



OCTOBER 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/> .

BASELINE ASSESSMENT DRILL, +P

Lee Weems designed a very useful target he designated the FPS-3. It can be printed on standard copy paper on your printer. See

<https://firstpersonsafety.com/2021/09/27/fps-3-target/> .

The circle at the top is 5.5" in diameter, the same as the "black" of a B-8 bullseye. Inside the circle is a 3X5 card, and inside it is a 3"X3" square. Below are two 3" circles, designated 1 and 2. We will score it as follows:

Hits inside the 3X5 card = 5 points.

Hits inside the circle around the 3X5, but not in the 3X5 count 4 points.

Hits in the 3" circles, 1 and 2, count for 5 points.

20 rounds total Possible score = 100

5 yards Draw and fire 5 rounds to the 3X5 in 5 seconds.

5 yards Start gun in hand, dominant hand only, to the 3X5, fire 3 rounds in 3 seconds.

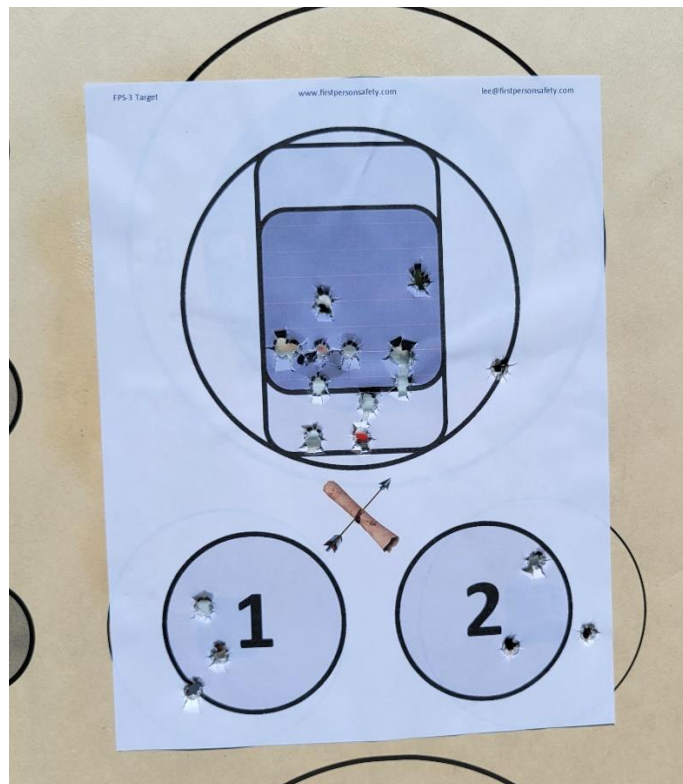
5 yards Start gun in non-dominant hand only, to the 3X5, fire 2 rounds in 3 seconds.

7 yards Start gun in hand, loaded with 3 rounds only. Fire 3 rounds to 1, conduct an empty reload, and fire 3 rounds to 2 all in 10 seconds

10 yards Start gun in hand, fire 4 rounds in 4 seconds to the 3X5.

All strings that say “gun in hand” start at The Ready, muzzle off target, pointed at the ground in front of the shooter until start signal.

I shot this drill cold to gauge its difficulty, and scored 94 out of 100. I missed the first shot after the reload. (“Even monkeys fall out of trees once in a while” – Ken Hackathorn) Give this drill a try. I believe it stresses the importance of a balance between speed and accuracy.



Annual Rangemaster Instructor Conference

“Instructors are like pencils. To remain useful, they must be sharpened periodically”.

One of the best ways to keep sharp as a trainer is to attend our annual instructor conference. This event is designed to serve as continuing education and in-service training for those who have graduated from one or more of our instructor development courses. In addition to being an outstanding networking opportunity, we have both classroom and range training over the course of two very busy days. This year, training will be conducted by Tom and Lynn Givens, Tiffany Johnson, Aqil Qadir, John Murphy, John Hearne, and Lee Weems. We'll be using an excellent Civic Center venue for the classroom portion and a nice outdoor range for the shooting. Weather in October should be perfect for training.

See this link for date/location and registration. This event is strictly limited to graduates of any Rangemaster instructor development course.

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/annual-rangemaster-instructor-conference-tickets-264941676687>



Range Costumes?

This is a matter of training philosophy I'd like to discuss. This refers to folks who wear to class or a practice session clothing, holsters, and other gear they would never use anywhere but on the range. This is a common practice, and one that has a lot of downsides.

Recently, a female student asked if she could wear a dropped and offset holster on a competition over-belt (worn over the pants belt) to an instructor class. This is a typical openly worn USPSA competition rig. My response was, "Would you even consider wearing that to the bank, or to the grocery store, or to Wal Mart?". Of course, the answer was No. It was, then, not acceptable for class.



I dress to go to class, whether I'm the trainer or a student, exactly the same as the way I dress 99 out of every 100 days. I take two identical Glock 17's to class. One is the example I wear every day for self-defense. The other is an exact duplicate- same grip reduction, same sights, same trigger. That is my practice/training gun. If I put them on a table side by side, the finish wear on the training gun would be your only clue as to which is which. I swap them out at the beginning and end of the training day.

When I switch the guns out, I don't change holster or magazine pouches. I just use my every day carry belt, holster, and magazine pouches. This gives me maximum value out of every minute of training or practice.

The entire purpose of training and practice is to build enough repetitions to ingrain an automated response, that is, proper action without conscious thought or effort. In my case, every presentation, every time I re-holster, every reload, and every shot fired is with a gear combination just like I'll be wearing on the Stop 'n Rob parking lot when the flag flies. Thus, I am getting maximum benefit from my training and practice.

If you work in class with a Glock 34 in an OWB holster, but carry a Glock 48 appendix the 99.9% of the time you are away from the range, you are setting yourself up for more problems on a day when you already have the biggest problem of your life. If you carry a Glock 48, fine, train with it. Remind yourself periodically why we wear a gun in the first place. It's not about looking good in class. It's about saving innocent life.





If you are taking a competition class for USPSA or 3 Gun matches, this rig is fine. However, openly wearing a race rig like this reduces a self defense oriented class to cosplay. Use the kind of gear you carry every day for self defense in a self defense oriented course.

On Being Deliberate

This is from my good friend and colleague, Dave Spaulding, of Handgun Combatives. Dave is a retired lawman with a storied career, an author, and a highly skilled trainer. Pay attention.

Deliberation [dih-lib-uh-rey-shuh n] noun

1. Careful consideration before decision.
2. Specific quality
3. a sureness of movement or action

Being deliberate is a concept that need to be emphasized in combative firearms training. In the age of “go fast”, few think of being SURE.

That said, I get it. Like most shooters in their youth, every action I undertook on the training range was about speed...fast on the draw, fast trigger action, fast reloads, fast manipulations...sound familiar? Yes, it probably does, as most of us could not help ourselves when we are/were young, we want to GO FAST...it seems to be the natural order of things, but is it wise? After all, is not the goal of shooting to hit? Not hope we hit?

Bat Masterson was once quoted as saying the three priorities of gunfighting were (in this order) 1. Deliberation 2. Accuracy 3. Speed. His good friend and fellow Dodge City Deputy Marshal Wyatt Earp was quoted as saying “the secret to winning a gun fight is taking your time in a hurry” and “the most important lesson I learned from those proficient gunfighters was the winner of gun play usually was the man who took his time.” Is taking your time and attempt to be sure? Could not taking your time be viewed as a deliberate act? Something one has to make happen? Earp went

on to clarify his statement, saying “Perhaps I can best describe such taking time as going into action with the greatest speed of which a man’s muscles are capable, but mentally unflustered by an urge to hurry or the need for complicated nervous muscular actions which trick-shooting involves. Mentally deliberate, but muscularly faster than thought is what I mean”.

The greatest speed of which a man’s muscles are capable. But mentally unflustered by an urge to hurry...sureness by deliberation...

Is speed important? Most certainly. But we should not let the electronic timer become our “master”, something I have seen continually over the decades. The history...over several centuries...has shown combative pistolcraft occurs close and fast, a few seconds in most cases, but at the same time it is accurate fire that ends the fight. (Unless, of course, the attacker just gives up which does happen...if only we could create a methodology to ensure this!)

What is accurate? In my mind, after many years of research, its multiple hits in a short time frame to vital areas of the body, areas defined as the high chest (approximately a 6” x 6” rectangle just below the neck to include the heart, aorta, major blood vessels and spinal column), neck and head. At the end of Handgun Combatives, I was using a 6 x 6 square, a 3 x 5 rectangle and a 3-inch square as my targets depending on body location. Fast AND accurate shots are necessary to end a close pistol fight, something that is often times difficult to achieve. After all, it’s easy to be either accurate or fast but not both at the same time and we have known for a long time the key to successful combative pistolcraft is the balance...blending actually...of speed and accuracy. Which brings us to “deliberation” ...

As you can see from the above definition, deliberation can mean different things; consideration, consultation, leisureliness of action, even possibly slowness...slowness?! We've already stated that speed is important when fighting for your life so how can we possibly be slow? Remember what Wyatt Earp said? "The secret to winning a gunfight is taking your time in a hurry!" WTH??!!

Speed and accuracy...blending and balance...which and when...you've all heard it," slow is smooth and smooth is fast." Smooth is fast, slow is just...well... slow. But deliberate is not the same as slow and that is worth considering...

Deliberation occurs long before the fight is undertaken in that we must all decide what is worth fighting and dying for? What is our "line in the sand"? Oftentimes we do not get time to ponder as situations are thrust upon us with little opportunity to "observe, orient, decide and act", we must "see and do" or we perish. In such cases, deliberation comes in the form of a combative mindset. In my old, worn out version of the Webster's Dictionary, mindset is defined as "a previous decision to act based on reason and intellect" while combative is defined as "ready and willing to fight". Thus, a combative mindset could reasonably be defined as "a previous decision to be ready and willing to fight". Not eager to fight mind you, as we always run the risk of losing, but willing to do so with great enthusiasm, if required. Doesn't this sound like the first definition listed above... "careful consideration before decision"? A deliberate act to be sure...

Ok, the fight has begun...isn't speed critical? Only if it does not lead to panic, via fear, which is oftentimes the result of an unexpected attack. Hell, any attack but certainly one we are not ready for. We have all seen or heard of examples of "panic fire", where a large volley of rounds are fired in the direction of a threat with little affect. As Dennis Tueller (the Tueller Drill creator) once stated, "If you don't think you have time to aim you certainly don't have time to miss!" Only accurate and effective fire will stop a

determined attack, which requires self-control when on the verge of panic...a deliberate act...or as Wyatt Earp described, “taking you time in a hurry”.

After all, speed is not herky, jerky, spastic muscle manipulation, **it is lack of unnecessary motion** (smooth is fast!), something that must be trained in through deliberate training activity and repeated, meaningful practice. It takes time, effort, energy, ammo and commitment to incorporate such self-control into our being and most will not know if they have it until they are in the fight. That said it is still worth the effort required to try and build in (anchor) such a response. Prepared will always be better than not prepared. Yes, luck is a factor but the harder I have worked, the luckier I seem to have gotten and having faced such tests in my life, I know deliberate training and preparation works.

Fear is the single biggest factor in why people fail in armed conflict, yet we have known since the days of The Spartans that **the single biggest factor in overcoming fear is confidence in our skills**. Controlling fear through training, education and preparation is a deliberate act...

Yep, Bat Masterson had it right; deliberation, accuracy and speed...but is one more important than the others? It sounds to me that deliberation occurs **throughout** the combative process...before, during and after... and being deliberately accurate and fast in a gunfight is not the same as bulls eye shooting or just throwing rounds quickly. Deliberation is a process...a lifestyle commitment, really...as it occurs constantly and must be continually nurtured. Something to consider...

Time Marches On, Whether We Like It or Not

In just the past few years the training community has lost a staggering amount of experience and expertise. Death took

from us Louis Awerbuck, Pat Rogers, Jim Cirillo, Todd Green, Paul Gomez, Chuck Taylor, William Aprill, Ron Avery, James Yeager, and Ed Head. In addition, master trainers Ken Hackathorn and Dave Spaulding retired from active teaching.

In every case, people said to me, “I really meant to train with him, but I never got around to it. Now it’s too late”. There are seven days in a week. Someday is not one of them. Plan accordingly.

BLOOD IN THE STREETS

Every time there is a new law or a Supreme Court decision that loosens restrictions on the ability of regular citizens to carry guns in public, there is the predictable outcry from the Left that “there will be blood in the streets!”. This, despite the fact that concealed carry programs have been in effect in most states since the 1980’s and 1990’s, that fully half of the states now allow concealed carry without a permit (25 states as of July 2022), and that there are over 21 million people in the US with a carry permit. You’d think that often cited blood would be flowing by now! The truth is, permit holders are among the most law abiding and least troublesome members of American society.

Take my state, Florida, for example. Florida has a population of

20,200,000 people (20.2 million). As of June 30,2022, there were 2,547,522 residents with carry permits (2.54 million). Thus, 12.6% of the state's population has a carry permit. There are very rarely any problems caused by these permit holders. In fact, from July1,2020 to June 30, 2021, in that entire year only 1,050 permits were revoked. That is .0004% (4 per 10,000). I don't think these folks are the problem.

UPCOMING TRAINING EVENTS

Oct 22-23 Annual Instructor Conference

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/annual-rangemaster-instructor-conference-tickets-264941676687>

Nov 18-20 Instructor Development, Reevesville, SC

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/three-day-firearms-instructor-development-course-tickets-162124521809>

Dec 3-4 Advanced Instructor Development, Buford, GA (Atlanta) (indoor range complex) **sold out**

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<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/advancedfirearms-instructor-development-course-tickets-275270550627>

Homestead, FL Jan 20-22 Instructor (pistol)

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/three-day-firearms-instructor-development-course-tickets-291780472247>

Nashville, TN Jan 27-29 Defensive Shotgun Instructor

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/defensive-shotgun-instructor-development-course-tickets-328467022707> **(indoors)**

Ruskin, FL Feb 3-4 Fri-Sat Combative Pistol

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/combative-pistol-skills-tickets-290915816037>

2nd Amendment News

This was written by Karim Manassa, a Rangemaster certified instructor and talented trainer. This is an update and commentary on a couple of recent landmark Supreme Court decisions and how they affect our rights.

The 2nd Amendment to the United States Constitution (2A) is entering a golden age thanks to four recent watershed decisions by the Supreme Court of the United States (SCOTUS) that effectively neutered the Executive and Legislative branches in terms of past, present, and future gun control. Indeed, even the lower courts of the Judicial branch have been reprimanded and task directed in how they should handle 2A cases. This primer summarizes these four SCOTUS decisions so the reader has a better overall understanding of why gun control is dead.

2008 District of Columbia versus Heller

<https://www.supremecourt.gov/opinions/07pdf/07-290.pdf>

Heller is where it all began, when the plaintiff sued the city over their draconian pistol laws. Key points from this decision include:

- ⇒ **This was a 2A gun rights case.**
- ⇒ **The decision affirmed an individual right to keep (own) and bear (carry) firearms.**
- ⇒ **The decision declared the prefatory clause (“A well regulated Militia being necessary to the security of a free State, . . .”) neither expands nor limits the operative clause (“ . . . the right of the people to keep and bear Arms, shall not be infringed.”)**
- ⇒ **The decision clarified the 2A applies to firearms in common use.**

The impact of this decision was immense because it destroyed many anti-gun arguments ranging from: “the 2A only applies to the military” to “assault weapons are not protected by the 2A” to “you don’t have the right to carry in public.”

The key takeaway with Heller, however, is that it laid the ground work for what was to come over the next 14 years.

2010 McDonald versus City of Chicago

<https://www.supremecourt.gov/opinions/09pdf/08-1521.pdf>

McDonald expanded the Heller case from only applying to Federal jurisdictions, because Heller was based in D.C., to the states. Key points from this decision include:

- ⇒ **This was a 14A equal protection case.**
- ⇒ **The decision affirmed Heller.**

- ⇒ The decision incorporated the 2A to the states under the 14A's equal protection clause.

The impact of this decision was another massive one because for the first time in history, the 2A was incorporated to the states just like many other amendments including the first, fourth, fifth, sixth, and eighth. Now, states and municipalities had to respect the 2A and the findings in the Heller case.

2022 New York State Rifle & Pistol Association vs. Bruen

https://www.supremecourt.gov/opinions/21pdf/20-843_7j80.pdf

While on the surface this case appeared to be merely about concealed carry in public and how “may issue” permit schemes in New York and 7 other states were violating the right to bear arms, this case has immensely broader impact and is the death knell to gun control. Key points from this decision include:

- ⇒ This was a 2A gun rights case.
- ⇒ The decision re-affirmed and expanded through clarification both Heller and McDonald.

For example, not only did it double down that the 2A applies to firearms in common use (such as the AR-15), but also clarified that if a particular weapon is not in common use due to prior gun control regulations then that weapon is not to be considered outside of common use.

Fully automatic weapons are a perfect example of this. Full auto is not in common use because sales of newly manufactured full autos were banned under Ronald Reagan's signing of the McClure-Volkmer Act in 1986 (aka the National Firearms Owners Protection Act). Thus, according to this 2022 SCOTUS decision, full autos should not be penalized because they are not in common use due to prior gun control.

⇒ The decision included very specific instructions to the lower courts on how all current and future 2A/14A cases should be decided.

From the time between 2010 and 2022, lower courts who were hostile to the 2A unilaterally developed a two step threshold when deciding cases. This two step system was suggested in the losing Minority opinion from the Heller case, and these hostile lower courts decided to follow this Minority opinion instead of the Majority opinion. Simply put, we have liberal activist judges hostile to the 2A in the lower courts.

These two steps that had been used for the past 12 to 14 years were:

- 1) Did the current claim align with the Heller decision, the McDonald decision, legal tradition, and history; and
- 2) When weighed against public safety, public policy, and the public good, did the claim still have merit, or would it negatively impact the “greater good.”

Fortunately, this 2022 NYSRPA v Bruen ruling threw out the totally subjective and ambiguous step 2 and directed lower courts to only use Step 1. The logic behind this was twofold: first, step 2 was too open to abuse and had been abused time and time again over the past 14 years; and second, in the United States civil rights trump public safety legally, historically, and culturally as repeatedly witnessed by the 1A, 4A, 5A, 6A, and 8A.

⇒ It should be noted that in all three SCOTUS decisions, the court did uphold background checks, concealed carry permits, and denial of 2A rights to certain individuals such as convicted felons.

The impact of this ruling cannot be understated!

1. **This ruling effectively kills all new gun control.** The Legislative branch can pass all the gun control laws it wants, and the Executive branch can issue all the executive orders it wants, but both are “dead on arrival” because as soon as they are challenged in court they will be shot down if they violate Heller, McDonald, or Bruen. If for some reason a lower court wants to rule incorrectly, then SCOTUS is ready to take up the case.

What this also means is if any new gun control is being offered, that the people offering it are acting in bad faith and simply virtue signaling as they know it will never stick.

2. **This ruling effectively kills most existing gun control, including NFA.** We are already seeing magazine and assault weapon bans being unenforceable and dismissed because of Bruen. *It is my prediction that over the next 10 years we will see enough court cases and challenges to gun control that most magazine and AW bans will be gone, there will be “shall issue” carry in every state (if that state is not already Constitutional Carry), and NFA’s tax scheme will be rescinded just like poll taxes were from the Jim Crow era.*

TAC CON TRAINER PROFILE, CHUCK HAGGARD

Chuck retired from the Topeka, Kansas, police department after over 28 years of service. During his career he was assigned to patrol, FTO duties, SWAT, Watch Commander, and as a firearms instructor. He has been a regular presenter at Tac Con for over a decade.

Chuck’s training and education includes the Rangemaster firearms instructor development system, achieving Master Instructor status. He is an NRA Law Enforcement Firearms Instructor, and is an adjunct trainer with Strategos International. Chuck has trained at the Surefire Institute, Lethal Force Institute (Ayooob), IALEFI conferences, and many other schools. He is a

National Trainer with the National Law Enforcement Training Center, and he is certified as an instructor in firearms, empty hands skills, low light techniques, OC, baton and Taser. In fact, Chuck is one of the few national trainers who conducts OC, baton and Taser training for private citizens, not just police.

Chuck now operates Agile Consulting, with classes available all over the US. For more information, see agiletactical.com .



Chuck is one of the few trainers who offers an OC Instructor course for private citizens.