

# Marksmanship vs. Defensive Shooting

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# Marksmanship - Defensive Shooting - Definitions

- Marksmanship - A person skilled in shooting at a mark or target.
- Defensive Shooting - Training in the use of lethal force to protect and defend one's self, family, others, and/or property against crime or victimization.

# Marksmanship training



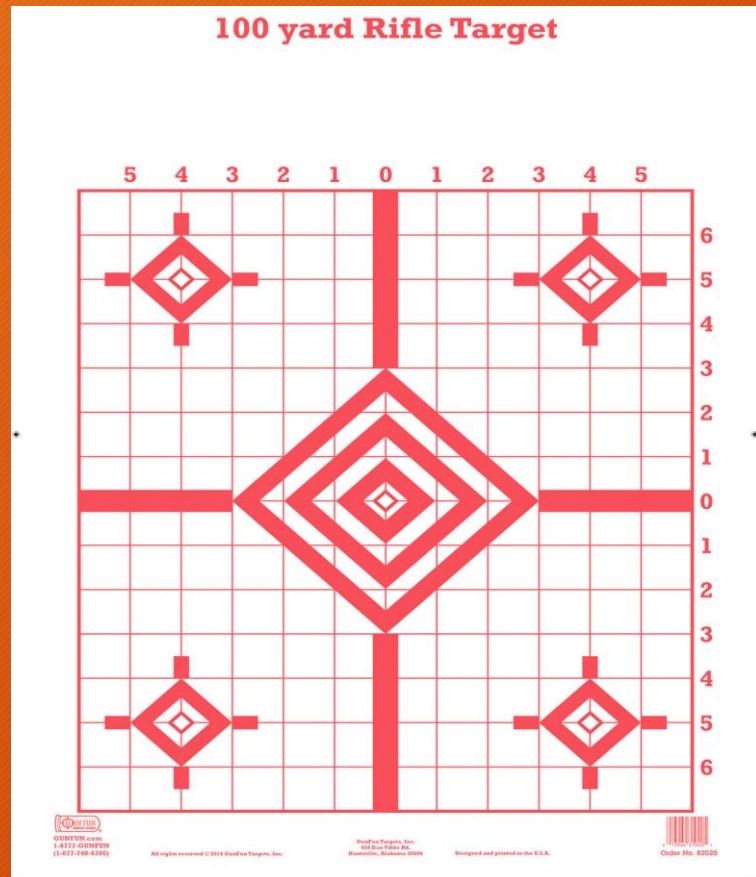
# Defensive shooting training



# Marksmanship training - goals

- All targets are single shot targets for the most part. After one target is hit then the shooter will need to refocus on another target.
- Speed reigns supreme in competition shooting. Sometimes accuracy and technique are negated or over looked in this style of shooting.
- There is no need to take cover during this type of training because technically the training is focused on precision (aim point) shooting. It is best also advisable to practice taking a kneeling or prone position because it reduces your profile making you a smaller target.

# Marksmanship vs. Defensive shooting targets (typical)



# Techniques

- You are limiting your configuration possibilities. There are only so many configurations for a shooting stage in a match. A person can expect certain things when marksmanship shooting rather than reacting to a clear and present danger at hand.
- Muscle memory is what controls your ability to shoot under extreme stress. If your muscles remember doing the same things over and over again then that is what they will do.
- What happens when your strong side is injured, training to shoot from the less dominant hand becomes critical in the overall defensive shooting phase.

# Big questions????

- Competition shooting breeds an environment of gizmos and gadgets. Reflex sights and Eotech sights are great but batteries and electronic devices fail, especially under harsh conditions.
- Does marksmanship training and shooting teach you the following:
  - Clearing a simple malfunction under fire?
  - Clearing a complex malfunction under fire?
  - Can you reload on the move to get out of the way of danger?
  - Do you practice lateral and linear movement?
  - Can you shoot, tactically reload while up on target and execute proper movement under fire.
  - Conversely, practicing *defensive shooting* demands that you practice taking “adequate cover”.



# Safe gun handling - Marksmanship

- Competitive shooting sports promote and enforce safety procedures and respectful range etiquette.
- This is because basically one person is shooting at a time.
- Typically a Range Safety Officer (RSO) is also present to maintain the rules.
- Note - there are Pros and Cons of Marksmanship shooting as they relate to defensive shooting. The bottom line though is that Marksmanship shooting will not replace defensive shooting for self defense.

# Effective defensive shooting

- In order to be effective in defensive shooting one must become proficient in the following six fundamental concepts that can be strengthened by participating in competitive shooting, they are;
  - Safe Gun Handling
  - Knowledge and Confidence in your gun and gear
  - Speed and accuracy
  - Moving and cover
  - Mindset and decision making - especially during tactical reloading
  - Trigger concepts and timing - mastering the reset

## In closing - which works best for you?

- A mix of marksmanship training and defensive shooting training when mixed together gives a shooter a well rounded perspective addressing most of their needs when putting together or adding to one's firearm response plan.
- I myself practice both and try to train as much as I can using my non-dominant hand with my handgun, shotgun and tactical rifle.
- I also advocate training with lighting and laser on and switching it off to replicate a real life scenario of equipment failure.

# God Bless the USA

- May the second amendment remain strong for generations to come. Thanks Chip and Kim and all board members for all that you do day in and day out for the organization and to the membership who make us as strong as we are today. Be Safe!  
ED

