

IF THESE WALLS COULD *Talk*



THE PLACE: South Metro Public Safety Training Facility

WHERE: 7525 Braemar Blvd., Edina

ESTABLISHED: 2004

→IT'S SOMETHING YOU'VE ONLY SEEN IN A CLINT EASTWOOD MOVIE: the split second of stillness before a chime sounds, the quick jerk of the pistol from its place on his hip, and then the loud BANG! It's jarring watching a cop—in this case one of Eagan's finest—repeatedly draw a Glock from his (or her) holster and fire it at a piece of paper five yards away. A good quick-draw time seems to be right around 1.3 seconds, each shot a dra-

matic reminder that even though these men and women are shooting for their spring qualification at the complex on the edge of Braemar golf course in Edina, they are refining a skill practiced by their predecessors in the Old West. (The facility also offers courses more apropos the *CSI* era, such as homicide investigation, TASER certification, and terrorist trends and tactics.)

The facility is a joint property run by the cities of Edina, Bloomington, and Eden Prairie

and the Metropolitan Airports Commission, and is rented out by cops and firefighters from municipalities such as Eagan. But it's not just the pros who train here: The range is open to the public on Saturdays from 8 AM to 2 PM, when you can rent one of the 12 lanes for \$15 for a half hour. It's busy enough that every eight months they pull four tons of lead from the backstop.

—Steve Marsh

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