

THE NEED FOR TRAINING

An average police officer in the United States visits a firing range twice per year and only receives eight hours of firearms instruction annually, to say nothing of how often they actually pull the trigger and practice.

Like any skill, firearms training is a perishable skill. Weekly, if not daily practice is vital for an officer's body to react instinctively if the situation might require it.

Range training is often limited to qualification and often times does not focus on teaching or consistently practicing critical skills such as weak-hand shooting, reload drills, performance under stress, discretionary shooting, combat and precision shooting etc.

In addition, there are important skills, such as performance under stress or disorientation, that are difficult (if not impossible) to replicate on a live-fire range due to safety concerns.

However, ...

These life-saving skills could be trained to and practiced to proficiency or even mastery with a consistent extra hour of instruction and/or practice per week.

FIREARMS TRAINING HELD HOSTAGE BY MONEY, TIME AND LOGISTICS

What would it require in time and money to provide an extra hour of range training each week?

If we assume an hourly wage for an officer of \$25, ammo expense of .20¢ per round, and \$10 for travel expense and range fees, an hour of training would conservatively cost \$50.

That equates to an annual cost of \$2,600 per officer (\$50 X 52 weeks). For a department of fifty officers, that extra training would conservatively total **\$130,000** (50 officers X \$2,600).

Using a [DART system](#) (which can be set up in a conference room or spare office), fifty officers can easily log an hour of training per week; either in two 30-minute sessions during the week, or four 15-minute sessions before a shift.

The result is a 750% increase in training time, without the cost or travel logistics associated with a live-fire range. DART training occurs in a completely safe environment, any time of day, regardless of weather conditions.

An added emphasis on training also helps mitigate liability associated with failure-to-train lawsuits.

All this for just 5% of the equivalent cost of range practice for a single year.