



DECEMBER 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/> .

EASTRIDGE DRILL

Bryan Eastridge is an Oklahoma City peace officer with over 20 years on the job and an experienced trainer. He is a Rangemaster certified pistol instructor. Eastridge designed this drill, which I think has a lot going for it in just 15 rounds. Bryan specified an IDPA target, but any target with an 8" circle in the chest and an ocular window in the head will work. Only hits in the 8" circle and the head circle count.

All strings have a 2.5 second par time.

Can be started from ready (easiest), open carry (medium), or concealed carry (harder). That allows one to make the drill progressively harder as your skills develop. When you can shoot it clean under the par time from The Ready, do it from the holster.

25 yards, 1 head shot

15 yards, 2 body shots

10 yards, 3 body shots

7 yards 2 body 1 head

5 yards 3 body 1 head

5 yards 2 body shots strong hand only

15 rounds total

Score is number of hits in the -0 rings. Overtime shots do NOT count. Your goal is all 15 in the rings.

I tried this completely cold, from The Ready. I got 14 out of 15 hits. My head shot from 25 yards was in

the head, but outside the -0 circle. Oh, well... Give it a try and see if you can do better.



Bryan Eastridge, former Army Ranger, long time cop, all around good guy.

A New EDC Pistol?

I wear very casual clothing the vast majority of the time. In fact, 99% of the time I'm dressed exactly like I dress for class: khaki pants and a fishing shirt or polo shirt with the tail out. This allows me to carry a full size Glock 17 as my EDC. On the three or four days a year that I wear a suit or sports coat, I feel the need for a smaller, but still capable pistol. For the past couple of years, that has meant a Glock 48 spiffed up by Boresight Solutions in Miami.

Recently, I acquired a SIG P365 Macro to experiment with. I was intrigued by the idea of 18 shots of 9mm in a smaller, flatter package, specifically for suit wear. My main concern with the Macro was the 3.1" barrel. According to my chronograph, this cost roughly 100 feet per second of velocity with carry ammo, something I was not happy about. The shorter sight radius also reduced my 25 yard accuracy beyond the amount I'm happy with. So, back to the drawing board.



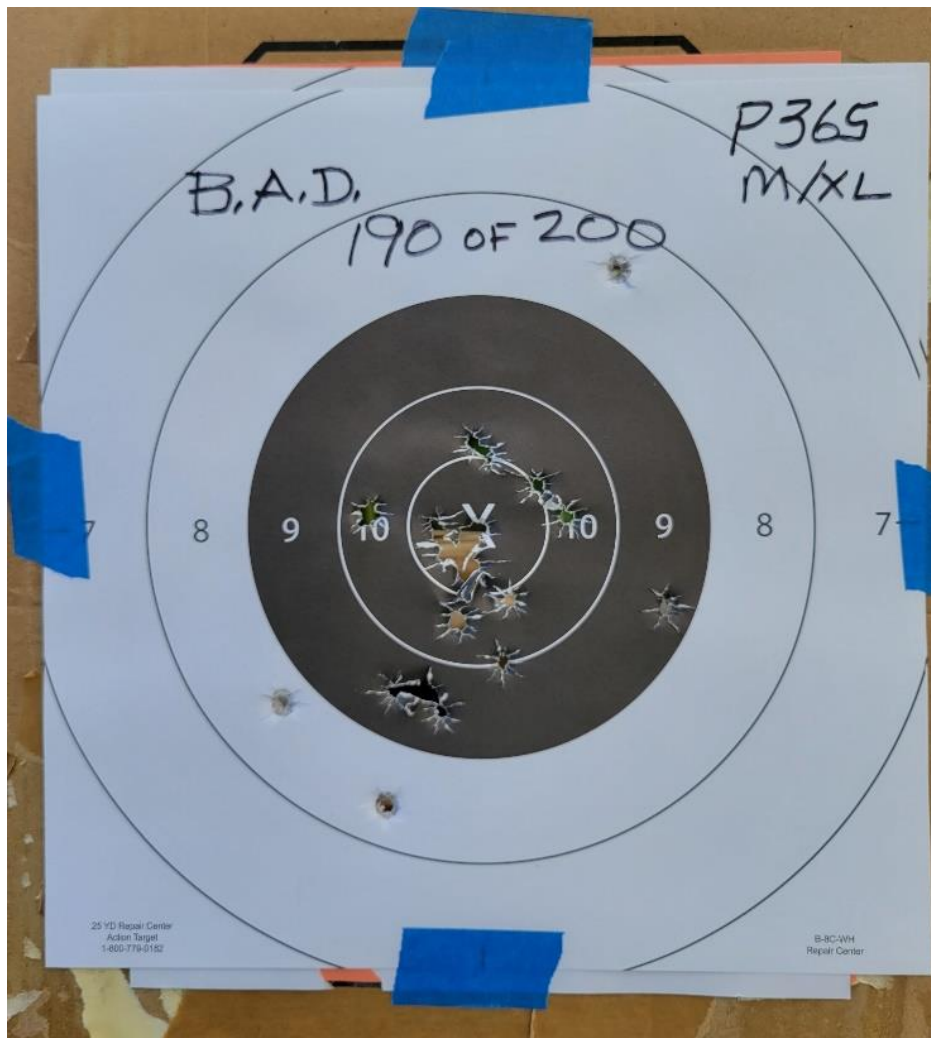
Glock 17 (left) and Macro/XL P365 (right)

Both hold 18 shots of 9mm

I acquired a P365 XL, which has a 3.7" barrel and a longer sight radius than the Macro. I took the slide from the XL and put it on the Macro frame. Outstanding! Now I have an 18 shot compact with a 3.7" barrel.

I have taken this combination to the range several times now, and put 1,000 rounds of practice and carry ammo through it, with zero malfunctions. It is quite comfortable to shoot, is fairly accurate, and so far it looks like a winning combination.

Cold, first shots out of the new gun, I shot 190 out of 200 on the Baseline Assessment Drill. That's 95%. I then shot the Rangemaster Bullseye Course, scoring 267 out of 300 (89%). My score would have been much better, but I discovered the original sights on the gun shoot 5-6 inches low for me at 25 yards. That's where most of my points were dropped. Next, the Five Yard Round-Up, scoring 97 out of a possible 100.



I then shot the Protective Pistolcraft Instructor Development Course qualification with the little gun. I scored 98 out of 100, and again the 25 yard shots caused my dropped points. I think this is quite good for a compact pistol. Since then, I have changed the front sight from a #6 to a #8. This made the POA/POI much closer. On my last range trip with it, I shot 283 on the bullseye course (94.3%), and 190 out of 200 (95%) on the Baseline Assessment Drill, which is darned good with a compact pistol. Stay tuned for more developments.



Best Practices, by Dan Brady of Apache Solutions

In policing, there's been a list of "Best Practices" with regard to officer safety for decades. The purpose being to give officers an outline to follow in training while establishing officer safety habits that should last an entire career with minimal training upkeep. So, while there are tons of articles and YouTube videos on different aspects of everyday carry gear and to a lesser extent mindset, there's not much available from reliable sources for a quick reference guide to best practices for the everyday armed citizen.

What I want to encapsulate here is a quick set of guidelines to reference as you start or expand on a personal security journey. This will not be an exhaustive list and I'll avoid recommending brands, people or other specific resources as much as possible while still giving you a framework to validate gear, people, and resources.

1. [Avoid, Evade, Escape, Deter.](#)

Using defensive force of any kind carries with it inherent risk. No matter how skilled you are, there is always a risk that you lose. Even when you win, there is a risk of legal proceedings that may or may not turn out in your favor. You will win every fight you don't engage in. Leave your ego at home. Detering someone intent may take some verbal engagement. Cops get "Verbal Judo" training, it would be wise to seek similar education. You're unlikely to be as eloquent as usual under duress.

2. [Have a usable level of fitness.](#)

There is always room for improvement but if you can't sprint 100 yards, run up three flights of stairs, do 25 push-ups without stopping or grapple for 1 minute. You absolutely do not have an acceptable level of fitness. The less fit you are the lower your chances are of prevailing in any stressful set of events. Also, heart disease and obesity kill way more people than violent felons. Be wise and get a little more fit.

3. [Carry an intermediate force option.](#)

Having something available for using force that falls "in between a harsh

word and a handgun" is probably wise. For most people, in most instances, the most useful option is pepper spray. There are a couple manufacturers that make quality, low profile, carry friendly, effective pepper spray canisters. Get one and get some training on its use.

4. Get some empty hand training.

Self-defense is not strictly about the use of tooled force. Being able to use your body to aid in defending yourself is crucial. In addition to technical skills gained, having a familiarity with physical problem solving in real time, with real opponents, even in a safe training environment, is a skill whose importance cannot be overstated. Brazilian Jiu Jitsu, Boxing, Wrestling, and Muay Thai are recognized as highly effective by most trainers.

5. Carry a quality, effective, reliable firearm.

Opinions vary on what make and caliber are "best". However, there are manufacturers that have long standing reputations for quality, reliability and accessibility at a reasonable price, start there. Gun store clerks are there to make sales NOT help assure your personal security. The vast majority of them are not subject matter experts, so be cautious about taking their advice. Generally speaking, firearm price is related to quality control. Most quality handguns cost \$450 or more for the most basic model. If you're buying cheaper than that, you're venturing into more risk. When it comes to ammunition, select one that passes the FBI duty ammunition testing protocols. Say what you want about the FBI, no other organization on the planet does more pistol ballistics testing than they do. Make certain the ammunition you select is accurate and reliable in your chosen gun and then carry it as close to 100% of the time as possible.

6. Buy quality holsters.

A good holster should be: Reasonably Comfortable, Completely Concealable, Secure, and Provide Fast Access from any position your body might be in (standing, seated, supine, etc.) A good belt and a gun specific holster that completely covers the trigger and trigger guard and retains its shape when the gun is removed is of critical importance. True everyday carry is not as simple as buying a cheap holster online and

slapping it on your regular belt. Understanding the principles of concealment will make the adaptation of carrying a gun daily much quicker, more comfortable and less expensive by reducing the number of holsters you end up trying out.

7. Carry a pocket light

A pocket flashlight is an incredibly useful tool for everyday tasks, it is a necessity for anyone taking personal security seriously. There is a great deal of internet debate as to the need for a weapon mounted light on an EDC firearm and there are pros and cons to them. There is no debate on the legal and moral requirement to have a positive target identification for self-defense, which under many circumstances will require artificial lighting, the light on your cell phone is not sufficient or ergonomic enough for this task. Quality pocket lights that provide sufficient lumens and candela can be found in the \$75 range and up. Certain manufacturers even within this price range have had catastrophic failures causing injury and even death, due diligence is advised.

8. Get training and practice.

Yes those are two different things. Training is the acquisition or improvement of a physical skill under the direction of a trainer, teacher, instructor, or coach. Practice is the concentrated repetition of those skills to build a pathway to automaticity, often on one's own. There are any number of tests and standards within the self-defense shooting community that have objective relevance to life saving abilities. Instructors you train under should be able to articulate why the standard or test they use for measurement is relevant.

9. Locate vetted resources for more information.

The problem is not locating information, the problem is identifying a resource as reputable to obtain quality, helpful information. We are awash in information from all manner of people who market themselves as experts, but many of them are not. Proven sources of quality information will reference where their information came from and be able to articulate why their information or technique is important and/ or relevant.

10. Basic medical training is important.

You're more likely to use medical training to save a life or make an impactful difference in someone's survivability in dire circumstances than you are to use a firearm to do the same. Learn CPR, take a "Stop the Bleed" type class and carry a tourniquet at a minimum.

11. Don't advertise your armed status.

Don't open carry. Don't put gun stickers on your vehicle. Don't wear gun branded clothing. Don't have visible gun racks in your vehicle. Don't use your car as a holster. Yes, there are awesome pieces of gear to show off, funny slogans on tee shirts and hoodies, and the patriotic desire to support and defend the second amendment. Do it with your friends at the range or competition or in the game lands and with your vote at the polls.

12. Have quality legal representation available.

If the terrible and unavoidable circumstances arise that you must physically defend yourself, especially with deadly force, even when you win, your troubles might just be starting. Have immediate access to quality legal representation that has experience with self-defense law. This might be a familiar family attorney or one of the popular self-defense insurance programs that are available throughout most of the country. Understand that even basic representation in legal self-defense matters can cost tens of thousands or hundreds of thousands of dollars.

There are thousands, probably tens of thousands of books, articles, videos, training classes, and subject specific schools that cover each of these major points in a breadth and depth it is impossible to see the end of. There are in subject nuances to each of these that could nearly be another bullet point unto themselves. There are also times and circumstances that violating some of these best practices is the thing to do under that specific circumstance and for a specific reason but you'll need to get a fair way down the path to start differentiating what those circumstances might be for you.



Daniel P. Brady, Apache Solutions LLC

Crime Trends

Per Gallup (October 2021), there is a big increase in the criminal victimization of urban households in 2021, 30 percent compared to 22 percent in 2020. Seven percent of urban residents were violently victimized compared to 3% of U.S. adults. The majority of Americans live in urban areas.

The collective data (urban crime victimization-computer crime) indicates a growing crime problem for at least half of American households, [Gallup](#).

Per The Latest Crime Reports From The FBI

Per 2020 FBI final statistics released in September 2021, the number of homicides increased nearly 30% from 2019, the largest single-year increase the agency has recorded since it began tracking these crimes in the 1960s. There were more than 21,500 murders last year, a total not seen since the mid-1990s.

In 2020, violent crime was up 5.6 percent from the 2019 number. The estimated number of aggravated assault offenses rose 12.1 percent, and the volume of murder and nonnegligent manslaughter offenses increased 29.4 percent.

Safe Places?

Collierville, TN, is a quiet suburb of Memphis, with just under 50,000 residents in the far east of the county. It is very well policed, with over 100 police officers, a lot for a town that size, augmented by the Shelby County Sheriff's Office. It is where Lynn and I lived until six years ago when we moved to Florida.

On September 23, 2021, an evil person shot at least 13 people, at least one fatally, at the Kroger supermarket right in the middle of town. Predictably, everyone was "shocked" that this could happen in a quiet, "safe" suburb. The truth is, one should not be shocked.

I have two students who were forced to shoot criminal attackers in Collierville in separate incidents. Another student's wife was abducted from the Sonic in Collierville at high noon on a Saturday in front of 41 witnesses. She was taken to a rural area, beaten to death and dumped in a ditch, all because three teenage thugs wanted her car.

The simple truth is, you are not "safe" because you are in this geographic location or that one. Anywhere there are people there is a potential for violence. You are safe wherever you make yourself safe, by being armed, trained, and aware. No matter how well policed an area, no one can come in time to save you. You have to be your own first responder.

Rangemaster's Combative Pistol Course is our two day ground level course, intended to prepare students to safely and effectively carry a handgun for self defense. Marksmanship and gunhandling techniques are covered on the range, with tactical and mindset issues addressed in the classroom. Each student will fire about 550 rounds of ammunition in two fast-paced days. This course is also an excellent way to prepare for our Firearms Instructor Development Course and ensure that you excel in it.

In 2023, these courses will be taught by Aqil Qadir. Aqil is a retired police officer who has been training police officers and citizens since 1993. He has been on the Rangemaster staff since 2009, and is a Rangemaster Master Instructor and Defensive Shotgun Instructor. In addition, he has been certified as an instructor by the NRA Law Enforcement Division, DTI (Farnam) YFA (Awerbuck), New York state, and others. He has trained extensively with Massad Ayoob, Southnarc, Wayne Dobbs, TDI, Gabe White, and many others.

If you would like to host one of these courses in 2023, we are setting them up now. Contact me at rangemaster.tom@gmail.com to work out the hosting details.



2023 Training Schedule

Tom Givens will be the lead instructor for all classes except Terre Haute, IN (Lee Weems) and Combative Pistol Skills courses (Aqil Qadir).

Memphis, TN Jan 6 Defensive Revolver

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/defensive-revolver-course-tickets-401429224617>

Memphis, TN Jan 7-8 Advanced Instructor

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/advanced-instructor-development-course-tickets-401425513517>

Homestead, FL Jan 20-22 Instructor (pistol)

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

**Terre Haute, IN Jan 20-22, Instructor (pistol),
Lee Weems will be teaching this one **sold out****

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/firearms-instructor-development-course-tickets-393789002507>

Nashville, TN Jan 27-29 Defensive Shotgun Instructor

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

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

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

KCMO area Feb 24-26, 2023 Instructor Pistol

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/three-day-firearms-instructor-development-course-tickets-196233117537>

**Hermitage, TN (Nashville) Feb 25-26, 2023 Combative
Pistol Skills brand new indoor range**

(Aqil Qadir)

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/combative-pistol-skills-tickets-467963811357>

Ruskin, FL Mar 9-11 Thur-Sat Instructor(pistol)

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/three-day-firearms-instructor-development-course-tickets-290920429837>

Tac Con March 24-26 Dallas **sold out**

Bandera, TX Mar 31-Apr 2 Master Instructor

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/master-firearms-instructor-development-course-tickets-291074159647>

KR Training, TX Apr 27 Def Shotgun, one day

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/one-day-defensive-shotgun-course-tickets-291819629367>

KR Training, TX Apr 28-30 Instructor, pistol

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/three-day-firearms-instructor-development-course-tickets-291824203047>

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/master-firearms-instructor-development-course-tickets-275274422207>

White Hall, AR Aug 12-13 Instr Reunion/Conference

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/annual-instructor-reunionconference-tickets-450527238097>

McLoud, OK Aug 18-20 Shotgun Instructor

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/three-day-defensive-shotgun-instructor-development-course-tickets-291814323497>

Sept 23-24 Dallas Pistol Club, Dallas, TX (Aqil Qadir)

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/combative-pistol-skills-tickets-465453954307>

XENIA, OH Sept 22-23 Advanced Instructor

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/advanced-firearms-instructor-course-tickets-405956987277>

Culpeper, VA Sept 29- 1 Oct Instructor, pistol

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/three-day-firearms-instructor-development-course-tickets-275276408147>

White Hall, AR Oct 14-18 P.P. Instructor, 5 day

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/protective-pistolcraft-instructor-development-course-5-days-tickets-291828445737>

Nashville, TN Nov 10-12 Instructor pistol

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/three-day-firearms-instructor-development-course-tickets-291812929327>

JOHNSTON, IA NOV 18-19 Advanced Instructor

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/advanced-firearms-instructor-development-course-tickets-381473165507>

**Nashville, TN Dec 8-10 Professional Pistolcraft
Instructor**

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/professional-pistolcraft-instructor-tickets-456542981347>

TAC CON Trainer Profile, Lee Weems

Lee Weems has been a peace officer since January of 1999 and has served as a patrol officer, field training officer, detective, supervisor, three terms as Chief Deputy, and currently as an agency training director. He has been sworn at the local, state, and federal levels, and he is an adjunct instructor on the collegiate level. He served two terms on the Board of Directors of the *Georgia Association of Law Enforcement Firearms Instructors* (GALEFI) and is certified by GALEFI as a Master Firearms Instructor. He is certified by the *Georgia Peace Officer Standards and Training Council* (POST) as a general topics and firearms instructor and is a graduate of the FBI's Law Enforcement Instructor and Police Firearms Instructor training programs. He received the Distinguished Weapons Expert rating based on his score in the Federal Law Enforcement Training Centers' Firearms Instructor Training Program. He holds a Master Instructor certification from *Rangemaster*, and he is a *Handgun Combatives* Certified instructor.

A more complete biography is available on the [First Person Safety webpage](#).

Lee has been a member of the Rangemaster staff cadre for many years. He is a Force Science Institute graduate and he has trained with Ken Hackathorn, Dave Spaulding, John Farnam, the Rogers School, Gabe White, and many other national schools/instructors.



From everyone at Rangemaster, Merry Christmas and a happy and prosperous New Year!