No training is more important to our military and law enforcement personnel than training in the use of deadly force. Their response to a deadly threat must be immediate, instinctive and bring sufficient force to bear to neutralize the threat to both them and innocent bystanders.

For decades the military has been faced with the deadly situation of having their adversaries wear body armor.

Violent encounters by armed felons against LE officers have become more numerous, the felons more belligerent and the confrontations more deadly.

The level of firepower and protective gear available to potential adversaries is also on the rise. It is no longer a shock to hear that a bad guy was taken down wearing body armor.

Recently in Albuquerque, an armed felon with body armor wounded 3 of our officers in a shootout that saw hundreds of rounds fired before he was finally taken down.

Events like this should cause us to ask, *Do we still believe that engaging paper targets or non-reactive steel targets that simply “ping” when hit are sufficient to prepare the military and LE for what they will face in real life encounters?*

Most shooter’s training on the square range is centered on repeatedly engaging a paper target with standardized drills such as a “Standard Response” or a “Failure Drill.” Their proficiency with a firearm is based on a minimum number of hits on a paper target in a pre-determined amount of time.

Repetitive training of this type ingrains in the shooters that their engagement with an armed adversary will end with a set number of rounds expended.

It is though they believe that “If I shoot x number of rounds that is all that will be required to stop an armed threat.”

In standardized square range training, some shooters also engage steel targets. The benefits are evident:

- Instant audible feedback when the target is hit and (sometimes) visual feedback if the target is repainted repetitively.
- Targets are available that drop when hit or have moving plates to indicate a hit in anatomical areas.

Hearing the report of the bullet hitting the steel or watching the target topple should indicate to the shooter that they have brought sufficient force to bear to neutralize the threat.

But have they really?

The limitation of this type of training is evident; it does not allow real-time evaluation of the accuracy of the shots being taken. All you can say is a piece of steel X size and profile was hit “somewhere” on its frontal area.

The problem is the steel targets of today fall over no matter how accurate or inaccurate the hits. An inaccurately placed round can hit the target in a non-lethal area, i.e. low in the lateral pelvic area or high near the edge of the shoulder, and the target will fall just as quickly as when the shot is a deadly one accurately placed in the center of the Cranial-Occular Cavity (C-O C).

Compounding this issue is the fact that the targets do not require the shooter to continue to engage them until an accurate number of hits in designated anatomical “kill zone” areas are reached.

Today’s targets fall over after being inaccurately hit only once.

**INTELLIGENT TARGET SYSTEMS** now trains the military and LE officers with a series of innovative steel target systems that overcomes these limitations and reinforce the requirement to stay in the fight until the threat really is neutralized.

![Steel Target System](image)

**The DROP DEAD™ Reactive Steel Target Training System**

The 2-plate target system presents an AR 500 target that requires a pre-determined number of accurate hits before dropping. And it accomplishes this critical capability without batteries, drive motors or gears.

The 2-Plate IPSC style target has a rotating red plate behind the C-O C area of the head and a mid-body rotating plate corresponding to the Center Mass area.

In addition a laterally adjustable No- Threat steel target located in front of the Threat target adds realism to any training drill.
The target is easily and instantly configured - without tools - to require the following accurate hits before the target drops:

- A Center Mass hit or a C-O C hit
- A Center Mass hit and a C-O C hit
- Standard Response
  (2 Center Mass hits)
- Failure Drill
  (2 Center Mass and 1 C-O C hit)

The target does not react to hits anywhere else on the target body.

The realism and advantages of training with this target design are immediate and reinforcing to the Instructor and the shooter. They both hear the hits on the target, but when the hits are insufficient in number or outside the critical “kill zone” areas, the target does not drop.

With this system the shooter must keep engaging the target if it drops.

The system can be used with any handgun and rifle rounds up to .556 mm/.223.

**Sniper Training System**

The reactive plate technology is also incorporated in the DROP DEAD™ Marksman and Sniper training system.

The innovative system incorporates a proprietary 12 VDC drive mechanism that resets the Threat target upright in 3 seconds.

Unlike other motor driven steel target systems, the DROP DEAD™ is not damaged if it is engaged while moving up or down.

The target has a reactive Center Mass plate that must be hit to cause the target to drop. In addition, a laterally adjustable No-Threat steel target is located in front of the Threat target.

Instructors can locate the Threat/No-Threat system in varying locations at any engagement distance from handgun range to long range sniper training distances in excess of 1 mile.

With an accurate hit the Threat target drops and immediately returns to an upright position; no wasted training time going downrange to score or reset the target.

The system can be used with any handgun and rifle rounds up to .308 Winchester rounds.

**Conclusion**

The DROP DEAD™ target technology finally brings reality to the weapons training environment.

Any good target system has several operational requirements:

- Durability.
- Ease of set up and take down.
- Simple and intuitive operation.
- Performs in all weather conditions.
- Easy and inexpensive to maintain, preferably with locally obtained parts.
- Reasonably priced.
Survival -

**SUFFICIENT FORCE TRAINING™**
Training shooters to bring enough force to bear to stop any threat.

You will find that and more in the AIM Systems.

**Acknowledgements**

James Bliehall’s 35-year career in engineering and his previous military experience guided him in developing his patented, cost-effective firearms training systems incorporating realistic human movements.

Contact him at:
James Bliehall, Founder & President
505.228.2246
INTELLIGENT TARGET SYSTEMS, LLC
www.intelligenttarget.com