



JULY 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/>

Federal Air Marshals' Qualification

The "Sky Marshals", as they were once called, are a specialized law enforcement unit, currently operating as part of the Transportation Security Administration. This has not always been so.

The ancestor of the current unit was formed in 1962, as the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) Peace Officers

Program. For the first decade, this was a fairly small outfit, and they were made Deputy US Marshals to give them authority to carry guns and make arrests anywhere in US jurisdiction. In response to a wave of hijackings, the program was expanded in the 1970's, and moved to the Treasury Department, under US Customs. During this time period, teams of 2-3 Sky Marshals worked selected domestic and international flights that were deemed to be at risk for hijacking.

Mandatory passenger screening was instituted in 1973, and it was assumed that would put an end to hijacking, so the unit was disbanded and the officers were transferred to other duties within US Customs.

1985 saw a rise in international hijacking again worldwide, and President Reagan directed that a new force be set up and fielded. An elite force was put together, authorized 50 field positions, although on 9/11 there were only 33 such officers. Of course, 9/11 resulted in a huge expansion of the program and there are now approximately 4,000 agents in the TSA Air Marshal Service under the Department of Homeland Security.

When the unit was small and elite, it had arguably the toughest pistol qualification course in US law enforcement.

The Tactical Pistol Course (TPC) is actually quite demanding, and passing it is a sure sign of competence with a handgun. When the program exploded in size, the agency was unable to find enough personnel who could pass the TPC, so the standards were lowered enormously. Any time government is faced with the choice of training people up, or dumbing the standards down, guess which way it goes.

The course of fire is appended below. The original target used is not commonly seen now, so we substitute either an RFTS-Q5 silhouette, or the IPSC/USPSA target with it's vertical A-zone. If using the IPSC/USPSA target, the D-zone is a miss. The A-zone is 5 points, the C-zone is 2 points. The course must be shot from concealment. Take 5 points off for every overtime shot.

Original Federal Air Marshal Qualification

Two targets, side by side, at least 3 feet apart. Any hit in the 8" chest circle is 5 points. Any other hit on the silhouette, above the belt line, is 2 points.

Subtract 5 points for any shot fired overtime. 30 rounds total, 150 points possible, 135 or above to pass (90%). The entire Course of Fire is shot from 7 yards.

Draw and fire 1 rd, in 1.65 seconds 2X

From Low Ready, fire 2 rds in 1.35 seconds 2X

From Low Ready, fire 6 rounds in 3.0 seconds 1X

From Low Ready, fire 1 round, reload, and fire 1 more round, all in 3.25 seconds 2X

From Low Ready, fire 1 round at one target, and 1 round on the other target, all in 1.5 seconds 2X

Start holstered, concealed, back to targets. On signal, pivot 180 degrees, draw and fire 1 round on one target ,1 round on the other target, and 1 more round on the first target, all in 3.5 seconds 2X

From Low Ready, fire 1 round, drop to one knee, reload, and fire 1 more round, all in 4.0 seconds. Start with only 1 round in the gun. 2X

I recently shot this with my concealed EDC pistol. I had 100% of the points on the targets, but I had three over-time rounds, all on reload stages. The times are really tight on the reload stages with concealed gear. That made my score 135 (90%). It's a fun exercise. Give it a try.



STKY TARGETS

One of my students recently introduced me to a new target, from STKY Targets. This is a weather-proof, self adhesive target you can stick directly onto a new or used cardboard target to wind up with a very human appearing, anatomically correct training target.

The target is based on a 1:1 scale of a 6 foot tall man. The heart and the ocular window are represented in anatomically accurate locations, and the overall target is not oversized. It is shown here adhering to a Shoot Steel cardboard target.



One nice thing about this target is that peels off a backer and sticks directly to a cardboard target. This eliminates the need for staplers or glue, which is nice. They hold up well to shooting, and you can use pasters to cover errant bullet holes. Several variations are available. My only complaint is the grid line artwork, which I find both unnecessary and “busy”. This is a minor issue.

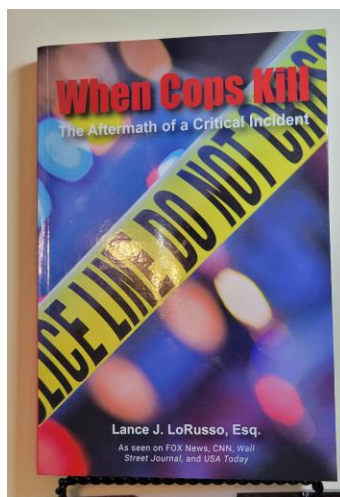


<https://stkytargetsystems.com/products/ipsc-alpha-charlie-reface-copy>

When Cops Kill, by Lance LoRusso, Esq.

I recently read this book, and found it to be extremely useful for anyone in law enforcement. A great deal of the information in it applies equally well to the armed private citizen. The author was a street cop in a metro Atlanta department, and later an investigator with Georgia's POST commission. He is also an attorney who specializes in representing law enforcement personnel in use of force lawsuits and criminal prosecutions.

The greatest value of this book for the armed private citizen is its detailed look at the investigative process following a shooting, and an explanation of the terms used and sequence of events in a legal action arising from a use of force. He goes into great detail about what to say and when to say it, and how to work with legal counsel effectively. This is critical information. Available from Amazon for \$9.95 in Kindle format, or \$19.95 in paperback. Highly recommended.



Re-Connecting with our Roots

Jeff Boren is a professional educator who also runs a firearms training business. He has graduated from virtually every course Rangemaster offers, plus has trained with numerous other schools/trainers.

Aqil Qadir is a retired Buffalo, NY, police officer and long time trainer. He operates his own school, as well as being a Rangemaster staff instructor. These two men are highly skilled and deeply trained. Earlier this year they attended a five day long firearms instructor course at Gunsite. Jeff wrote a detailed and very instructive report on their experience. I urge you to read it. It can be seen here:

<https://rangemaster.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/04/Gunsite-Reconnecting-Boren-2025.pdf>

Performance in Close Range Gunfight

Nashville, TN's police department has a solid firearms training program. I know some of the guys who set this program up and ran it for years. Here is a video of one of their officers going to two hands and eye level in a close range, sudden gunfight. I'm often told people can't do this,

but I've seen plenty of examples of trained people doing so.

<https://mail.google.com/mail/u/0/?shva=1#inbox/FMfcgzQbfLRLrMNFVnjRVVJgLmSgDnfr>



Ruger RXM Update

At the recent NRA Annual Meeting, I was able to get my hands on a couple of Ruger's new Glock 19 clone, the RXM.

The examples I handled had decent triggers and good sights. The grip frame was very comfortable, with a non-slip but not abrasive texture. There is a slight flare built into the

mag well, which will aid reloading. The guns appear to be well made. They will accept Gen 3 Glock parts and accessories.

If you teach a lot of entry level students you should look into these. If someone only has around \$400 to spend on a sidearm, this is possibly their best choice.



FOLLOW THROUGH

Follow through is critical, but is one of the most overlooked aspects of defensive shooting. When your gun fires:

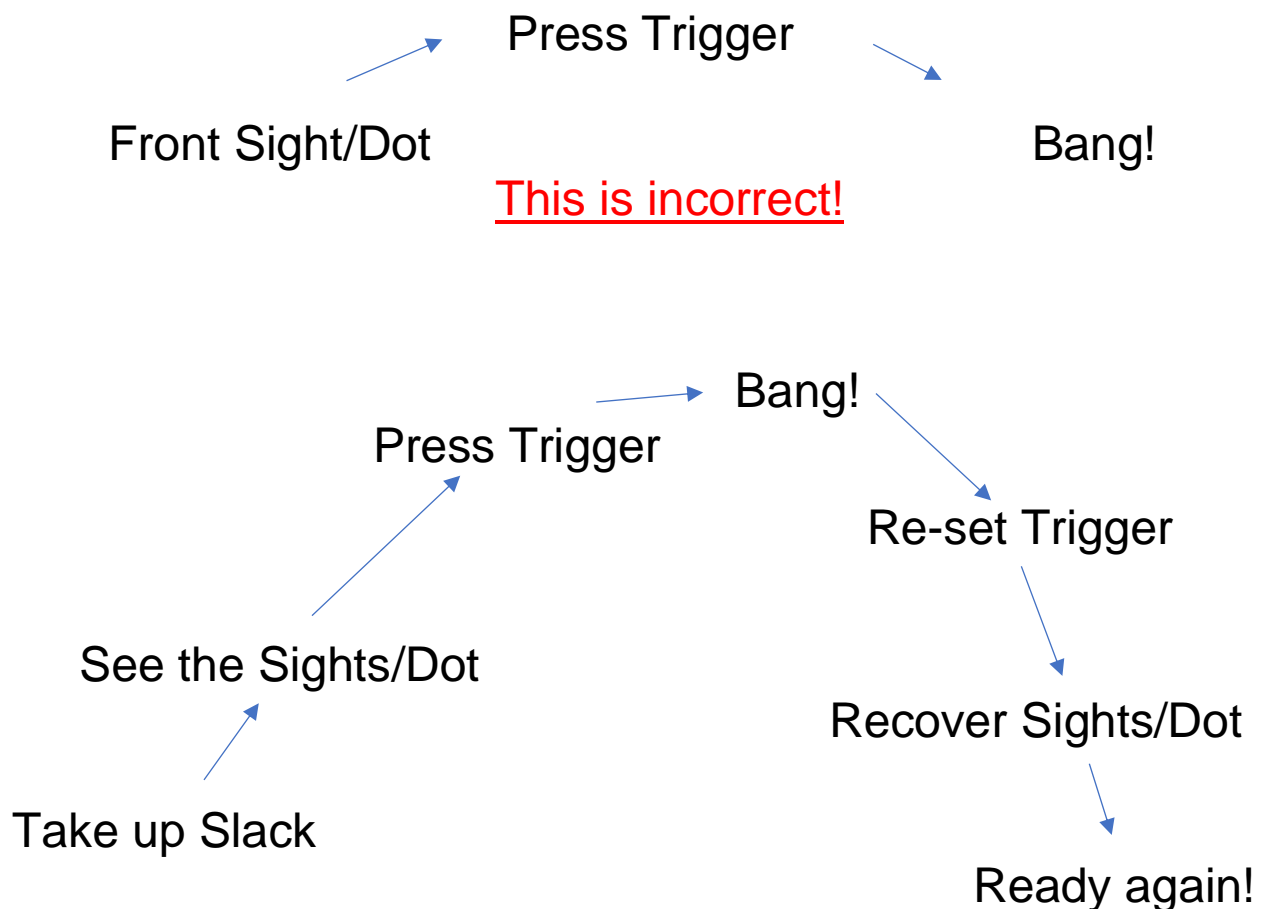
Track your sights/dot visually.

As soon as you see the front sight or dot lift, re-set the trigger. We re-set during recoil, we DO NOT pin the trigger. The sights/dot will rise, then come back to their original orientation.

As the sights/dot return to the desired point of aim, start pressing on the next shot.

A hard, consistent grip will minimize gun movement, and minimize movement of the sights/dot. More importantly, it will aid getting the sights/dot back on target more quickly.

Do not count on one shot to stop a fight, especially with a handgun! Be prepared to fire multiple accurate shots.



This is correct. The cycle of firing a shot does **NOT** end at “Bang!”. It ends when you are back on target, trigger re-set, sights realigned, and you are ready to fire again. The grip remains constant throughout this cycle, actuating the trigger with **ONLY** the trigger finger. “Grip, then Press”, **NOT** “Grip and Press”.

Historical References

These books should be in the library of every knowledgeable instructor. Book sellers like ABE Books or even Amazon often have used copies of these for ridiculously low prices.

The Art of Handgun Shooting, by Charles Askins

Fast & Fancy Revolver Shooting, by Ed McGivern

The Textbook of Pistols and Revolvers, by Julian Hatcher

Sixguns, by Elmer Keith

Gunfighters, by Col. Charles Askins

Shooting, by J. Henry Fitzgerald

Officer Down, Code 3, by Pierce Brooks

Fireworks, a Gunsite Anthology, by Jeff Cooper

The Deadliest Men, by Paul Kirchner

Setting Up Training/Practice Drills

Dry fire should be utilized frequently to build and anchor skills. Some skills, however, require live fire for the most effective learning experience. Besides, shooting is an enjoyable and challenging sport, and your practice sessions can be a good way of relaxing and relieving stress. Recoil control and smoothly switching among multiple targets are two skills that require live fire, and seeing your bullets impacting in the vital zone of the target rewards and reinforces your dry fire home practice regimen.

To be of value to you, your range practice sessions must be realistic and goal oriented. In setting up practice drills or scenarios, use a term called combat logic. This means, set up target placements and distances that you might actually encounter in your real world activities. If “That would never happen in real life” can be said about a

scenario, don't waste time and ammo on it. Let's look at an example.

First, if you work behind the counter in a jewelry store in a high crime area, holdups are a prime concern to you. The following skills would be of value to you:

3 yards – one target straight ahead – draw and quickly fire 2 to 3 shots. Repeat this drill several times.

5 yards – one target – start facing 90° to the left or right, pivot, draw and fire 2 to 4 shots at the target. Do this three times facing to the left, and three times facing to the right.

3 yards and 5 yards – two targets, one at 3 yards, one at 5 yards – draw and fire two or three shots at one, immediately fire two or three shots at the other. Do this two or three times.

3 yards and 5 yards – two targets, as above – draw and fire two or three body shots at each, then one headshot on each. Do this a couple of times.

The drills described above can be completed as described in about 75 rounds of ammunition. This would do you a lot more good than just standing there drawing and shooting pairs on a stationary silhouette over and over again. The drills described above are relevant to your employment and the physical environment in which you work.

Conversely, I once shot with an IPSC club that had gotten bored with realistic exercises, because they always involve a small number targets and close ranges. The last

match of theirs I observed involved swinging from a tree in a parachute harness, shooting at targets on the ground! This may be great fun, but it is a sort of ballistic masturbation, having very little application in most people's real life.

With the simple scenarios you should concentrate on in practice, your goal is always to get good, solid center hits, but as quickly as possible. You should always shoot just as fast as you can get good hits, but no faster. If you start to spray, slow down a bit. You cannot miss fast enough to catch up! If you are getting well centered hits quickly, stretch the distance a little at a time, or throw in additional difficulties, like shooting while seated, shooting with one hand disabled, etc. Remember combat logic, and keep it simple, straightforward, and realistic.

UPCOMING TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES

The primary instructor's name is in parentheses.

July 10-12, 2025 Thursday-Saturday (Givens)

Instructor Development Course Xenia, Ohio

<https://rangemaster.corsizio.com/event/668d6d7ae4e7e7f3ba0ffe4c>

July 18-20, 2025 (Givens)
Instructor Development Course Springfield, MO
<https://rangemaster.corsizio.com/event/668d7717e4e7e7f3ba128a71>

Aug 8-10, 2025 (Givens)
Defensive Shotgun Instructor, Apache, Yadkinville, NC
<https://rangemaster.corsizio.com/event/668f3de3e4e7e7f3ba8f4191>

Aug 15-17, 2025 (Givens) (FULL)
Professional Pistolcraft Instr. Royal Range, Nashville, TN
<https://rangemaster.corsizio.com/event/668d7a30e4e7e7f3ba136ac0>

Aug 22-24, 2025 (Givens)
Instructor Development Royal Range Nashville, TN
<https://rangemaster.corsizio.com/event/668d7b1de4e7e7f3ba13b1bf>

Aug 29-31, 2025 (John Hearne, Instructor)
Bonfield, IL
<https://rangemaster.corsizio.com/event/6777fa3099d74784f70f4fe7>

Sept 13-14, 2025 Combative Pistol (John Hearne, instr)
Fairless Hills, PA (Philadelphia area)

<https://rangemaster.corsizio.com/event/6777085e99d74784f7df59cd>

Sept 19-21, 2025 Instructor Development Course
Pittsburgh, PA (Givens)

<https://rangemaster.corsizio.com/event/668d8e34e4e7e7f3ba1a0828>



