

Cavalier Cowboys

Sunday – May 4th, 2014

Stages Written by: Striker

**An excerpt from
Cowboy Dress, Arms Tools and Equipments,
As Used In The Little Missouri Range County and the Medora Area, In the 1860's
By Don Rickey, Jr., Park Historian**

HATS

No single item of apparel so quickly identified the cowboy for what he was as did the cowboy hat. This hat seems to have evolved from the earlier slouch hat popular on the frontier and in the South, and the wide brimmed, high crowned Mexican sombrero. In the early 1870's, the John B. Stetson Company marketed a hat especially designed to please the cowboys. This hat, known as the "boss of the plains", was made in various brim widths, generally from two and one half to slightly over four inches, and with a crown seven inches high. In the north, the brim was usually about three and one half inches, a little less than in Texas. It was offered in two colors, black, and white; although the white was actually more of a grey in shade. This hat remained almost standard equipment for cowboys for many years, as it served their needs excellently, and was noted for holding its shape despite frequent wettings and much abuse. Most cowboys added a chin string that could be used to hold the hat on in high winds. Some of them favored looping this string around the back of the head, and some wore it under the chin.

Since many of the cowboys in western North Dakota in the 1880's had come from Texas, the more pronounced Mexican influences on head gear were often seen. Many cowboys, perhaps as many as half of them, are reported to have worn the high crowned - peaked - and very broad brimmed Mexican straw sombrero in the summer. The stiff brimmed hat was not worn by cowboys in the 1880's, and had only a very limited use in the early 1900's.

In use by cowboys, the hat crown was sometimes dented in, and sometimes left round. Generally, the tendency was for the Texans to leave the crowns undented. Often, a special hat band of leather, snake skin, or braided horse hair was added to the hat for ornament and to help it keep its shape when wet. Not every cowboy wore a special hat band, but, the practice was very common. Usually, the cowboys made their own hat bands.

The hat band was generally from one half to three quarters of an inch wide. If made of leather, the band was commonly fastened by a small silver or nickel buckle, and was sometimes ornamented with silver or nickel tacks all around. According to Ben Bird, cowboy of the 1880's, most of the hat bands were of braided horse hair, perhaps in white and black, or with red hair interwoven, commonly made by the cowboys themselves. One of these horse hair bands in the Yellowstone County Museum, Billings, Montana, has a somewhat open weave geometrical pattern of white and black horse hair, with two tassels of red hair where the band was tied together. The making of horse hair novelties, such as hat bands, watch chains, bridles and wristlets was a popular cowboy pastime. In later years, the art of braiding and knot-working horse hair was taught in western penitentiaries, such as that at Deer Lodge, Montana, and the manufacture of horse hair objects by someone was quite likely to provoke joking comments as to where the artisan had "learned his trade".

The cowboy hat was wide brimmed to protect the wearer from the blazing sun and inclement weather. The high crown was intended to allow enough air space to keep the wearer's head moderately cool. It was used to carry water, to signal, to haze stock with, or perhaps to fan a campfire to life. It was almost indispensable to the cowboy, and often cost up to \$20.00. In winter, a scarf or strip of cloth was sometimes tied around the hat and under the chin of the wearer to protect his face and ears.

Aside from the wide brimmed Stetson, some cowboys had seal or muskrat fur caps for winter wear, but these were not common. Most of these hats were secured in trade from soldiers, as muskrat hats were standard winter issue in the army during the 1800's, and soldiers were not adverse to trading them, as well as other articles of clothing, for money or liquor.

Sometimes, a cowboy might have a cloth winter cap, with a large, continuous flap that could be turned down to cover the back of the head and the ears. These were commonly known as Scotch caps, and had a somewhat square shape on top, with a small button at the center.

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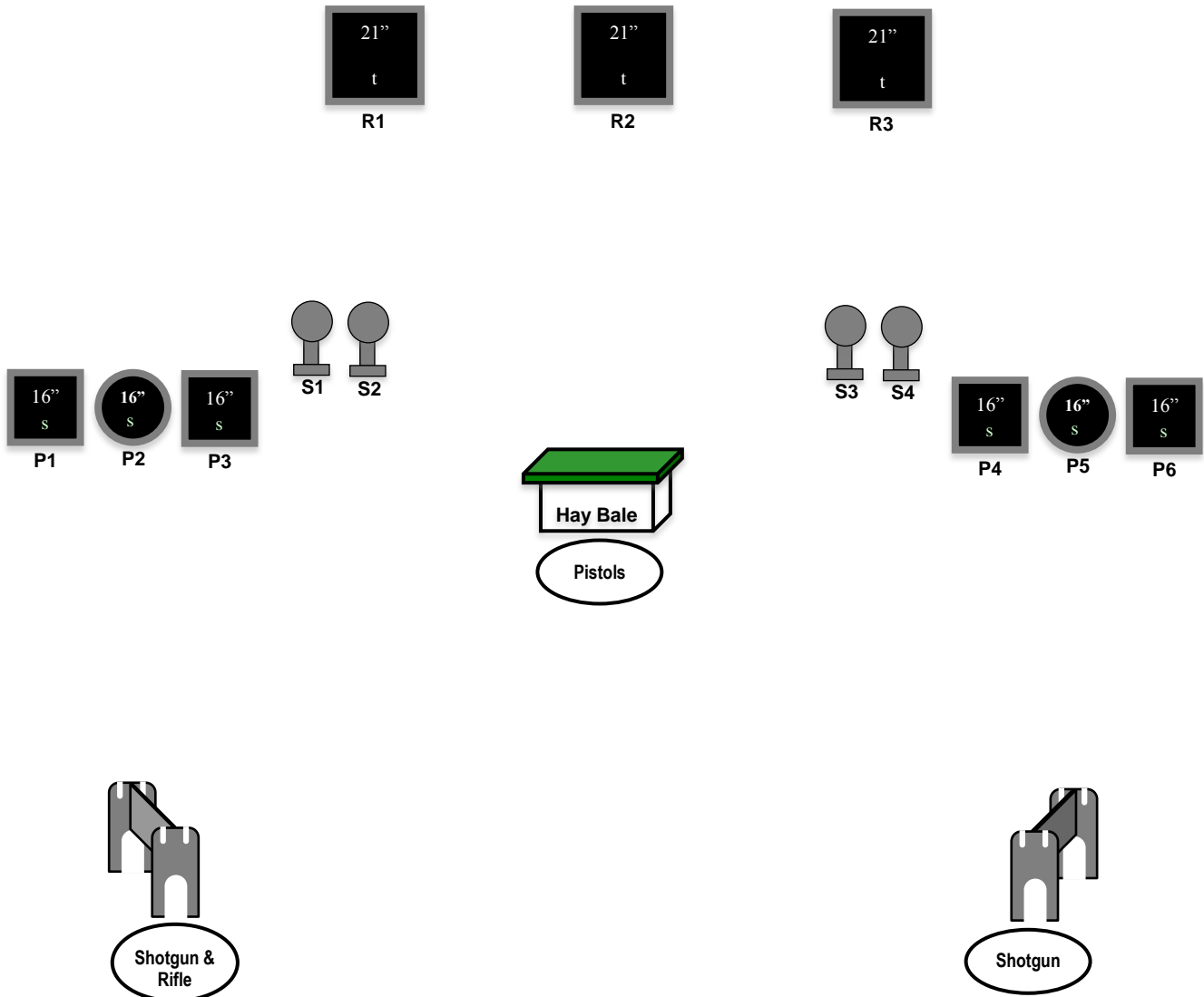
STAGE ONE – BAY #1 – Left Side

Round Count: 10 pistol, 10 rifle, and 4+ shotgun

Shooting Order: Shotgun, Shotgun, Rifle, Pistols

Staging: Rifle is loaded with 10 rounds and staged safely. Both pistols are loaded with 5 rounds each and holstered. Shotgun is empty and held at cowboy port arms.

Procedure: Shooter starts at the right horse with the shotgun at cowboy port arms and when ready says “**Boss Of The Plains**”. At the beep with shotgun engage the two knockdown targets (S3, S4) in any order. Move to the left horse. Next with shotgun engage the two knockdown targets (S1, S2) in any order. Next with rifle engage the three rifle targets (R1, R2, R3) in a Double Tap Nevada Sweep, for example (R1, R1, R2, R2, R3, R3, R2, R2, R1, R1). Move to the hay bale. Last with pistols engage the three pistol targets (R1, R2, R3) using the same instructions as the rifle.



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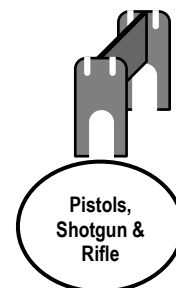
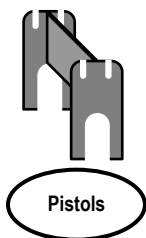
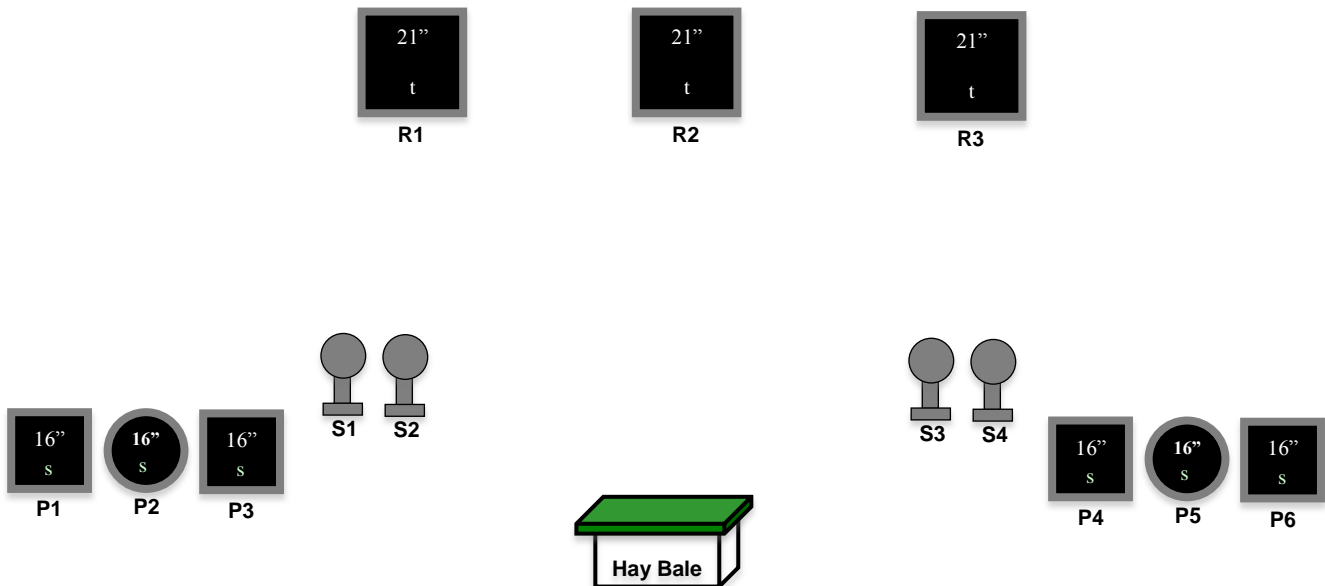
STAGE TWO – BAY #2

Round Count: 10 pistol, 10 rifle, and 2+ shotgun

Shooting Order: Pistols, Pistols, Rifle, Shotgun

Staging: Rifle is loaded with 10 rounds and staged safely. Both pistols are loaded with 5 rounds each and holstered. Shotgun is staged safely.

Procedure: Shooter starts at the left horse and when ready says “**Boss Of The Plains**”. At the beep with pistols engage the three pistol targets (P1, P2, P3) in a 2-1-2 sweep, for example (P1, P1, P2, P3, P3). Move to the right horse. Next with pistols engage the three pistol targets (P4, P5, P6) in a 2-1-2 sweep. Next with rifle engage the three rifle targets (R1, R2, R3) in two 2-1-2 sweeps, for example (R1, R1, R2, R3, R3, R3, R3, R2, R1, R1). Last with shotgun engage the two knockdown targets (S3, S4) in any order.



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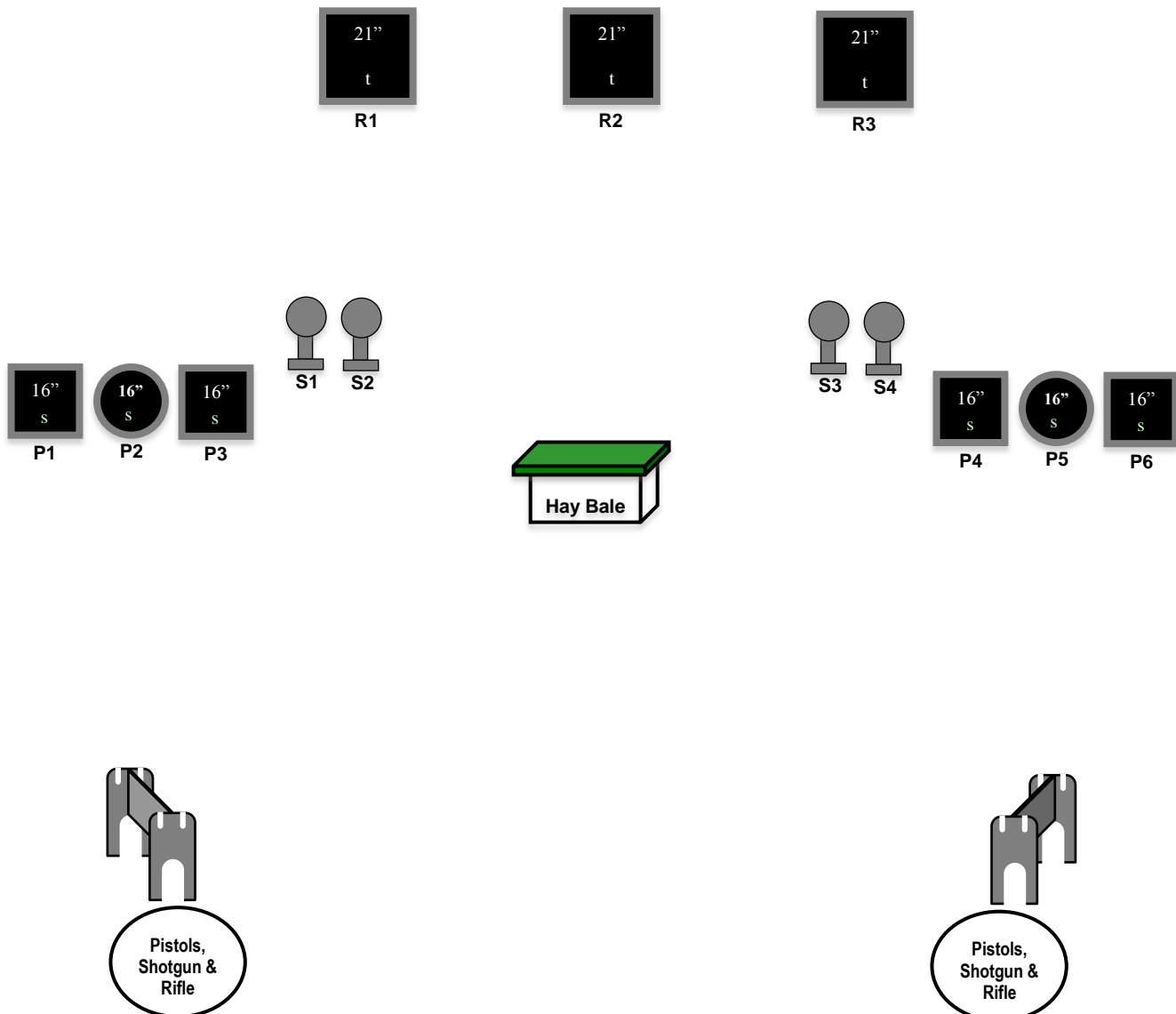
STAGE THREE – BAY #2

Round Count: 10 pistol, 10 rifle, and 2+ shotgun

Shooting Order: Pistols, Rifle, Shotgun

Staging: Rifle is loaded with 10 rounds and staged safely. Both pistols are loaded with 5 rounds each and holstered. Shotgun is staged safely.

Procedure: Shooter has the option of shooting stage from either horse. Shooter starts at a horse with hands touching hat/head and when ready says “**Boss Of The Plains**”. At the beep with pistols engage the three pistol targets (P1, P2, P3) or (P4, P5, P6) by double tapping the center, then alternating 6 rounds on the end, and then double tapping the center, for example (P2, P2, P1, P3, P1, P3, P1, P3, P2, P2). Next with rifle engage the three rifle targets (R1, R2, R3) using the same instructions as pistols. Last with shotgun engage the two knockdown targets (S1, S2) or (S3, S4) in any order.



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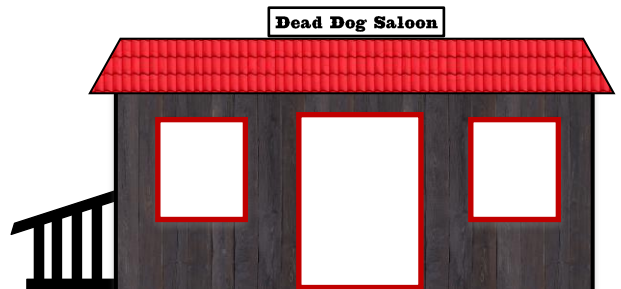
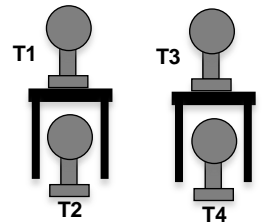
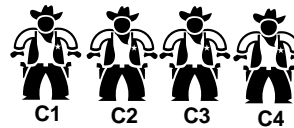
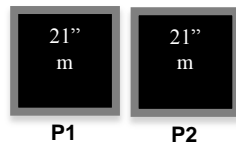
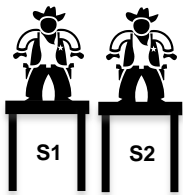
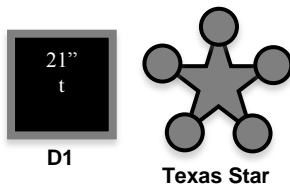
STAGE FOUR – BAY #2

Round Count: 10 pistol, 10 rifle, and 2+ shotgun

Shooting Order: Rifle, Shotgun, Pistols

Staging: Rifle is loaded with 10 rounds and staged safely. Both pistols are loaded with 5 rounds each and holstered. Shotgun is staged safely.

Procedure: Shooter starts in Stall #2 and when ready says “**Boss Of The Plains**”. At the beep with rifle engage the Texas Star until all plates are down and dump extra rounds on the D1 dump target. Misses do not count with the rifle, only plates left at the end of the stage count as misses. Next with shotgun engage the two knockdown targets (S1, S2) in any order. Next with shotgun cleanup any plates remaining on the Texas Star. Move to the barrel. Last with pistols engage the two pistol targets (P1, P2) in a Progressive Sweep, for example (P1, P2, P2, P1, P1, P1, P2, P2, P2, P2).



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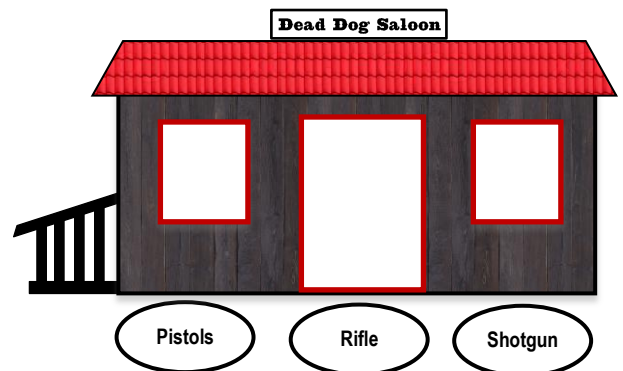
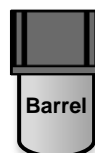
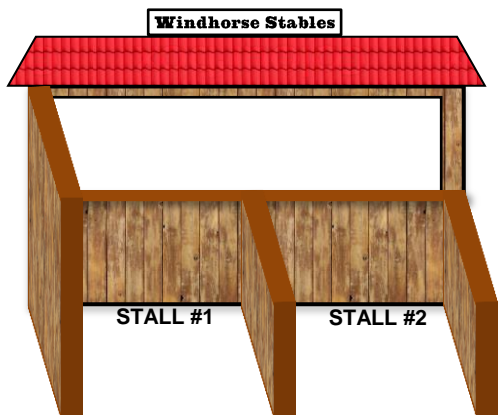
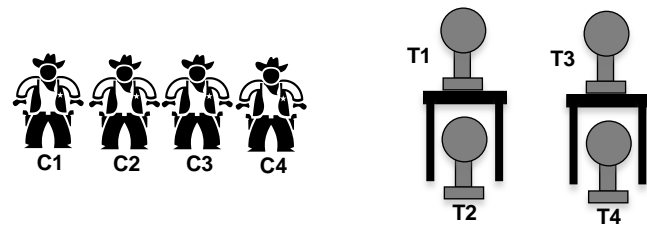
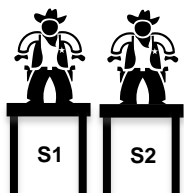
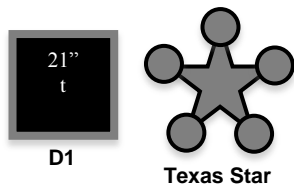
STAGE FIVE – BAY #2

Round Count: 10 pistol, 10 rifle, and 4+ shotgun

Shooting Order: Rifle, Pistols, Shotgun

Staging: Rifle is loaded with 10 rounds and staged vertically in the doorway. Both pistols are loaded with 5 rounds each and holstered. Shotgun is staged safely.

Procedure: Shooter starts in saloon doorway with hands on door frame and when ready says “**Boss Of The Plains**”. At the beep with rifle engage the four rifle targets (R1, R2, R3, R4) in the following order (R1, R2, R3, R4, R1, R2, R3, R1, R2, R1). Restage rifle vertically. Move to the left window. Next with pistols engage the four pistol targets (C1, C2, C3, C4) using the same instructions as the rifle. Move to the right window. Last with shotgun engage the four knockdown targets (T1, T2, T3, T4) in any order.



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STAGE SIX – BAY #2

Round Count: 10 pistol, 10 rifle, and 4+ shotgun

Shooting Order: Shotgun, Rifle, Pistols

Staging: Rifle is loaded with 10 rounds and staged vertically in doorway. Both pistols are loaded with 5 rounds each and holstered. Shotgun is staged safely.

Procedure: Shooter starts at right window and when ready says “**Boss Of The Plains**”. At the beep with shotgun engage the four knockdown targets (T1, T2, T3, T4) in the following order (high, low, high low). Move to the doorway. Next with rifle engage the four rifle targets (R1, R2, R3, R4) with 10 rounds and all targets engaged. Restage rifle vertically. Move to the left window. Last with pistols engage the four pistol targets (C1, C2, C3, C4) with 10 rounds and all targets engaged.

