



MAY 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/> .

Rangemaster Advanced Bullseye Course

Target must be an NRA B-8 or B-8C bullseye target, or the FBI-IP1, or the bullseye on an LTT-1 target.

Only hits in the 7, 8, 9 and 10 rings count. Rounds outside the 7 ring are misses.

All strings begin at Ready, gun pointed at the ground.

25 yards 5 rds 30 secs freestyle

15 yards 5 rds 15 secs freestyle

7 yards 10 rds Start with 5 in gun. Fire 5, reload, fire 5

all in 12 seconds, freestyle

5 yards 5 rds 5 secs freestyle

5 yards 3 rds 3 secs Dominant hand only

5 yards 2 rds 3 secs Non-dominant hand only

30 rounds total 300 points possible 270 or above to pass



PRINCIPLES OF ARMED MOVEMENT THROUGH TRANSITIONAL AREAS

By Steve Moses, Palisades Training Group

Many criminal assaults take place in transitional areas, which are those locations in which people move about when transitioning from one base of operations to another. Transitional areas might be defined as any area in which a concealed carrier might occupy that represents a bridge between a home base and a temporary destination. Examples of transitional areas are streets, highways, ATM machines, sidewalks, parking lots, parking garages, and gas stations. For instance, if I need to leave my house and drive to an office building or a grocery store, I will need to get in my car (which could be in a parking lot or parking garage if I live in an apartment or condominium), drive on a road, street, or highway, and park in a parking lot. From there I would walk to my destination and then literally retrace my path assuming that I did not need to stop off and get gasoline, which would require my spending more time in another transitional area.

The problem for concealed carriers in transitional areas is that it is common to be around people that they do not know and the fact that their ability to constantly manage the distance from other persons is compromised. It is common to me to be anywhere from four to thirty feet from others in transitional areas. How well can we manage our distance from others while grocery shopping, waiting to check out at Wal Mart, when seated in a restaurant, putting gasoline in our vehicle, or immediately after parking in a lot open to the public? The problem for concealed carriers in transitional areas is that the chances of encountering someone who might wish them harm for whatever reason (robbery, road rage, personal or political conflict, sexual assault, kidnapping, etc.) are much greater than they are in the home or office.

A typical assault in a transitional area involves four actions by the attacker. The attacker must see the target, the attacker must choose the target, the attacker must move in on the target, and finally the attacker must overwhelm the target through violence or threat of violence. Knowing this, concealed carriers whose overall goal is to avoid having to use force of any type in order to defend themselves may wish to consider adopting a personal self-defense strategy based upon the following principles in descending priority:

- Avoidance
- Deterrence
- De-Escalation/Disengagement
- Defend

While avoidance is also going to work the best, it only works if we wish to never step outside the confines of our locked home. In my opinion, the best way to not be selected as “prey” by another person or persons with bad intent is not only remain situationally aware within transitional areas but by constantly selecting positions within those areas that makes it difficult for us to be approached unseen, or if attacked more difficult to overcome. In other words, I want to see persons that might be a potential threat at the same time they see me or even earlier. Even if I do not immediately see and identify another person as a potential threat, I want them to write me off as a target because I am perceived as being too difficult to close on without my seeing them well before they are in position to successfully initiate their ambush. If closed upon I want to be in a position that I can continuously control the distance between the potential threat and myself. This might include increasing distance by leaving the area or maintaining the existing distance through a combination of movement, challenge, and, if necessary, the appropriate use of a defensive tool.

Principles of armed movement in transitional areas have much in common with the principles of “Defensive Driving.” It is really

nothing more than moving about in a manner based upon constant awareness and frequent positioning and re-positioning in order to safely manage identifiable hazards. Set out below are just a few of the principles that might be applicable to armed movement in transitional areas:

- Always watch angles, distance, and edges when moving about in public.
- Steer wide of blind corners, parking lot pillars, large objects, and even shrubbery or other visual obstructions.
- Check your left and right flanks when passing blind spots and entering and exiting buildings, rooms, and public bathrooms.
- Don't get trapped between two vehicles in a parking area when getting in and out of your car.
- Leave your cell phone alone when walking in transitional areas.
- When driving into parking lots look for suspicious persons.
- Choose the safest possible parking spots even if inconvenient.
- Look around when entering convenience stores, restaurants, etc.
- Do not tarry when returning to a vehicle in a public parking lot or area. Look around before opening the door, quickly load shopping items and children while frequently glancing around, then get into the vehicle and lock the door.
- Be aware that motorists have been followed home and robbed in their own driveways or forced to enter their homes at gunpoint. Concealed carriers should be no less aware of their surroundings when pulling up to the driveway than they were in public.
- Stand between the storefront and the front or rear of the vehicle when parked at the pumps and refilling with fuel.

If something does not look right, do not give it the benefit of the doubt. A concealed carrier who sees activity on the part of another

individual (or individuals) that differs from the norm will almost always be best served by immediately increasing their distance and defaulting to an existing script. A positive (for those who are predisposed to always see the glass as half-full) is that not only has the aggressor's intent been revealed but that it occurred at a greater distance.

TAC CON 2023

The 2023 Tactical Conference will be held on March 24-26, 2023, in Dallas, Texas. Tickets went on sale at 11:00am Tuesday, April 12, 2022, and were completely sold out at 11:00pm, Friday, April 15. That's three and a half days! If you dithered, we will be announcing Tac Con 2024 in April of 2023. Be prepared.



Inspection and Care of Self Defense Ammunition

Ammunition made in the US is of very high quality. American manufacturers, however, turn out tens of millions of rounds of ammunition each day. Any product that is made by the millions per day will suffer from defective, out of spec, or damaged specimens and these will find their way into the boxes shipped to your local dealer. Since you literally bet your life on your self defense ammo, it would be wise to inspect it and care for it properly.

Handguns, both revolvers and semi-automatic pistols, rely completely on quality, in spec ammunition to function. Here are just a few of the things we see go wrong frequently:

High Primer- the primer should be seated just below flush in the base of the cartridge. A “high primer” is one that protrudes above the base of the cartridge. In revolvers this can bind against the breech face, preventing rotation of the cylinder. In autos, this can keep the cartridge from sliding up under the extractor, and keep the slide from going into battery.

Inverted Primer- Occasionally we find a cartridge in which the primer was inserted backward. Obviously, that cartridge won't fire.

Damaged Rim- The extractor must grab the rim of the cartridge and pull it out of the chamber so it can be ejected. The rim should be uniform, and have no bends, tears, or burrs.

Damaged Case- The case may have a big dent in it, or the case mouth may have been caught by the bullet's base when the bullet was seated in the case, tearing the case mouth. These will often go into a magazine, but not feed into the pistol's chamber, causing a stoppage.

Bullets- We see bullets inserted backwards in the case (they won't feed), or loose in the case, or pushed back too deeply into the case. Bad ju-ju.

We see a lot of ammo fired every year and we see these deficiencies in every brand and type of handgun ammunition. Before you trust your life to ammunition, inspect it carefully for the problems described above. I suggest the following for ammo you will actually be carrying:

Visually inspect the primers carefully. Be sure every case has a primer, that the primer is seated fully, and the primer is not dented or damaged.

Visually, and by feel, check the rim for damage or burrs.

Visually check the case, especially the case mouth.

Visually check the bullets, then with only finger pressure make sure they are not loose in the case. You should not be able to move the bullet at all with your fingers.

One final step many knowledgeable shooters take is to remove the barrel from the semi-auto pistol and use it as a gauge for the cartridges. Holding the barrel pointed down, drop a round into the chamber. It should go all the way in easily and stop with the base of the case even with the barrel hood. Invert the barrel over a towel. The cartridge should fall out easily. You will have confidence that cartridges that have been subjected to this test will feed smoothly in your gun.

In addition to checking your defensive ammo, you must take care of it. This branches two ways: ammo you have on hand, for instance in your home; and ammo you are actually carrying in your gun or in spare magazines. Let's look at them separately.

You should have a reserve supply of 100-200 rounds, at least, of your chosen defensive load at home. This should be kept in the factory boxes it comes in. The dividers or trays in those boxes help protect the individual cartridges, and identification of the ammo is easier in its original box. These should be kept inside your home, not in the garage or a detached storage shed. In those environments, the temperature and humidity vary too much. In a closet inside your home, the ammo will last indefinitely. If you want to ensure long term viability, keep the ammo in metal GI ammo cans with a couple of packets of silica gel dessicant inside. Ammo stored inside your home in this manner is good for 50 years or more.

Once you start carrying ammo, its service life starts counting down rather quickly. Ammo carried on your person is subjected to temperature and humidity swings, gun oils and solvents, and wear from being loaded and unloaded. Ammo that is actually carried should be shot up in practice and replaced in no more than six months. Going longer than that is just begging for trouble. Ammo routinely carried is susceptible to two major issues, which are potentially disastrous.

First, American ammo is loaded with Boxer primers. These primers consist of a metal cup, and anvil, a pellet of priming compound, and a sealant. The primer pellet is trapped between the cup and anvil, so that when the firing pin or striker hits the cup, the pellet is crushed between the cup and anvil, igniting the cartridge.

Every time you chamber a cartridge in a semiautomatic firearm, the primer is subjected to impact by the breech face. Repeated strikes over time can cause the primer pellet to crumble. If it does, there is nothing between the cup and anvil to explode when the firing pin or striker hits, thus a misfired round. If you chamber the

same round twice, I urge you to remove it from carry status and put it with your practice ammo for the next range trip.

The other problem with loading/unloading is wear and tear on the bullet. When a round feeds up the ramp and into the barrel, the bullet takes a pretty solid impact. Doing this repeatedly can push the bullet back too deeply in its case. This compresses the powder charge and can result in dangerously high pressures (kaboom!).

Check your carry ammo before loading your gun or spare magazines with it, then replace the ammo every six months and you will prevent a lot of potentially serious problems down the road.



STUDENT INVOLVED SHOOTINGS

I am often asked, sometimes somewhat incredulously, how we managed to accumulate the number of student involved incidents we have over the years. The answer is quite simple.

I have been teaching since 1975, at first on a part-time basis. I taught a few days a month at a local range owned by someone else, and 3-4 classes on the road most years. In 1996, I opened my own range/training center in Memphis, and we began teaching classes 6-7 days a week, year round, for 18 years. During that 18 year period, we trained over 40,000 students at the home range, plus I was doing 7-9 road classes each year. At the home range, we taught 2-3 classes per week, every week, which added up to 1,800 to 2,500 students per year.

Memphis is a unique location, and is a perfect laboratory for an organization like Rangemaster. For those not familiar with Memphis, it is hard to comprehend the daily level of violence there. Let me try to make it easier. I will compare three cities' rates of violent interpersonal crime. These are Murder, Rape, Robbery, and Aggravated Assault. The following figures are from the FBI UCR report for 2018. In the table, the first number pertains to all violent crimes, the second number is Aggravated Assaults, specifically. The numbers represent one crime per this many people in that one year.

| CITY | VIOLENT CRIME | AGGRAVATED ASSAULT |
|-------------|-----------------------|---------------------------|
| Los Angeles | 1 per 133.8 residents | 1 per 236.9 residents |
| Chicago | 1 per 99.4 residents | 1 per 177.6 residents |
| Memphis | 1 per 51.5 residents | 1 per 72.9 residents. |

So, as you can see, the violent crime rate per capita in Memphis is 2.4 times that of Chicago and 3.2 times that of Los Angeles, both of which are thought of as high crime cities. Looking at some notes, here are some interesting stat's on justifiable homicides in Memphis:

- 2005 21 justifiable homicides, 3 by police, 18 by private citizens
- 2007 32 justifiable homicides, 5 by police, 27 by private citizens
- 2011 28 justifiable homicides, 4 by police, 24 by private citizens.

To my knowledge, no other US city has this many justifiable homicides.

In case you are wondering, I reference the number of Aggravated Assaults rather than the number of Murders, as Aggravated Assault rates give you a much more accurate picture of the level of violence in a community. Los Angeles, Chicago and Memphis all have very good trauma centers. If you get to one of those trauma centers even a little bit alive, the odds are better than 99% that you will survive. The number of Aggravated Assault cases gives you a better idea of how many times someone tried to kill someone else, without success.

We closed the range in Memphis in 2014 and moved to Florida, so I am no longer available for students to drop by my office and tell me about their experiences. I still, however, get a couple of reports each year. We have had students involved in shootings not just in Memphis, but elsewhere in Tennessee, in Mississippi, Georgia, Arkansas, Kentucky, Oklahoma, Texas, and Kansas, . Now that the range in Memphis is no more, I teach over 30 classes on the road each year, literally all over the US, so I expect that list of states to expand over time.

UPCOMING TRAINING EVENTS

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

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

July 15-17 Instructor Course , Top Gun, Memphis, TN (indoors)

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/three-day-firearms-instructor-development-course-tickets-147010936669>

July 22-24 Instructor Course, Royal Range, Nashville, TN (indoors)

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/three-day-firearms-instructor-development-course-tickets-158244502567>

Aug 5-7 Firearms Instructor, Shreveport, LA (indoors)

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/three-day-firearms-instructor-development-course-tickets-144277908107>

Aug 17 Defensive Shotgun, One Day, Xenia, OH

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/one-day-defensive-shotgun-course-tickets-158244761341>

Aug 18-20 Firearms Instructor, Xenia, OH

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/three-day-firearms-instructor-development-course-tickets-158245363141>

Aug 26-28 Firearms Instructor, Pittsburgh, PA

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/three-day-firearms-instructor-development-course-tickets-158247662017>

Sept 16-18 Instructor Course, Culpeper, VA

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/three-day-firearms-instructor-development-course-tickets-158247082283>

