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RANGE • MASTER

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RANGEMASTER

DEFENSIVE TACTICS
FOR THE REAL WORLD

Firearms Training Services

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

Why Seven Yards?

by Tom Givens

Over the years, the question has come up repeatedly, “Many, many courses of fire and almost all police ranges have firing lines at a marked seven yards from the targets. How did such an odd distance become so standard?” Good question.

I have done a lot of research into this over the years, and I stand by the assertion that seven yards was selected, first by the FBI and then widely copied, as a simulation of the width of a large room.

I have the US War Department’s 1913 issue of the “Small Arms Firing Manual” (hard cover book). For the Mounted Pistol Course (Cavalry), the distances are eight to 15 yards, ten yards, and five to 15 yards. For the Infantry and Field Artillery troops, the distances for training and qualification are 15, 25, 50, and 75 yards. For the Organized Militia (forerunner of the National Guard) the distances were 15, 25, and 50 yards. So, the seven-yard line did not originate with the military.

In J. Henry Fitzgerald’s 1930 book, he recommends the New York State Police Pistol Qualification Course, “which has been in use for several years.” The specified distances are 10 feet, 25 feet, 12 yards, and 25 yards. I have photos of the original FBI pistol ranges at Quantico. (The original ranges were replaced a few years ago.) The firing lanes are concrete, to avoid the mud so common at Quantico. The paved firing lines are at 7, 15, and 25 yards.

In his 1960 book, *Combat Shooting for Police*, Inspector Paul Weston, NYCPD, has this to say:

Hip shooting is meant for what might be termed ‘room sized’ situations. It is effective within the confines of a small store, a narrow hallway, any room, or when what appears to be a harmless traffic violator piles out of his car and starts a gun moving in the direction of the approaching policeman.

In determining the distance at which directed fire from the hip should be practiced, the Federal Bureau of Investigation settled upon seven (7) yards for this phase of their fine Practical Pistol Course. That’s twenty-one feet. Pace off any room, store, or hallway, and learn just how far- or rather how close- seven yards seems to be.

In the book, *An Introduction to Modern Police Firearms*, by Roberts and Bristow, published in 1969, mention is made that the FBI’s PPC changed from its original 60-round version to a 50-round version in 1949. The course description lists the first stage as being fired at seven yards.

So, photographic record and numerous sources cite the FBI as the origin of the seven-yard distance, way back in the 1930s and 1940s, fifty years before Dennis Tueller’s work. I think Weston’s explanation of “room range” is probably pretty much it. ■

Drawing Attention AWAY from your Concealed Carry GUN

There are a lot of folks who say that deep concealment of your carry pistol isn't necessary. Those folks will tell you that people aren't very observant and that most of the humans you encounter as you go about your daily life wouldn't notice if you were open carrying a bazooka.

I actually agree with them. MOST people are not observant and will probably not notice if your weapon concealment isn't up to par. But I'm not carrying my gun to protect me against the average dude in the grocery store or Suzy SoccerMom. I honestly don't care if those people aren't paying attention. I'm not worried about them.

I'm also not so worried about the strung-out heroin addict looking to boost my wallet or the street hustler addicted to crack cocaine. While those people may be threats, they can usually be managed relatively easily without using a firearm.

I'm worried most about the apex predator, that one percent of violent criminals who will kill me without hesitation. Those guys will notice if my concealment methods are inadequate. They see that gun that only prints "a little bit." To preserve every possible advantage in a confrontation with one of those guys, I make sure my concealed carry gun is truly concealed. "Good enough" really isn't good enough.

I was out running some errands this weekend and realized that I employ a few very specialized techniques to enhance my pistol concealment. I've never seen any of these methods described on the web or in a print format.

Undoubtedly other people know about them and use them regularly, but I

haven't yet seen anyone write about them. I've been carrying a concealed pistol daily for 24 years now and carried on and off for many years before that. I just figured this stuff out by paying attention to what people's eyes are drawn to when they look at someone.

Countless gun writers have written about how choosing a dark colored, striped, or patterned cover garment will help camouflage your CCW piece. That's all great information to know and to practice, but I want something more than that. I want to employ some visual trickery to draw people's eyes away from my belt line where I carry my pistol.

Before I get into my specific techniques, I first want to say that the common "hoodie" (hooded sweatshirt) with a front kangaroo pocket is the greatest asset imaginable for anyone who carries in the appendix position. Hoodies are loose fitting, are generally made from thick material, and that front pocket puts another layer of fabric over your holstered pistol.

If the weather is the least bit chilly, you'll generally find me wearing a hoodie of some sort. It's the perfect casual camouflage. If you haven't already done so, embrace the hoodie.



Now, on to the point of my article...

In addition to better covering the CCW gun, we can also employ some tactics to draw people's attention away from our belt line. Our wives, sisters, mothers, and daughters have embraced these ideas for years. Women dress to draw eyes away from their "problem areas." We can use the same techniques to draw eyes away from our holstered pistols. We accomplish this visual trickery by utilizing color, pictures, and words.

Color

Let's look at color first. If your pants and cover garment are in a boring, drab color, you can wear a T-shirt underneath in a bright contrasting color. The bright color draws the eyes. Look at the photo below.



This [photo on previous page] is what I wore to go grocery shopping last weekend. Note the drab colors of my shorts and hoodie. Where is your vision drawn? You naturally tend to look at the bright red t-shirt underneath. When people's eyes are drawn to your upper chest area, they aren't looking at your waist and likely won't see your concealed pistol.



Pictures

You can do something similar by exposing some part of a picture on your base layer. Don't expose the entire photo. Just expose part of the picture. If people can't see the whole photo, they will look harder trying to figure out what the picture is. A ridiculous, shocking, or strange picture works exceptionally well for this. Take a look at this outfit:



I'm wearing a T-shirt with the grim reaper riding a unicorn over a rainbow. When you glanced at the photo, where were your eyes drawn? That's right. You looked at Mr. Reaper. You didn't look at the Glock 19 holstered just below.

I'm wearing a T-shirt with the grim reaper riding a unicorn over a rainbow. When you glanced at the photo, where were your eyes drawn? That's right. You looked at Mr. Reaper. You didn't look at the Glock 19 holstered just below.

While you are looking at the grim reaper and unicorn, you aren't looking at what really matters.



Note that my cover garments not only conceal my pistol, they also conceal my flashlight and knife as well. We often think about hiding our gun, but sometimes fail to consider hiding our support gear. If a dude is carrying a clip knife and a flashlight, there's a good chance he's carrying a gun as well. Be aware of what signals you are sending.

Before I get a deluge of emails, I'm carrying a Glock 19 in a Spencer Keepers "Keeper Light" appendix holster with a Graith Specialist belt, Spyderco Delica knife, and Fenix PD35 flashlight.



Words

Words can serve the same purpose as a photograph. Again, keep the words somewhat obscured. People will try to figure out what the partially exposed letters signify. When they are doing that, they are not looking for or at your pistol. Aren't you a bit curious to read the letters on my T-shirt [pictured on the right and on the next page]? The longer your eyes linger on those letters, the less chance you will spot my CCW piece.

Give these strategies a try. I promise you will get "made" as a gun carrier in public far less often. ■

We began offering our Rangemaster Firearms Instructor Development Course in 1997, so 2020 will be our 23rd year of teaching this important course. To commemorate this milestone, we are having a gathering of the family at a very modern and comfortable training facility near Jackson, Mississippi. Entry is strictly limited to persons who have graduated from one of our instructor development courses at any location since 1997.



Rangemaster Instructor Reunion

23rd Anniversary - November 7-8, 2020

We held our 20th Anniversary Conference in Shawnee, OK, in 2017. It was attended by over 50 Rangemaster-certified instructors from 15 states. We held a second such event in Georgia for all our certified instructors in the East in 2018. For 2019, we used the excellent facilities of KR Training, in Lincoln, Texas. In 2020, we'll be at the Boondocks Firearms Training Center, a multi-million-dollar facility in Raymond, MS (just outside of Jackson). There are modern classrooms, covered outdoor ranges, shoot-houses, and much more.

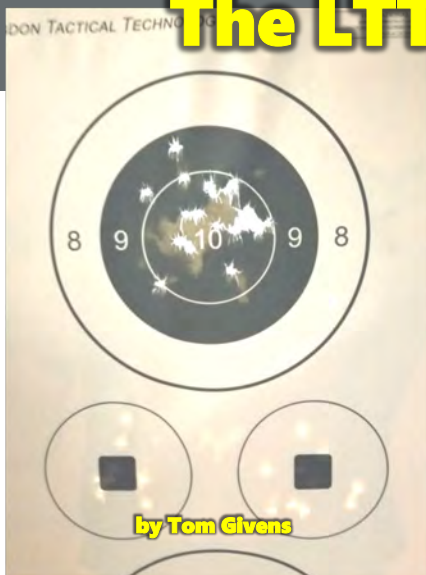
We will gather to discuss new information, training techniques, professional development, and other items we have observed and learned in conducting training courses around the country. This is a great networking opportunity for Rangemaster certified instructors from all over the country. There will be classroom presentations by Rangemaster staff instructors, including Tom and Lynn

"Drawing Attention Away from Your Carry Gun"
(previous page)
Article by Greg Ellifritz, originally posted April 29, 2019
on www.ActiveResponseTraining.net

Givens, John Hearne, Tiffany Johnson, Lee Weems, John Murphy, and Aqil Qadir, plus live-fire training on the range. This promises to be an epic event for trainers. Space is limited and the event will fill far in advance. ■

Rangemaster Firearms Instructor
Reunion & Conference
November 7-8, 2020 ■ Boondocks ■ Jackson, MS
www.Rangemaster.Eventbrite.com

The LTT Target from Langdon Tactical



Recently, I got a chance for a brief 150-round practice session at the local indoor range. I always start any practice session with a timed/scored drill. This gives me a good measurement of my on-demand, cold performance level on that day. Then, whatever deficiency is noted can be worked on during the practice session. This time, my cold drill was as follows, on a B-8 bullseye at 10 yards:

- 10 rounds, both hands, 10 seconds
- 5 rounds, right hand only, 10 seconds
- 5 rounds, left hand only, 10 seconds

Possible score is 200, and I shot 198. The two dropped points were non-dominant hand only, so I worked on that a bit.

Also, I was using the excellent Langdon Tactical Technologies target, designed by Ernest Langdon and available from National Target Company. This one sheet has two B-8 centers, ten two-inch dots, and two one-inch squares surrounded by a four-inch circle. I often do a 150- to 200-round session on just two of these, which is very convenient. You can find the LTT target on NationalTarget.com (just search for "LTT"). ■

The Truth About Rangemaster's Instructor Development

by Tom Givens

After one of our Instructor Development or Advanced Instructor Development courses, we see a lot of posts and photos showing folks winning challenge coins, or Top Gun certificates, or bragging about their score on a particular drill. To someone who has not attended one of these courses, it could appear more like a match or competition than a training course. Nothing could be further from the truth.

In both of these courses, fully 50% of course time is spent in the classroom on academic subjects. Of the other half of the course, spent on the range, each student is shooting only half of that time. The other half of the time he is coaching, and he coaches several different shooters in the course of the class. Thus, only 25% of the course revolves around bringing each individual's shooting skill up. The rest is focused tightly on building skill as a coach and instructor.

I have found that friendly competition during that 25% of the time spent actually shooting really helps to keep



the students focused, introduces them to working under pressure, and highlights any deficiencies in their technique so that their coaches can identify and correct those deficiencies. People just tend to work harder when something is at stake, whether it is a challenge coin or just bragging rights among classmates. These are the real reasons for the various awards. Besides, it keeps the process fun, and people learn better when they are having fun.

The photos above and to the left are from the Advanced Instructor Development Course we recently finished in Athens, Georgia. Chris Norville, a police officer from Tennessee won a coin for his performance on the bullseye courses (pictured above). Sheriff's Deputy Adam Thrower (left) won a Casino Drill coin for a blazing 12.07 second clean run, from police duty gear. You also see students being coached through a drill (top), with both shooter and coach learning together. This is what these classes are all about. ■



Master Instructor Course



The Master Instructor course is strictly limited to those who have graduated from a Rangemaster Three-Day Firearms Instructor Development Course and our Advanced Firearms Instructor Development Course. If you passed both of those, you are eligible to attend this intensive three day class. Class size is limited.

We will cover a wide range of topics during these three days of training. Subjects will include:

- Historical Development of Modern Defensive Shooting Training, examining how we reached the current State of the Art;
- A full day will be devoted to learning to teach double-action revolver skills;
- There will be low light training in the classroom;
- There will be extensive training on designing courses of fire and range drills;
- Plus much more. As always, a student manual will be provided.

Nov 15-17, 2019

Shawnee, OK
(OKC Area)
SOLD OUT

Jan 24-26, 2020

Homestead, FL
(Miami area)

May 29-31, 2020

Jackson, MS

There will be three iterations of this course, geographically located so that one should be accessible to all who qualify to attend. There will probably not be another iteration until late 2021, as the pool of qualified students is small. ■

Eventbrite

TACCON 2020

DALLAS, HERE WE COME

www.TACCON.INFO

We are very pleased to announce that the 2020 Rangemaster Tactical Conference will be conducted on March 27-29, 2020, at the excellent facilities of the Dallas Pistol Club in Carrollton, Texas.

The Dallas Pistol Club is a very nice facility with multiple ranges and permanent buildings with real restrooms. Both the DFW airport and Love Field are 15-20 minutes from the range and there are numerous quality hotels and restaurants 15 minutes away in the Galleria area of Addison, TX.

As always, there will be live-fire training with handgun and shotgun; hands on

training in empty hands skills, impact weapons, OC, and medical skills; and classroom training on a variety of topics including legal issues, personal tactics, historical information and much more. All of the usual suspects will be teaching, plus several trainers who will be presenting at Tac Con for the first time. There will be a Standards Match on turning targets, plus a man vs man tournament for the top scorers. Nowhere else can this abundance of training and trainers be found in one venue.

Go to www.TacCon.info to register. Don't delay! Every year this event sells out 4-5 months in advance. Once the tickets are gone, that's it until the next year. ■

Drill of the Month:

The 6/5/4 Drill

by
Tom Givens

Throughout 2019 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, then post your thoughts and a photo of your target on the Rangemaster Facebook page. Let's see what you can do!

The 6/5/4 Drill

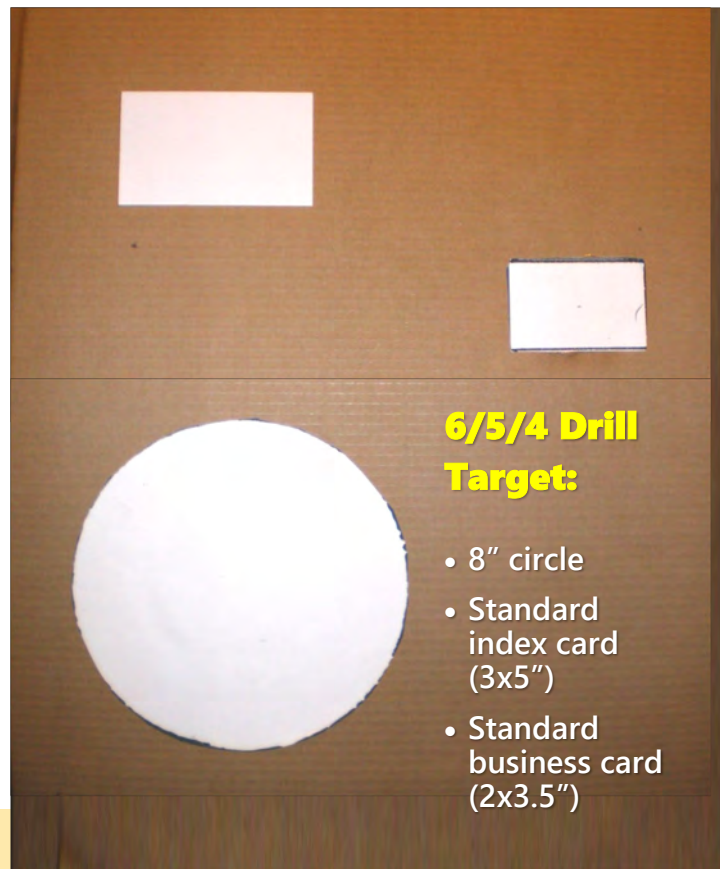
This drill utilizes special target with an eight-inch circle, a business card, and a 3x5 index card. You can easily make these for yourself on 11x17 copy paper.

The drill is fired at 5 yards, from the holster.

Draw and fire two rounds into the eight-inch circle, two into the business card, and two into the 3x5 card (in that order), all in four seconds. Six rounds at five yards in four seconds, hence the name "6/5/4 Drill." Try it out and see how you do.

Once you get the standard drill down, consider challenging yourself with one of these possible variations:

- Dominant hand only
- Non-dominant hand only (from the ready)
- Business card first, then circle, then index card ■



July 19-21

Shotgun Instructor
Ripon, WI

September 7-8

Combative Pistol
White Hall, AR

July 27-28

Intensive Pistol
Racine, WI

September 13-15

Instructor Development
Course (Pistol)
Hot Springs, AR

August 9

Defensive Shotgun
Martinsville, IN

September 27-28

Intensive Pistol
Franklin, TN

August 10-11

Combative Pistol
Martinsville, IN

September 29

Defensive Shotgun
Franklin, TN

August 23-25

LEO Instructor
(Closed)
Rapid City, SD

October 3-5

Instructor Development
Course (Pistol)
Xenia, OH

Upcoming Classes

Eventbrite

June 21-23

Instructor Development
Course (Pistol)
Rapid City, KS

July 27-28

Intensive Pistol
Racine, WI

July 19-21

Shotgun Instructor
Ripon, WI

June 21-23

Instructor Development
Course (Pistol)
Kansas City, KS