

# NATURAL RIGHT FIREARMS

## NEWSLETTER

2025

We have hit the ground running. Matches, training, and more matches. I am excited about what 2025 has in store. We are not building bays so all we have to do is run matches and build on what we have done the last three years.

Hopefully the USPSA will not self-destruct this year and we can have a full schedule of matches. We started the year off with Steel Challenge and look forward to what is in store for Steel challenge this year.

We were desperate to get more range officers this year, so we hosted a DNROI Range Officer course at NRF range in January. It was a great success. We now have 16 new RO's, to support all the matches in the area. People who attended shoot regularly at Brothers in Arms, Biloxi, MCTA and NRF. We can't run these matches safely without RO's who want to support the sport.

2025 / February Issue

### 2025 PLANS

In 2025 we plan to run two Tier II/Level 2 matches. We are planning a USPSA Level 2 match in September 2025. It will be registered as Pine Belt Classic. It will be a 10 stage Run-N-Gun. At one time Masterpiece Arms expressed an interest in sponsoring the match but if they don't, we will still have some great prizes and awesome opportunity to grow USPSA in the Pine Belt.



The range is coming together to be a great local match and is growing into a decent State level location. In addition to the 4 new bays, we have added power and WIFI on the range. Hosting matches going forward should be much smoother.

As I am typing this, we just completed the first Match Tracker Academy led by Vance Williamson. NRF Range is hosted this seminar for the first time Vance taught his "system" to a group of students. I participated and to be honest was skeptical. I was a C class shooter on a regular basis. I moved to B class this weekend with a severely malfunctioning gun. I think had my gun operated decently I could have jumped to A class under his direction. Good example of old dog new tricks. Thanks Vance.

On February 15<sup>th</sup> we will shoot USPSA 6 stages of USPSA, one being a classifier. In March our matches will be reversed. We will shoot USPSA on March 1<sup>st</sup> because we are hosting our second Tier II Steel Challenge match March 14<sup>th</sup>

through 16<sup>th</sup>, The Pine Belt Steel Challenge

Championship by Masterpiece Arms. This Tier II Match is meant to be a warmup to the Alabama State

and The World Speed Shoots. We will be running all 8 stages of Steel Challenge.

Time is very short for this so please get signed up as soon as you can so we can get the prize and awards set for this match. If signups are still slow at the end of this week, we plan to move the RO shoot to Saturday am and the rest of shooters on Saturday PM and Sunday AM. To register to shoot the match go to

<https://bit.ly/4gKNcIL>.



Steel Challenge



Another bonus for the March match is we will be sponsoring a benefit concert for Homes of Hope for the children. This will serve two purposes. The shooters who travel from a distance will have something to do on Saturday night instead of just sitting around a hotel room, and Little Ceasars of Petal has

sponsored pizza for the shooters. This doesn't mean people who are not shooting can't come. This is an event for everyone in the neighborhood. It will be an outdoor evening concert By Venture Church Worship team. You will need to bring a lawn chair to sit and enjoy. Bring a few bucks to share your support for Homes of Hope. What Else could you have going on Saturday evening in March. That's March 15<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 P.M. behind my Training Venue at 188 JB Horne Road, Hattiesburg MS 39401. Go ahead and put this on your calendar now.



In April we will run our normal Steel Challenge and USPSA matches on the first and third Saturday. However, in May the Steel Challenge will be routine, but on May 17<sup>th</sup> I will be running a 6 Stage USPSA Classifier match. So, if you need a classification in a specific class, you can get that at one match.

## TRAINING

### Cutting the Distance

The truth is that an edged weapon is as deadly a weapon as any at contact range. Knife attacks are different than your standard rough and tumble hand fight. A boxing match might leave bruises that heal. But knives leave permanent scars. The knife was an important sidearm in the times of Jim Bowie, but as handguns became more reliable, the knife on the belt became smaller, relegated to backup status. Just the same, the modern shank might be buried up to Green River (an expression that meant the blade would be buried to the Green River trademark on the choil) with the same effect as back in the days of the Frontier.

By the 1960s, the knife was seldom addressed in police training, and edged weapon attacks were not taken seriously. "Don't bring a knife to a gunfight" sounds good unless your gun hand is pinned down as a razor flashes in the streetlights. A number of incidents in which officers were seriously injured at close quarters troubled a respected peace officer and trainer named Dennis Tueller. He observed that, although the knife was recognized as a lethal threat, officers failed to bring the handgun to bear on a knife-wielding attacker as quickly as they would a felon armed with a handgun.

Tueller found that were a perpetrator to face an officer at 25 yards with a drawn handgun, the officer would fire at the threat or at least draw down and prepare to fire. In some cases, officers allowed perpetrators holding edged weapons to close to 10 to 12 feet before drawing. Some were injured. Their rationale? They feared the shooting would be ruled unjustified if they fired on a felon at too great a distance. The reactionary gap was too close, and the adversary could close the distance and inflict draw and fire. While Tueller knew this to be true, demonstrate this fault in training. He set out officer should draw his handgun to

The generally agreed upon distance was gunfight distance. (Percentages are not stream with an average depth of 2 feet.) 1983. Role players posing as officers scenario, and it was discovered that individuals could close 21 feet in about know, conditioning and endurance only increases.) Again, this rang true as 1.5 officer or concealed carry hand gunner should be able target at 10 yards in 1.5 seconds.



serious injury or death before the officer could he needed to design a drill that could clearly to determine the distance at which an engage the threat.

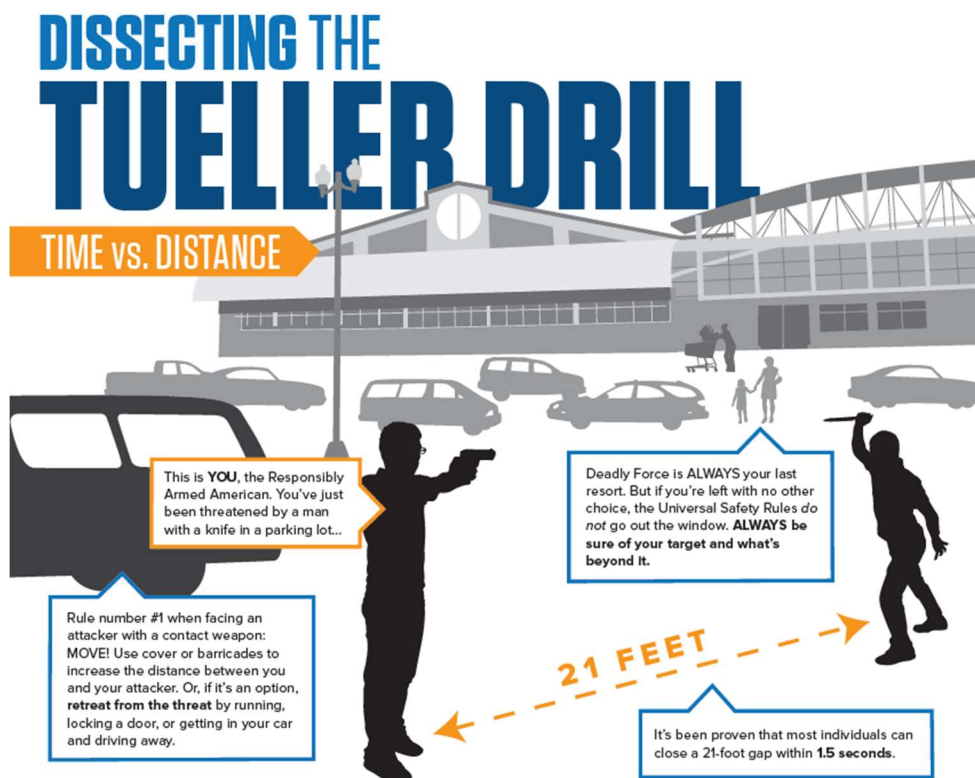
21 feet, which is the average comforting to the man drowning in a Tueller published his findings in and knife-armed assailants set the even elderly, out-of-shape or obese 1.5 seconds. (As many of you begin to matter as distance seconds is another training standard: An to draw, fire and get a center hit on a man-sized

The Tueller Drill demonstrated that an assailant armed with a knife could begin running toward an individual armed with a handgun at 21 feet and that only highly practiced individuals could draw and engage before the knife-armed threat closed and inflicted serious injury. This drill will defeat many who are out of shape or out of practice; it is ridiculous to assume that you will rise to the occasion to deal with such a threat. As a trainer, I deal with individuals on a weekly basis that rely upon skills they cannot demonstrate.

Do not be among them. You are not expected to precisely measure the distance, but since many of us train on carefully marked ranges, seven yards is easily recognized. The best answer to an edged weapon attack, providing there is sufficient time and distance, is to draw and move to cover. (St. Augustine told us space and time are the same, and I agree: Both are priceless.) An adversary with a firearm might blast your cover, but an adversary with an edged tool loses every advantage. (This rule also applies to impact weapons, such as a ball bat or other club.) The problem is that when an attacker is armed with a knife, a concealed carry permit holder must act extremely quickly. An officer arriving on a call should be alert to the threat and might be better able to maintain distance. While there is always an exception, a peace officer has a greater advantage than the private citizen in most cases. A citizen will be carrying concealed rather than openly on a duty belt, which results in a slower draw. The knife might be part of a robbery attempt or a personal attack. The distance will be close. The adversary might close with the victim before drawing the knife. As such, drawing against a knife in the hand is at least as dangerous as drawing against a loaded gun. You must practice not only your concealed carry draw but also blocking interference with the draw from the adversary. This is basic nuts-and-bolts close-quarters battle, and close-quarters training and firearm-retention training are essential.

When engaging in force-on force training, a fake knife and fake handgun are good tools. Ring's, ASP and Odin Press offer excellent training aids. Even an \$8 flea market toy Glock will work if you do not wish to spend the bucks on a true training gun, but something closer to the heft and balance of your personal handgun is a better choice. As each participant trades roles, from the knife to the gun, the aggressor to the defender, you will have a better understanding of the dynamics of edged-weapons defense. In my experience, the 21-foot rule means that if you are well practiced and competent and the attack originates at 21 feet, you

will have an excellent chance of stopping the threat with well-directed handgun fire. Chances are, however, that you will still be cut. In a fistfight, you will be hit. In a gunfight, you might be shot. And in a battle against an edged weapon, you will be cut. I have experienced all three. But the tradeoff is that you will survive if you have proper training and have practiced. The close-quarters skills you have developed will allow you to quickly and smoothly present the weapon from concealment and bring it to bear against a threat. Consider this: If you are slower than the Tueller Drill calls for — a solid hit in 1.5 seconds beginning at 21 feet — then you will be in a terrible position if the attack begins at 10 to 15 feet. You must be prepared with open-hand measures. Throwing the non-dominant side arm up, backing up while drawing and firing from the retention position might be called for. I actually read a training article not long ago that I was surprised to see published. The author tabulated



results from running Tueller Drills in a recent class. A few students were faster than the average and could reasonably draw and fire inside of 21 feet and make the grade successful. (This is beside the point, but good performance nonetheless.) The fact is that the legal standard maintained and demonstrated by the Tueller Drill is that it is defensible to draw and fire against a knife-armed opponent at 21 feet. Of course, a shorter distance is defensible, but the 21-foot rule has now been officially established. Jurors will understand the precedent if it comes to this and understand the justification of firing at a knife armed attacker past conversational range. However, the author went on to discuss other students that had fared poorly. Their “personal Tueller range” was 30 feet or more. One had a “personal Tueller range” of almost 40! You cannot change a constant to suit your performance. You cannot plan on engaging at longer range when this range might not be legally defensible. Moreover, 30 to 35 feet might not even be realistic in your specific deadly force encounter. What the trainer was saying did not make sense: If your “personal Tueller range” is 30 feet, you need to spend more time in practice and get there quickly, because the overall proficiency of such a shooter is low. An attack with an edged weapon will come at close range.

While it is essential to realize that an edged weapon is dangerous past intimate range, also realize that the reactionary gap is tighter at close range. The balance was well summed up by Sgt. Tueller many years ago. If you fire too soon — say, at 15 yards — you have won the fight, but you might be charged with murder. The only justification for shooting another human is the immediate need to stop him from what he is doing. If you wait until the attacker has closed the distance, you might lose for good. Even if the shot proves fatal, the attacker might continue the attack and inflict serious wounds upon the defender. The 21-foot rule is a benchmark. Practice hard, be all you can be and understand the implications. Don’t stretch the limits.

By Bob Campbel

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