

EDC Pistol Training News

Every Day Carry training to safely and effectively save lives

Open Enrollment

Private 1:1 & Group training always available.



EDC Pistol Practice & Development at Homestead on February 19, 2022.



Tim Herron returns March 12 & 13, 2022 with **2 day Practical Pistol Performance**. **Only 1 seat left!**



EDC Skills Weekend at The Sawmill (South Carolina) May 14 & 15, 2022. Live fire and Force on Force. Take one or both classes.



Modern Samurai Project (Scott "Jedi" Jedlinski) + Reston Group (Jared Reston) For a third year, EDC Pistol Training will be hosting their 2 Day Pistol Red Dot course February 4 & 5, 2023, **followed by Red Dot Instructor**. Details forthcoming.

As students of every day carry pistolcraft, this month we're going to discuss our desired **end state** as exemplified in the linked 1:28 video, where we show the same shooter in contrasting shooting events. The shooter's name is Toni McBride who is both a competitor and LAPD patrol officer. Watch first, then we'll unpack this video.

Video Link: <https://vimeo.com/manage/videos/660676081>

When we show this video in our Force on Force 1 course, the first thing everyone notices is the difference in splits (the time interval between her shots). In the first video, Toni's splits average 0.17 seconds versus the second video where they average 0.75 seconds. *Why?* What factors led her to throttle back her split times to focus heavily on accurate shot placement in the second video? Here are some variables she considered:

1. In the first video, all of the target array is inanimate, safe, and static, creating a **known** situation. In the second video, the target is animated, dangerous, and aggressing, creating an **unknown** situation.
2. In the first video, all of the targets are at **predictable** locations and distances. In the second video, the target is at **unpredictable** locations and distances.
3. In the first video, there were never any legal or real world tactical considerations or constraints. In the second video, **real time legal and tactical decisions were stacked** on gun handling and marksmanship fundamentals.
4. In the first video, there was **no body alarm reaction** the shooter had to contend with (note: competitive pressure may increase adrenaline, but in no way mimics body alarm reaction. Neither does mixing calisthenics with shooting). In the second video, the shooter had to manage her natural **body alarm reaction** to mitigate its chemical, mental, and physical side effects; i.e. tunnel vision, auditory exclusion, selective memory, and time distortion.
5. In the first video, none of the targets **move when hit**. In the second video, the target **reacts with movement when hit**. This real life point cannot be overlooked. It takes the average person 0.25 seconds to mentally register a change such as movement, then another 0.05 to 0.10 seconds to formulate and begin delivering a response. This is why 0.17 splits, while fast and cool, can also be dangerous; i.e. if your first round hits the target and he reacts with movement but you don't recognize and track that movement, then your subsequent rounds may miss rendering your efforts both ineffective and unsafe for bystanders. As a *general rule of thumb*, we advocate splits at 10 yards and under in the ~ 0.33 range, or ~ 3 shots per second. This cadence allows for the time needed to make real time recognitions and adjustments as threats move, either intentionally or unintentionally.
6. In the first video, Toni is in a **rural** location at a controlled range with a berm backstop. In the second video, she's in an **urban** location, with uncontrolled conditions, with multiple innocents behind and around her subject. She must place all of her hits with 100% accuracy, no exceptions. Considering law enforcement's national hit ratio averages ~ 20%, she is to be commended for her 100% hit rate.

7. In the first video, failure results in a **bruised ego**. In the second video, failure results in **injury, death, prison, ostracism, bankruptcy, and mental trauma**.

So with these observations in mind, what steps can we take to develop our skills like Toni McBride did? Simply put, we first need to develop our gun handling and marksmanship skills through formal training, dry fire practice, live fire practice, and competition. This includes clearing stoppages, reloading, presenting, holstering, and throttling up or down our sight picture and trigger control depending on target size and target distance.

Once we have a degree of fluency with gun handling and marksmanship, we then need to partake in Force on Force training to pressure test our real time tactical and legal decision making. How frequent is up to you, but we recommend once a year at a minimum with twice yearly preferred. By having a complete skills package, we can not only *effectively* save life, but do so *safely* as well.

Authors note: While this was a justified shooting according to all standards of professionalism and the law, the anti-police, political, and woke Los Angeles Police Commission voted 4-1 that the last two rounds violated department policy claiming they were not needed since the subject was already down. This decision opened the gateway for civil litigation and reprimands.

In events prior to the video, the subject had previously stabbed a victim at another location, then took off in his car, chased by police, and the perpetrator intentionally rammed into another victim's vehicle. That's where this video picks up.

If you watch the video carefully, the first two hits downed the subject who immediately got up and aggressed, followed by two more hits that downed him again only to immediately move in the same motion as to get up and aggress again, except this time the officer fired the last two rounds to prevent him from fully getting up and aggressing a third time. Given the totality of the circumstances and his behavioral intent, all 6 rounds were justified and within policy.

Regrettably, politics got in the way, but fortunately subsequent litigation by the perpetrator's family was thrown out and the police community has rallied behind Toni McBride. On a personal note, this story represents reason #437 why I left Los Angeles in 1989 and never looked back!