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Shooting the ITS- AIM Systems



Last week, James Bliehall hosted me at the Albuquerque, New Mexico police range for some knife and gun fighting training. Capping the event off, everyone got to shoot James' innovative Intelligent Target System. To call it a realistic, practical "shooting gallery" is a close, but the training is so serious that one hates to use the term "shooting gallery." Yet, it helps describe the concept to someone reading or hearing about it for the first time. This system re-creates a house front (or business front if you wish) and has a series of doors, windows, shoot/don't shoot targets that pop up, step out of doors, zip by windows, stop and shoot or surrender, or take your picture, make a phone call, or just stare at you wonder why you are there.

I gotta' tell ya', I am thoroughly and completely bored with range/target shooting after 35 years of shooting paper targets. Bored! I have to force myself to range-shoot in the same way you reluctantly take your car in for a tune-up. This boredom factor eventually infects many shooters and therefore pushes range instructors to invent new, often crazy and eventually unrealistic ways to shoot at the same-old, square range.

But, this changing AIM system is challenging and intriguing and I found myself wanting to shoot the course over and over again. You never really master it because James, like some ballistic Wizard of Oz will hang a few tricks on the electric/battery-powered wire and pulley systems, or throw a few switches and change it all up on you. There is endless room for realistic creativity. There is even an apparatus that works an airsoft pistol on the structure that shoots back at the shooter. Plus, you are always shooting into a berm, have a firing line and common range safety procedures apply.

Even carbine shooters and snipers may use it from afar. The Albuquerque. P.D. has a distant control tower to perch upon for example, or one may shoot prone from the various distances that any range may offer.

The sheer joy and beauty of the thing is it is quite affordable, so easy for instructors to operate and any damaged parts are quick and easy to replace. The targets and their weapons and props are easy to switch out. It makes a great intermediary training phase between the simple run-the-gun mechanics of a regular range experience and simulated ammo shooting. So competent training phases could look like this.

- 1) The common range: Learn to run the gun and marksmanship.
- 2) Shoot the AIM Intelligent Target System.
- 3) Sims ammo shooting.

Imagine running all your concealed-carry-permit seekers through this after they do the common range shoot. What an eye-opening experience! This would make your civilian training exceptional, educational and entertaining. Imagine running your new police and security cadets through this program after they routinely pop paper targets? Imagine running your people through this as a quick, one-day or two-day, refresher course?

Me? I want one in my backyard!

See the videos on- <http://intelligenttarget.com>