

## Elfego Baca



Position 6



Position 7

### Stage 1

10 Pistol and 10 Rifle

Pistol(s) loaded with 5 rounds and holstered. Rifle loaded with 10 rounds is staged on the table in Booth 6.

In October, 1884, in the town of Middle San Francisco Plaza (now Reserve, New Mexico), Elfego Baca arrested a drunk cowboy named Charlie McCarty. Baca flashed his badge at McCarty and took Charlie's gun. McCarty's fellow cowboys tried to take him by force, but Baca refused and opened fire on the cowboys, killing the horse of one, which fell on his rider killing him.

Start in Booth 6 with both hands at your sides. When ready say "2 FOR THE PRICE OF 1!" At the buzzer, with your rifle, double tap the targets starting on either one. Make the rifle safe and move to Booth 7 and with your pistols, double tap the targets starting on either one.

### Stage 2

10 Pistol and 10 Rifle

Pistol(s) loaded with 5 rounds and holstered. Rifle loaded with 10 rounds is staged on the table in Booth 6.

After killing the horse and rider, Baca shot another cowboy in the knee.

Start in Booth 6 with rifle pointing down range. When ready say "COULD'VE BEEN WORSE!" At the buzzer, with your rifle, shoot the targets in the following order: 1 on the left target, 4 on the right target, 1 on the left target and 4 on the right target. Make the rifle safe and move to Booth 7 and with your pistols, shoot the targets in the same order as the rifle.

### Stage 3

#### 10 Pistol and 10 Rifle

Pistol(s) loaded with 5 rounds and holstered. Rifle loaded with 10 rounds is staged on the table in Booth 6.

Justice of the peace Ted White granted Charlie's freedom. After the verdict, Elfego Baca ran out of the courtroom still in possession of McCarty's gun. Baca took refuge in the house of Geronimo Armijo (Ar-me-ho). Bert Hearne, a rancher from Spur Lake Ranch, was summoned to bring Baca back to the Justice for questioning in the murder of Jon Slaughter's foreman. After Baca refused to come out of the adobe house, Hearne broke down the door and ordered Baca to come out with his hands up. Soon after that, shots volleyed from the house and hit Hearne in the stomach, resulting in his death.

Start in Booth 6 with hands in the surrender position. When ready say "TOLD YOU TO STAY OUT!" At the buzzer, with your rifle, shoot the targets in the following order: 2 on the left target, 3 on the right target, 2 on the left target and 3 on the right target. Make the rifle safe and move to Booth 7 and with your pistols, shoot the targets in the same order as the rifle.

### Stage 4

#### 10 Pistol and 10 Rifle

Pistol(s) loaded with 5 rounds and holstered. Rifle loaded with 10 rounds is staged on the table in Booth 6.

A standoff with the cowboys ensued. The number of cowboys that gathered has been disputed, with villagers at the scene reporting about forty were present, while Elfego himself later claiming there had been at least eighty. Allegedly, the cowboys fired more than 1,000 shots into the house, until the adobe building was full of holes. Incredibly, not one of the bullets struck Baca.

Start in Booth 6 with hands on pistols. When ready say "I'M AS LUCKY AS WYATT EARP!" At the buzzer, with your rifle, shoot the targets in the following order: 3 on the left target, 2 on the right target, 3 on the left target and 2 on the right target. Make the rifle safe and move to Booth 7 and with your pistols, shoot the targets in the same order as the rifle.

### Stage 5

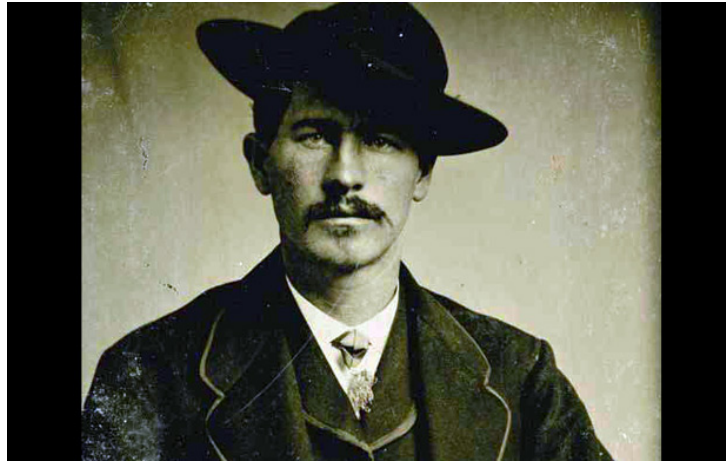
## 10 Pistol and 10 Rifle

Pistol(s) loaded with 5 rounds and holstered. Rifle loaded with 10 rounds is staged on the table in Booth 6.

During the siege, Baca shot and killed four of his attackers and wounded eight others. After about 33 hours, and roughly 1,000 rounds of open fire, the battle ended when Francisquito Naranjo (Na-rah-n-ho) convinced Baca to surrender. In May 1885, Baca was charged with murder for the death of Jon Slaughter's foreman and Bert Hearne. He was jailed to await his trial. In August 1885, Baca was acquitted after the door of Armijo's house was entered as evidence. It had more than 400 bullet holes in it.

Start in Booth 6 with hands on the rifle. When ready say "COULD HAVE KNOCKED!" At the buzzer, with your rifle, shoot the targets in the following order: 4 on the left target, 1 on the right target, 4 on the left target and 1 on the right target. Make the rifle safe and move to Booth 7 and with your pistols, shoot the targets in the same order as the rifle.

## Match Back Story



Elfego Baca (February 10, 1865 – August 27, 1945) was a gunman, lawman, lawyer, and politician in the closing days of the American wild west. Baca was born in Socorro, New Mexico just before the end of the American Civil War to Francisco and Juana Maria Baca. His family moved to Topeka, Kansas when he was a young child. Upon his mother's death in 1880, Baca returned with his father to Belen, New Mexico where his father became a marshal.

In 1884, at age 19, Baca acquired some guns, and became a deputy sheriff (whether through purchasing a badge or by being appointed is unclear) in Socorro County, New Mexico.

His goal in life was to be a peace officer. He wanted, he said, "the outlaws to hear my steps a block away." Southwestern New Mexico at the time was still relatively sparsely settled cattle ranching country. Cowboys roamed the land and did as they pleased. They might come into a town, drink at the saloon, harass the locals, and then shoot up the town out of boredom. Baca meant to put an end to that.

He was involved in what has been called the Frisco Shootout in October 1884. Baca was chased by 40 – 80 cowboys who intended to kill him and he took refuge in an adobe hut. The stand-off lasted 33 hours and over 1000 shots were fired. Incredibly, not one of the bullets struck Baca. (The floor of the home is said to have been slightly lower than ground level; thus Baca was able to escape injury.)

Baca officially became the sheriff of Socorro County and secured indictments for the arrest of the area's lawbreakers. Instead of ordering his deputies to pursue the wanted men, he sent each of the accused a letter. It said, "I have a warrant here for your arrest. Please come in by March 15 and give yourself up. If you don't, I'll know you intend to resist arrest, and I will feel justified in shooting you on sight when I come after you." Most of the offenders turned themselves in voluntarily.

In 1888, Baca became a U.S. Marshal. He served for two years and then began studying law. In December 1894, he was admitted to the bar by Judge A.A. Freeman, and briefly joined

Freeman's Socorro law firm in February 1895. He practiced law on San Antonio Street in El Paso between 1902 and 1904.

Baca held a succession of public offices, including county clerk, mayor and school superintendent of Socorro County, and district attorney for Socorro and Sierra counties. In his book *The Shooters*, historian Leon Metz writes that “most reports say he was the best peace officer Socorro ever had.”

From 1913 to 1916, Baca served as the official representative in the U.S. of Victoriano Huerta's government during the Mexican Revolution. In April 1915, Baca was charged with criminal conspiracy for allegedly masterminding the November 1914 escape of Mexican general José Inés Salazar from the Albuquerque jail. Successfully defended by the New Mexican lawyer and politician Octaviano Larrazolo, Baca's reputation grew among Southwestern residents.

When New Mexico became a state in 1912, Baca unsuccessfully ran for Congress as a Republican. Nevertheless, he remained a valued political figure because of his ability to turn out the vote among the Hispanic population. Working at times as a private detective, Baca also took a job as a bouncer in a casino across the border in Ciudad Juárez, Mexico.

Baca worked closely with New Mexico's longtime Senator Bronson Cutting as a political investigator and wrote a weekly column in Spanish praising Cutting's work on behalf of local Hispanics. Baca considered running for governor despite his declining health, but he failed to secure the Democratic Party's nomination for district attorney in 1944.

Metz, his biographer, wrote: “Elfego was, and is, controversial. He drank too much; talked too much ... he had a weakness for wild women. He was often arrogant and, of course, he showed no compunction about killing people.” On his 75th birthday, Baca told the Albuquerque Tribune that as a lawyer he had defended 30 people charged with murder, and only one went to the penitentiary.

In July 1936, several years before his death, Janet Smith conducted an interview with Elfego Baca. Her notes can be found in the Library of Congress, Manuscript Division, WPA Federal Writers' Project Collection. Baca told Smith, “I never wanted to kill anybody, but if a man had it in his mind to kill me, I made it my business to get him first.”

Another legend says that Baca stole a pistol from Pancho Villa, and the angry Villa put a price of \$30,000 on Baca's head. Obviously, it was never collected.

One often told story says that once when he was practicing law in Albuquerque, Baca received a telegram from a client in El Paso, Texas. "Need you at once," it said, "Have just been charged with murder." To which Baca is supposed to have responded with a telegram saying, "Leaving at once with three eyewitnesses."

References:

Elfego Baca, Wikipedia