



## **APRIL 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/>

### **FAST, BUT ACCURATE**

This course of fire will require a fair degree of precision, while shooting at a fairly fast pace. The target is a 3"X5" card or label, oriented vertically.

- 5 yards** Draw and fire 5 rounds in 5 seconds 2X
- 5 yards** Start at Ready, gun in dominant hand only. On signal fire 3 rounds in 3 seconds 2X
- 5 yards** Start at Ready, both hands. On signal, fire 1 round in 1 second. 2X
- 5 yards** Start at Ready, gun in non-dominant hand only. On signal, fire 2 rounds in 3 seconds. 1X

**7 yards** Start at Ready, with 3 rounds only in the gun. On signal, fire 3 rounds, conduct an empty gun reload, and fire 3 more rounds, all in 8 seconds. 1X

**10 yards** Start at Ready. On signal, fire 4 rounds in 5 seconds. 1X

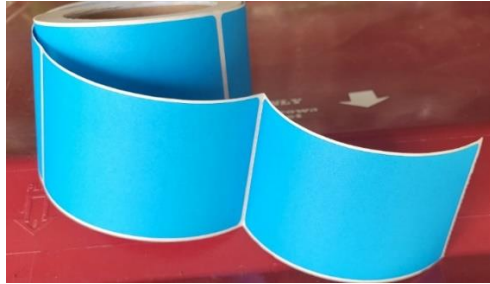
**30 rounds total Goal is 100% hits in the 3X5 card.**

By the way, something I picked up from Dave Spaulding some time ago—I no longer use 3X5 cards for drills like this. I use self-adhesive blank shipping labels, available in many colors, from Amazon. They come on a roll of 1,000 and don't require glue or staples. I use them a lot.

When I shot the first exemplar target, I forgot it was on a 3X5 card. My pistol was still set on 4X6 card. I adjusted, then shot the drill again, scoring 29 out of 30.



As usual, the guys at Apache Solutions have made you a demo video, <https://youtu.be/TpRYC6IRWOw?feature=shared>



## PATREON

Facebook is making it harder and harder to get information out to our community. We maintain a Patreon page, where we post 8-10 useful and informative brief articles or videos each month. In addition, our subscribers get the newsletter each month a couple of days before anyone else. The cost is only \$10.00 a month, about what two cups of coffee cost you. Come join us at

<https://www.patreon.com/join/tomgivens> .

## Competition as Training

Shooting in competition is not the same as being involved in a gunfight. For one thing, if you lose a pistol match you get to try again next month! Competitive shooting can, however, be an excellent form of practice, giving you a chance to practice combat marksmanship and gun-handling skills under pressure. Strangely, a typical person will work harder to not look bad in front of his peers than he will to stay alive. This self-induced stress, or pressure,

gives the shooter a chance to practice his skills in a stressful environment, as well as a chance to try out equipment under difficult circumstances.

One thing you will find very early is that your gear seems to as susceptible to match pressure as you are.

Equipment (holster, belt, magazine pouches, etc) that work just great standing upright and stationary on the range may not work as well if you are seated, or moving smartly to Point B. The time to find out about equipment short-comings is in a match, not a fight.

In a match, especially a well-designed one, you get a chance to solve a problem that someone else created. Scott Reitz says “gunfighting is problem solving with a gun in hand”. Getting some experience at that could be invaluable. Shooting someone else’s scenario gives you some insights into your reactions and areas that need improvement. Get out, shoot a match or two and learn.



## Protective Pistolcraft Instructor Development Courses

These are immersion level, five-day long courses that allow us to dive deeply into learning how to teach modern, effective self-defense skills. There is a low light session outdoors one evening, with and without flashlights, plus some academic material on marketing for trainers, preparing Assistant Instructors, and much more. The next step for graduates of this course is the Master Instructor course, skipping over the Advanced course. We have two iterations of this course in 2024. Register soon, as they fill well in advance.

**June 19-23 PPIDC/5 day                      Yadkinville, NC**

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/protective-pistolcraft-instructor-development-course-tickets-688827520657?aff=oddtcreator>

**Sept 25-29 Protective Pistolcraft Instr 5 day      White Hall, AR**

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/protective-pistolcraft-instructor-development-course-tickets-688836898707?aff=ebdsoporgprofile>

A student in the 2023 iteration of this course wrote a very detailed AAR, or review. See it here:

<https://swiftsilentdeadly.com/aar-rangemaster-protective-pistolcraft-idc/>



**“We live in a safe neighborhood. Who’d want to hurt us?”**  
by Tom Givens

Late on the afternoon of Sunday, July 22, 2007, 48-year-old Jennifer Hawke-Petit and her 11-year-old daughter Michaela Petit went to a local grocery store in Cheshire, Connecticut. During their trip to the grocery store, they attracted the attention of Joshua Komisarjevsky, who followed them home to see where they lived and judge their victim potential. Jennifer’s husband was a successful doctor, so they lived in a large home in a very nice neighborhood. The thug liked what he saw.

## The Petit Family



Komisarjevsky then exchanged several text messages with his partner, Steven Hayes, as the two planned a home invasion for later that Sunday night.

According to Hayes' confession, the two men had planned to rob the Petit house under cover of darkness. Upon their arrival in the early hours of July 23, they found William Petit sleeping on a couch in the sun room. Komisarjevsky struck William on the head with a baseball bat found in the yard and then tied him up at gunpoint and took him to the basement. The children and their mother were then bound and locked in their respective rooms. Hayes later said that he and Komisarjevsky were not satisfied with their haul, about \$150.00 found in Mrs. Petit's wallet, and that a bankbook was found which showed an available balance.

A gas station's surveillance video shows Hayes purchasing \$10 worth of gasoline in two cans he had taken from the Petit home in the early morning hours. After returning to the house, and unloading the gas cans, he took Mrs. Petit to the bank when it opened. (The prosecution later claimed that this was evidence of premeditated murder.) Hayes convinced Jennifer to withdraw \$15,000 from her account when the bank opened. Bank surveillance cameras captured the transaction which shows Jennifer Hawke-Petit, on the morning of July 23, as she informed the teller of her situation. The bank manager then called 911 and reported the details to police while Jennifer was still in the bank with the teller. The manager reported to the 911 dispatcher, in real time, as Jennifer left the bank and was picked up by Hayes, describing his clothing as he drove away with her. The Cheshire police response to the bank's report began with assessing the situation and setting up a vehicle perimeter, without revealing their presence. The police

remained outside the Petit home for more than half an hour, taking these preliminary measures, while the assailants were raping and murdering the women inside the house. The police made no effort to make the assailants aware of their presence, choosing to remain out of sight in an extended perimeter around the home.

During this time, Hayes and Komisarjevsky escalated the heinous nature of their crimes: Hayes and Komisarjevsky sexually assaulted the 11-year-old Michaela, anally raping her. The pathologist who conducted the autopsies testified that both suspects' DNA was found in semen recovered from the 11 year old girl's rectum. Komisarjevsky, who had photographed the sexual assault of the girl on his cell phone, then provoked Hayes into raping Jennifer. Hayes raped her on the floor of the living room. Hayes then strangled Jennifer with a piece of rope, then doused her lifeless body and parts of the house, including the daughters' rooms, with gasoline. While tied to their beds, both daughters had been doused with gasoline; each had her head covered with a pillowcase. A fire was started, and Hayes and Komisarjevsky fled the scene. Hayley and Michaela both died of smoke inhalation, but only after suffering extensive 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> degree burns to their feet and legs as they lay bound to burning beds.





William Petit had been able to free himself, use a basement door exit to flee, and run to a neighbor's home for help. In court testimony, William Petit stated that he felt a "jolt of adrenaline" coupled with a need to escape upon hearing one of the perpetrators state: "Don't worry, it's going to be all over in a couple of minutes." Petit then told the jury, "I thought, it's now or never because in my mind at that moment, I thought they were going to shoot all of us." As it turns out, those words were being spoken to Mrs. Petit as she was being slowly strangled to death with a rope.

Hayes and Komisarjevsky fled the scene using the Petit family car. They were immediately spotted by police

stationed on the perimeter, pursued, and arrested one block away. The whole invasion lasted seven hours.

The details of this scenario were revealed in a confession by Hayes just hours after the killings. Detectives testified that Hayes smelled strongly of gasoline throughout the interrogation. Of course, each perpetrator blamed or implicated the other as the mastermind and driving force behind the horrific crimes. Komisarjevsky later kept a diary, entered into evidence, in which he chose to call Petit a "coward" and claimed that he could have stopped the murders had he wanted to. During their interrogations, during their trial, and when interviewed in prison several years later, the suspects showed no emotion and no remorse whatever for their acts.

Steven J. Hayes (born May 30, 1963) was found guilty of 16 of 17 counts related to the home invasion murders on October 5, 2010. He was 44 years old at the time of the crimes. Hayes' first arrest was at the age of 16. Joshua A. Komisarjevsky (born August 10, 1980) was Hayes' co-conspirator in the home invasion and murders. He was 27 at the time of the home invasion. Both men were sentenced to death, but Connecticut later abolished the death penalty, so both men's sentences were commuted to life in prison.

## **Lessons in Reality**

- 1. There are no "safe" neighborhoods.** This was not a random crime. The Petit's were specifically targeted

because a career criminal saw them in public and liked what he saw. It was a very nice, quiet, safe neighborhood, but the thugs make house calls.

**2. When in public, be alert to your surroundings.**

According to his confession, Komisarjevsky followed Mrs. Petit and her daughter around inside the store, assessing them as victims, then followed them all the way home. No one should be able to do this without being noticed.

**3. Lock your damned doors!** No one should be able to just walk into your home, especially at night.

Unauthorized entry should take time and make a lot of noise, to give you a chance to respond before an assailant is literally beating you with a baseball bat. These offenders literally just walked right in at 3:00 in the morning.

**4. The cavalry is not coming to save you.** The bank manager who called 911 told the police two men had invaded the home and were holding the family at gunpoint. Numerous police were outside the home as the girls and their mother were brutally raped and gruesomely murdered.

**5. You need to have ready access to defensive firearms.** Even the perpetrators of these heinous crimes said they could easily have been stopped.

Petit chose to flee to get someone else to handle the problem for him. As a result, he lost his family.

## **6. Accept that evil exists, and it may come calling.**

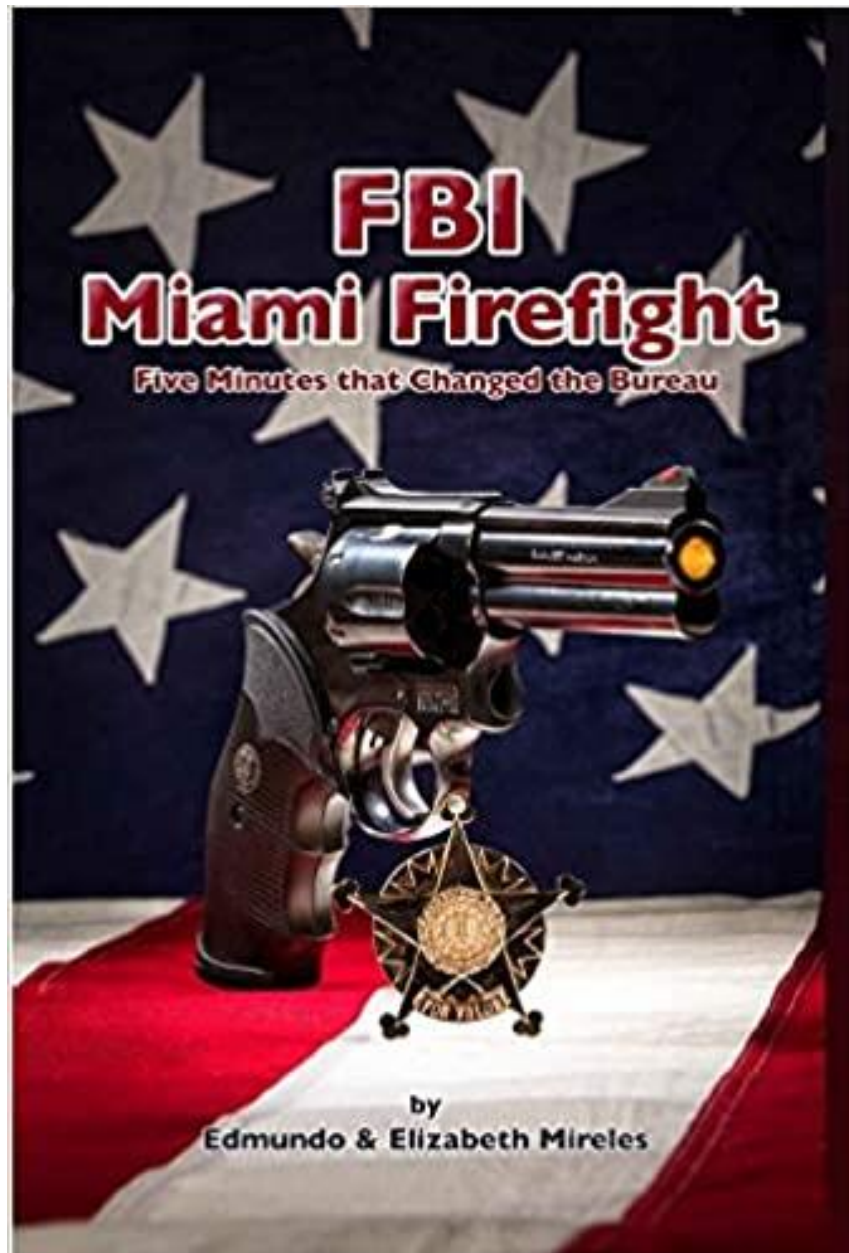
Just because you would never even consider committing crimes like these does not mean others won't. In their exchange of text messages prior to the home invasion, one of the thugs was all excited to get going to the Petit's home. The other thug told him to "hold your horses". The first thug's reply was "the horses want out NOW. LOL!". This was a game, entertainment, to these criminals. They are by no means unique. You must be mentally prepared to deal with scum like this if the time comes. You won't be able to reason with them or appeal to their better nature. You may have to fight them for your own life and the lives of your loved ones. Be armed. Be ready.

## **APRIL 11, 1986, the Gunfight That Changed Policing**

April 11th will be the 38th anniversary of the famous FBI shoot-out in Miami, Florida. This event pitted nine FBI agents against two heavily armed, skillful, and extremely dedicated hold-up men. When the gun battle was over, both Bad Guys were dead, but so were two FBI Special Agents, plus another five wounded.

This was a watershed event, leading to the change-over from revolvers to semiautomatic pistols in American law enforcement; to the modern high-performance ammunition

we have today; and a host of training and doctrinal changes. One of the surviving agents, who killed both the suspects, was Ed Mireles. Ed has written a first person account of the fight and I strongly recommend his book if you are serious about winning violent, bloody confrontations with criminals. Available from Amazon for about \$20.00, or on Kindle even cheaper.



## MASTER INSTRUCTOR COURSE

In March we had a truly outstanding Master Firearms Instructor Development Course at the fabulous Royal Range in Nashville, TN. It is a joy to work with such capable, motivated students! We had 21 students from 14 states, as far away as New York in class, and they really did well. The highest possible aggregate score was 200, and 199.5 was only good enough for third overall in this bunch. Sean Martin from New York and Jim Shanahan from Missouri were tied for Top Gun with a perfect 200 aggregate, so they had a shoot-off for Top Gun honors. At 10 yards, on a B8-C target, draw from concealment and fire 10 rounds in 10 seconds. Sean scored 99 and Jim scored 100, sealing his Top Gun win. Congratulations to everyone who attended.



# UPCOMING TRAINING EVENTS

April 12-14 Pistol Instructor Springfield, MO

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/rangemaster-firearms-instructor-development-course-tickets-688810299147?aff=oddtcreator>

April 26-28 Pistol Instructor Red Hill Range, Commerce, GA

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/rangemaster-firearms-instructor-development-course-tickets-688812114577?aff=oddtcreator>

May 3-5 Pistol Instructor Boondocks, Jackson, MS

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/rangemaster-firearms-instructor-development-course-tickets-688812495717?aff=oddtcreator>

May 4-5 Combative Pistol (Aqil) White Hall, AR

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/rangemaster-combative-pistol-course-tickets-688850930677?aff=oddtcreator>

May 17-19 Professional Pistolcraft Instructor Bandera, TX

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/professional-pistolcraft-instructor-tickets-459108123757?aff=oddtcreator> **sold out**

May 24-26 Pistol Instructor KR Training, Lincoln, Texas

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/rangemaster-firearms-instructor-development-course-tickets-688812977157?aff=oddtcreator>

June 19-23 Protective Pistolcraft Instructor Development/ 5 day  
Yadkinville, NC

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/protective-pistolcraft-instructor-development-course-tickets-688827520657?aff=oddtcreator>

June 27-29 Master Instructor Xenia, OH

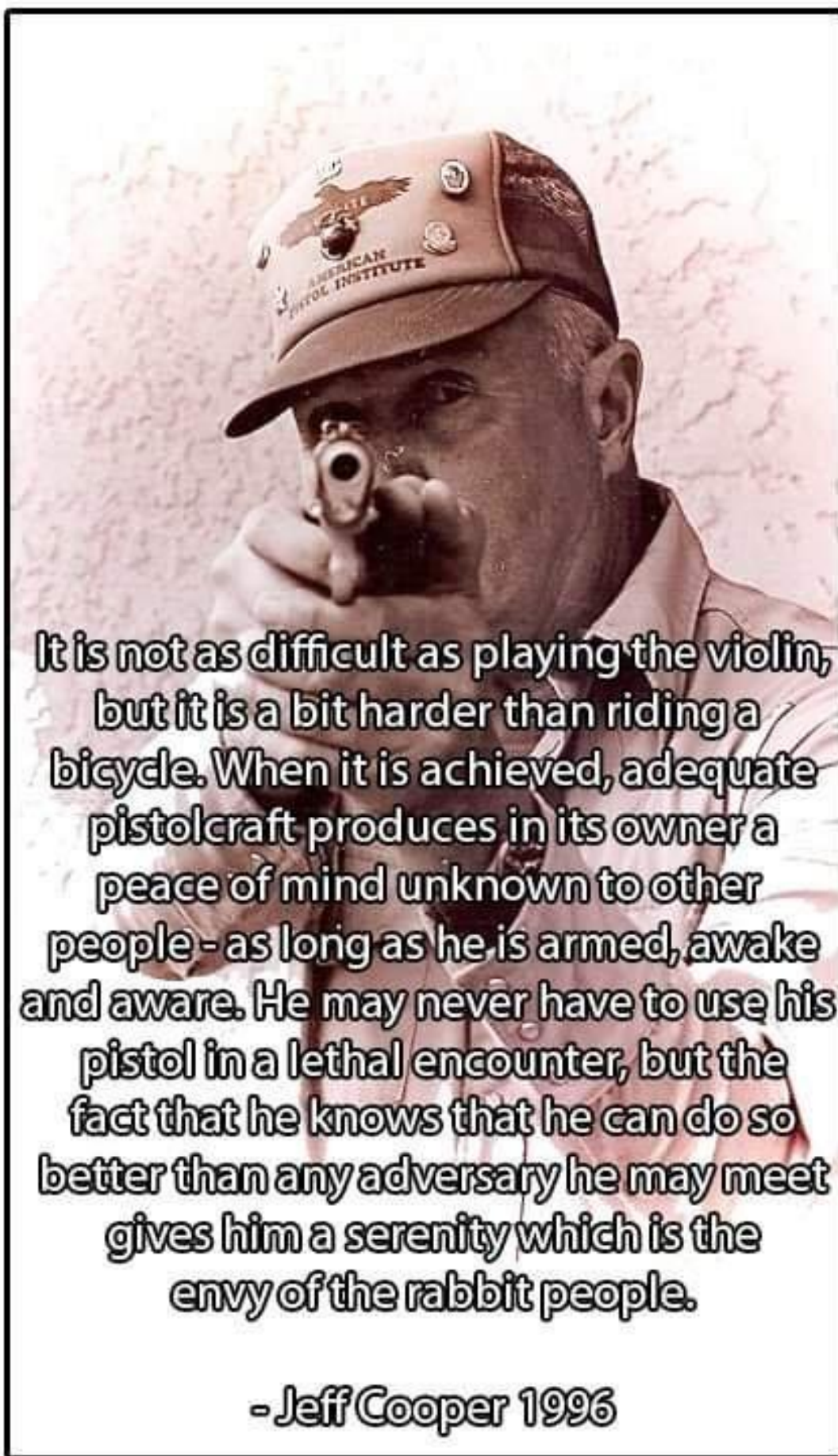
<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/master-firearms-instructor-development-course-tickets-688818303087?aff=oddtcreator>

July 19-21 Pistol Instructor Shreveport, LA

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/rangemaster-firearms-instructor-development-course-tickets-688853468267?aff=oddtcreator>







It is not as difficult as playing the violin, but it is a bit harder than riding a bicycle. When it is achieved, adequate pistolcraft produces in its owner a peace of mind unknown to other people - as long as he is armed, awake and aware. He may never have to use his pistol in a lethal encounter, but the fact that he knows that he can do so better than any adversary he may meet gives him a serenity which is the envy of the rabbit people.

- Jeff Cooper 1996