

Rangemaster Firearms Training Services
1808 James L Redman Parkway, Suite 226, Plant City, FL, 33563
rangemaster.tom@gmail.com www.rangemaster.com



FEBRUARY NEWSLETTER

DRILL OF THE MONTH

Throughout 2024 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/> .

7 Yard Standards

To be shot on a B-8C repair center, a B-8, or an FBI-IP1 bullseye target. The rings are scored as printed, except if a full size B-8 is used, nothing further out than the 7 ring counts. Anything in the 5 or 6 ring counts as zero points. All firing is from 7 yards, drawing from concealed carry.

Draw and fire 5 rounds in 5 seconds

Start at Ready, gun in dominant hand. Dominant hand only, fire 4 rounds in 5 seconds

Start gun in non-dominant hand. Non-dominant hand only, fire 3 rounds in 5 seconds.

Start with 1 round in the gun, at The Ready. On signal, fire 1 round, conduct an empty gun reload, and fire 2 more rounds, all in 7 seconds.

15 rounds total 150 points possible 135 or above to pass (90%)

As usual, the crew at Apache Solutions provided a video guide to this drill- https://youtu.be/DYexds_UfUM



Gunshot Entry Wounds

My good friend, Dr. Andy Anderson is a Professor of Emergency Medicine who works at a very busy metropolitan trauma center. He recently published an interesting article on gunshot entry wounds. Read it here.

<https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S2405469023002637>

APACHE SOLUTIONS, INSTRUCTOR ENRICHMENT PROGRAM

Tim Kelly (Apache Solutions) has gathered around him a stellar group of motivated, intelligent, and highly skilled trainers. Tim and Zach Cox have been through our Instructor, Advanced Instructor, Master Instructor and Professional Instructor Courses, and most of their cadre has been through the Master Instructor level. In addition, they have trained with numerous other schools and have hosted many outside trainers at their facility in North Carolina.



In November, 2023, they hosted their first Instructor Enrichment Program, which was a great success. Lynn traveled to North Carolina to observe the course, and she was very impressed. This was not an instructor certification course. The idea was to bring together already working instructors and help them to polish, refine and hone their skills as trainers (enrichment), assisted and evaluated by their peers as well as the trainers conducting the course. Adam Winch is an experienced police officer, contractor, competitive shooter, and Rangemaster certified instructor. He attended and wrote a detailed review, here:

<https://www.defenders-usa.com/apache-solutions-iep-review/?fbclid=IwAR2jsWHuZ3fjacAwgvgY8Cu4LgXsNzljDYEJbvBZhnSlOCLfLlnKOwDFB0I>

Apache Solutions will be offering this class twice in 2024.



Follow Us on Facebook

If you are not following the Rangemaster Facebook group, you are missing out on a lot of useful information. Please fix that.

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/234643425923>

MAC 1014 Semiauto Shotgun

Military Armament Corporation (MAC) has for several years been building pretty exact copies of various other gunmakers' shotguns. They make a clone of the Benelli semiauto, and I have been checking one out.

Here are the technical specifications:

Weight	8 pounds, empty
Barrel length	18.5"
Capacity	5+1
Overall length	47.8"



I have one I have been working with. Almost famous gun writer Kevin Creighton tested one, and his review can be seen here: <https://www.shootingillustrated.com/content/review-mac-2-tactical-wood-shotgun/>. Tim Kelly and Zach Cox of Apache Solutions have been working with a couple of examples for several months. In addition, two employees of SDS Imports, who bring these guns into the US, used these in a shotgun instructor course I taught a few months ago, and I have observed several others in classes. This gives me a pretty broad perspective on the gun's performance, rather than a sample of one.



First, the good. All of the examples I have observed have functioned very, very well. Kevin fired a mixed basket of 250 rounds of assorted left-over shells through his, with everything from old skeet loads to both reduced recoil and full power buckshot. He had 2 malfunctions, both with ridiculously light Winchester AA loads. That does not surprise me, and really is not a negative at all. All the 1014's I've seen in class have functioned remarkably well. The gun has excellent, fully adjustable sights, and handsome walnut real wood furniture. Fit and finish on all examples I have seen has been excellent.

The bad- The friggin' length of pull is ridiculous. At over 14", it is suitable for anyone 6'5" tall or more. Fortunately, the wooden butt can be cut shorter easily. I'm told MAC is working on a shorter LOP stock. Both Tim and Zach had theirs cut to 12.5". Early examples only take MAC magazine extensions, but I am told newer production will accept magazine extensions and other accessories meant for the Benelli. Finally, the bolt release button is small. MAC is planning to fix that. The fact that the maker sends staff to training courses and responds to input from trainers and users is a really good sign.



These are selling for around \$400.00 to \$500.00 right now, which is a steal. Will I give up my Beretta 1301's and convert to these? No. But for someone seeking a much less expensive home defense shotgun, I would give these a serious look.

Principles of Personal Defense

Some years ago Jeff Cooper wrote an excellent booklet entitled Principles of Personal Defense. This brief work outlined seven principles that, according to Jeff, lay the groundwork for all successful self-defense efforts. PPD was published by Paladin

Press, which no longer exists, but used copies can be found. Every serious student of weaponcraft should have a copy. Some years ago Jeff gave me permission to use his checklist.

I have taken the liberty of listing the seven key words that Jeff used in enumerating these principles, but adding my own perspective to them. I truly believe that mastery of these principles, as your standard operating procedure, is the key to personal safety. Many of us concentrate too much on hardware (specific gun model, caliber or type of ammunition, etc.) when it is this type of software issue that really decides who wins.

Alertness – This one trait is the cornerstone of all physical security. You cannot defend yourself against something you don't know is there. You must learn habits of alertness and awareness so that you are always in tune with your environment.

Another time we can discuss some of the important facets of observation skills, but you must grasp the importance of this principle. If you know who is around you and what they are up to, you are in control. Always be on the lookout for people, behavior, or activity that is out of place or out of context. When you see something like that, question it. Ask yourself, "why....?" If you don't get a satisfactory answer, treat this as a danger signal.

Decisiveness – You are going to have to select a course of action and implement it, right now! No one is going to be there to tell you what to do. You're on your own. This is especially difficult for us these days because all decisions are made by committee, and no one likes to sign off on anything anymore. Always, do something, immediately. That "something" may be as simple as crossing the street to avoid a couple of suspicious looking men, or it could be diving behind cover, or going for your gun. It all depends upon the circumstances.

Aggressiveness – This is another principle that is difficult for the average person, as aggressiveness is systematically being bred out of us. You have been taught all of your life that fighting is bad, human life is sacred, and you should play nice. The trouble is you will be up against someone who shares none of these sentiments!

To a degree, we do a disservice to our students when we harp continually on the defensive nature of the pistol. The pistol is defensive in concept, but not in use. Gun fighting is just a form of fighting, and any type of fighting is, by definition, an aggressive activity. You cannot win any type of fight by being passive. Imagine yourself in a fistfight where all you do is block punches, but never throw any of your own. Going to win? The same goes for armed conflict. If I have to defend my life with a firearm, I will use it vigorously, with all of the violence, aggressiveness, and commitment I can muster, because my life is at stake!

Once the fight starts, failing to respond aggressively is the same as surrender. If you let evil people do evil things to you, guess what will happen? You have a duty to resist evil. You owe this duty to your family, to society, and to yourself. If attacked, attack him right back!

Speed – Speed is the defining element of any form of fighting. Whoever moves faster wins. You must develop quickness in your presentation and your firing stroke. This comes only through structured, careful, frequent practice. You also must develop quickness in your ability to assess developing situations and make sound decisions. Again, this comes from prior preparation. Play the “what if...” game to develop responses in advance of need. The time to debate strategy is not while someone is trying to kill you. You can work your ass off to shave .20 seconds off your draw to first shot time, or you could learn to be more aware and more decisive, and start moving 5 seconds sooner. Which would boost your survivability more?

Coolness – If attacked, you must keep your wits about you and do what you have to do to win. You must concentrate on the task at hand, and in our context, the task at hand is to focus on the front sight and press the trigger. Invariably, when I discuss this with a group of new students, some of them look incredulous and say something like, “how am I supposed to keep cool when someone a few steps away is trying to kill me?” The answer to that is simple – every day a large number of people have to do this. I personally know a very large group of people who have done this successfully. The key is in prior mental preparation. You must consider the possibility of an armed conflict, and be prepared mentally to deal with it.

Part of the answer is practice. Training teaches you what and how to practice. Practice then ingrains the skill. ***Practice builds skill. Skill builds confidence. Confidence prevents panic.*** If your mind knows that you have a fair degree of skill, your confidence in that skill will help you remain calm.

As of November, 2023, 74 of our students have prevailed in armed conflict with criminals. As far as I can tell, they have about a 95% hit ratio. The very few misses that have occurred have been under very unusual circumstances. This extremely high hit rate occurs because they came here on their own time, and spent their own money, and then spent the time and effort it takes to achieve and retain basic proficiency with their weapons.

Do your homework. Repetition is the mother of all physical skill. Make time to get to the range. By constantly repeating the motions involved in your presentation and your firing stroke, you burn a neural pathway from your brain to your fingertips, eventually ingraining the proper response into your nervous system. Sports physiologists will tell you it takes between 2,500 and 5,000 correct repetitions of any complex motor skill to automate it. To automate the skill means to be able to do it

reflexively, without conscious thought or effort, and this is the goal. You must concentrate your mental effort on the evolving tactical situation, not on marksmanship, and this is how you remain in control and hit under stress. Your mind must be free to work on the tactical situation, not on marksmanship.

Get some practice shooting under stress. Engage in competition shooting, like IDPA or USPSA matches. Having to shoot an unfamiliar drill or scenario, under time and scoring pressure, and with the peer pressure of having other shooters watching you is an excellent way to get some stress inoculation as well as some experience running your equipment under pressure. Hunt deer, wild hogs or similar game with your pistol and learn to control “buck fever”. In training and practice push yourself to always be better.

All shooters experience a degradation of skill under the extreme stress involved in a real life and death shooting confrontation. The more skill you have, however, the less you will lose when placed under sudden stress. The reason for this is simple. To get a higher degree of skill you had to do the work. You put in the repetitions both on the range and in dry work and have automated your physical skills. On the other hand, someone with a low skill level will drop even more skill under duress, simply because they have not driven those skills into the unconscious or automated level.

Ruthlessness – To many, this seems an odd word in the context of self-defense, but in reality, ruthlessness is a vital element of fighting to stay alive. In our context, ruthlessness means absolute single-mindedness of purpose. Once the fight starts, we have to concentrate on winning. It doesn't matter why he chose you. It doesn't matter why he's a criminal. All that matters is winning. Bear in mind, in our context losing can mean dying. Hit him fast,

hit him hard, hit him with everything you've got, then assess, and if needed, hit him some more.

Surprise – Surprise is put last in this list deliberately, because surprise is the first element of offensive combat.

Surprise comes in two forms: strategic surprise and tactical surprise. Strategic surprise is what the bad guy plans on. Surprise is the only true advantage he has over you. He is typically not as smart, as well armed, or as well-trained, but if he surprises you the advantage is largely his. How, then do we neutralize this advantage? Simple. **Be alert**. If he cannot surprise you, he probably cannot harm you. This is a loop that goes right back to the beginning of this article. Be alert and aware so you cannot be surprised.

The other form of surprise is tactical surprise, and that is your advantage. If attacked, do something he does not expect. Action is faster than reaction. Make him react to you, not you to him. You accomplish this by doing what he least expects, which is a violent, explosive counterattack.

He is just as culturally indoctrinated as anyone else. When he attacks what he believed to be a helpless victim, what does he expect that person to do? Whimper, whine, belly up, and do whatever he is told. Think about it. If he points a gun at you and tells you to do something, what does he expect you to do? If you do something else, he has to process that information, decide what to do, and only then can he act. It's over by then.

Be alert/aware. Have a plan. Move quickly. That's how you win.

NEWSLETTER TOPIC INDEX, 2018-2023

Our monthly newsletter is available at rangemaster.com at the start of each month. The old issues are archived there back to 2009. To assist you in research/education, this index will direct you to articles of particular interest from the six year period from 2018 through 2023.

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UPCOMING TRAINING EVENTS

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) Charlotte, NC

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

March 9-10 Combative Pistol (Aqil) Memphis, TN

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/rangemaster-combative-pistol-tickets-709621636417?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 15-17 Firearms Instructor (John Hearne) Concord, CA

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/rangemaster-firearms-instructor-development-course-tickets-749507576337?aff=oddtcreator>

Mar 30-31 Advanced Instructor Lakeland, FL

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

