



JUNE 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/> .

The Super Test

Ken Hackathorn is generally given credit for designing “The Test”, 10 rounds in 10 seconds, at 10 yards, on a B-8 bullseye. This is a very good low round count indicator of skill, and if you can score 95 or above under the time limit you are a pretty solid shooter. Wayne Dobbs and Darryl Bolke, a couple of seasoned trainers from Dallas, Texas, expanded the drill and called it “The Super Test” and I think it is a very good measure of skill with a handgun.

Use a B-8, B-8C, FBI-IP1 or the bullseye on an LTT-1 target. Scored as printed, except if you use a full size B-8 nothing further out than the 7 ring counts. Start at Ready.

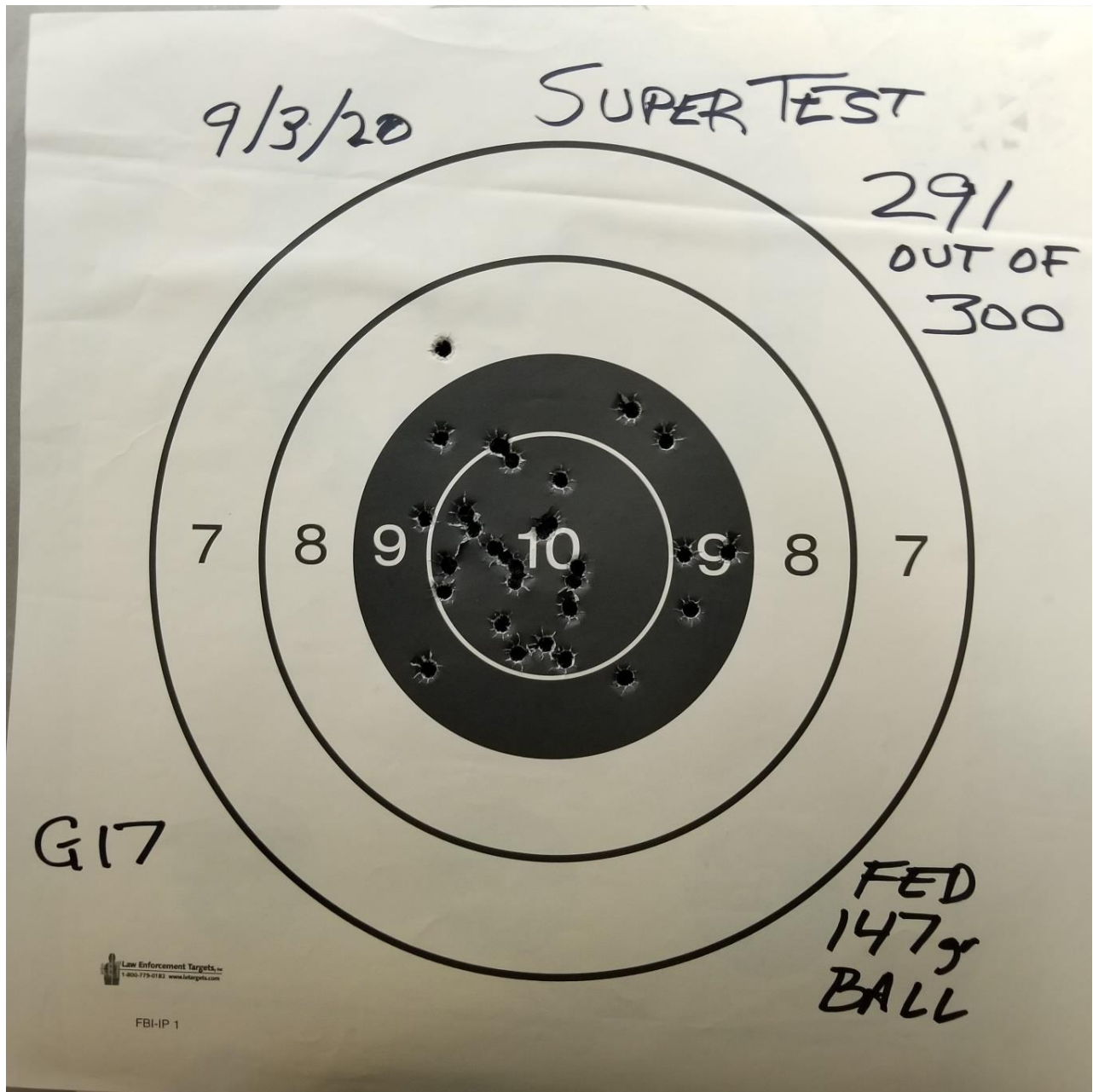
5 yards 10 rounds in 5 seconds

10 yards 10 rounds in 10 seconds

15 yards 10 rounds in 15 seconds

30 rounds total 300 points possible goal is 270 or above

This is a deceptively simple test that measures appropriate cadence, sights/trigger, recoil control, and mental self-control. Anyone who can shoot 90% or better on this probably shoots well enough to handle any reasonable real-life handgun problem. Give it a try.





Active Shooters Stopped by Armed Private Citizens

It turns out, active shooter incidents are stopped as often by armed private citizens as by police officers. We have known this for years, because of research done by Ron Borscht. Here is a current article outlining new findings. I think you will find this enlightening.

<https://crimeresearch.org/2022/10/massive-errors-in-fbis-active-shooting-reports-regarding-cases-where-civilians-stop-attacks-instead-of-4-4-the-correct-number-is-at-least-34-4-in-2021-it-is-at-least-49-1-excluding-gun-free-zon/>

You Are On Your Own!

Here is an interesting article on lack of response to 911 calls in Chicago. In one year, over 406,000 high priority 911 calls were not dispatched because no police units were available. It's like this in all cities now. You are on your own.

<file:///C:/Users/Tom's%20Office/Downloads/New%202021%20Chicago%20data%20shows%20400,000%20high-priority%20incidents%20where%20dispatchers%20had%20no%20police%20availabl.pdf>

Primacy Matters!

Two of the factors that really heavily impact performance under high stress are Recency and Repetition. When the flag flies, if you recently practiced a skill, that particular neural pathway has been recently "greased" and is more likely to work. This why dry practice can be so important. Almost none of us can get to the range for live fire every week, but we could do a dry practice session once a week or even more often. That would ensure that our skills were refreshed recently.

Repetition is also critical. Every correct repetition of a skill set helps build up a file in your procedural memory, which can be accessed and executed in response to outside stimuli. This takes a lot of *correct* repetitions.

An often overlooked aspect of this learning process is Primacy. Under stress, the brain tends to fall back on the first way it learned to perform a skill, even if a better way was later learned. Thus, starting out *doing it right* is critical.

For a detailed technical explanation of this mental process, I recommend Dustin P. Salomon's book, Hitting in Combat. This is one of the best over-views of the process of learning physical skills that I have seen.

If you are a trainer, especially, it is critical for you to understand this system of learning. Starting students out incorrectly can have life-long, and even life-ending results if they are engaged later in a violent confrontation.

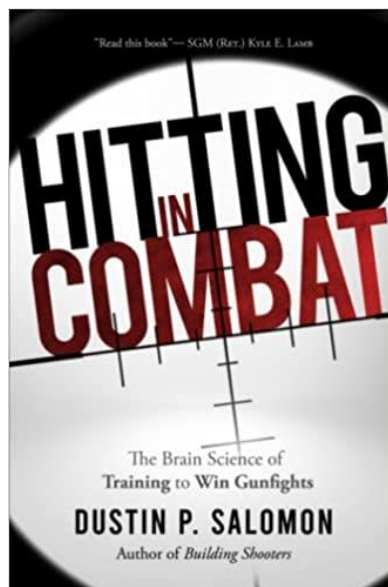
As an example, there is a national organization that still includes Bruce Siddle's highly flawed work in their course manual. Siddle's main thesis in Sharpening the Warrior's Edge, which was written in the 1990's, has been thoroughly debunked by researchers since then, and everything he proposed is now known to be wrong. I'm sure Siddle meant well, but later researchers with better technology have shown his ideas to be quite wrong. Still, there are organizations that cling to this b.s.

I recently looked at the class records of 376 students who attended our firearms instructor development course. Of those 376, 47 failed to achieve certification. Of those who failed, over 21% identified themselves in their introduction in class as instructors certified by that organization.

During the course of their training and coaching, they all showed a significant improvement in their shooting. However, on qualification day, the stress of shooting a make it or break it qualification caused them to revert to the original crap they were taught, and they failed to qualify. It will take a lot more than two range days to overcome the primacy of the really poor training they earlier received. If they do not put in that significant work, they will likely never shoot well under stress because of their initial training.

We owe it to our students to set them up for success, by training them from the very beginning in techniques that get hits under truly stressful conditions.

https://www.amazon.com/Hitting-Combat-Science-Training-Gunfights/dp/1952594103/ref=sr_1_1?crid=3MU85WEHJDB0K&keywords=hitting+in+combat+the+brain+science+of+training+to+win+gunfights&qid=1666039454&qu=eyJxc2MiOiIwLjQ4IiwicXNhIjojMC4zMCIIsInFzcCI6IjAuMDAifQ%3D%3D&srefix=hitting+in+combat%2Caps%2C98&sr=8-1



Workplace Violence

Violence in America is an every day issue, and no one is immune. According to the National Association of Security Professionals (NASP) the total number of reported homicides in the US is about 15,500 per year, but adjusted for unreported cases, the total is thought to be about double that figure. The same goes for other crimes, which are often grossly under-reported for a number of reasons. Reported Assaults, for instance, were 7,560,000 last year, but the actual total is estimated at 37,800,000!

Violence in the workplace mirrors the situation in the country as a whole. OSHA reports 1,000 workplace homicides per year, but that does not include a huge number committed at businesses too small to come under OSHA reporting guidelines. OSHA reports 51,000 sexual assaults in the workplace per year, but again those not coming under OSHA are thought to number as high as 500,000 incidents per year.

Some of the factors that increase the risk of violence in the workplace include exchanging money with the public; working alone or in isolated areas; providing services and care; and working in retail sales. That pretty well sums up darn near everyone's job!

What can you do to reduce your risks?

1. Accept that violence can occur anywhere, any time there are people present. You are not "safe" just because you're at work.

2. Take outbursts, erratic behavior, or threats by co-workers seriously. Report such activity to security or HR and insist on follow up.

3. Wear your gear. When someone is shooting up your office, the sidearm at home in the sock drawer will not be of much use to you.

TAC CON 2023 Wrap-Up Article

Here is a link to an excellent review of this year's festivities.

https://booksbikesboomsticks.blogspot.com/2023/04/taccon-roundup.html?fbclid=IwAR0WN9vhuoGec9_xSlwgybwKIA_b9gzGZS25hpA1AFYf3sxec5k5bVrnZC0

UPCOMING TRAINING EVENTS

Tom Givens will be the lead instructor on all of these except for Slidell, Louisiana. That one is Aqil Qadir.

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

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

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>



AAR, MASTER FIREARMS INSTRUCTOR COURSE

https://unclezo.com/2023/04/09/rangemaster-master-instructor-development-course/?fbclid=IwAR1mDrA60yzGrMz05DStPvzOTU_dZiYQ5nuy5qtTfw0cj19UyqcECc6Gtvk

This was written by a student who went through the Instructor course, the Advanced Instructor course, and the Master Instructor course, all within about a year. It's an excellent summary of the course.

