



# Stage 1 – First Christmas (1539)

Hernando de Soto’s expedition spent Christmas 1539 in the Apalachee village of Anhaica near today’s Tallahassee. The Spanish soldiers and priests held Mass and ate a humble meal of maize and beans. During the holy day, Apalachee warriors attacked the camp, turning worship into chaos. Historians consider this the first Christmas celebration on what would become U.S. soil.

**10 Pistol** – Holstered

**10 Rifle** – Staged on **right table**

**4+ Shotgun** – Staged on **center table**

**Starting Position:** At **left table**; *both hands on sack of beans.*

**Starting Line:** “*Beans & Bayonets*”

**Shooting Order:** **Pistols, Rifle, Shotgun**

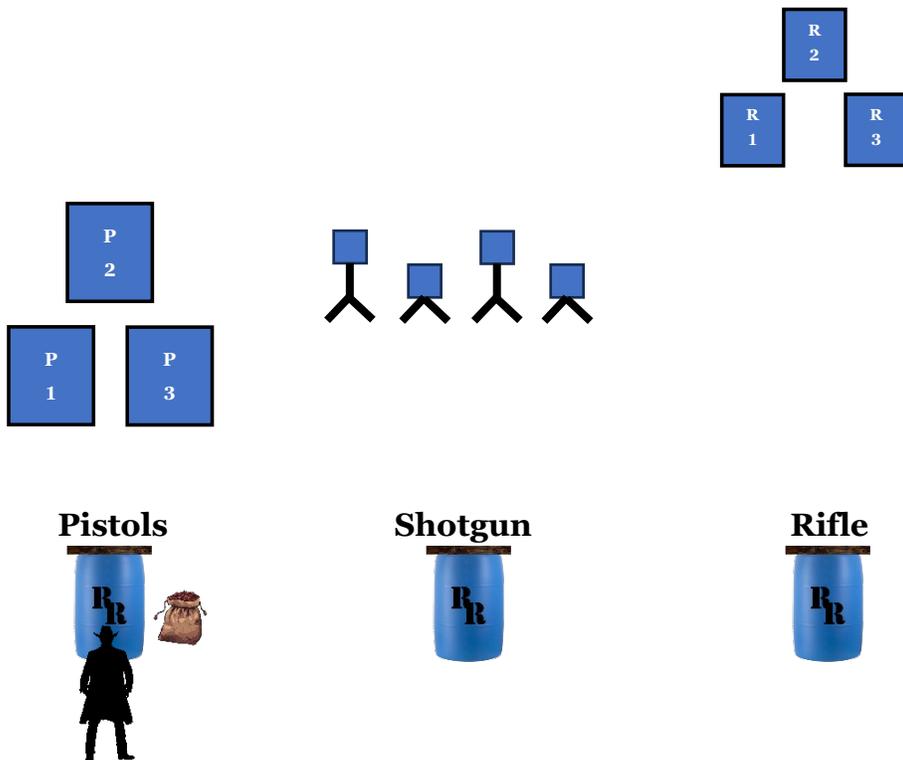
## ATB:

**Pistols** – From *left table*; **Quint-Tap** center target, then **Double-Tap** both outsides, then **Single-Tap** center target. **Example:** (2-2-2-2-2-1-1-3-3-2)

**Rifle** – From *right table*; repeat pistol instructions: **Quint-Tap** center target, then **Double-Tap** both outsides, then **Single-Tap** center target. **Example:** (2-2-2-2-2-3-3-1-1-2)

**Shotgun** – From center table; engage four-knockdowns until down.

**Notes:** You must carry the sack of beans with you to each position.





## Stage 2 – Siege of St. Augustine (1702)

During the War of the Spanish Succession, British forces surrounded St. Augustine for nearly two months, forcing about 1,500 civilians and soldiers into Castillo de San Marcos. On Christmas Eve the Spanish governor threw a party and promised bonuses to cheer his men. A Spanish relief fleet appeared near Christmas Day, prompting the British to burn their ships and retreat. Freed from danger, the garrison celebrated late on December 29<sup>th</sup>.

**10 Pistol** – Holstered

**10 Rifle** – Staged on **right table**

**4+ Shotgun** – Staged on **center table**

**Starting Position:** Standing at **right table**; holding coin in one hand, other hand to hat brim (as if looking to the horizon).

**Starting Line:** “Bonuses & Bombardment.”

**Shooting Order:** Rifle, Shotgun, Pistols

### ATB:

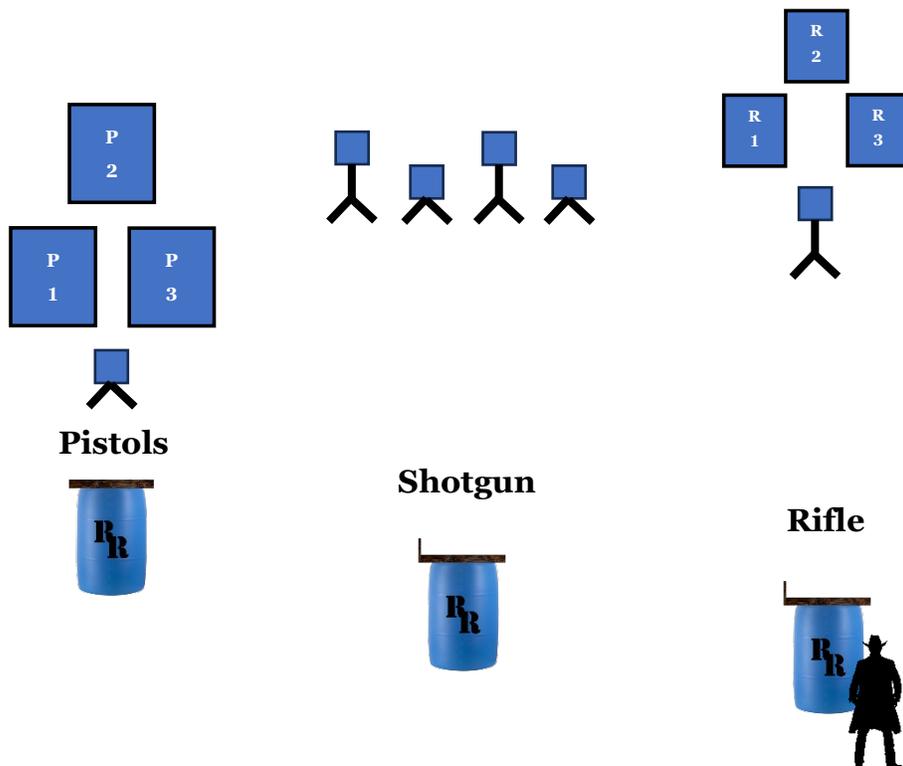
**Toss coin on table.**

**Rifle** – From *right table*; engage knockdown, then **Triple-Tap** each static target. Make safe behind barrier.

**Shotgun** – Engage four-knockdowns until down. Make safe on left table.

**Pistols** – From *left table*; repeat rifle instructions: engage knockdown, then **Triple-Tap** each static target. Then make-up any standing knockdowns with shotgun.

**Notes:** Static targets may be engaged in any order. A two-second bonus will be awarded for each hit knockdown not requiring a make-up.





# Stage 3 – Battle of Lake Okeechobee (1837)

On Christmas Day 1837, Seminole and Maroon warriors ambushed Colonel Zachary Taylor’s much larger U.S. force near Lake Okeechobee. Hidden marksmen devastated the advancing troops, wounding officers and driving volunteers back. The U.S. recorded dozens of dead and over a hundred wounded before the Seminoles slipped away by canoe. Folklore hails the battle as a triumphant stand for freedom for the combined forces.

**10 Pistol** – Holstered

**10 Rifle** – Staged on **near table - opposite of shotgun**

**4+ Shotgun** – Staged on **near table - opposite of rifle**

**Starting Position:** Behind paddle; both hands gripping the paddle.

**Starting Line:** “Canoe & Conquer”

**Shooting Order:** Shotgun, Rifle, Pistols

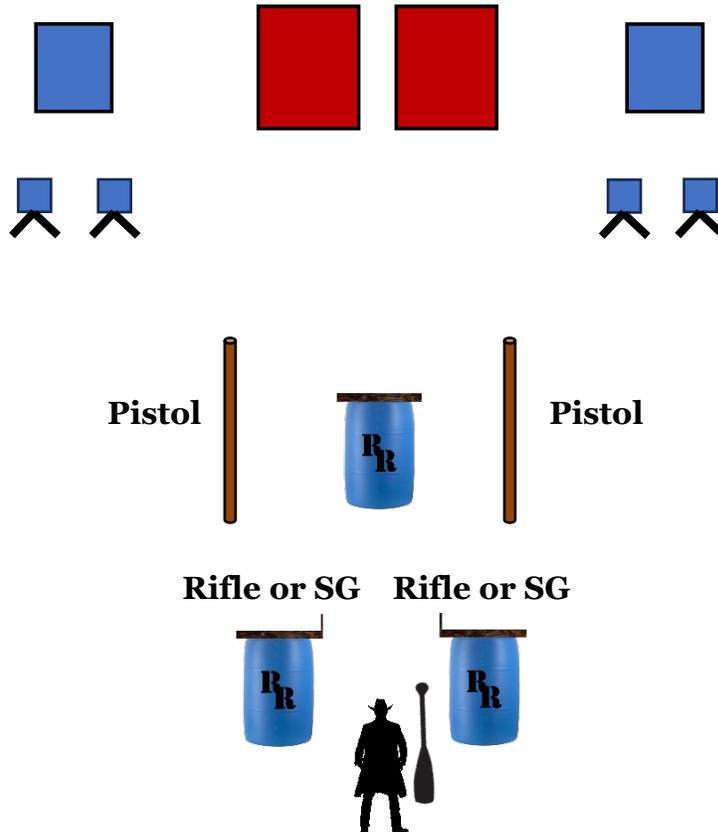
## ATB:

**Shotgun** – From *staged location*; engage four-knockdowns until down. Make safe behind barrier.

**Rifle** – From *staged location*; **Triple-Tap** an inside, then **Double-Tap** an outside; then repeat using other targets. Make safe behind barrier.

**Pistols** – From *outside of posts*; repeat rifle instructions: **Triple-Tap** an inside, then **Double-Tap** an outside; then from *outside other post* repeat using other targets.

**Notes:** Rifle and shotgun must be staged on opposite tables but may be made safe on same table.





## Stage 4 – Fort Christmas (1837)

While Taylor fought at Okeechobee, another detachment reached Christmas Creek on Christmas Day. There they built a 100-foot square stockade using 18-foot pine logs, complete with two blockhouses. They named their outpost Fort Christmas to mark the date. Though short-lived, the name lives on in the community of Christmas, Florida.

**10 Pistol** – Holstered

**10 Rifle** – Staged on **right table**

**4+ Shotgun** – Staged on **any table**

**Starting Position:** **Between posts;** *both hands on stocking.*

**Starting Line:** *“Stockings for the Stockade.”*

**Shooting Order:** **Pistol, Rifle, Shotgun**

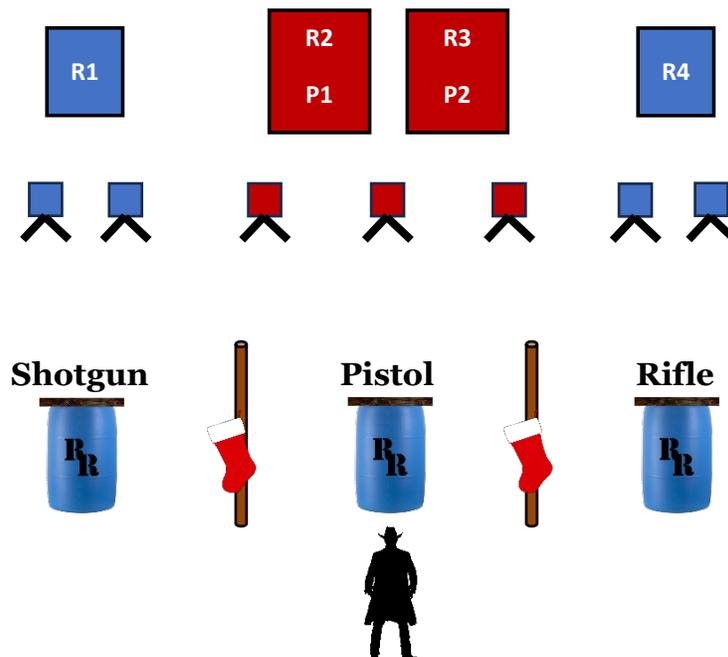
### ATB:

**Pistols** – From *between posts;* engage knockdowns until down, place remaining rounds on static targets.

**Rifle** – From *staged location;* **sweep** four targets with **ten-rounds**.

**Shotgun** – From *outside each post;* engage two-knockdowns until down.

**Notes:** Pistol knockdowns **may not** be engaged consecutively. You owe at least one round to each red static pistol target. You owe at least one round to all rifle targets and sequence must be a sweep. If needed, make-ups on pistol knockdowns must be from between posts.





## Stage 5 - Cracker Christmas (late 1800s)

Florida's frontier families crafted their own holiday customs. They decorated pine or cedar trees with oranges, homemade ornaments and strings of popcorn. Simple gifts like corn-husk dolls were exchanged, and neighbors roamed from farm to farm banging pots and ringing cowbells until they were invited in for food and drink. Music, gunfire and laughter echoed through the pinewoods, often startling new folks from up north.

**10 Pistol – Holstered**

**10 Rifle – Staged on left table**

**4+ Shotgun – Staged on right table**

**Starting Position:** At left table, ringing cowbell.

**Starting Action:** Ring the cowbell

**Shooting Order:** Rifle, Pistols, Shotgun

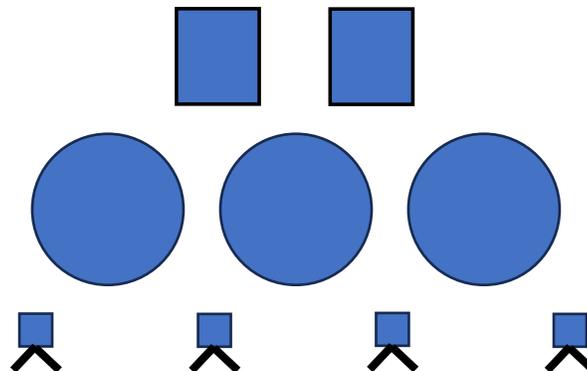
### ATB:

**Rifle** – From *left table*: starting on either end, ***Sweep Targets 1-3-2-3-1***. Make safe behind barrier.

**Shotgun** – From *right table*; engage four-knockdowns until down.

**Pistols** – From *right table*; ***Single-Tap*** center, then ***Triple-Tap*** outside, then ***Single-Tap*** center target; repeat using other outside target.

**Notes:** Pistol targets are the bottom row of circles. Stage brought to you by Chickie Winsome.



Shotgun/ Pistols





## Stage 6 – Cracker Christmas Delicacies (1870s)

In the 1870s, settlers often journeyed through swamps to share a Christmas feast. Their holiday table might feature roasted possum, sweet potatoes, and prickly-pear cactus pie. These unusual dishes nurtured a sense of community and resourcefulness. While visitors might balk, locals cherished the tradition.

**10 Pistol – Holstered**

**10 Rifle – Staged on left table**

**6+ Shotgun – Staged on left table**

**Starting Position:** At left table, holding spoon.

**Starting Line:** “Prickly-Pear Pie.”

**Shooting Order:** Shotgun, Rifle, Pistols

### ATB:

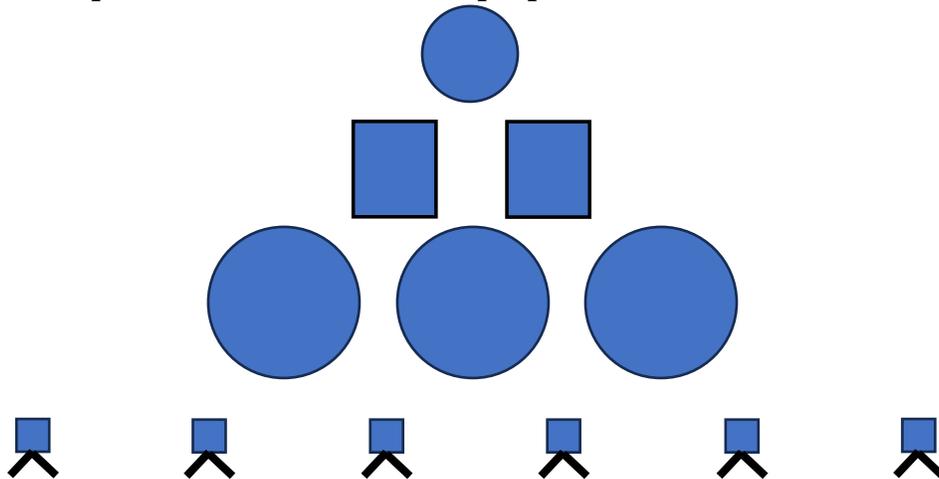
**Shotgun** – From *left table*; engage six-knockdowns until down. Make safe behind barrier.

**Rifle** – From *left table*; place **two rounds on each circle** and **one round on each rectangle**.  
Make safe behind barrier.

**Place spoon in the pie pan.**

**Pistols** – From *right table*; repeat rifle instructions: place **two rounds on each circle** and **one round on each rectangle**.

**Notes:** The spoon must be place (not thrown) into the pie pan.



**Pistols**



**Shotgun/ Rifle**

