



# **AUGUST 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/>

## **3 Second Skill Check**

This drill was designed by well-known trainer Chris Edwards. Chris is a former law enforcement officer who retired this year from Glock's training division. He is also a high-level competition shooter and a Rangemaster certified firearms instructor.

### **3 Second Skill Check**

You will need a cardboard silhouette (any) and 2 B-8C type bullseye targets. Attach one B-8C to the chest of the target. Cut out “the black” (the 9 and 10 ring) of another B-8C and place that in the silhouette’s head.

Scoring- In the chest, a hit “in the black” is worth 10 points. A hit outside the black but inside the 8 ring counts 5 points. Everything else is a miss. In the head, hits “in the black” count 10 points, any other hit in the head counts 5. 12 rounds, possible score of 120. 100 or above is “passing”.

**10 yards-** Start at Ready. On signal, fire 2 rounds to chest and 1 round to head, in 3 seconds.

**7 yards-** Draw and fire 3 rounds to chest in 3 seconds.

**7 yards-** Start gun in hand, in dominant hand only, at the ready. On signal fire 2 rounds to the head in 3 seconds.

**5 yards-** Start gun in hand, in non-dominant hand only. On signal fire 1 round to chest and 1 round to the head, all in 3 seconds.

**3 yards-** Draw and fire 2 rounds to the head in 3 seconds.

When done, you should have 6 rounds in the chest and 6 rounds in the head.

I recently shot this drill 3 times, scoring 115, 115, and finally, 120. I think it's a great drill. Give it a try.



*This was submitted by Jeff Boren, a Rangemaster certified Master Instructor. Jeff has trained with numerous instructors and schools, and is a professional educator, heading the safety/security team for a school district.*

*"They ain't us."*  
— **Aqil Qadir**

Three words—simple, direct, and profound. Over the years, my friend and master instructor Aqil Qadir has shared this short yet powerful phrase frequently, and it's become deeply embedded in the way I think about firearms training and teaching. At first glance, the phrase "They ain't us" might sound overly simple. But if we pause and reflect, we quickly realize its depth, and why it matters so much to our growth as instructors and as a training community.

First, and perhaps most obviously, Aqil's words remind us clearly that ***our students ain't us***. As instructors, we pour ourselves into training. We invest our time, energy, and often significant resources into developing our skills. We embrace gear choices, constantly refine our techniques, and carefully measure incremental gains in our

performance. For many of us, firearms proficiency isn't merely practical; it's a passion and pursuit of excellence.

Yet for most students, firearms training is quite different. They aren't typically driven by a desire for peak performance or subtle improvements in split times. Most simply want to feel safer, more confident, and capable of protecting themselves or their loved ones. Their perspectives, motivations, and goals often differ greatly from our own. And that's perfectly fine, but it's critical for us to understand it.

Teaching effectively means recognizing these differences, adapting to them, and guiding students toward decisions and techniques that genuinely match their needs—not ours. If we overlook the significance of these distinctions, we risk teaching from a limited viewpoint of our personal preferences, potentially alienating or overwhelming those who've entrusted us to help them.

The second perspective within Aqil's statement is just as important: even among fellow instructors or highly skilled shooters, they still ain't us. Each of us brings unique experiences, preferences, and contexts to our approach. Some instructors prefer traditional iron sights; others passionately embrace pistol-mounted optics. Some prefer certain platforms, calibers, or training methods, and they have a carefully reasoned "why" behind each choice.

The beauty of our community, and what Aqil emphasizes, is that we don't have to choose sides. We can and should have healthy, constructive discussions aimed at learning,

expanding our understanding, and elevating our collective knowledge. Rather than emotional arguments or insistence that our personal gear or method preferences represent absolute truth, we must cultivate thoughtful exchanges that respect and acknowledge each instructor's carefully considered approach.

This attitude of mutual respect and genuine inquiry is exactly how our community continues to grow stronger. After all, most instructors and enthusiasts are looking through a window focused on incremental performance gains and subtle nuances of skill. In contrast, most students simply seek reliable proficiency and basic competence. Both perspectives have value, and neither is inherently better—just different. Understanding this difference helps us appreciate that there is rarely a single "right answer" in firearms training, only thoughtful choices tailored to each person's needs and context.

As instructors, we must embrace intentionality in our teaching. It's critical to remember that our goal isn't to replicate our choices or preferences in our students but rather to empower each individual to make informed, responsible decisions based on their own clear understanding of "why." We honor the instructors who came before us—the giants upon whose shoulders we stand—not by dogmatically following their specific gear choices or methods, but by thoughtfully applying their lessons and continually evolving our approach in ways that serve our students best.

Ultimately, our legacy as instructors won't be measured by how many students adopt our personal preferences or techniques. Instead, it will be measured by how effectively we've guided them toward a thoughtful understanding of their own needs, empowering them to confidently and competently protect themselves and those they care about.

That's the deeper truth captured so powerfully by Aqil's succinct statement. Three simple words that remind us of our shared responsibility and the humility required to fulfill it thoughtfully:

*"They ain't us."*

## **Flatfoot Solutions Training Target**

Nick Deem is a police officer in Indiana, a Rangemaster student, and a participant in several shootings. He has started offering training on his own, as Flatfoot Solutions.

Nick wanted his own target, so he designed one, using his own image. Many ranges today have 18" target frames, as they were designed to hold 18" wide IDPA or USPSA cardboard targets. LE ranges usually have 24" wide target stands, as most law enforcement silhouette targets are printed on 23" X 35" paper. Those 23X35 targets are way too big for the common 18" target stands.

Nick had his targets printed to fit on an 18" cardboard target, so he can easily use those frames. This results in a target more the size of a typical Meth-ican American. Nick's accuracy standards are high. The A zone is about 4" X 6", and the B zone is about 8" X 10", and the zones are anatomically relevant.

Available from Qualification Targets,  
[https://targets.net/products/bba-paper-target?\\_pos=1&\\_sid=128e005cc&\\_ss=r](https://targets.net/products/bba-paper-target?_pos=1&_sid=128e005cc&_ss=r) , 50 for \$14.00.  
This is a good target for advanced training and practice.

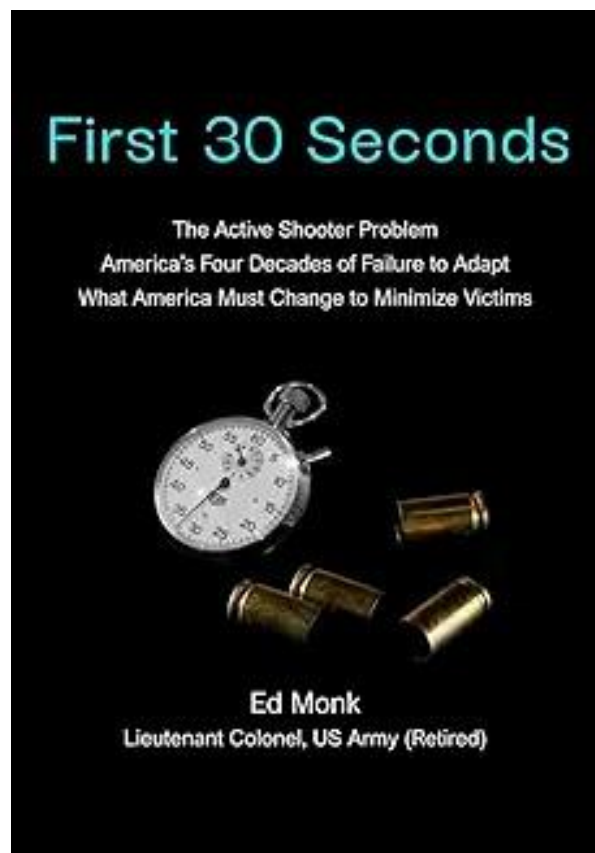




## **First Thirty Seconds, by Ed Monk**

Ed is a retired U.S. Army Lt. Colonel, a West Point graduate, currently a police officer, and a Rangemaster certified Professional Firearms Instructor. For the past several years, Ed has been researching the Active Shooter/ School Shooter problem very deeply. He has become a nationally recognized authority and lecturer on the subject, and he delivers his course on this topic literally all over the US. Ed has become the foremost authority on this subject in the country.

His new book, **First 30 Seconds**, just came out. It is outstanding. It is now available from Amazon for only \$18.99 in paperback or just \$3.99 in Kindle format. Buy one! Buy more and give them to people in authority at your school or church. This is important.



## **20 Gauge Flite Control Buckshot Load from Federal**

Our associate, Tom Beaty, found this little write-up on Federal's new Flite Control buckshot load in 20 gauge.

I've been telling people for years that an effective 20 ga load will kick more than a low recoil 12 ga load. The writer in this review learned the same thing.

<https://www.shootingnewsweekly.com/ammunition/federal-flitecontrol-20-gauge-load-review/>

## **S&W M&P 2.0 Carry Comp, New**

I have been working with three specimens of the M&P 2.0 metal frame (aluminum) pistols since early 2023. S&W recently came out with an all black version, with an integral one port compensator. I decided to get one to try out, as I prefer an all black sidearm.



I had my first range trip with this gun recently, and I am very impressed. The Carry Comp guns come from the Performance Center, and as such the fit and finish are very nice. The trigger was very good right out of the box. The sights are a large U-notch in the rear and a large post with green ring insert around a tritium vial. I was doubtful about them at first, but I shot quite well with them.



I did my break-in session by firing about 250 rounds of hollow point and ball through the gun. There were no malfunctions of any kind.

I began with the Baseline Assessment Drill, with a score of 195 (97.5%), for the very first rounds fired in this gun. The May DOTM followed, with a score of 294 out of 300 (98%), then the bullseye portion of the Pistol Master Award test, at 294 out of 300 (98%). I finished the scored courses with the Advanced Instructor Qualification Course fired on

our Q-4 target, scoring 100%. This pistol is easy to shoot well.



I chronographed a couple of loads to see if the porting reduced muzzle velocity. Five rounds of Federal 124 grain 9mm +P HST clocked at 1196/ 1189/ 1194/ 1204/ 1199 feet per second, for an average velocity of 1196 fps, and an extreme spread of only 15 fps. Really consistent, and very close to the velocities recorded previously with this load in un-porting M&P's and Glock 17's. I also had some old Federal 9MS 147 grain jacketed hollow point

ammo. This historically goes 975 fps in my service pistols. Three rounds went 1004/ 969/ 964 feet per second, for an average of 979 fps. Apparently, the compensator/port causes no appreciable loss of velocity.

Frankly, I could tell very little difference in felt recoil or muzzle rise with the compensated gun when firing with both hands. The noticeable difference was when shooting with one hand. I think it helped.

Overall, I am impressed. I'll put 1,000 rounds through it and report back.

## **M&P 2.0 Carry Comp, Part 2**

Second range trip with the new Carry Comp metal frame M&P. Put another 300 rounds through the gun, for a total of 550 so far, still with no malfunctions of any sort.

Rounds fired so far have been a mixture of Federal 124 +P and 147 HST, plus 124 grain Aguila ball. So far, the 147 HST load shoots closest to the sights at 15-20 yards.

I shot the card drill, drawing from concealment and firing 5 rounds at 5 yards, with a tight little group in 3.65 seconds. I then shot our Instructor Qualification Course, but on the Shoot Steel cardboard target, which has a 5" chest circle



rather than the 8" chest circle of the usual target. The only 3 rounds out of the 5" circle were the 3 fired at 25 yards. I shot too fast on that stage. So far, the gun shorts great.



## Instructor Continuing Education

To be useful, firearms instructors, like pencils, must be sharpened periodically.

All true professions have continuing education requirements in order to keep a license or accreditation. This applies to medical personnel, lawyers, police officers and many other professionals. It applies to us.

In December we will host our annual Firearms Instructor Conference at the fabulous facilities of Royal Range in Nashville, TN. This is a state of the art indoor complex, with a spacious classroom and a dedicated training bay. There will be both classroom and live-fire training with presentations by Tom Givens, Tiffany Johnson, Aqil Qadir, Lee Weems, John Hearne, and Massad Ayoob (graduate, Instructor and Advanced Instructor). This is also a great networking opportunity with other instructors from all over the US. Entry is strictly limited to those who have graduated from any Rangemaster instructor level course.

Dec 6-7, 2025      (All Rangemaster Staff)

Annual Instructor Conference/Reunion

Royal Range, Nashville, TN

<https://rangemaster.corsizio.com/event/668d7f97e4e7e7f3ba15437b>







## **Giving Descriptions of Individuals**

Most non-police are really bad at describing people to the police, because they have never been told how to do it. Like most things in our discipline, an organized, methodical approach will work best. If you need to describe a suspect to the police, follow this model:

Apparent race and gender- this is no time for woke bullshit. Describe them as most normal people would characterize them. Examples- male, white; female, black; male, Hispanic. Give your best estimate of age.

Then, start from the top and work your way down in an orderly fashion.

Head: head gear, cap, hat, etc or hair color, length, style?

Face: eye color? glasses? Facial hair? Ear, nose or lip rings/metal?

Outer Wear: Shirt? Jacket? Pants? Shoes? Color or style of any of these items.

Scars, marks or tatoos: Describe them as well as you can.

For instance, let's use this guy as an example. "Thug looking white guy..." will not help the police or a prosecutor.



This would be infinitely more helpful:

“Male white or possibly Hispanic, about 25-28 years old. 5’10” to 6’, slim build. Maybe 150-160 pounds.

Wearing a red ball cap, had an ear-ring in one ear. Has a moustache and a close cropped beard. Blue eyes. Had chains around his neck.

Wearing a navy blue wife beater, couldn’t see his pants or shoes. Had heavy tatoos on chest and right arm, not so much on his left arm. Tatoos included script and geometric patterns, couldn’t tell what the script said.”

Responding police can use a detailed description like this to develop probable cause to detain a suspect, and it makes a successful prosecution far more likely.

Practice this by occasionally picking out a stranger in the grocery store, look them over, and let them go by you. In your head, go down the checklist and describe that person. Then, go find them and see how close your description was. No one will even know what you are doing, but you will be building a pattern in your mind that may be invaluable one day. These skills should be practiced, just like all our other personal security skills.

## **Describing Vehicles to the Police**

Previously, we looked at how to accurately describe a criminal suspect to responding police. Just as often, we need to give them a description of a vehicle involved in the incident.

As before, we need an organized, methodical approach. Here are the guidelines.

Start with general info:

- Type of vehicle:

- Make, Model, and Year, if known

- Coupe, Sedan, SUV, Pick-Up Truck, Panel Van, etc

- How many doors: two door; four door; four door hatchback, etc

Then, start at the top and work your way down. A vehicle with a white roof and a red body, for instance, would be “white over red”.

Color? One or two-tone? Paint new or faded? Racing stripes, numerals, decals?

Tires or wheels- white wall or black tires? Wire rims, spinners, special wheel covers?

License plate, even a partial plate with just a few digits will help. Issuing state on the license plate?  
Bumper stickers, decals in back window? Visible damage to vehicle? Cracked or broken glass?

Let's use this vehicle as an example:



“Sub-compact two door, hatchback, medium dark blue. Black bumpers, tires and wheels all black. Significant mud/dirt on body and wheels.” That rudimentary description could be the break in a case. Or this one:





“Four door Nissan small SUV, black over white two tone, has aluminum spoke wheels. Grill is black.”

As with all of our personal security skills, this needs to be practiced in anticipation of need. You will not remember this under stress unless you put in some repetitions with it. Fortunately, we drive every day among thousands of vehicles. Practice by observing vehicles as they pass you and work on describing them accurately.

## UPCOMING TRAINING EVENTS

Aug 8-10, 2025 (Givens) (FULL)

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) (FULL)

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) (FULL)

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

Sept 19-21, 2025 Instructor Development Course  
Pittsburgh, PA (Givens)  
<https://rangemaster.corsizio.com/event/668d8e34e4e7e7f3ba1a0828>

Sept 27-28, 2025 Dynamic Pistolcraft (Aqil Qadir)  
Eastaboga, AL Patriot Training Center  
<https://rangemaster.corsizio.com/event/679ba8b0d1b26676577b3127>

