



# **FEBRUARY 2025 NEWSLETTER**

## **DRILL OF THE MONTH**

Throughout 2025 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 from concealment 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, concealed. On signal draw, fire 4 rounds, reload immediately, and fire 2 more rounds, using both hands.**

**20 rounds total. 200 points possible. Total points divided by total time = score. Par score is 8. Your goal is a score higher than 8, the higher the better.**

**Here is a video demo:** [https://youtu.be/v5aum\\_B6F3E?si=TSbrv\\_AuX0y8RqBB](https://youtu.be/v5aum_B6F3E?si=TSbrv_AuX0y8RqBB)

## **Dealing with Mentally Disturbed Individuals**

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 lately. (joke)

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 someone 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 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 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 a Progressive.)

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.

Be aware that these individuals are essentially everywhere, and be prepared to interact with them from a position of caution and vigilance. Don’t be surprised when you run into them and you’ll be better able to deal with them rationally and safely.

## Shooting Incidents, Common Factors

### 1. FBI Agent Involved Shootings, 1989-1994

Average 20-30 shootings per year, typically in plain civilian clothing

FBI agents don't do patrol work, don't police bars, don't answer domestic disturbance calls—their shootings closely parallel those of private citizens.

Roughly one half of FBI involved shootings occur because of a criminal attempting to rob or assault what they think is a private citizen, who turns out to be an FBI agent. The FBI keeps separate stat's on rifle shootings (usually SWAT Agents) and handgun shootings. These are handgun statistics.

92% occurred at 6-10 feet

Average rounds fired= 3.2

### FBI Agents, Jan 2012 to Jan 2016 26 total incidents

Total rds fired = 96 Avg per incident = 3.7

0-3 yards	57	59%
3-7 yards	10	11%
7-15 yards	20	21%
15-25 yards	9	9%
Over 25 yards	0	
0-7 yards		70%

2. **Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) Discharge Report, 2007**

56 incidents in which shots were fired

12 were accidental discharges, usually during cleaning (clear your gun first!)

Of the 44 defensive shootings:

Average distance was 14.6 feet (about the length of a car).

Average number of shots fired, 5.

3. **Rangemaster Student Involved Shootings**

73 incidents to date (Feb 2024). Of these, 10 were selected for a presentation at the 2008 Tactical Conference and the NTI. These were a representative cross section, not cherry picked. Of those ten representative shootings:

5 of 10 involved an armed robbery by one or two suspects;

3 occurred on mall parking lots, only one occurred in home;

In all but one, the range was inside the length of a large car/SUV; the exception was at 22 yards;  
4 out of 10 incidents involved 2 or more suspects;  
Average number of shots fired 3.8 (low-1, high-11).

### **Common Threads:**

FBI: 6-10 feet/ DEA: 14.6 feet/ Rangemaster: 6-15 feet/  
1 car length (average sedan 16' long)

FBI Agents, DEA Agents, and civilians with carry permits wear their guns in plain civilian clothing, concealed. Plain clothing, gun concealed, but need fast concealed access.

High probability of more than one assailant.

Most occur in public areas, parking lots, malls, NOT at home. **WEAR YOUR GUN!**

# SCAT!

Here are some unpleasant truths-

Raging/Drunk/Crazy/Determined (pick any combination) people are notoriously hard to stop with handgun bullets unless said bullets are delivered fairly precisely to vital areas; and

The sooner you put multiple good hits on your attacker, the less likely he is to do that to you.

So, our goal is anatomically solid hits as quickly as possible. This requires a balance of speed and accuracy. The best way to test this is with “hit factor” scoring, originally called Comstock Count, after it’s designer, Walt Comstock back in the 1960’s.

In this scoring method, the point total you earn on the target is divided by the time it took to make those points. So, if you shoot slowly for an un-necessarily tight group, your score will suffer. If you hose too fast and drop a lot of points, your score will suffer. If you shoot quickly and get good hits, your score will be higher. This gives us that essential balance between speed and accuracy.

The Short Combat Accuracy Test (SCAT) is a quick, 20 round test that will give one a fairly good assessment of defensive shooting skill. Right now Florida is in the cruel grip of Winter, but recently my practice partner and I braved the 75 degree weather to get to the range. We started with the SCAT, cold. Here is my score sheet. Give this a try the next time you go to the range.



### SCAT Score Sheet

Name TOM G. Date 01/02/25

	<u>Distance</u>	<u>Start</u>	<u>Rds</u>	<u>Target</u>	<u>Time</u>
1	5 yds	Holster	4	Chest	2.24
2A	5 yds	Ready	1	Head	.78
2B	5 yds	Ready	1	Head	.79
3	5 yds	Ready DHO	3	Chest	1.36
4	5 yds	Ready NDHO	3	Chest	1.55
5	7 yds	Holster	4	Chest	2.78
6	10 yds	Holster	4	Chest	3.01
<b>Total Points (100)</b>			<b>98</b>	<b>Total Time</b>	<b>12.51</b>
<b>Total Points <i>divided by</i> Total Time</b>					<b>7.83</b>
<b>(Total Points / Total Time) x 20</b>				<b>Final Score</b>	<b>156.7</b>

RFTS-Q Target = Scoring is 5, 4, 2

80-100 Competent

101-125 Advanced

126+ Highly Skilled

# UNIVERSAL FIREARMS SAFETY RULES

**ALL GUNS ARE ALWAYS LOADED.** Before you can clean it, tinker with it, or show it to a buddy, you must clear it first. If you want to shoot it—shoot it. If you want to do anything else with it, clear it first.

**NEVER POINT A GUN AT ANYTHING YOU ARE NOT WILLING TO DESTROY.** Keep up with where your gun is pointed, at all times. If not in your gun safe, the gun will either be in the holster, at the ready, or on target, period.

**KEEP YOUR FINGER OFF THE TRIGGER UNTIL YOUR SIGHTS ARE ON THE TARGET.** Pressure on the trigger is what causes the gun to fire. Keep your finger indexed well away from the trigger unless you want the gun to fire. Gun on target=finger on trigger. Gun off target=finger off trigger.

**ALWAYS BE CERTAIN OF YOUR TARGET AND WHAT IS BEYOND IT AND AROUND IT.** Know what you are shooting and why. What is behind it? Remember that you will be held legally accountable for every bullet that leaves your gun, regardless of your intentions or the circumstances.

In addition, we should think of these additional cautions.

**NEVER TRY TO CATCH A DROPPED GUN!** Let it hit the ground, then carefully pick it up, trigger finger in register away from the trigger guard and muzzle in the safest direction.

**TAKE EVERY PRECAUTION TO KEEP YOUR GUN(S) OUT OF THE HANDS OF UNAUTHORIZED PERSONS!** Children **AND** untrained or irresponsible adults must **NOT** have access to your firearms. Wear them or lock them up.

## 9mm Ammo Information

Periodically I check various factory ammo to see how it compares to other available loadings. In my handguns, I'm looking carefully at three things: mechanical reliability; practical accuracy; and how closely it shoots to my fixed iron sights at practical distances.

Recently I got a chance to chronograph and target test several loads in my training/practice Glock 17. There were three loads I use as training/practice/demo ammo and two carry loads. First, the chronograph data:

PPU 2024 production, 124 grain ball  
1065/1044/1072/1060/1084  
Average velocity 1065 feet per second  
Extreme spread 40 fps

Federal American Eagle 124 grain ball  
1068/1075/1077/1060/1073  
Average velocity 1071 fps  
Extreme spread 17 fps

Federal 9mm 9MS, 147 grain jacketed hollow point  
997/989/955/979/970  
Average Velocity 978 fps  
Extreme spread 42 fps

Federal 124 grain HST , standard pressure  
1178/1125/1159/1133/1144

Average Velocity 1148 fps  
Extreme spread 53 fps

Federal 124 grain HST +P  
1233/1212/1203/1197/1211  
Average Velocity 1211 fps  
Extreme spread 36 fps

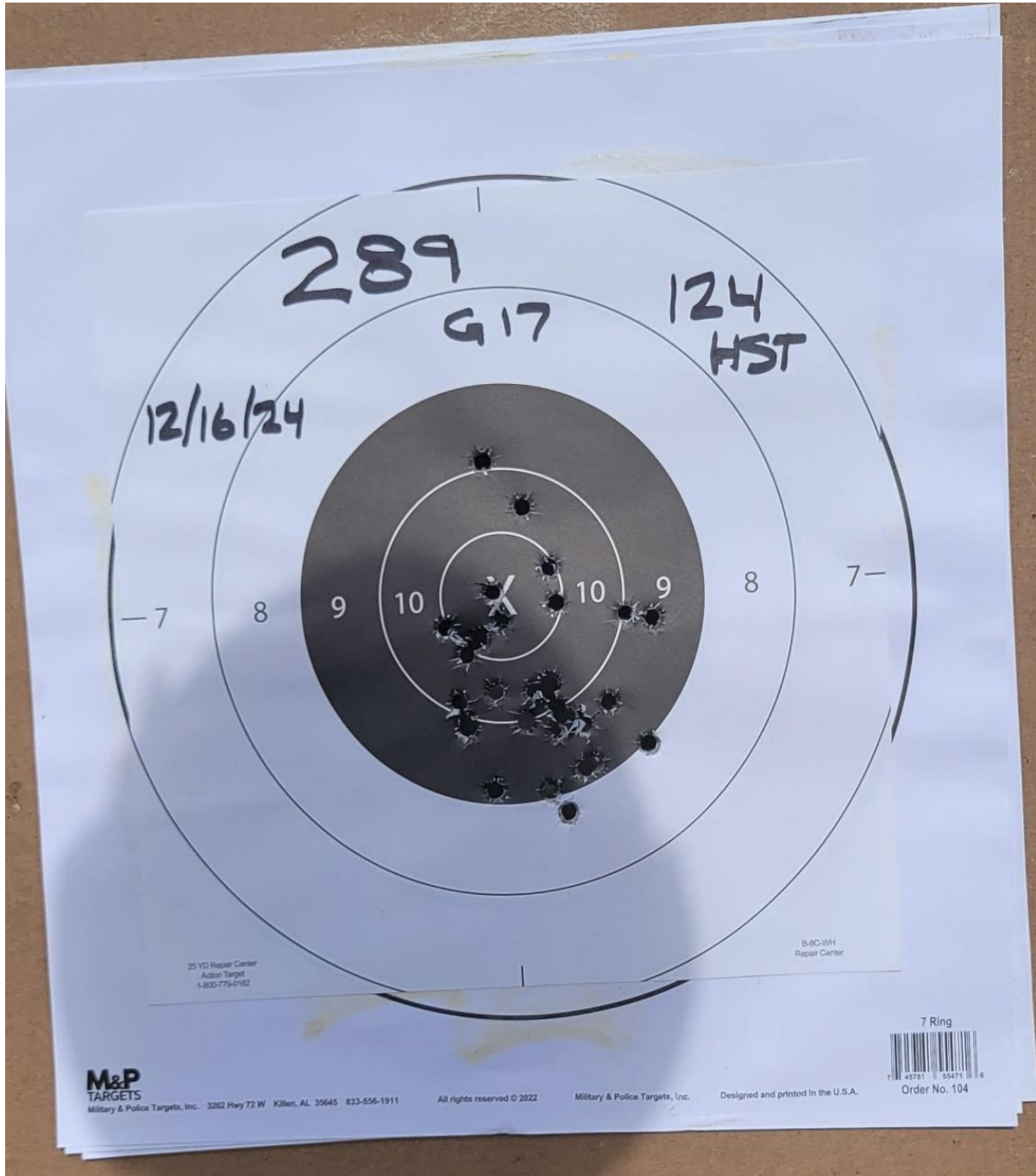
Note- The 9MS is an older design jacketed hollow point. Repeated testing has shown very little tendency to expand, so I would not carry this load. It is mild and very accurate, so I use it as a match or class load fairly often.

Done with the chronograph, I began accuracy testing. I wanted to check both group size and how close the point of aim and the point of impact coincided. I shot offhand, slow fire at 15 yards, using 3"X5" labels as targets. All the listed loads stayed inside the card size targets.

Finally, raw accuracy has to be controllable in practical shooting. Blast and recoil have an effect on practical accuracy, so I tried two tests with the 124 HST standard pressure load. First, I shot the Rangemaster Bullseye Course with this load, scoring 289 out of 300. At 15 and 25 yards, this load impacted just a bit lower than the +P version I normally carry. I then shot a 3"X5" label, at 5 yards, drawing from concealment. I shot a tight group well inside the card in 4.53 seconds.

Gelatin testing by others has shown very little performance difference between the 124 standard and +P HST loads,

not surprising since there was only a 63 feet per second difference in their average velocities. I would be comfortable with either. I carry the +P version mainly because it shoots slightly better in my guns. YMMV.



## **1 of 100, A Deliberate Responder, by Jim Shanahan**

I have had the pleasure of knowing and working with Jim for several years. He retired from a long and successful career with the US Army, then did several years as a contract trainer for military police and special units. He is a highly accomplished shooter, a Master in IDPA and a Grand Master in USPSA.

His book is not a technical “how to” book, and you won’t find a lot of details about gear or specific technique. What it is about is a detailed look at developing a personal training philosophy and how to structure your training, practice, and mindset development to prepare to be your best version of you. Highly recommended. Available from Amazon for \$15.00 in paperback or \$11.99 in Kindle format. This is a real steal.

## **UPCOMING TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES**

Feb 8-9, 2025  
Advanced Instructor

Tom Givens  
Lakeland, FL

<https://rangemaster.corsizio.com/event/668d63fbe4e7e7f3ba0d942d>

Mar 7-9, 2025  
Master Instructor

Tom Givens  
Lakeland, FL

<https://rangemaster.corsizio.com/event/668d6538e4e7e7f3ba0de2a0>

March 28-30, 2025  
Tac Con 2025  
**Sold out/full**

April 4-6, 2025 Instructor Development Course (Givens)  
Mead Hall Range, Shawnee, OK

<https://rangemaster.corsizio.com/event/668d6697e4e7e7f3ba0e2821>

April 26-27, 2025 Intensive Pistol Skills (Aqil instructor)  
Dallas Pistol Club, Carrollton, Texas

<https://rangemaster.corsizio.com/event/66eb2a6836fb002cd74ff2c4>

May 16-18, 2025  
Defensive Shotgun Instructor Tom Givens  
Lakeland, FL

<https://rangemaster.corsizio.com/event/668d6a70e4e7e7f3ba0f31ef>

May 24-25, 2025

Dynamic Pistolcraft

Aqil Qadir, instructor

Eastaboga, AL

<https://rangemaster.corsizio.com/event/673a3962aa4a19177007f433>

May 31-June 1, 2025

Combative Pistol

Aqil Qadir, Instructor

Stafford, Virginia

<https://rangemaster.corsizio.com/event/673a37c8aa4a19177007be27>

June 13-15, 2025 Master Instructor Tom Givens

Private Range, Stafford, Virginia

<https://rangemaster.corsizio.com/event/668d7638e4e7e7f3ba1243cd>

The entire 2025 open enrollment schedule can be seen at

<https://rangemaster.com/schedule/>

