

# EDC Pistol Training News

*Every Day Carry training to safely and effectively save lives*

## Open Enrollment

**Private 1:1 & Group training always available.**



**Hardening of your Physical & Digital Home** by retired Green Beret and CIA clandestine operative on December 11 and 12, 2021.



**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. **Don't miss out on early enrollment discount!**



**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.

## Pistol Red Dots versus Iron Sights

**BLUF: Both aiming systems are highly *effective*, but red dots are more *efficient* in the moment. This red dot efficiency, however, comes with greater equipment cost and maintenance.**



[Note: *For the context of this article, “effective” means the sights enable us to hit the desired point of impact on demand.*

*“Efficient” speaks to the required skill level and work effort required to make that hit.]*

When it comes to understanding and selecting an aiming system, we first need to understand how our eyes work in relation to acquiring a sight picture. With iron sights our eyes see 3 focal planes (a focal plane is the distance between the object and the eye): the target, the front sight, and the rear sight. With red dot sights, our eyes see 2 focal planes: the target and the red dot.

During the aiming process we need to hard focus on a focal plane. This is typically done with our dominant eye. The dominant eye, however, has a constraint in that it can only hard focus on ONE focal plane at a time. Thus, when it comes to shooting and acquiring a correct sight picture, we need to understand which focal plane we should be focused on.

Red dots make acquiring a sight picture extremely easy regardless of circumstances. The user simply hard focuses on the target, then overlays a blurry red dot over the desired point of impact. The user will always deploy this aiming method regardless of target size, target distance, movement, and (with today’s parallax free sights out to 50 meters) also works when shooting from improvised positions.

Simply put, red dots are extremely easy to use under all conditions because all the user has to remember is to focus on the target/threat (which is totally natural and going to happen anyways in a self defense situation) and put the dot where they want to hit that target/threat.

Iron sights are a different story. Not only does the user have to manage 3 focal planes, but also has to throttle their focus on demand between these focal planes in the moment based on target size, target distance, movement, and improvised position shooting. This requires added skill, work, and practice.

For example, if we need to shoot quickly because the target is large and near then we hard focus on the target and overlay a blurry set of aligned front and rear iron sights, very similar to how we use red dots. If we need to do precision shooting at close or medium range, then we hard focus on the front sight with a blurry target and rear sight. If we are doing long range shooting, say at a silhouette target, then we may be focusing on the rear sight cutting the target in half while the aligned front sight and target is blurry . . . and so on.

The bottom line is irons require constant focal plane focus management as conditions change versus a red dot where only one focal plane is involved regardless of conditions. The training, skills, and skill maintenance are simply greater with irons compared to red dots.

Red dots are not without their own unique user considerations, though these considerations can be planned for and addressed outside of the shooting environment. Let's begin with the added cost of the red dot system both in terms of the red dot itself and the pistol ready for red dot mounting. Next, there is added maintenance including battery changes and frequent (bi-weekly) application of a defogger to the lens. With some systems the user may need to remember to adjust the gain and inspect the dot for brightness on a daily basis.

Speaking of gain, another consideration is the user needs to spend time figuring out the best dot gain on their system. For example, when I ran a Trijicon RMR06 I discovered using the automatic gain worked very for me especially in low light situations where my use of a handheld flashlight using FBI or Temple Index techniques enabled the red dot to adjust properly on the fly. Other folks prefer to manually set their gain daily because they may use Harries or a WML where the RMR's light sensor won't pick up the flashlight use and fail to adjust gain accordingly. These are the types of nuances one needs to explore and figure out what works for them ahead of time.

I would be remiss if I didn't point out the obvious: the red dot user needs to master irons as well as the red dot in the event the red dot fails. Are suppressor height iron sights on the pistol for backup? How often do we train with those iron sights? Have we trained on how to use the red dot housing if the lens becomes occluded so we have lost use of both the red dot and irons? Have we trained in the rain to see if and how there are any changes to the sight picture? Just like with iron sight practice, the nice thing about red dots is the user has the luxury of figuring out all these contingencies ahead of time.

The irony is since the red dot user has to learn and practice iron sights anyway for back up purposes, then learn and practice the red dot system, in a sense the user is actually doing double the work in terms of preparation. Thus, users needs to figure out for themselves if this extra work, cost, and maintenance are worth the added efficiency. In this author's opinion, the answer is "yes" but at the same time looking forward to continued improvements to the red dot technology currently being offered.

## A Note About Our Private Training

Ever since we left social media and scaled back our open enrollment courses in January, our business and profits have substantially *increased* while maintaining both student quality and enhancing our content. Since this increase is directly related to private training, I wanted to briefly outline our private training options.

For 1:1 pistol training we typically meet at Nexus Shooting Range in Davie. This is a high quality indoor range where we can spend time honing marksmanship fundamentals. The cost is \$55 per hour plus range fees for both of us (~\$36). The typical range session is 1 hour. Many students find this approach both effective and convenient.

For more intense 1:1 pistol training or rifle training, Homestead Training Center is the best option, but also the most costly. The cost is \$55 per hour x 4 hours plus \$150 range fee, totaling \$370. While this is pricey, it's also very efficient and you get full 1:1 attention so we can customize your training however you want.

For small group (up to 4 students) live fire pistol or rifle training at Homestead Training Center, we charge a flat rate of \$700 for 6 hours. This includes the range fee. At 4 students that breaks down to \$175 per student. Please contact us for quotes on larger class sizes.

For Force on Force or Care Under Fire training, we require at least 6 students @ \$350 per student for 7 hours. Head protection, guns, and non-lethal ammunition are included. Our Level 1 class is held indoors in Miami, and our Level 2 class is held outdoors in Immokalee.

We also have the ability to scope out a completely custom course, multi-day courses, and outside of South Florida courses as well. Just call me and we'll discuss.

Thanks again for everyone's support,

Karim Manassa

Owner