



DECEMBER 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/>.

Baseline Assessment Drill

I'd like to close out the year with a test that is a pretty solid indicator of your current skill level. We'll repeat this mid-year in 2024 to track progress.

Use a B-8 repair center, FBI-IP-1 bullseye, or the bullseye on an LTT-1 target, scored as printed. This drill is intended to be shot cold, from concealed carry. If using a full size B-8, nothing further out than the 7 ring counts as a hit.

5 yards Draw and fire 5 rounds in 5 seconds, using both hands.

5 yards Start gun in hand, at Ready, in dominant hand only. Fire 3 rounds in 3 seconds.

5 yards Start gun in hand, at Ready, in non-dominant hand only. Fire 2 rounds in 3 seconds.

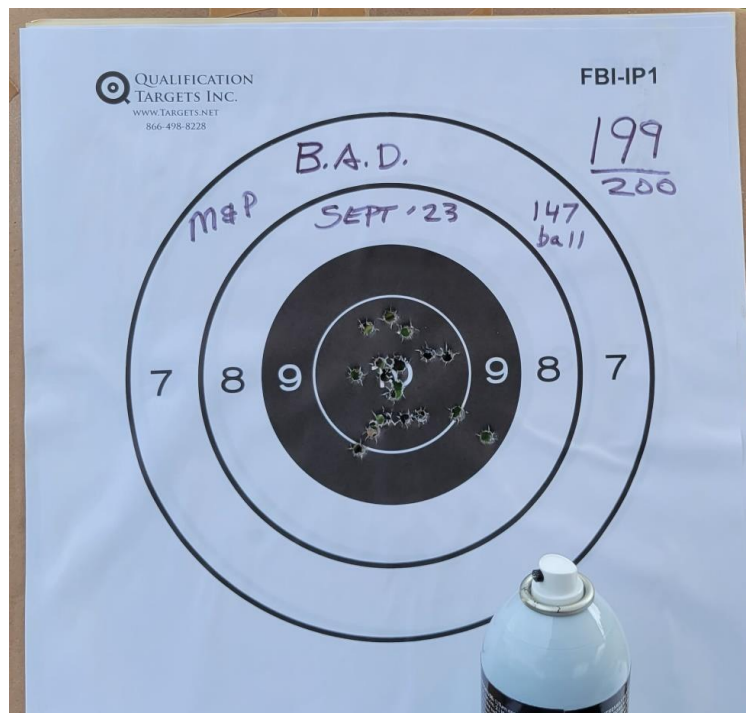
7 yards Start gun in hand, loaded with 3 rounds only. Fire 3 rounds, conduct an empty gun reload, and fire 3 more rounds, all in 10 seconds.

10 yards Start gun in hand, at Ready. Fire 4 rounds in 4 seconds.

20 rounds total. Possible score = 200

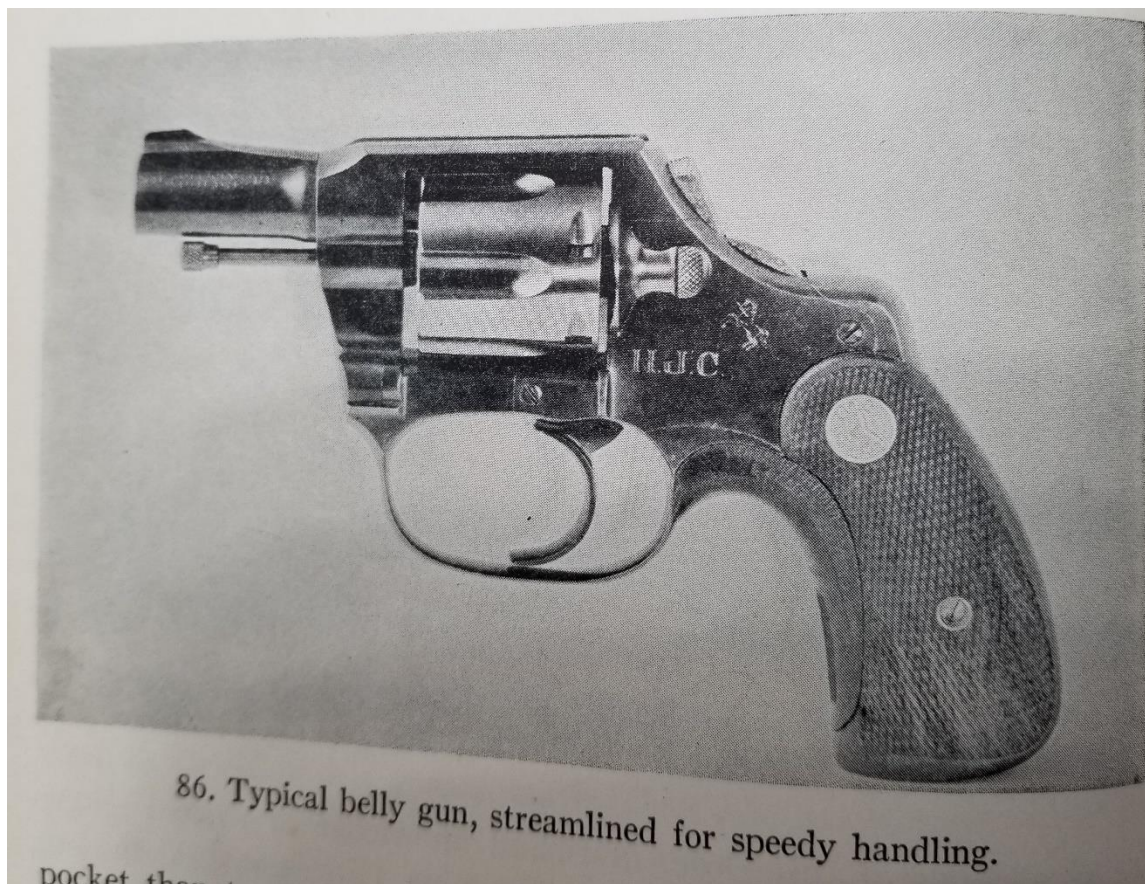
Goal is a score of 90% or higher (180 or better)

Demonstration video: https://youtu.be/QJJ_71a_TWk



New? Not really...

The snubby pictured below was built by a custom gunsmith for a professional gunman in the 1930's. It started life as a Colt Police Positive. The 'smith cut the barrel back to about 2 ¼", so he could retain the full length ejector rod, for positive ejection of empties. He fitted a low ramp front sight, and slightly enlarged the trigger guard, to make fast access to the trigger easier. The hammer spur was removed and the action slicked up. The butt was rounded off in a "bird's head" configuration and a Pachmayr grip adaptor was fitted. This photo is from Charles Askins' 1939 book on pistol shooting.



One Handed Shooting? How to do it right.

Here is a well done article on one handed shooting. It addresses the problem of shifting point of impact when shooting with one hand versus your normal two handed grip.

<https://americanhandgunner.com/discover/one-handed-shooting-your-life-may-depend-on-it/>

Rangemaster Pistol Master Award

A special coin will be awarded to a shooter who can pass these criteria, cold, timed in person by a Rangemaster staff member.

Pistol Master Course- score 285 or higher 30 rds

Prof. Pistolcraft Instr Q- score 95 or higher 50 rds

80 rounds total

The tests will be shot in order, no rest between CoF's. Failure to make the 95% level on the first course stops the process. Only one attempt will be allowed in the same day. All shooting is done from concealed carry. An electronic timer will be used. To achieve the higher value, a bullet hole must not just touch a ring, it must break the

line. Overtime shots deduct the maximum value of a shot, each.

Shooters who pass both in one session at 95% or above will be awarded a special commemorative coin.



PISTOL MASTER TEST, Part 1

Fired on FBI-IP1 or B8-C, scored as printed

Must be shot from concealed carry

5 yards Draw and fire 5 rds in 5 seconds, freestyle

5 yards Start at Ready, fire 4 rds in 4 seconds, dominant hand only

5 yards Start at Ready, fire 3 rds in 3 seconds, non-dominant hand only.

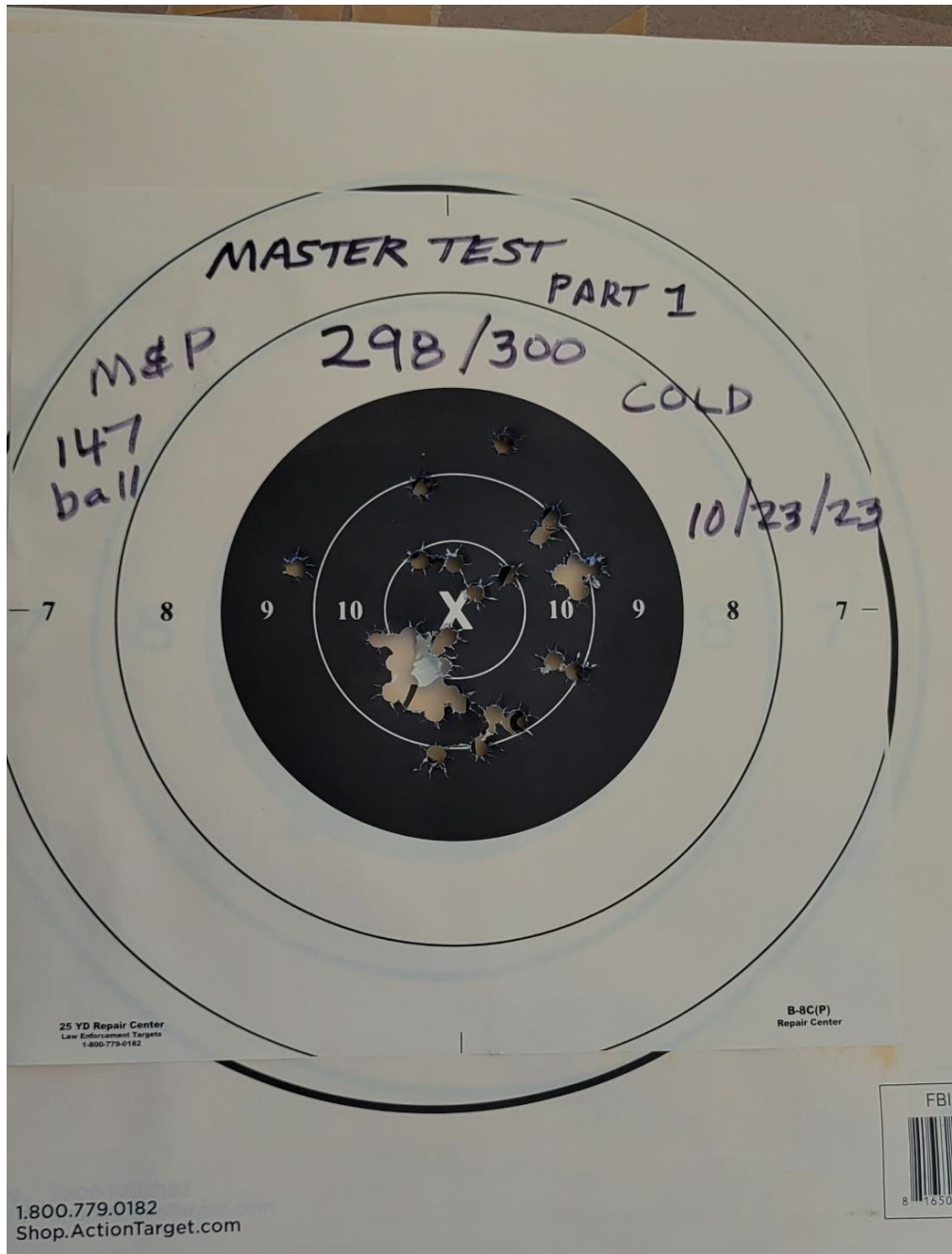
5 yards Start at Ready. Fire 1 rd in 1 second. 3X

7 yards Draw and fire 4 rds in 5 seconds, freestyle

7 yards Start at Ready, 3 rds only in gun. Fire 3 rds, conduct an empty gun reload, and fire 3 more rds, all in 10 seconds

10 yards Draw and fire 5 rounds in 9 seconds

30 rounds total 300 points possible 285 or above to pass



Professional Pistolcraft Instructor Qualification

Fired on RFTS-Q4, scored 2/1.

5 yards Draw and fire 3 rds with both hands, 3 rds dominant hand only, and 3 rds non-dominant hand only, all in 9 seconds.

5 yards Repeat as above.

5 yards Draw and fire 3 rds to the body and 1 rd to the head, all in 4 seconds. 4X

7 yards Start gun in hand, loaded with 4 rds only. On signal, fire 4 rds, reload, and fire 4 more rds, all in 8 seconds.

15 yards Draw and fire 2 rds in 5 seconds

From Ready, 3 rds in 5 seconds

25 yards Draw and fire 3 rds in 8 seconds

50 rounds total 100 points possible 95 or+ , Pass

RFTS-Q4 target only to be used. Order from M&P Targets, Order No 92770. Hits in the 7" chest circle and the 4" head circle count 2 points. Hits outside the circles but inside the silhouette count 1 point. 50 rds total, possible score 100. 95 or above to pass.

The combination of a bullseye course and a silhouette based course gives us a good measure of all around

consistent performance. Coin and certificate will be mailed to those who meet the challenge.

Lessons from the Mass Shooting in Maine

Being an adult means accepting responsibility for your actions, whether acts of commission or omission. One of the responsibilities of an adult is to be able to protect himself and his family.

Recently, a seriously deranged individual shot up two separate locations in a town in Maine, killing 18 people and wounding an additional 13. It appears that one victim was a teenager, but all the rest were adults. Of course, not one of them was armed.

It has been reported that several of the dead charged the gunman in an attempt to stop the carnage. They were shot down. One has to applaud their courage, but if only one of them had the sense to be armed a number of lives might have been spared. So, they had the balls but not the equipment.

Without the equipment, the balls are useless.

Without the balls, the equipment is useless.

Balls + equipment = success.

All thirty of these adults abdicated their responsibility as a spouse, a parent, and a citizen. Be armed.

INTERACTING WITH THE MENTALLY ILL

In any major urban area, street contacts with mentally ill or emotionally disturbed persons are practically unavoidable. According to the American Psychiatric Association, one of every three Americans will suffer some form of serious mental or emotional illness at some point in his life. (I'm OK, but frankly I've been a bit worried about you.)

The most common group of mentally disturbed persons you will encounter is the "street person", typically a homeless drifter, or "bum", usually shabbily dressed, unkempt, bearded, and dirty. A lot of people will try to tell you that these people are helpless, harmless victims of the failed mental health care system. This is not typically true.

It is now extremely difficult in this country to involuntarily commit someone for a mental illness, even a serious one. Even disturbed persons who seriously assault others are typically stabilized with medication and released back into the public, with the frail hope that they will continue to faithfully take their medication without supervision. Most mentally ill street people have been placed in care homes or mental institutions at some point, but since they cannot be held there against their will, they left and went back on the street. In my experience, many of these persons prefer uncertain life on the street to the structured and confining life in an institution. Of course, once on the street and broke, they have no access to medications, and no one to evaluate their progress or deterioration.

In my old area, for instance, I used to patrol a residential area, which was a short distance from the main concentration of hospitals, including mental health facilities. We would arrest these "disturbed persons" for theft, burglary, or assault so many times we knew them all by name. Some were not violent, some were. In

court, the judges recognized them as persistent offenders, but understood that they were seriously mentally ill, so were reluctant to put them in jail. In jail, true criminals victimized these typically poorly physically conditioned people horribly. The judges were powerless to commit these individuals to mental institutions for any length of time, as the admitting psychiatrists would judge them not to be “an imminent threat to their own safety or that of others”. Back on the street they went in 24-72 hours. One night one of these “repeat customers” of ours, a fifty-ish female of slight build, knocked a man down, sat astride his chest, and cut his heart out with a steak knife. Sometimes three or four of us would have to “pile up” on one of these offenders to get him into custody without having to kill him. Harmless? Hardly. In fact, almost all of these people have an extensive criminal record, and a surprising number are registered sex offenders. They also tend to carry such diseases as HIV, hepatitis, and tuberculosis.

A large percentage of these street people are armed, with usually crude weapons such as knives, screwdrivers, straight razors, or improvised weapons. They are often very territorial about “their home”, which may be a cozy spot behind your office’s dumpster. They also tend to be very touchy about personal space, and inadvertently getting too close to one may be interpreted as the worst sort of aggressive attack against him, resulting in a furious assault against the “intruder” (you!).

Aside from the obvious “bum” be on the lookout for behavior such as a shuffling, uncoordinated gait; a vacant, “thousand-yard stare”; incoherent mumbling; talking to himself or unseen associates; and other bizarre behavior. (Bear in mind, he may just be the President.)

With anyone you suspect to be mentally disturbed, try these tips to avoid or de-escalate a contact:

1. Remember his personal space, and don’t invade it.

2. Do not try to touch him, unless you are prepared to fight him.
3. Do not make sudden, rapid, or startling movements.
4. Speak quietly and slowly. Do not shout.
5. Try to increase distance, and get an obstacle (parked car, fence, etc.) between you, as if he is armed it is probably with an edged weapon.

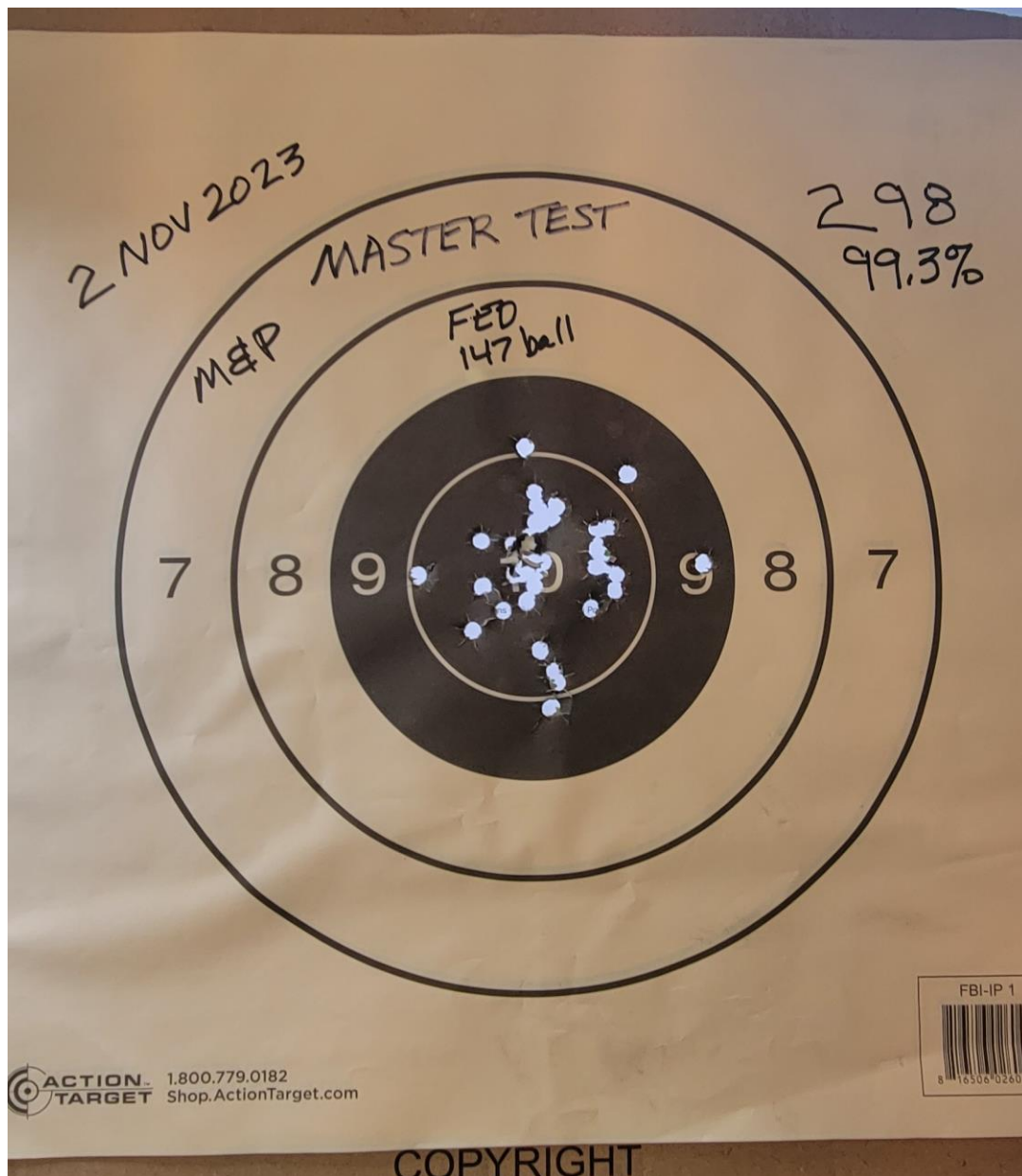
New, Federal Gold Medal 9mm 147 grain ammo

Federal has introduced a new match loading, the 147 grain 9mm Gold Medal Action Pistol load. This has a jacketed 147 grain flat nose bullet in brass cases. The factory lists the muzzle velocity as 900 fps, making it a very controllable load.

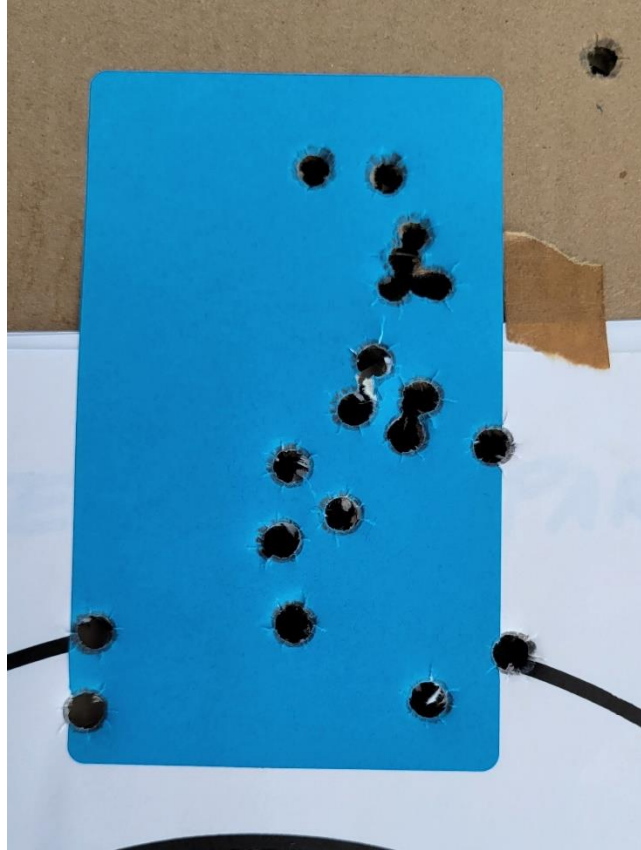


I shot 150 rounds of it in a recent session. Function, as you would expect, was 100%. Recoil was mild. Accuracy was very good.

With my M&P 2.0 Aluminum, I shot the bullseye portion of the new Pistol Master Award CoF. This is a very demanding course, 30 rounds. My score was 298 out of 300 with this ammo.



I also shot Dave Spaulding's Fade-Back Drill on a 3"X5" label. This was 5 rounds at 7 yards, 5 at 10 yards, 5 at 15 yards, and 5 at 25 yards.



The scratch at 4:30 and the miss at 2:00 were my fault.

This ammo duplicates the point of impact of 147 grain HST, which I often use as my carry load. Good stuff.

Federal Agency Arrest Data, 2020

Here is some interesting information from the US Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Statistics. These numbers are from Fiscal Year (FY) 2020.

Highlights

- During fiscal year (FY) 2020, U.S. Marshals made 120,112 arrests, a 42% decrease from the 206,630 bookings in FY 2019.
- In FY 2020, five U.S.-Mexico border districts accounted for 56% of federal arrests.
- The coronavirus pandemic drove an 81% decline in arrests and 77% decline in cases charged from March to April 2020.
- Of the 26,696 Drug Enforcement Administration arrests in FY 2020, the most common drug type involved was methamphetamine (8,783 arrests), followed by powder cocaine (4,474 arrests).
- Nine in 10 defendants adjudicated in U.S. district court in FY 2020 were convicted.

The new RFTS-Q4 target is now available.

- The silhouette is downsized a bit and in a light brown color. There are eyes, nose and mouth in the head.
- The circle in the chest is 7" in diameter. This corresponds to an anatomically correct representation of the heart and major plumbing attached to it.
- The head ring is 4". Both rings are somewhat subdued.

- Scoring for a fifty round course is 2 points inside either circle, head or chest. One point for a hit inside the target but outside the circles. Max score would be 100.
- These are on 80# paper, not the usual 40# paper. They will hold up well and work better in the rain. Typical brown target tape works fine as pasters.
- **Order from M&P Targets,**
<https://mptargets.com/shop/rangemaster-92770/>
- We will be working these into courses after the introductory level.
- I encourage you to use them in your practice and training as a more realistic target.



UPCOMING TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES

Jan 12-14, Shotgun Instructor

Shreveport, LA

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/rangemaster-defensive-shotgun-instructor-course-tickets-688848714047?aff=oddtcreator>

Jan 26-28 Pistol Instructor

Lakeland, FL

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/firearms-instructor-development-course-tickets-646548783817?aff=oddtcreator>

Feb 17-18 Advanced Instructor

Royal Range, Nashville

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/advanced-firearms-instructor-development-course-tickets-688808955127?aff=oddtcreator>

Feb 17-18 Combative Pistol (Aqil Qadir)

Charlotte, NC

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/rangemaster-combative-pistol-course-tickets-688845624807?aff=oddtcreator>

Mar 15-17 Master Instructor

Royal Range, Nashville

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/master-firearms-instructor-development-course-tickets-688809456627?aff=oddtcreator>

Mar 30-31 Advanced Instructor

Lakeland, FL

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/advanced-firearms-instructor-development-course-tickets-646560468767?aff=oddtcreator>

The 2024 Tactical Conference in Dallas sold out in a matter of hours. Watch for the 2025 announcement in the May issue of this newsletter.



Tac Con 2023 was a huge success. More and better in 2024!