



JAN 2023 NEWSLETTER

DRILL OF THE MONTH

Throughout 2023 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/> .

ARMADA STANDARDS

My personal vehicle is a Nissan Armada, which is 18 feet long. This entire drill is to be shot at 18 feet (6 yards), the length of my vehicle. This is an incredibly common engagement distance in real life defensive shootings.

Target- B8, B8-C or FBI-IP1. Scored as printed, except anything further out than the 7 ring is zero points.

Hit factor scoring- record the time for each string. Total points divided by total time = score.

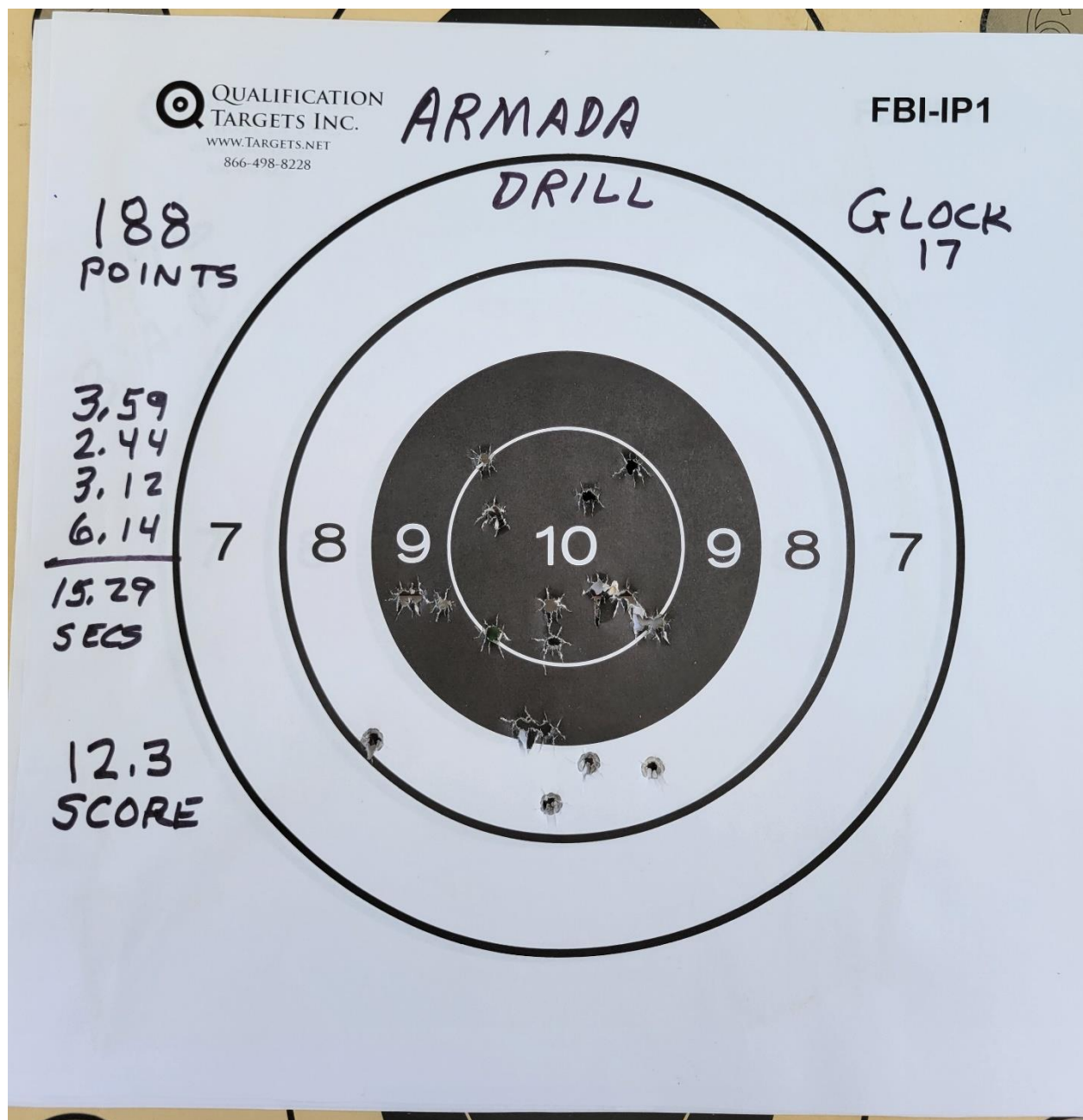
Both hands, draw and fire 6 rounds.

Start at Ready, gun in dominant hand. Dominant hand only, 4 rounds.

Start at Ready, gun in non-dominant hand. Non-dominant hand only, fire 4 rounds.

Start with 4 rounds in the gun, holstered. On signal draw, fire 4 rounds, reload immediately, and fire 2 more rounds, using both hands.

20 rounds total. 200 raw points possible. Par score is 8. Your goal is a score higher than 8, the higher the better.



My Favorite Snub, by Tom Givens

I own a number of revolvers, including hunting guns, service revolvers in 4", 5", and 6" barrel lengths, and several snubs. My favorite is a well worn Model 12 "Airweight" K frame .38 Special with a few personal touches. This, to me, is the ultimate snub.

Right after World War II, the US military was briefly interested in lighter weight handguns. This led Colt to come up with the Lightweight Commander, an aluminum framed, slightly more compact version of the Government Model. This gun, along with several others, were submitted for trials, but the Army decided that 3.5 million 1911's in inventory made a handgun switch undesirable. Colt went commercial with the gun, and it is still in production today.

As part of this project, Colt introduced the Cobra in 1950. This was an aluminum framed version of the old faithful Detective Special, and it immediately became a success commercially. The Air Force, looking for ever lighter equipment for crews of the newfangled jet aircraft, asked for a super lightweight revolver. Colt responded with the "Aircrewman" revolver, essentially a Cobra with an aluminum cylinder, dropping the gun's weight to a mere 11 ounces. Smith & Wesson countered with an all aluminum version of the M&P. Both the Colt and the S&W were scrapped, due to problems with the aluminum cylinders. Even with very low powered ammo, the aluminum cylinders were subject to cracking and failure, so most of these guns were recalled and destroyed.

Smith and Wesson decided to offer the gun with an aluminum frame but steel cylinder to the public in 1954, and it instantly became a hit with detectives and others who wanted a lighter weight revolver that still held six shots and

had a grip frame large enough to get a proper grip on. The new gun was called the Military & Police Airweight. In 1957, the model numbering system came on board, and the revolver was designated the Model 12.

The Model 12 has been offered in several variations, including 2" and 4" barrels, and either round butt or square butt configuration. I own several, and I really like them. One of my favorites is a 4" barrel, round butt model. The action has been slicked up, and a red ramp front sight insert installed. There is also a bright horizontal line beneath the red ramp insert, for longer range. This gun sports an old Pachmayr grip adaptor and factory stocks, and is a great carry gun.

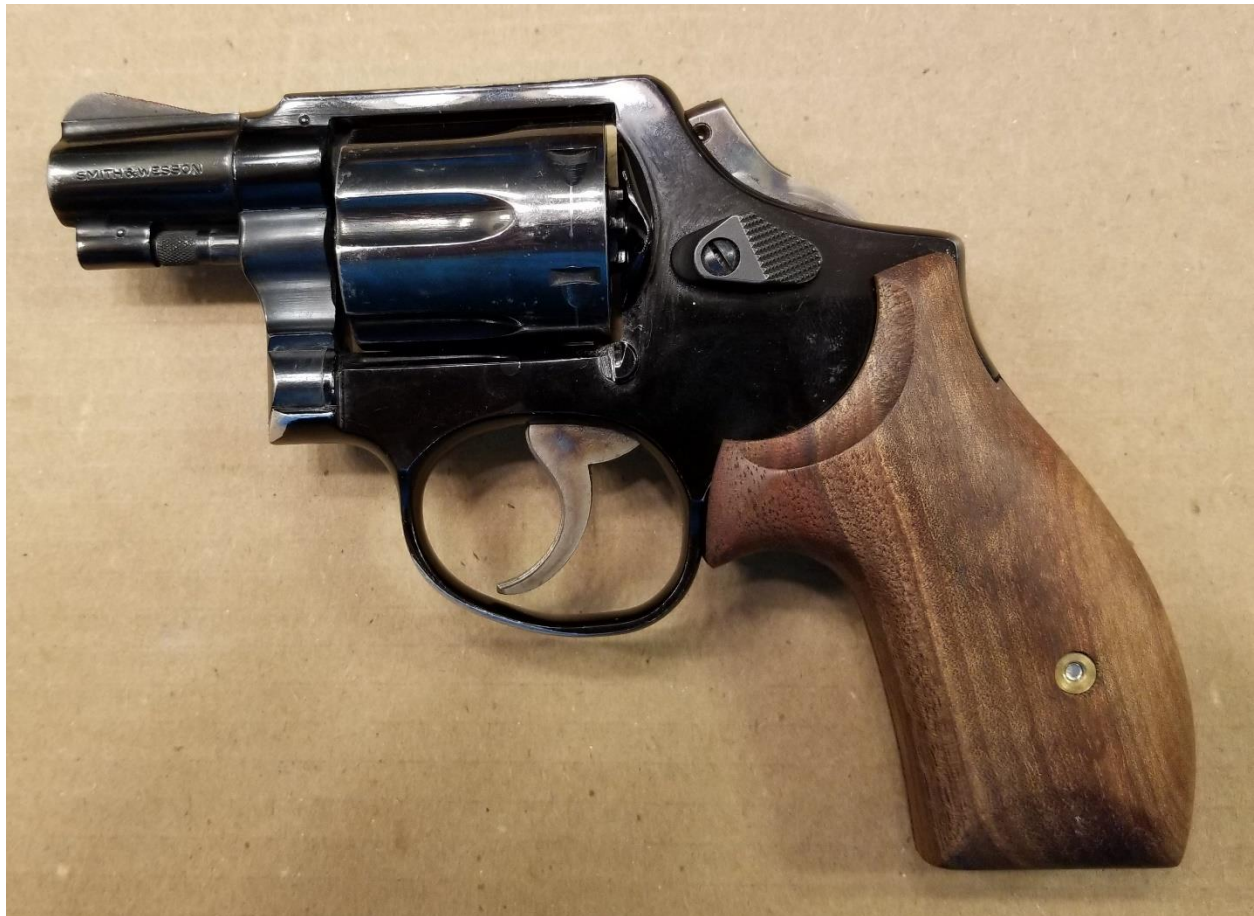
My real favorite, though, is a slightly customized 2" round butt specimen. It sports Grashorn American elk antler stocks and a Tyler grip adaptor. The action has been slicked up, and converted to double-action only. The chamber mouths are slightly chamfered, to ease reloading, and the cylinder latch has been replaced with one that clears speedloaders. At 19 ounces, this little gem weighs less than a steel frame Chief's Special, but holds 6 shots and has sights I can see. It actually shoots like a service revolver, but with a very compact, lightweight, handy sidearm. Mine shoots Federal Gold Match wadcutters extremely well, right to the sights, so that is what I feed it.

(continued below)



The Model 12 has gone through some evolution during its long production history. A couple of the changes were very beneficial, so if you find a later production sample you'll have the very best in this type of revolver. In 1962, the front sight was changed from the old, narrow 1/10th inch width to 1/8th inch, which made it much more visible. Early Model 12's have a slightly narrower grip frame than other K frame guns, so standard stocks won't fit. In 1984, the grip frame was changed to match all other K frames, making a much wider selection of stock designs available. The photos show a couple of stock design options for the later model guns.

Good, solid Model 12's can be found on the used market with just a little effort. I think you'll find obtaining one worth the time.



Quality Information Sources?

In a sea of internet misinformation, a serious student wonders how he can find useful, reliable information on gear, technique, training, and related topics. Here are some vetted sources upon which I rely. These have a much higher ratio of useful material and the sources can be trusted to give you good data.

The first source is "The Weekend Knowledge Dump" from Greg Ellifritz. Greg is a recently retired police officer, and a very highly trained and experienced instructor. Greg has taught at TDI in Ohio before going out on his own. He is a Rangemaster certified Master Firearms Instructor and Defensive Shotgun Instructor, as well as being certified by many other organizations. Every Friday

he posts a collection of articles with tons of relevant, timely information. This is one of the best single sources of good intel.

<http://www.activeresponsetraining.net/category/weekend-knowledge-dump>

Pistol-forum.com is one of very few internet discussion forums that has a fairly good signal to noise ratio. A lot of talented and very experienced shooters frequent this forum and offer advice.

“That Weems Guy” podcast is run by Lee Weems, a long time career lawman and Rangemaster staff member. Lee often interviews very experienced trainers who have been around a long time and can offer some insight into the history and development of firearms training. The firearms training community has a poor record when it comes to institutional memory, and we keep having to learn the same lessons over and over. Tune in and learn.

<https://podcasts.apple.com/us/podcast/that-weems-guy/id1575361538>

7 yard line? Why???

Over the years, the question has come up repeatedly, “Many, many courses of fire and almost all police ranges have firing lines at a marked 7 yards from the targets. How did such an odd distance become so standard?” Good question.

I have done a lot of research into this over the years, and I stand by the assertion that 7 yards was selected, first by the FBI and then widely copied, as a simulation of the width of a large room.

I have the US War Department's 1913 issue (hard cover book) "Small Arms Firing Manual". For the Mounted Pistol Course (Cavalry) the distances specified are 8-15 yards, 10 yards, and 5-15 yards. For the Infantry and Field Artillery troops, the specified distances for training and qualification are 15, 25, 50 and 75 yards. For the Organized Militia (forerunner of the National Guard) the specified distances were 15, 25 and 50 yards. So, the 7 yard line did not originate with the military.

In J. Henry Fitzgerald's 1930 book, he recommends the New York State Police Pistol Qualification Course, "which has been in use for several years". The specified distances are 10 feet, 25 feet, 12 yards, and 25 yards.

I have photos of the original FBI pistol ranges at Quantico. (The original ranges were replaced a few years ago.) The firing lanes are concrete, to avoid the mud so common at Quantico. The paved firing lines are at 7, 15 and 25 yards.

In his 1960 book, *Combat Shooting for Police*, Inspector Paul Weston, NYCPD, has this to say:

"Hip shooting is meant for what might be termed 'room sized' situations. It is effective within the confines of a small store, a narrow hallway, any room, or when what appears to be a harmless traffic violator piles out of his car and starts a gun moving in the direction of the approaching policeman.

In determining the distance at which directed fire from the hip should be practiced, the Federal Bureau of Investigation settled upon seven (7) yards for this phase of their fine Practical Pistol Course. That's twenty-one feet. Pace off any room, store, or hallway, and learn just how far- or rather how close- seven yards seems to be."

In the book, *An Introduction to Modern Police Firearms*, by Roberts and Bristow, published in 1969, mention is made that the FBI's PPC changed from its original 60 round version to a 50 round version in 1949. The course description lists the first stage as being fired at 7 yards.

So, photographic record and numerous sources cite the FBI as the origin of the 7 yard distance, way back in the 1930's and 1940's. I think Weston's explanation of "room range" is probably pretty much it.



2023 Training Schedule

Lee Weems will be teaching the Instructor Development Course in Terre Haute, IN. Aqil Qadir will be teaching the Combative Pistol Courses as noted. Tom Givens will be the lead instructor for all other courses listed.

Memphis, TN Jan 7-8 Advanced Instructor **sold out**

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

Homestead, FL Jan 20-22 Pistol Instructor

<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>

Nashville, TN Feb 25-26 Combative Pistol (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 sold out

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

Nampa, Idaho April 15-16 Combative Pistol (Aqil Qadir)

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/combative-pistol-skills-tickets-468735750247>

KR Training, TX Apr 27, Defensive 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>

Tuttle, OK May 18 Private, revolver course

Tuttle, OK May 19-21 Instructor, pistol
<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/three-day-firearms-instructor-development-course-tickets-292016277547>

Yale, VA June 2-4, 2023 Instructor, pistol
<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/three-day-firearms-instructor-development-course-tickets-168313735915>

Kalamazoo, MI June 9-11, 2023 Instructor, pistol
<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/three-day-firearms-instructor-development-course-tickets-166702173689>

Springfield, MO June 23-25 Instructor, pistol
<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/three-day-firearms-instructor-development-course-tickets-215417699137>

Slidell, LA June 24-25 Combative Pistol (Aqil Qadir)

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/combative-pistol-skills-tickets-465457324387>

Yadkinville, NC July 15-16 Advanced Instructor Course

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/advanced-firearms-instructor-development-course-tickets-349893329367>

Buford, GA July 21-23 Master Instructor **sold out**

<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 Defensive Shotgun Instructor

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

Cincinnati, Ohio Sept 9-10 Combative Pistol Skills

(Aqil Qadir)

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/combative-pistol-skills-tickets-475332481247>

XENIA, OH Sept 22-23 Advanced Instructor

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

Dallas, Texas Sept 23-24 Combative Pistol (Aqil Qadir)

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

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 Protective Pistolcraft
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 **sold out**

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



TAC CON Presenter Profile

Aqil Qadir

Aqil is the founder and lead instructor of Citizens' Safety Academy, in addition to being a Rangemaster staff instructor. He has been on the Rangemaster staff since 2009. His background as a firearms instructor started at age 12, teaching urban youth in his father's gun club. He followed in his father's footsteps, becoming an NRA Certified Instructor at the age of 22. He has been training civilians for over 30 years and training law enforcement for over 25. He is a retired law enforcement officer. His passion is teaching regular people how to keep themselves and their families safe.

Aqil's Credentials

- Rangemaster Pistol and Shotgun Instructor Certification (Master Instructor rating)**
- Yavapai Firearms Academy Instructor Certification (Louis Awerbuck)**
- Defense Training International Pistol Instructor Certification (John Farnam)**
- NRA Training Counselor and Certified Instructor in several disciplines**
- NRA Law Enforcement Pistol/Shotgun/Patrol Rifle Instructor**
- NRA Chief Range Safety Officer**
- NRA Refuse to Be a Victim Instructor and Regional Counselor**
- USCCA certified instructor**
- Federal Protective Service/DHS Approved Instructor**
- New York State Police/Armed Guard Instructor**

- **Tennessee State Handgun/Armed Guard Instructor**
- **IALEFI Master Instructor**
- **Sabre Red Civilian and LE instructor**



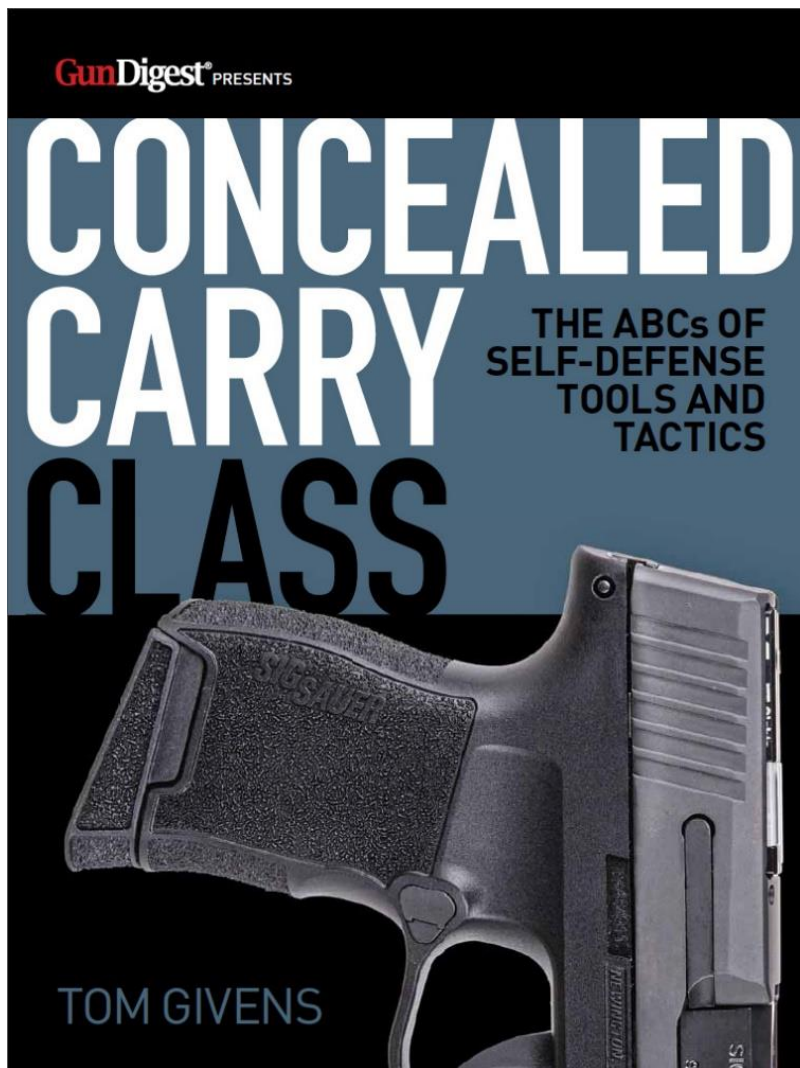
Aqil (left) in his natural habitat

[Patreon Page](#)

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Patreon page at [Patreon.com/tomgivens](https://www.patreon.com/tomgivens) .**

**Each month we post 4-10 informative articles or videos, accessible only by our members.
Come join us!**

Also, in the new shall issue states, this book would be a great place for a newbie to begin.



<https://www.gundigeststore.com/product/concealed-carry-class-the-abcs-of-self-defense-tools-and-tactics/>