/red. That’s it. It is identical to the Glock 17 I carry every day. In fact, you probably could not tell the two guns apart.**

**Recently, I shot the Rangemaster Bullseye Course with my G17 and Lawman 124 grain ball. This is reliable ammo, but the bullets are plated, not jacketed, and for whatever reason they are not as accurate in my Glocks as quality jacketed ammo. It was what I had handy, so that’s what I shot that day. I scored 290 out of a possible 300 points (96.7%). That’s shot on a B-8 bullseye at 5,7,10, 15 and 25 yards, with fairly tight time limits.**

**I then shot the Rangemaster Advanced Bullseye Course, earning a 285 out of 300 (95%). This course has tighter time limits and includes a few rounds with dominant hand only and non-dominant hand only.**

**Skill is the product of competent training and deliberate, purposeful practice. I’m sorry, but there are no short-cuts. Plan accordingly.**





# UPCOMING TRAINING EVENTS

**May 20-22** Pistol 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, Texas

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

**June 2-4** Instructor Course, KR Training, Texas

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

**June 5-6** Advanced Instructor, KR Training, Texas

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

**June 7** Historical Handgun, KR Training, Texas

<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>

## Hosting a Rangemaster Class

**I get a lot of inquiries about hosting a Rangemaster course in a new area or venue. Bear in mind, our schedule is normally made a bit over a year in advance. Here is**

**some information for those of you who may wish to host a course in the future.**

The “local host”:

The local host is our representative in the geographic area in which the class will be conducted. The host generally handles these items:

If the host does not own or manage the range facility to be used, he will act as the liason between Rangemaster and the gun club or commercial range we will be using. The host locks in the date and handles any other logistical issues with the range.

The host is expected to promote the class locally, recruiting students from the gun club, gun shops in the area, IDPA or USPSA clubs, local law enforcement agencies, and other sources.

Just before class time, the host ensures that the range is in useable condition; that an adequate number of target stands are in place, with cardboard backers; that a restroom or porta-john is on site; and the classroom, if any, is set up for class.

Rangemaster advertises the class on our website, on social media, on various internet forums, and to prior students in the area. Rangemaster collects all fees/tuition. Rangemaster pays any range fees directly to the range owner. The local host does not have to handle money or student information.

Rangemaster carries a Two Million Dollar liability insurance policy. The host range can be added as an additional insured, if desired.

In return for his assistance, the local host gets a free space in class. Depending on class size, he may be granted additional free spaces for his associates. This is generally one free space for every ten paying students. Please note- if you own or operate the

range facility, you may choose to be paid a range fee, or have free slots, but not both.

Generally speaking, we need at least 10 paying students to conduct a class. If the venue is more than 500 miles from Tampa, Florida, we need a minimum of 12 paying students. For a class to proceed, we need to have the minimum number of students registered by 30 days prior to class date. If a class is canceled, all registered students receive an immediate full refund of tuition paid.

Starting in 2022 and going forward, we will not be scheduling courses further West than Texas.

If you have questions, please contact us at [rangemaster.tom@gmail.com](mailto:rangemaster.tom@gmail.com) .

## Historical References

**These books should be in the library of every knowledgeable instructor or defensive practitioner. Book sellers like ABE Books often have used copies of these for ridiculously low prices.**

**The Art of Handgun Shooting, by Charles Askins**

**Fast & Fancy Revolver Shooting, by Ed McGivern**

**The Textbook of Pistols and Revolvers, by Julian Hatcher**

**Sixguns, by Elmer Keith**

**Gunfighters, by Col. Charles Askins**

**Shooting, by J. Henry Fitzgerald**

**Officer Down, Code 3, by Pierce Brooks**

**Fireworks, a Gunsite Anthology, by Jeff Cooper**

**The Deadliest Men, by Paul Kirchner**

**Handgun Combatives, by Dave Spaulding**

## **PROACTIVE TIPS**

**I will give you a money back guarantee that you will survive every violent confrontation you don't get involved in. Use these simple tips to drastically lower the odds of needing to defend yourself.**

### **Basic Safety at Home:**

- 1. If you have a security system - Use it!**
- 2. Never open your door to a stranger.**
- 3. Never tell anyone you are home alone.**
- 4. Keep your home well-lighted at all times – inside and out. Motion detector lights outside are valuable, as are night lights and lights on timers inside the home.**
- 5. Keep windows and doors locked.**
- 6. Keep shrubs around your home well trimmed.**



- 7. New home or apartment? – have ALL locks re-keyed immediately.**
- 8. Never hide a door key under a mat, flower pot or mailbox.**
- 9. Lock your doors whenever you are in the yard or garage.**
- 10. Take a cordless phone or your cell phone with you when you work in the yard.**

### **Parking Lot and Vehicle Safety:**

#### ***In Your Car***

- 1. Lock your car door immediately after getting in your car.**
- 2. Do not sit in your car in a parking lot --- get in and drive off.**
- 3. Check your surroundings before you turn off your car and get out.**
  - Anything suspicious? Drive off!!!**
- 4. Keep your cell phone handy at all times.**
  - There are no working pay phones; AAA or OnStar can be very valuable.**
  - A flashlight, rain gear and canned “flat fix” also good to have**
- 5. Make a practice of filling your gas tank when it drops to ½ full.**
- 6. Don’t EVER park next to or get in your car next to a panel van. It’s too easy to force you into the van through a sliding side panel door.**
- 7. When stopping, make certain you can see the bottoms of the tires of the car ahead of you. This leaves you room to drive around that vehicle.**
- 8. Avoid driving in the middle lane, so that you have options.**

9. In your car, put your purse behind your legs against the seat
10. If you're being followed, drive to the nearest Emergency Room.

### ***Around Your Car***

1. Be alert and aware when leaving stores, malls, etc.
2. Have your keys in your hand as you approach your car.
  - About 40% of all robberies happen at the door of your car.
3. Look inside your car before getting in.
4. Lock your car and take the keys when you get out to pump gas.
5. Don't use ATMs at night or in vulnerable places.
6. Avoid filling your arms with packages that obscure your vision.
7. Avoid stairs in parking garages ... walk down the ramp facing traffic.
8. In parking lots, walk down the middle, not close to parked cars.
9. If a driver asks for directions while you are on foot, stay back several paces from the car.

### **General Awareness & Mindset:**

1. Stay alert anytime you are outside your home.
2. Walk with eyes up, looking around you at all times, not talking on your cell.
3. Maintain your personal space in public.
4. Check behind you periodically.
5. Look for anything in the immediate area that looks out of place, out of context, or "just not right".
6. Mindset: "I WILL NOT be a victim!"

