



Long Distance Shooting

with Jeff Anderson for www.ModernCombatAndSurvival.com

Most Gunfights Happen At Close Range, But . .

There is value in training at longer than close-combat distance, and even at EXTREME long distances.

- Handguns can be accurate as far out as 40 to 50 yards, believe it or not.
- Long distance accuracy is greatly enhanced with a pistol-carbine conversion kit.
- Long-distance shooting isn't IDEAL under most conditions, but let's talk about some of the benefits.

Tactical Benefits

There may be times when, tactically speaking, you have to engage a target at extreme long ranges with your handgun. These include...

- When you are defending somebody else, such as a bystander
- In an "active shooter" scenario, where you have to stop somebody else who is not a direct threat to you, but to other people
- In any scenario where your target is farther away than "extreme close combat" range

Foundational Benefits

Remember the old slogan, "aim small, miss small."

- Even at close distances, you STILL need to be accurate (and many shooters miss their target at CQC ranges because of the stress and adrenaline involved).
- Long-distance shooting refines the basics that are needed for accuracy. It's the best clinic for foundational skills.

Mental Benefits

Long-distance shooting helps even out the bad habits you might develop while training exclusively for CQC:

- Training to shoot at long distances breaks you out of "CQC mode," where you can tend to get sloppy, rely on point shooting, etc.
- Training for long-distance shooting also boosts your confidence in your ability to be accurate at ANY distance (including CQC ranges).

Motivational Benefits

Here's a fun new drill to keep you motivated in live-fire training:

1. Do this with a private, stationary target, or at range with mechanical targets (look for long-distance range, such as 100 yard "reds").
2. You need a target with a small, separate bulls-eye (or go to OxTarget.com; it will tell you what you're doing wrong).
3. Start 5 feet away and aim for the bulls-eye (even if you don't hit it). Shoot a group.
4. Back up about 5 feet and aim at the bulls-eye (don't worry about getting one just now; AIM for the same spot). Shoot a group.
5. Keep doing this until you start to see your rounds stray more than 3 inches apart. Continue to shoot at that range to see what your next rounds do... then back up more.

Advanced Long Range Shooting Drills

Use your smartphone and use its camera to zoom in and watch your shots as you create more distance. You can try [1-handed](#), too!

Prepare. Train. Survive.