

## Podcast #219 Transcription – “Mystery” Malfunction Drill

- Jeff Anderson: I've stopped counting the number of firearms training sessions that I've either taught or attended where students were considered expert shooters. And frankly, they really could shoot the fly off of a cow's ass at a hundred yards. When suddenly, they had that lovely moment when you go to pull the trigger and no bang happens in the middle of a drill, that moment is when you suddenly discover who has trained for weapons malfunctions and who hasn't. The first part of that analysis is what type of malfunction am I having in order to be able to clear it and be able to get to go and bang again? Did I empty the entire magazine, I need to load another one? Was it a failure to feed the next round? Was it a misfire, squib load, what was it?
- Jeff Anderson: Well, all that decision making can be tough to do without proper practice, and even tougher to learn in the middle of an adrenaline-fueled gunfight for your life.
- Jeff Anderson: But today we're going to be sharing with you a great drill that you can take to the range to become a true master of the high stress malfunction clearing. And I have just the guy to help us out.
- Jeff Anderson: Hello, everyone this is Jeff Anderson, editor from Modern Combat & Survival Magazine, and executive director of New World Patriot Alliance, with another podcast to help you better prepare for any threat you may face in your role as a protector and a patriot. With me today, again, is my friend, and he's kind of like become my guru for tactical shooting innovation, that is Ox.
- Jeff Anderson: Ox, welcome back to the program, man.
- Ox: Thanks a lot, Jeff. Great to be here again.
- Jeff Anderson: Yup. It's good to have you back on, because I love tapping into the things that you've been experimenting with, and learning along the way. Things that you learn, I know are going to be like a PhD for some of the readers, and for me, too.
- Jeff Anderson: So, this was a really cool drill here that I really want to get out to everybody, that you were telling me about. Listen, everyone, if you haven't listened to any of our other podcast interviews, or the New World Patriot Alliance deep-dives that we've done with Ox before, he is one of the most serious people out there when it comes to truly innovation, and system design for real gunfights, and everything from draw stroke to dry fire training practice, and everything in between. He is very tied into the alphabet agency crowd on the intel side, he has worked with several representatives on joint tactical programs including Tactical Firearms Training Secrets, Dry Fire Fit, Force Recon 30-10 Pistol course, Navy SEAL Concealed Carry Masters Course and if you don't have his Dry Fire Training Cards and the feedback ... I'll put a link in the show notes here ... but

there's a target that he developed that will instantly help you become a better shooter. It's really, really cool.

Jeff Anderson: These are just some of the innovations that Ox has brought to our industry and become a real innovator there. You definitely want to go over and make sure you check out his website at [www.tacticalshootingsecrets.com](http://www.tacticalshootingsecrets.com).

Jeff Anderson: But, Ox, today what we're talking about is, are malfunctions and these are one of those things where I think people know that they should be but I honestly, whenever we have a firearms training course, and I'm talking about people that are ... we've seen FBI, law enforcement, even firearms instructors, they're shooting, shooting, shooting ... Gun is going bang. All of a sudden it doesn't go bang. They just kind of turn the gun and they look at it and they rotate it and look at it and rotate it again and then the instructor has to come over and take the firearm and show, okay, let's figure out what kind of a malfunction it is.

Jeff Anderson: That doesn't work in a real gunfight, right? So you were telling me about a drill that you learned that will help people really understand the differences between malfunctions and how to clear those specific malfunctions. I wanted you to share that with our audience. If you could just go ahead and give us a run down for what is this drill, why would we do it and what is it, and how do we do it?

Ox: Yeah, absolutely. It's a very powerful drill. I learned it from Larry Yacht and Beau Doboszinski and it's one of the drills from Concealed Carry Masters Course. The idea behind it is [crosstalk 00:04:02]-

Jeff Anderson: And Larry was, Larry's the guy that you've worked with on a few programs I know, but he's the former Navy SEAL, right?

Ox: Correct, yeah. He was a Team 3 guy. He was ... his last deployment with Cadillac was Chris Kyle's first deployment with Cadillac. Over in Iraq so ... Neat guy, incredible history and he's done several amazing things.

Ox: The idea behind the drill is that it just takes way too long to visually process what's going on with your gun and decide what to do and take action. What we want to do is shortcut that process by taking vision out of it. One way that you can do this is you have somebody set up three guns in front of you on a bench. One of them has two rounds in the magazine, one of them has one round in the magazine, I'm sorry, one round in the chamber and an empty magazine, and the third one has basically one round in the chamber and a hard malfunction set up for the next round.

Ox: You got those three guns in front of you, you don't-

Jeff Anderson: What do you mean by that? Explain what you mean by like a hard malfunction for the next round.

Ox: Where the slide doesn't go all the way back into battery. Could be a stove pipe, could be a double feed, something where you're going to have to rip out the magazine in order to reduce the malfunction and get the gun back into the fight.

Jeff Anderson: How, what would somebody do to set that up, like how would they ... is there like one example that you can give for how you would set that up?

Ox: It's, it can be a little bit difficult. Beau sells a, it's called a hard malfunction device, and it's a welded piece of aluminum, we also make them out of Delrin that you stick into your magazine and it creates the hard malfunction. It's basically like two rounds that are together that still one of them feeds into the chamber and other one blocks the slide from going forward.

Jeff Anderson: Okay, I'll grab a link from somewhere and put that in the show notes too.

Ox: But, for, I don't want to pick on 1911s but unless you got a 1911 that's been tinkered with to where it's not very reliable anymore, hard malfunctions aren't that common. A much more important skill to learn is what it feels like when your slide locks to the rear. You can get to where you know what it feels like when your slide goes forward on an empty chamber. It actually feels different going forward and feeding around than it does when you're going forward on an empty chamber.

Ox: Back to the drill, what you do is you have these three guns set up in front of you in three different configurations. You can't tell from the outside which is which and you put on a blindfold and you pick up one gun and you shoot it and you try and identify from feel alone what condition it's in.

Ox: Is it ready to shoot? Is the slide lock to the rear or is there a type 2 malfunction?

Jeff Anderson: Why would we do this blindfolded as opposed, if we can't tell from the outside what the problem might be with the firearm why do we need the blindfold?

Ox: That's a great question. If you can tell by feel alone what the condition of the gun is you can basically connect that observation to a conditioned response. So without thinking when your slide is locked to the rear, your reload starts. You don't have to shift your focus, say, "Oh, hey, my slide is locked to the rear." and then start the reload. You instantly know that your slide is locked to the rear by feel alone and you start the reload process. And [crosstalk 00:08:27] good-

Jeff Anderson: So basically just like with blind ... people that have a certain sense like blind people, their other senses help to make up for it. If you have vision, you might be in the habit of kind of looking at your firearm so it's kind of in, you're kind of, it's harder to unlearn those old habits as opposed to if you're blindfolded it kind of forces you to focus more on the feel. So you actually are ... and I know you're huge into like neuro-learning strategies, you know, I'm sure the terminology you have is like 13 more syllables than what I added in there but you're like, I know

like the neuro-pathways, like how people learn, the science of learning is a huge thing for you. Huge thing for you. This is all part of it, right? With taking that sense out of it, it helps to establish, kind of build those pathways to help make it more instinctual?

Ox: Yeah, actually my first exposure to this was in the 90s with fighting and I had a stand-up instructor who basically taught me to do striking with a blindfold on and then stuff come out of both the Machado and Gracie camps ... we'd put on blindfolds or at night turn off the lights on the mat and we'd grapple blindfolded. Just get rid of that input and learn what different body positions feel like so that you take the load off of the brain and are able to react much, much quicker than you can when you're depending on visual input.

Ox: So you take that 20 years forward and apply it to a gun and basically you're using the same sensory input to determine what condition the gun is in instead of depending on what you're seeing.

Jeff Anderson: Gotcha. Okay-

Ox: And it's, it helps quite a bit in full-light conditions under low stress, in low-light conditions it's night ... well, night and day, that's probably a bad term to use when I'm talking about night, but ... it makes an incredible difference in how quickly you can assess and reduce the malfunction on a gun.

Jeff Anderson: Gotcha. So I kind of took you away from the drill. So we've three of the, we have those three firearms in there set up with different configurations. We put the blindfold on. We're ready to go. Now what are we doing?

Ox: So you pick up one gun, you shoot it and from feel alone you determine what your next action is. If you determine is there a round in the chamber, can I press the trigger again? Is the slide lock to the rear, do I need to reload? Or is it a hard malfunction and do I need to tap rack and then rip and then go through the whole hard malfunction or type 2 malfunction routine.

Jeff Anderson: Gotcha. So you do this with each one of them-

Ox: Cause actually, you know, I said that incorrectly. And that's actually one of the beauties of this drill is traditionally with a hard malfunction you go through the routine for a soft malfunction. So with a soft malfunction you tap the magazine, rack the slide, assess and press the trigger if the target still needs shooting. And if your gun still doesn't go bang then you rip out the magazine, rack the slide three times, insert a fresh magazine, rack the slide and get the gun back into the fight.

Ox: When you can assess by feel alone that you've encountered a hard malfunction, you skip the whole tap-rack-press or tap-rack-assess and go straight to reducing

the malfunction. And that takes three or more seconds off of the amount of time that it takes to reduce a hard malfunction.

Jeff Anderson: Which in a gunfight is forever.

Ox: Yeah. That's five, ten, fifteen rounds being fired.

Jeff Anderson: Yeah. Awesome. Well this is a great drill that people can do. Just listen everybody, you're going to need to make sure you can go to a range where they're gonna let you stick a blindfold on and stick a loaded weapon in your hand. But there are places out there that you can do this kind of thing that it'll be supervised. It'll be, it can be a great learning experience for you and definitely something you should, you definitely should get to this level of being able assess. Because like Mike, like Ox said, this is something that can take, that can literally shave seconds off your ability to defend yourself when you're in a live gunfight and seconds count. Seconds save lives. Fractions of seconds save lives.

Jeff Anderson: This is a great drill. I would love for you to give it a try and then give us your feedback. What was it like? What was your experience with it? Please leave us a comment in the blog where this podcast episode is. We'd love to hear your feedback. All right? And definitely go check out more of Ox's training programs over at his website at [www.tacticalshootingsecrets.com](http://www.tacticalshootingsecrets.com) and until our next Modern Combat & Survival broadcast this is Jeff Anderson saying, "prepare, train, and survive."