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SWAT

SURVIVAL WEAPONS AND TACTICS

ON THE COVER

Skilled shooters can reliably engage targets out to 100 yards with great terminal effect using the STI Nitro 10. Photo: Todd Burgreen



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TRAINING WITH A CLASSIC

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BY ETHAN JOHNS



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COVER STORY



HUNDRED-YARD 1911

STI Nitro 10

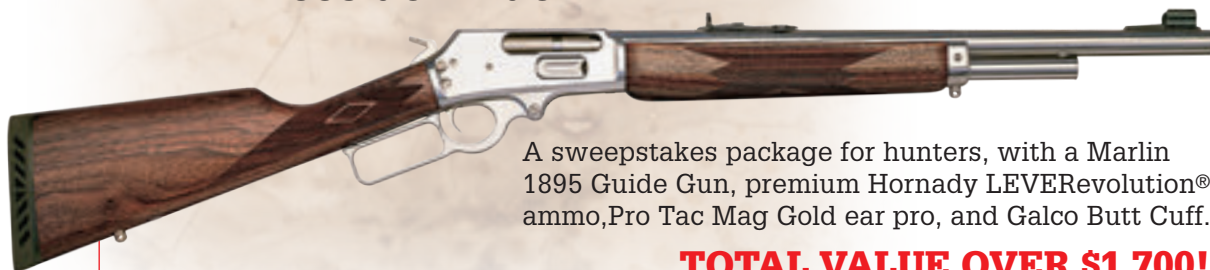
STI has been in the forefront of the 1911 renaissance, modernizing and adapting the 1911 platform into forms not previously contemplated.

BY TODD BURGREN

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SWAT SWEEPSTAKES

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Sometimes at the range, the old saying “A penny saved is a penny earned” proves not to be true—at least when it comes to buying defensive products.

I attend any training class that I can, believing I can get something from every instructor, even if it's what *not* to do. A few months ago, I attended a two-day carbine course. After a good safety brief, the instructor gave his opinions on accessories for a carbine that would see defensive use, and for the most part I agreed with his advice. When the instructor was talking about optics, a fellow student rolled his eyes.

During the first break, this student came up to me and asked what optic I was using, to which I responded an Aimpoint PRO. He said, “That’s expensive. I bought my red dot, sling and four magazines and only paid \$85 for everything.”

As the day progressed, I watched my classmate become more and more frustrated because his sight would not maintain zero, shooting roughly minute of barn door. By the end of the day, it had gone totally Tango Uniform. He finished the day using iron sights that—surprise, surprise—had not been zeroed because he planned to use the red dot sight.

On the bright side, he was able to perform numerous malfunction drills as the followers in his magazines would bind and not feed, stick in the mag well, or not lock up.

Early on Day Two, his paper-thin nylon sling broke, resulting in the muzzle of his carbine striking the ground—hard. I thought he was going to cry. A short time later, we broke for lunch, and with the OK from the instructor, I helped him mount and zero an EOTech 512 I had with me. I also attached a Blue Force Gear sling and loaned him half a dozen Bravo Company magazines.

His performance after lunch was actually quite good, showing that he had listened to what the instructor said, but had been handicapped by substandard gear.

My classmate turned out to be a nice guy. He’d simply fallen for the “this cheap gear is just as good as the expensive stuff” line that I hear all the time (and get Letters to the Editor about almost monthly).

I realize that not everyone needs—or can afford—top of the line gear, but if a price seems too good to be true, it probably is. The price you pay for department store junk may end up being more than money—it may be your life and the lives of your family members.

Until next time, stay low and watch your back. ◎

Denny Hansen

SWAT

**EDITORIAL
INFORMATION**

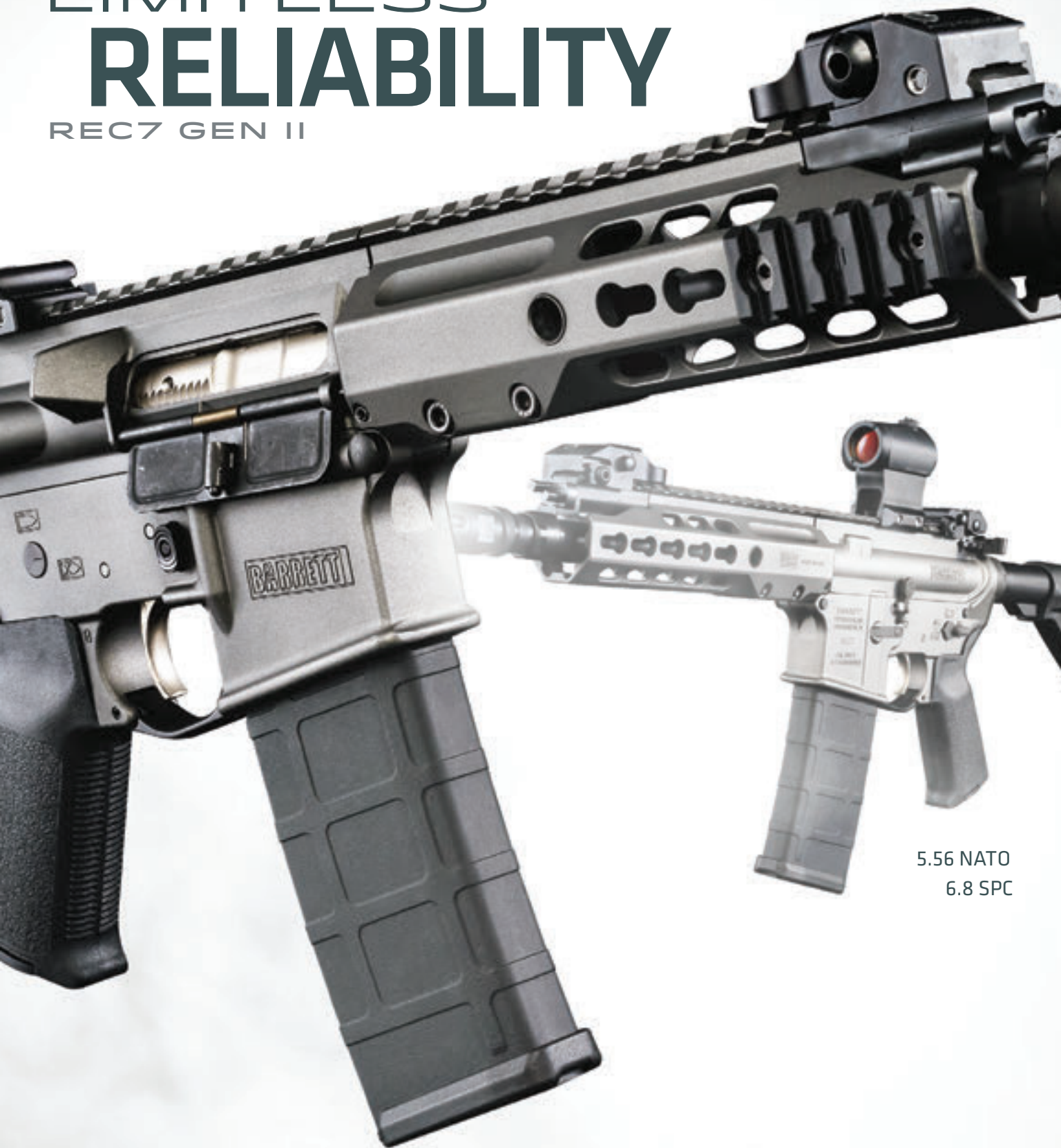
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COMMUNITY EMERGENCY RESPONSE TEAM

I just wanted to say thank you for publishing a great magazine, and thank Bryon Powell for his article on CERT training (*AGAINST ALL ODDS: Community Emergency Response Team Training*, April 2015 *S.W.A.T.*).

In early December 2011, our small northern Utah community received substantial damage from a freak windstorm. We realized we were not prepared to deal with disasters of any magnitude, so many of us got together and became CERT trained.

Through generous monetary donations and much hard work, we have since gone on to build a CERT trailer (which currently lives in my garden while we finish working on it). It has communications, medical, power generation, shelter, and other capabilities that will serve us well should we be on the receiving end of another disaster or similar event.

Our police chief put the trailer to good use as a command center last year when construction workers accidentally hit a natural gas line while digging a hole in the downtown area. This incident required traffic control and a large-scale evacuation of the area. Local CERT volunteers took part in this event.

More people need to know about CERT and the training offered so they can become involved. I'm glad you guys got the word out.

M. Larson, Utah

Thank you for sharing your real-world experience in regard to CERT training. It sounds like the trailer you acquired has already become a valuable asset to your community.

BRAVO ZULU, BRAVO COMPANY!

I am looking to upgrade my primary AR-15, and *S.W.A.T.* helped me decide what it will be.

Allow me to back up a bit. I experienced a lot of frustration with my first rifle, which I bought for \$550 at Wally World. I thought it was a real bargain, and though I will be the first to admit I did not know one brand from another, some people on the Internet said it was a good gun.

To begin with, it would not work 100% of the time with 5.56mm ammo. I took it to a gunsmith, who told me it was chambered for .223 Remington. I had read on the Internet that the two cartridges were the same, but apparently there is indeed a difference, and my gunsmith reamed the chamber to 5.56mm.

Next it started to choke and would not always cycle the action. Back to the gunsmith. The gas key on the bolt [carrier] was loose enough to lift up and down. He apologized, saying this was common with my brand and he should have checked and staked it when he reamed the chamber. He also replaced



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some parts in the extractor that he said were wrong for a carbine.

I enjoyed the recent article about how the entire staff at Bravo Company attended a training course (*BALANCED AND BLUEPRINTED: Bravo Company Mfg Goes to Shooting School*, May 2015 S.W.A.T.). I was impressed how the owner, Paul Buffoni, wanted his employees to know not only how to build a rifle, but also how it would be used. The photographs in the article of parts that "passed" and parts that "failed" were testament to the quality control.

My next rifle will be from Bravo Company, and in the future I'll trust S.W.A.T.,

not the Internet, for my information.

B. Adams, Nevada

Like any other product, there are good guns and sub-standard guns. Those in the know consider Bravo Company Mfg a top-tier manufacturer. We're sure you'll be happy with your decision.

THE GOOD OLD DAYS

Scott Reitz's column in the May issue brought back some dinosaur memories (FRONTLINE DEBRIEFS: *The Police Revolver*).

In 1987, autoloaders were making inroads, but we rookies were not to be

trusted with them. I must say I was happier with my S&W Model 686, speed-loaders and Safariland Level II holster than the "big city" boys and girls with their S&W Model 64s, pouch holster, and dump pouches.

Before my first shift, the Captain said I could carry .357s in the revolver but had to carry 12 spare .38s in case I had to "throw them to a fellow officer"—who at that time may have been carrying a .38, .357, 9mm, or .45.

We also carried five D-cell Maglites that threw as much light as a candle and that we weren't supposed to hit anyone with. They were to be dropped, I suppose, as we drew our PR-24. Now, those were really nice to hit something with! Ah, old times....

Mark H., email

Thank you for the feedback. Things have certainly changed a lot in a relatively few years.

HI-POWER UP TO SNUFF?

I would like your opinion on current production Browning Hi-Powers. Louis Awerbuck spoke about them a bit and they have great historical value. I am just concerned about their sturdiness and being able to hold up to high round counts at the range.

J. Yulo, email

The P-35 (Hi-Power) was John Moses Browning's final design and he was working on it when he passed away in Belgium. Browning believed the Hi-Power is what the 1911 could/should have been. Louis told me on several occasions how much he liked the P-35 and would not hesitate to stake his life on it.

In a world awash with plastic frame guns, the Hi-Power remains a class act. With its 13-round magazine, it can hold its own in terms of both capacity and accuracy. I would not give a second thought to its being able to hold up well to high round counts. I prefer the original ring hammer to the current spur hammer, but that is likely the purist in me more than a matter of function.

Denny Hansen ☺



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StealthGearUSA ONYX IWB Holster

It never ceases to amaze me: I take a shooting class or attend a match and, at the end of the day, at least one person packs up their handgun with the rest of their gear and drives away. Even worse, Dad and I teach a class to students who truly believe they may need to defend their lives or the lives of their family, but leave their gun in the car or at home.

The two most common reasons they give are: A handgun is too heavy, or they don't like the feel of the holster. There's not much you can do about the weight of the weapon you choose to carry, whether it's a steel 1911 or an S&W M&P9C. It is what it is.

But there is something you can do about the way your holster feels. With that said, everyone has a different body type, and what works well for one may or may not work for someone else—and is the reason people who've been at this awhile likely have a box full of holsters.

Recently I was turned on to a company called StealthGearUSA. The holster reviewed here—the StealthGear ONYX IWB Holster—was tried by several people with a wide range of body types, and the general consensus was that it is very comfortable.

The ONYX is an inside-the-waistband (IWB) holster. The outside of the ONYX is .093-inch Kydex®, molded for a specific pistol. The model I received was for a Smith & Wesson M&P9.



Front of ONYX IWB with S&W M&P9.

Back of holster showing VentCore breathable platform.



The body of the holster is attached to the backing platform with blackened stainless steel hardware. The holster sits at a 15 to 20 degree cant that works very well for drawing from a seated position.

Metal belt clips at each end of the ONYX snap over the belt and hold the holster in place. It is possible to turn them upside down so the holster pulls against the belt on the drawstroke, ensuring that the entire holster will not be pulled up. Each clip has three holes to allow the wearer to adjust both the depth and cant the holster is worn at. Retention is adjustable.

The heart of the ONYX is the platform the holster is attached to. It's called VentCore™ and feels like memory foam. This ventilation system allows moisture to rapidly dissipate away from the body.

Living in Arizona my whole life and being raised on ranches, sweat is something that just can't be avoided, and an IWB holster can become uncomfortable. With this holster, you will never have that problem.

I did receive one complaint from one person who tried the holster: If the belt is cinched tight, the soft VentCore platform tends to collapse on itself, making it a little hard to re-holster.

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StealthGear also offers some very nice spare magazine and magazine and light combo IWB pouches. The basic color on all items is Black, but Flat Dark Earth is offered as an option with a slight upcharge.

Suggested retail price for the ONYX is \$99.00. That might seem like a lot for a Kydex holster, but keep in mind that each holster is custom built for your specific gun. Each Kydex shell is molded for a specific firearm, and even the VentCore platform is designed and shaped to each gun model. The ONYX is truly a custom holster and one I plan on wearing in warm weather. ☺



Front of VentCore breathable platform.

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In a Fight, Front Sight!

ONE issue I have intentionally avoided examining in this corner has been sighted vs non-sighted (“instinctive”) handgun fire. That’s because my experience has shown the debate has pretty clearly been decided in favor of utilizing those funny little bumps on the end of the barrel during close-range interpersonal deadly force conflicts.

But sometimes even the most obvious notions need to be pulled out of the cabinet and dusted off, so here goes.

I have a few friends and a significant number of acquaintances who, in my crusty opinion, simply don’t “get it” when it comes to using the sights on a pistol.

They subscribe to the “instinctive” school of shooting, which essentially believes that, because pointing your index finger at an object is such a simple task done without much conscious

thought or effort, it makes sense to mimic that movement when shooting, substituting the gun for your pointing finger. They believe that locating your sights then aligning them properly on the target is simply too challenging to perform when scared spit-less, so you might as well forget about it.

“Horse feathers,” I politely respond.

First, I should point out there is nothing instinctive about shooting or even pointing your finger. Suckling and crying are instinctive; pretty much everything else you do has been learned by various methods at some point in your life.

Keeping that factual tidbit in mind, let’s look at the arguments in detail. Core to instinctive shooting theory holds that during high-stress events, you throw everything out the window that your higher intellect has learned, and respond using only the more

primitive “limbic” or “old mammalian” part of your brain. Far more accurate scientific explanations of the concept exist, but that summary will do for the moment.

Thus, unable to process or complete complex movements such as sight alignment, the theory holds that you won’t (or can’t) use the sights on your gun. I might add that you would probably also scream, run willy-nilly, cower, cry, freeze, throw your firearm away, or do many of the other unproductive things ill-trained and unprepared people commonly do when confronted by imminent death.

In other words, this argument isn’t really about the inadvisability of using sights, but rather a backhanded admission of failing to properly prepare for that eventuality.

If you look closely at real-world examples starting from the time mod-

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Brilliant Aiming Solutions™

ern firearms were invented, shooters have acquitted themselves quite nicely using their weapon sights even in horrific circumstances against overwhelming odds.

On the other hand, similarly strapped folks have ventilated bystanders, horses, stagecoaches, vehicles, buildings, the ionosphere, and busloads of nuns and orphans while putting nary a scratch on their opponent.

What is the difference?

People who trained and maintained their cool under the circumstances were able to use their weapon sights effectively instead of the sadly too-common “spray and pray” method of return fire.

So we must ask: How is a lack of “grace under pressure” an indictment of sights on a firearm? If we can be painfully honest, the whole thing is simply a matter of operator error rather than failure of equipment or concept.

The second argument often presented is that during extreme close-range conflicts, it takes too much time to develop a proper sight picture before firing. This concern is also valid to a point

but is often and wildly misconstrued when touted by instinctive shooters and trainers.

As the recent Force Sciences newsletter #279 notes, “At less than 20 feet, you’re probably best to fix your gaze on your target and quickly drive your gun up to align with that line of view, firing unsighted.” That makes sense and even the most doctrinally crusty instructor would probably agree.

But the article goes on to note, “to do this successfully requires a great deal of consistent practice (by) responding to force-on-force scenarios at various distances that develop realistically in terms of action, movement, and speed.”

In other words, even thrusting your pistol out in short-distance, extremely short-duration scenarios requires “a great deal of consistent practice.” This explains why poorly trained “instinctive shooters” have sometimes fired a dozen rounds at a target located within bad-breath distance and never caused more than short-term hearing loss to their adversary.

Where does this leave us?

At extremely close ranges, go ahead

and use “instinctive” shooting. But once you get beyond splatter-zone distances, a well-honed and ingrained ability to use your sights is a necessary skill to win a fight. Therefore, you might as well practice using the darn things anyway.

Proper training, proper and continual practice (including the use of your weapon sights), and rigorous mental preparation won’t guarantee a win during a lethal-force encounter but may tip the odds enough in your favor that you might screw up the life-expectancy actuarial tables.

That thought might crush a few of your cherished assumptions, but don’t take my word for it. History has shown that, aside from those occasions of sheer luck, the people who consistently win shooting matches and/or gunfights use those funny bumps. You should too.

There are many mnemonic memory devices and little rhymes that help us remember the important rules of life. One of the most important to our endeavors is decades old but still an important key to winning lethal confrontations: “In a fight, front sight!” ◎




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The Art of Misusing Tools

THE nuts and bolts of “survival” can sometimes be a game of putting the tools you have into service for other than their intended purpose. Trade-specific tools, built for service, can be especially adaptable to creative misuse. Electrician’s multi-tools are good examples to illustrate this broader principle, which is to think outside the tool.

If you do much wiring, you probably have a leather pouch of favorite assorted electrician’s tools by Greenlee or Klein: the handiest stripper, toughest long screwdrivers, punches, sheet-rock blades, cable slicer, screw cutter, and of course big ol’ sidecutters to use as a hammer and occasionally to actually cut wire.

But about the time you crawl the length of a hot, dusty attic in August only to find that the one tool you needed fell

out of the pouch somewhere into bulk insulation, a multi-function tool in a pocket or secure pouch comes to mind.

If your electrical chores are infrequent, having to find only one tool makes up for needing to open separate functions on a multi-tool. I’ve found an electrician’s multi-tool to be particularly useful in a survival go-pack or workbench, for various “use the tool at hand” jobs.

Once a modern survival scenario goes beyond using sticks and stones, the greater the odds it can involve some kind of electrical gear, and electrician-specific jobs are but the tip of the iceberg for what “electrician’s” multi-tools are good for.

For instance, I’ve never found a better tool for cutting small machine screws than the screw cutters often built into “electrician’s” pliers, so I

keep such a tool on my bench. Improvised field repairs often make use of wire, and electrician’s tools are wire-workers by design. Since the principle of a multi-tasking multi-tool of any kind is good, I’ll use this handful of mission-specific tools from the electrician’s trade as examples to encourage creative buggery to handle diverse, unexpected tasks in all venues.

A good example of an “electrician’s” tool having usefulness beyond its target market was the wee Leatherman E4 version of their Squirt. It was patented by Leatherman’s Ben Rivera a decade ago and sold out. A keychain tool primarily designed for techies, it was marketed through electronic and similar stores. Radio Shack bought them engraved with their name.

Going out of production caused wailing and gnashing of teeth not just among commo men and bench technicians, but also among the great unwashed who had found its usefulness exceeding its primary purpose. It has now been reissued as the ES4 and includes small scissors.

Another tool’s multiple capacities encouraging imaginative use outside its intended market is the Gerber Groundbreaker. Whereas the ES4 is a keychain tool, the Groundbreaker is a handful that can handle almost everything for an inside electrician, and even includes sheetrock blades and (*ta daa*) a screw cutter. It may not be your Daddy’s “wilderness survival” multi-tool, but its assorted components designed for an electrician make it a great contingency tool for anywhere on or off the grid.

Squarely between these two sizes is the Bear Jaws 155 EL, a purpose-built electrician’s multi-tool that is pocketable but still includes most of the usual-suspect tools, which are locking and accessible when the tool is folded.

Let’s look at this overall genre more closely, while you envision how specifically handy they might be in this era when technology and survival may go hand in hand, especially for weird scenarios yet unimagined.



Tradesman’s tools, such as this assortment of electrician’s multi-tools, are strongly built and adaptable to survival scenarios their makers probably never imagined.



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The Art of Misusing Tools

GERBER GROUNDBREAKER

Disclosure: I am a hereditary tool freak, and have been a fan of Gerber blades since the Mk II. Their Groundbreaker strikes me as something everybody should have. Although it might be the pride of Sparky or the cable guy, it is the great opportunity it provides for creative misapplication of a single tool that recommends it to those wanting to prepare for all contingencies.

It's particularly suitable for a "survival" kit as it not only does so many things well, but its multiple functions help thoughtful adaptation to tasks you can't anticipate. It's the only "folding/dismountable" electrician's tool with the terminal screw cutters you'll use often—if you have them—for SAE #6 (cover plates, small terminal screws) and #8 (larger terminals, drawer pulls, rifle rods).

The Groundbreaker is mission specific and tangential to Gerber's sporting and tactical lines, but their parent company, Fiskars, are tool people and this particular tool was designed to serve electricians. Although it's more expensive than some of the other tools here, sticker shock evaporates when you tally the cost of the individual tools that you have in a single implement. There are no weak sisters in this assortment—all features are built to get the job done.

The head comprises a typical flattish electrician's needle-nose pliers, the tips of which are replaceable and designed to be used as a light hammer for chores like loosening or tightening conduit or box-connector nuts. Being a little broader, they are handier for pulling wire or twisting wire splices, but still narrow enough to form a terminal loop on the end of a wire. Behind the tips are handy wire strippers for #10 down to #20 wire, solid or stranded, and behind those is a radiused maw for cutting copper wire: they specify to #10, but it cut #2 stranded with no problem.

Piercing the jaw are wire-loop holes for #12 and #10. Inside the handle extensions are crimpers for bare or insulated terminal connectors. The head has a latch for the handily spring-loaded pliers/strip-

There are no weak sisters in this assortment—all features are built to get the job done.

pers, and the outside of the extensions have latches that secure the dismountable handles and their tools. With the handles dismounted, these extensions end in a large flat screwdriver.

The smaller handle carries an easy-piercing locking drywall saw and a magnetic 1/4-inch hex driver extension. A rubber caddy in the pouch carries flat, Phillips and square-drive tips, or whatever ones you want. The larger handle dismounts and becomes the typical

three-corner knife you use for everything. It comes with a heavy black-nylon pouch that features a belt loop, and a large flap designed to slip into your back pocket and keep the pouch in position.

The assembled tool is 9 inches long by 2.75 inches wide and weighs 12.8 ounces. Total weight with pouch and accessories is 1.3 pounds. Steel is 420J2 stainless with a black finish. It's well thought out and built for service with replaceable wear parts.





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BEAR JAWS 155EL LOCKING ELECTRICIAN MULTI-TOOL

The four-inch Bear Jaws Electrician Multi-Tool boasts 19 functions yet folds as compactly as a garden-variety multi-tool. Being capable yet pocketable makes it an easy tool to have with you when you need it and, like the others here, its creative uses go beyond its catalog job description.

Solid, useful design and clean manufacture with an overall robustness and serviceability have been typical for any Bear blade or tool I've used. Made in the USA, all Bear Jaws multi-tools offer good selections of mission-specific implements, and the purpose-built 155EL is built on their proven—and heavier-than-most—folding-pliers platform, to do what an electrician needs, or whatever you or the situation may demand off the grid.

Precise and smooth operation matter for an electrician because you're usually working in an impossible posture, dealing with poor light and other hassles—and wiring is a job to be done right. But then, so do most tasks associated with your surviving a particular situation, and the ability of the Bear Jaws 155EL transcends just wiring-in a branch circuit to the hen house.

All stainless, the needle-nose pliers with built-in wire strippers from 10 to 20 gauge are marked both in wire gauge and metric. Just aft of the grooved needle-nose is a section designed for crimping terminals, and the rear of the jaws forms a wire cutter.

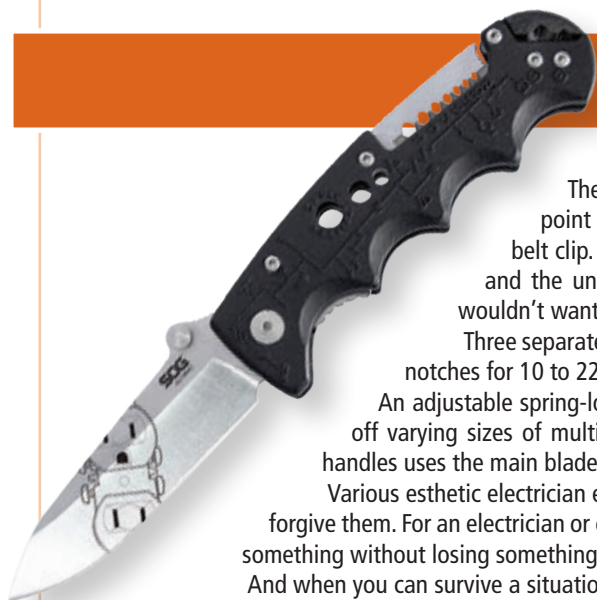
The handles carry a serrated sheep's-foot blade, clip-point blade, large and medium flat screwdrivers, properly formed Phillips driver, 3-in-1 (wood/coarse, fine metal, hacksaw edge) file, rulers (inch/metric), can/bottle opener, and lanyard loop. They are outside-opening and lock solid. Drivers are well shaped, not buffed off dimension just to look good in a blister

pack, and solidly made for work. The Torx® assembly screws are adjustable, so you can fine-tune what you want to move easily or what you want to be stiff or semi-rigid.

Any components would find use in a survival situation, particularly when you need a tool to work on other tools, with a distinct bonus of handling "electrical" duties. The 155EL comes with a black nylon/leather belt sheath, and is eminently pocketable as well. Bear Jaws multi-tools are built by folks who know that strong counts and that form follows function. Solid gear.



SOG KILOWATT



The Kilowatt is a good-quality liner-locking folding knife with a 3.4-inch clip-point blade of AUS-8 stainless. It has a fine edge and satin finish, and a reversible belt clip. The .12-inch thick blade opens up to 7.50 inches overall, folds to 4.1 inches, and the unit weighs 3.3 ounces. The blade is about right at RC 57-58, because you wouldn't want to chip it and lose any of its unique "electrician's" capacity.

Three separate features address wire, from fine multi-strand up to cable. A stripper bar with notches for 10 to 22 gauge lifts from the spine: insert the wire, close, and pull the bare wire free. An adjustable spring-loaded UTP (phone wire) stripper in the back is great for stripping the jacket off varying sizes of multiple-wire cables, and a clever series of holes through the glass-filled Zytel handles uses the main blade to circumscribe cable jacket.

Various esthetic electrician elements decorate the grips, clip and blade, but they don't hurt anything, so I forgive them. For an electrician or others who carry a big folder, this is just the ticket: When you can suitably add something without losing something, why not?

And when you can survive a situation by using an item for functions its maker did not envision, why not?



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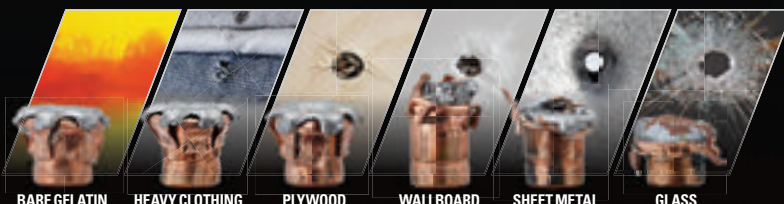
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LEATHERMAN SQUIRT E4/ES4

Like the .25 you have with you being a better defense than the .45 you do not, the little Squirt ES4 makes an easy-carry component for various contingency kits, and is one handy keychain-size multi-tool if you anticipate electrical or commo work. My original Squirt E4 went to Afghanistan with a signals guy to accompany his GI TL-29 knife.

The new ES4 features wire strippers in 20 to 12 gauge, and cutters that will handle even larger copper wire. The tips of the spring-loaded needle-nose pliers are strong for their size, but small enough to get in and get a good grip on automotive fuses, cables, small components, and things you drop. Handle scales are aluminum and available in bright colors (red, black, blue) for those of us who are wont to lose things in the woods. The new spring-action scissors are strong and precise enough for trimming insulation, or for that matter trimming the edges of a wound before suturing (after you boil the all-metal tool, of course).

In the familiar style of the classic Leatherman tool, but outside accessible, the folding handles carry a 1.6-inch fine drop-point 420 HC knife blade, medium flat screwdriver, combination small flat/Phillips screwdriver for light duty, wood/metal file, small cap lifter, plus a key-ring attachment if you don't want to carry this 2¼-inch, two-ounce tool by itself. If you already



have a favorite multi-tool for survival carry but want to add an electrician dimension to your repertoire, the little ES4 is a no-hassle take-along. It would also fit in the sharpening-stone pocket on many knife sheaths.

NORTHERN TOOL KLUTCH & SHEFFIELD 12-IN-1

I'll cover Northern Tool's Klutch electrician's multi-tool and the Sheffield-brand 12-in-1 tool together, because they appear to share DNA, if not the same Chinese factory. The only difference I can see is the pattern of the grip inserts. Both show acceptable workmanship and are promotionally priced.

Their business parts are all stainless, and the wire strippers come together precisely enough to do the job, although the aluminum handles mean that if you

give it all you have when using the pliers tips or wire cutter, the pivot points where the steel head components mount just aren't going to last like steel. But for their price, they're cost-effective everyday contingency tools and at least good enough to loan to your brother-in-law.

These multi-tools feature lightweight aluminum handles with non-slip grip panels; spring-loaded needle-nose pliers with wire strippers from 10 to 20 gauge in wire gauge and metric; and capable, slightly radiused wire cutters.

The handles hold non-locking tools including a drywall saw, partially serrated drop-point blade, small and medium flat screwdrivers, Phillips driver, wire hook, coarse/fine file, and slightly radiused hollow-ground sheep's foot "cable splicer" blade. All tools are stainless. These tools are 6.22 inches open and fold to 3.85 inches so they can be pocketed, and come with a pouch for belt carry or storage.

My preference is to put the best gear in a survival kit where failure may not be an option, and use the garden-variety stuff where failure is merely an inconvenience. ☺

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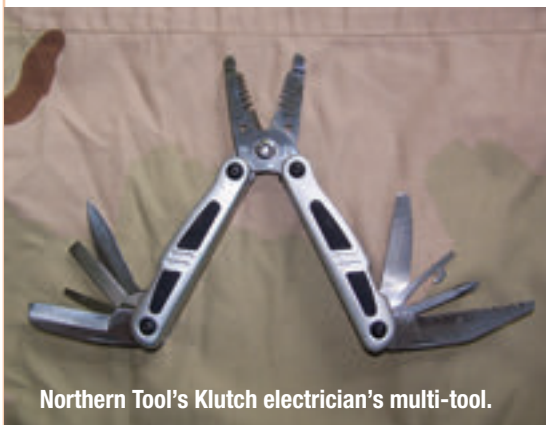
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TRAINING with a CLASSIC

B8 Target Drills

BY ETHAN JOHNS

Most shooters underrate the importance the right target has in effective training and skill progression. As I travel and visit different areas, I like to see what shooters and units are using. Plenty of great options are on the market, but one of the most commonly seen in well-developed training programs is the NRA “B8” 25-yard pistol bull.

In my own personal training, I’ve begun to use this classic more and more, almost to the exclusion of other targets. This is remarkable only if you know how much I disdained the “Standard American Pistol Target” (as it was originally called) in the late 1990s and early 2000s.

I have increasingly found that, like many classics, the B8 is omnipresent for a reason—in fact, a number of good reasons. Let’s take a few in turn.

BALANCE

Any target serves two purposes: aiming point and scoring zone. The B8 does very well in both roles, something that is not necessarily common in targetry. The B8 seems to have been around forever, but my research puts its debut in the mid 1880s, when it was modified from the 200-yard target in use for the Trapdoor Springfield rifle. That’s only a decade after the introduction of the self-contained metallic cartridge in service revolvers.

As formal target shooting emerged, distances for competitions settled on

25 yards for outdoor matches. Using the primitive sights of the period, the 5½-inch bull was visible while allowing a distinct aiming point at this distance. Today, a sharp-eyed shooter with modern target sights shooting in good light can usually refine down to about a three-inch target at 25 yards while maintaining a strong front-sight focus.

But with the addition of average vision, variable light, and service-style sights, the B8 still works well and allows the shooter to easily maintain alignment and accurately place the shots. The early pistols were capable of surprisingly good accuracy, with many capable of a little more than two inches at the 25-yard mark with their blackpowder loads.

The roughly 3.3-inch full-credit ten ring ensured that the target asked no

Above: B8 is a good match for aperture-sighted rifles. This 1903A3 fired this 100-yard group on a B8 with Hornady Garand A-MAX.

more than what the guns were capable of. (In short order, crack shots were maxing the course, so the competition added the 50-yard slow-fire phase to separate the field with an identically sized target that extended the aiming black to the eight-inch eight ring, or the B6 in today's nomenclature.)

While today's custom guns are often marketed with accuracy guarantees down to one inch at 25 yards, the average combo of service auto and issue JHP ammo probably still hovers in the three-inch/25-yard bracket across large samples. This means that the Standard American Pistol Target still maintains relevance in the sense that a shooter's weapon "should" be able to put the rounds in the ten ring.

By the 1920s, courses of fire had long settled into a timed-fire stage of five shots in 20 seconds and a rapid-fire stage of five shots in ten seconds. In the single-handed, single-action manner these were conducted (revolvers were dominant), that was cooking along pretty well. A variant of this is one of my favorite accuracy drills today.



Above: Dating to the 1880s, B8 target has been in use almost as long as the metallic cartridge. This 1927 edition of Hatcher's *Pistols and Revolvers* lays out the same target dimensions in use by countless units and agencies today.

Below: Rimfire version of The Test requires 100 points in nine seconds at ten yards, a great work-up to the service pistol standard of 90 points in ten seconds.





B8 can be used in the traditional manner, reversed and marked as a silhouette reface, or run as a larger ten-inch square for aggressive drills, giving the shooter quite a bit of versatility.



Tracing the eight-ring on the reverse side of the target provides a great clean surface for working speed drills up close and can be used to reface silhouettes.

Drill: Tuf/Ruf

Starting from the ready, the shooter engages a B8 at 25 yards using a normal two-handed stance with five rounds in 20 seconds (Timed Fire). Reload as necessary and then re-engage upon the start signal with five rounds in ten seconds (Rapid Fire). The goalpost is all rounds within the black.

The Timed Fire/Rapid Fire combo is an outstanding and quick measurement of where a shooter's accuracy ability is with a given handgun. The time provided is generous enough that a shooter should be able to make the hits, but forces him to track the pistol and rapidly work a clean trigger press while staying on the front sight. It can be an addictive drill.

Shooters can quickly see progress on this drill, shrinking their goals and impacts in succession from all ten on the 10x10-inch target center, to all ten in the eight-inch ring, and ultimately all in the black. For over-achievers, the gauntlet is down for a perfect 100. The Tuf/Ruf works equally well as a carbine

drill conducted at 50 yards.

Maintaining all shots within the 5½-inch aiming black serves as a great challenge for most shooters and neatly corresponds to a tight representation of the vital organs as well as the head from frontal angles. This analogous sizing allows the B8 to shift from aiming point at 25 yards to scoring zone in closer drills. It is a tighter standard than the more commonly seen eight inch and drives a focus on accuracy and the mechanics that get you there. The next drill steps up the tempo to take the hard focus on tracking the sights and smooth trigger manipulation into a more practical distance.

Drill: The Test

Starting from the ready, the shooter engages a B8 from ten yards with ten rounds in ten seconds. The marker is 90 scored by the rings. Attributed to Ken Hackathorn, The Test is popular with

a variety of trainers and programs and has innumerable minor variations. The moderate speed and distance with the tight accuracy required challenge many shooters. It's a great teaching drill that forces the shooter who gets by at seven yards and in with coarse sight alignment and trigger work to knuckle down and *control* the gun smoothly.

The shooter who can post high 90s on The Test with time left on the clock is probably good to go in just about any scenario.

The sub-caliber version of The Test for rimfires is ten rounds in nine seconds with the goal being a perfect 100. This compensates for the diminished recoil and forces an even greater awareness of the connection between sight alignment and smooth trigger break. The shooter who cleans the subcal version is almost certainly *seeing* his front sight lift and return into the notch in an almost continuous "video reel."

VERSATILITY

One reason the venerable Standard American target has kicked most other targets out of my range bag is its versatility.

Sure, most drills I use and have developed work with the B8. But I often use the repair center in two completely different ways. If you flop the B8 to its reverse side and hold it up to the light, you can just see the eight ring. Take a marker and trace it lightly. Now the B8 is a repair center for an IDPA target or a "mini silhouette." I use the re-

Tuf/Ruf is a great accuracy drill that requires the shooter to know his zero and apply the fundamentals. This Glock and Critical Defense 115-grain FTXs were capable of great accuracy, but the shooter lost discipline and smacked two shots out of the black in the rapid-fire sequence.





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versed eight-inch circle for classic drills like the Bill Drill and El Presidente.

As great as the B8 bull is for a reduced zone and distant aiming point, the black and scoring rings can be distracting and slow the shooter unnecessarily when the objective is speed to the all-angles/center-mass eight-inch standard. The unobstructed center allows the shooter to track the sights without distraction. It's great for training speed at closer distances, and the ten-inch repair center keeps the shooter better focused within the eight-inch zone than when shooting a full-size silhouette.

The reversed repair center is a faster and more economical way to keep silhouettes fairly clean than pasting holes or replacing the entire target. I often forgo the silhouette entirely and just use the reversed target with scribed circle as a stand-in with a normal target backer.

The other method is to use a reversed center as a ten-inch square target. I use this in one of two ways. First, as an even coarser level of accuracy for long range, aggressively shooting on the move, or pushing max speed to wide multiple targets. These are areas that many trainers use 12x24-inch "C" zone steel or full silhouettes for.

I prefer the tighter ten-inch square



Many B8 drills translate very well to carbine use. Numerous drills purpose-built for the AR use the target.

that matches up pretty closely to a hard armor plate, which is usually about 10x12. This gives a good representation of a generous frontal shot that could still have good effect. As a bonus, B8 centers are much easier to pack to the range than large silhouette paper or cardboard targets.

For some standard scored drills, shooters may find they perform better on the reversed B8. For example, my better scores on the ten-shot qual (*TEN-SHOT QUAL: Budget Shooting Perfor-*

mance Test, January 2014 S.W.A.T.) have all been with the plain side facing out. The plain square is easy enough to hold center on without getting overly fixed onto the bull. Shooters who are prone to the snatchies may see a distinct increase by going inside out and scoring the backside upon completion.

MUSKETRY

The Standard American Pistol Target is also an ideal carbine training tool. The bull is sized perfectly to be a visible, precise aiming point at 100 yards for aperture sights such as the M4 style, as well as red dot sights (RDS). The four minute-of-angle dot on an Aimpoint T1 fits neatly inside the black with just enough excess to gain tight alignment, while the smaller dots on other RDS are clearly visibly centered.

Shooters are often shocked at the level of precision that can be achieved by irons or dots shooting on a well-proportioned target. The roughly 5.2-inch bull is a solid marker for precision efforts at 100 yards, and the 3.1-inch ten ring within the capabilities of most service guns. Much like the RuF/TuF, a good shooter "should" be able to hold the bull for all shots from a barricade or prone at 100 yards, but the devil is in the actual doing of it. The bull corresponds

» Continued on page 88



B8 target is a perfect match to accuracy-centered drills and quals like these two Marine Corps Pistol quals, here with Langdon Tactical tuned Beretta Elite.

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Yassuh, Massah Bloomberg!

WE activists have been saying all along that “gun control” is really victim disarmament. I can’t recall our enemies ever addressing that issue directly, but now one of the biggest guns (you’ll pardon the expression) in the anti-gun movement has admitted the truth. And boy, did he admit it in a big way.

Michael Bloomberg is now on record as saying that he wants to take guns away from victims. Not perpetrators. Victims.

But oops! In admitting he really is a victim disarmer, he also admitted another secret truth of gun banning. He’s most urgently interested in disarming black people. And Hispanics.

Wow. And the anti-gunners like to call us racist.

Bloomberg made his remarks at a speech before the Aspen Institute (based in DC but named for the billionaire haven of Aspen, Colorado, where it has a campus). He said: “You’ve got to get the guns out of the hands of the people getting killed. First thing you can do to help that group is to keep them alive.” He then identified “the people getting killed” as “male, minorities, 15 to 25.”

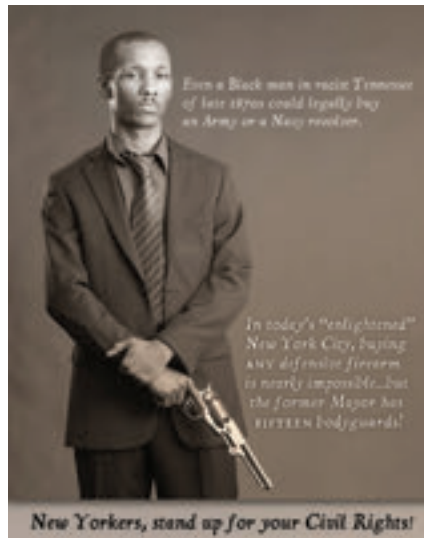
To be fair to Bloomberg (even though he’s so very unfair to his fellow Americans), he also stated that the *perpetrators* of the shootings are usually also “male, minorities, 15 to 25.” And that’s generally true, at least in big cities. Given that much of that inner-city violence is gang-related, it may be that the biggest difference between most victims and most perps in gang shootings is which criminal is on which end of the gun.

Whatever the case, though, victims and killers are often of similar age and ethnicity, so Bloomberg may want to take guns from perps, too. But he specified disarming victims.

That’s bad enough. But to decree that *anyone* should be denied the right to self defense simply because they fit some sociological profile is outrageous. Against every principle of individual liberty and the rule of law. And in this case, absolutely, undeniably racist.

If Bloomberg had blurted that about anything other than firearms, the mainstream media and the Twitterverse would have been all over him for his bigotry. Instead, only the gun blogosphere paid much attention.

Some of that attention was, however, savage. My colleague Kurt Hofmann wrote, “OK—so technically, he wants people disarmed on the basis of not only race, but of gender and age, as well. But that’s OK, because it’s for their own good. How cities would do this is a bit of a mystery. Federal law permits the purchase of firearms from federally licensed dealers at the age of 18 (21 for handguns), regardless of the race and gender of the prospective buyer. Then of course there’s the inconvenient fact that much of this nation’s ability to defend itself against hostile foreign powers relies on young, *armed*



males, many of whom are not white, serving in our military forces. Should the military reject all prospective African-American and Hispanic recruits who are under the age of 26?”

As soon as his remarks came to light, Bloomberg desperately (and successfully) pressured the Aspen Institute to suppress footage of his bigoted admission. But somebody had been audiotaping, and Bloomberg couldn’t silence that.

The truth is out and the truth is ugly. So-called “progressives” want exactly what the Ku Klux Klan wanted: minorities who can’t shoot back.

For years, gun-rights activists have pointed out that most anti-gun laws in the U.S. were historically passed for racist motives. Clayton Cramer’s well-documented 1995 essay, *The Racist Roots*

of Gun Control, is online at The Constitution Society (www.constitution.org). Legal scholar Dave Kopel more recently updated the racism of “gun control” with his article *The Dark Secret of Jim Crow and the Racist Roots of Gun Control* (www.davekopel.com/2a/mags/dark-secret-of-jim-crow.html). Jews for the Preservation of Firearms Ownership (JPFO) produced a video cheekily called *No Guns for Negroes*.

A clear history of racism in firearms laws goes back to before the Revolutionary War. The attempt to disarm blacks ramped up after Nat Turner’s 1831 slave rebellion and again during Reconstruction, when too many newly freed slaves were getting “uppity.” The bigotry continued into the 20th century, when the Black Panthers’ bold displays of arms were part of the inspiration for the Gun Control Act of 1968.

(Although no smoking gun proves that the GCA was explicitly anti-black, we know for sure it has racist roots in another sense: as JPFO demonstrated many years ago, GCA ‘68 is based on a Nazi German law that “liberal” anti-gunner Sen. Thomas Dodd brought back from Europe after his stint as a prosecutor at Nuremberg.)

In many cases, the early U.S. “gun control” laws stated their purposes blatantly. After Turner’s rebellion, Tennessee abruptly changed its state constitution from “the freemen of this State have a right to keep and to bear arms for their common defence” to “the free *white* men of this State have a right to keep and to bear arms for their common defence.”

Virginia repealed a law that had allowed blacks occasionally to get a license to carry firearms and forbid them to possess any arms or “military weapons” whatsoever. In fact, the terror of armed blacks became so extreme that even canes and dogs were codified as weapons—as long as the “wrong” people owned them.

Cramer notes, “The various Black Codes ... are sufficiently well-known that any reasonably complete history of the Reconstruction period mentions them. These restrictive gun

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laws played a part in provoking Republican efforts to get the Fourteenth Amendment [requiring equal protection under law] passed. Republicans in Congress apparently believed that it would be difficult for night riders to provoke terror in freedmen who were returning fire."

With passage of the 14th Amendment, the blatantly anti-minority language had to stop. But the bigotry against armed minorities didn't. Not even to this day. *Enforcement* can remain as racist as any government likes. Where do we see random "stop and frisk" searches for weapons and other contraband (a Bloomberg-originated policy, by the way)? In black neighborhoods.

Where have we witnessed warrantless house-to-house searches for weapons? In inner-city housing projects. Even if you believe, as Bloomberg does (and as statistics bear out) that urban minorities are at the highest risk of violence and are the predominant perpetrators of violence, nothing justifies treating any entire class of people as less than full citizens, not entitled to the protections of the Bill of Rights. One shouldn't be deprived of legal, constitutional rights because of being black. Or Hispanic. Or young. Or male.

But "progressive" Bloomberg thinks they should. And it shouldn't make us feel any better just because we may happen to be old or female or middle aged or white or live in the suburbs.

(Side note to Bloomberg: The few murders committed in my rural redoubt have all been white-on-white despite the fact that we have substantial Hispanic and Asian minorities. Two of the ickiest were committed by a middle-aged woman. The victims included women of various ages and an elderly gay man. When you get around to deciding who deserves to be disarmed in *my* neighborhood, you're going to have a tough choice.)

Never forget: Tyranny and every form of injustice are *always* visited first upon the least popular or the most politically helpless. Once a precedent has been established of denying fundamental rights to minorities or the poor or children or the institutionalized or some other subject population, the same outrages can be perpetrated more freely upon the rest of us.

Which of course would make Mr. Bloomberg very happy, as he sits in his gated mansion behind his phalanx of heavily armed bodyguards. ☺

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Witness Interviews

Individuals who are neither police nor military have their own unique perception and interpretation of events. This is especially true when such individuals have witnessed an officer-involved shooting (OIS). Bear in mind that these individuals have never been exposed to deadly force events save those depicted on the big or small screen.

The following are paraphrased from many thousands of pages of testimony over 25 years of working OIS cases.

"Those bullety thingies came right at him and then he fell down."

"The real cute police officer was the one that shot him."

"I heard the officers tell him 'hands up,' then they shot him. But I don't think the bad guy's gun was loaded. Where's your supervisor?"

"I could have taken the bad guy's gun away because I study karate at school."

"They should have shoten the gun out of his hand. Can I show you?"

"It's unfair that they shoot him when all he had was a knife."

"Couldn't you guys have used that sprayee stuff that makes you cry a lot?"

"That one dude had like an elephant gun dude ... I mean dude ... that thing was HUUUUUGE ... dude!" (*An AR, 5.56mm.*)

"It was unreal, man. I was toked to the max when this went down, man. I got a hold of some good stuff just before your guys smoked that dude right in front of me, man."

Female witness: "Detective, are you married?"

"Why didn't you guys use that electric thingie that makes people jerk all over?"

"The officers only told him ten times to drop the gun. They should have given him more time."

"That officer swore in public at the man they shot. You people should be a lot nicer instead of nasty. That's why people get shot."

"The officer was very rude and yelled at me when that guy over there was shooting at us."

"That police car with the lights went through a red light and then ended up shooting that other guy. Are you going to give him [the officer] a ticket?"

"Why don't you guys fire warning shots into the air?"

"You guys should have hit him with that batony thingie and then he would have dropped the gun."

"My ears hurt from the guns going off. Do you have a doctor for me here?"

Male witness: "The SWAT officer with the cute butt ... what's his name?"

"I know my guns, detective, and when the officer reloaded the magazine into the revolver, he didn't have to shoot it again."

"I'd say I was about 400 yards away from the incident, Mr. Detective." (*SID measured at 50 yards.*)

"That suspect was out of his mind, but you guys didn't have to shoot him." (*Just assaulted two women, one little girl,*



Photo: © Can Stock Photo Inc. / Julenochek

one baby, and three officers with a knife.)

"I'd say the whole thing took about 10 to 15 minutes, sir, right around there." (*Recorded at 37 seconds.*)

Witness: "He had on a black ... no, it was blue ... oh, wait ... gray, yeah it was a gray shirt, I'm positive ... or maybe black ... hell, I'm not really sure." Detective: "Thank you, ma'am."

Suspect after armed standoff with SWAT: "Is this going to hurt my chances of getting onto the Sheriff's Department?"

"I would've called sooner, but I didn't think the gun was real until he started shooting people."

"The gun made a boom-boomy sound, so I think it was a shotgun or howitzer or something like that."

Witness: "What's that thing you use that goes kapowee, kapowee?" Detective: "I think it's a gun, ma'am." "Yeah okay. That thing is what he used, I'm pretty sure."

Witness to detective: "I could see big FBI letters on those guys but the LAPD guys have smaller police letters on their vests." Old-school LAPD detective to witness: "Those FBI boys are really something, aren't they?"

"Can I have a beer in here?" (Inside the police station interrogation room.) *(Now this guy I really like!)*

"My wife's gonna be pissed off if I don't get home soon." *(Arrested after high-speed pursuit and shots fired.) (This guy has the right frame of mind. Forget San Quentin—it's the wife you need to worry about.)*

"I thought you guys used blanks on him until I saw the blood. Don't you use blanks first and then the real bullets?"

Witness: "There were like a million rounds they fired." Detective: "A million?" Witness: "Well, maybe 10 to 15 or so." Detective: "Okay. That I can work with."

"I've played a detective on a series, so I know the process. Proceed, detective." *(Why, thank you.)*

"I was gonna help with my gun, but I figured the police might shoot me too." *(Good call.)*

Male witness to female detective: "You're nothing like the female detectives on TV." *(Ya' think? OC canister deployed shortly thereafter.)*

"I don't know how many rounds or who firing or what the bad guys was doing or what who was said or where was anyone was but I seen the whole thing. Are you guys hiring?" *(Absolutely!)*

"I saw the top of his head come off. Is he gonna be alright?" *(If it's in LA, an emphatic yes!)*

"Couldn't you guys wait until I went to work to shoot him? I'm gonna be late."

"Can I sue you guys because of what I saw?"

"First, my favorite color is pink." *(Six-year-old girl at outset of interview.)*

"Can I get paid for this interview?"

"I liked the Fire Department guys. They were nice, but you police guys aren't like that, so I like firemen more than you guys."

"Don't the police dogs have guns on them for the police to use?"

"The police were all over the place in battling gear pointing guns everywhere."

What did I tell you? Priceless, yes? ©

Scott Reitz is a 30-year veteran of the Los Angeles Police Department and director of the highly acclaimed International Tactical Training Seminars. Course information and schedules are available at their website at www.internationaltactical.com. Looking Back, a free monthly newsletter, is available by email at itts@gte.net.



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Non-German MP5s

I'VE read numerous times about the Heckler & Koch MP5 being an example of German firearms excellence. I certainly don't dispute that. The MP5 has justifiably become the most popular SMG in the world.

But it's easy to forget that a substantial portion of the MP5s on issue around the world aren't German. I first realized this when I was at a training exercise with various local law enforcement agencies. Of the dozen or so MP5s present, only about half were German.

One Class III dealer here in St. Louis had sold Greek or Pakistani MP5s to agencies looking for an SMG bargain. As far as I remember, all the MP5s were reliable—German and non-German.

Having said that, I'm a purist and like my MP5s to have been made in Germany, but I have used those that weren't and found them more than adequate. As a result, I think it's worth giving an overview of the foreign MP5s. Among the countries that have produced MP5s are Greece, Pakistan, Turkey, Mexico, Iran, Saudi Arabia, France, United Kingdom, Sudan (which produces a version on Iranian machinery), and China (which produces an unlicensed version).

One locally produced MP5 that I find especially interesting is the French MP5F, which was developed for the

French Armed Forces, especially the *Gendarmerie Nationale*. The *Gendarmerie* intended to use a very hot 9x19mm loading, which required a redesign of the MP5 so it would be durable enough to fire 40,000 rounds of the high-pressure loading through each of ten weapons with no parts failures and

only minimal malfunctions.

In addition to modified internals for high-pressure ammunition, this model also has ambidextrous sling mounts and a rubber padded four-position retractable buttstock. Official HK designation for the model is MP5E2, examples of which have been sold to U.S. law



Members of DYK, Greek equivalent of U.S. Navy SEALs, armed with MP5s. Since EAS does not produce suppressed MP5s, these may be equipped with locally made or imported suppressors. Photo: USN



POF-produced MP5. Standard S-E-F trigger group is used.

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enforcement agencies and others. Once the design was finalized, the MP5F was produced in France by MAS (*Manufacture d'armes de Saint-Etienne*) for domestic use.

Of the foreign-built MP5s, I am most familiar with those produced originally by EBO but more recently by EAS (*Ellinika Amyntika Systmata*). The most interesting feature of the Greek MP5 is a crossbolt that prevents selecting the full-auto fire position unless it is pushed through. Some EAS weapons in use with U.S. law enforcement agencies have replaced the factory trigger group with one eliminating the crossbolt. At one point, the Greek MP5 was marketed as the EMP5. Sources state that the only Greek versions were in MP5A2 and A3 configuration.

The other foreign version with which I am very familiar is the POF (Pakistan Ordnance Factory) one. U.S. troops encountered many of these in Iraq and Afghanistan. Quite a few were also imported into the United States. My experience, though limited, is that the POF MP5s are very reliable. Others with more experience rate them as the best of the MP5 foreign clones.

Sometimes Pakistani MP5s will be seen with the designations MP5P2, MP5P3, MP5P4, or MP5P5. Substitute an "A" for the "P" to easily ID the model. The P4 and P5 versions are the same as the P2 and P3 but with a burst control trigger group. These SMGs are easily identified by the "POF" marking atop the receiver. Trigger groups I've



POF marking of Pakistan Ordnance Factory.

Photo: C&S

seen on POF guns are marked S-E-F.

I have also examined Turkish MKE MP5s, though I don't remember firing one. MKE (*Makina ve Kimya Endustrisi*) produces two versions of the MP5 on license—the MP5A3 and the MP5K. The guns are virtually identical to the German-produced versions, though the trigger group is marked E-T-S.

Turkish MP5s are most often seen in the United States as either the AT94-A2 carbine with a 16.25-inch barrel or the MKE 94K pistol, which is basically a semi-auto MP5K without a stock to prevent it from being classified as an SBR (short-barreled rifle). However, some MKE 94K pistols have been registered as SBRs and a stock added.

I believe some AT94-A2 carbines were imported with the capability to take only ATI (American Tactical Imports) 10-round magazines. I don't know if all were. I have seen MKE 94K pistols that took regular MP5 magazines and have seen some registered as SBRs using standard 30-round magazines. Based on the couple of people I know who had MKE 94K pistols and/or 94K SBRs, they were considered good quality. Last I heard they

were no longer being imported.

I have neither handled nor seen any of the Iranian MP5 copies. Sometimes known as the Tondar, the MPT9 has a telescoping stock, while the MPT9-S has a fixed solid stock. Based on comments from the U.S. special ops guys who encountered them in Afghanistan, the Iranian copies are of lower quality than most others.

Saudi Arabian MP5s were produced on license at Military Industries Corporation. They reportedly use the standard S-E-F trigger group but with green selector switch markings rather than red. The side of the receiver has Arabic script. MP5s are used by the Saudi Royal Guard, among others.

Enlisted personnel have silver-plated MP5s and officers gold-plated MP5s. As I understand it, these were produced by HK rather than locally. HK has traditionally offered plated MP5s for some Middle Eastern countries. The MP5 is a popular personal weapon in Saudi Arabia with the Bedouins, who may be among the customers for the locally produced weapons.

At Norinco, China has produced unlicensed copies of the MP5 designated the NR08. These are reportedly copies of Pakistan Ordnance Factory guns that were imported into China in the past. But unlike POF MP5s, the NR08 uses the pictographic version of the trigger group. These clones have established a market in the Philippines.

I haven't mentioned the MP5 copies produced under license in Mexico and the Sudan, as I have no knowledge of them other than that they exist. Royal Small Arms in the U.K. also produces MP5s for local use. I assume this includes the MP5SF semi-auto issued to armed police throughout the U.K.

When I was working on my recent book on the MP5, I found the various foreign-made MP5s an interesting topic. In addition to general interest, it's useful to know that an MKE MP5 might have the crossbolt to allow full-auto fire. One of you reading this might encounter one somewhere. When I used to work in odd places, it was amazing what weapons I encountered and needed to know how to use.

Knowing that those who have used them didn't like the idea of trusting their life to an Iranian MP5 might be useful too. Personally, I wouldn't trust my life to an Iranian anything, certainly not a nuclear arms treaty! ☺



Trigger group from Turkish MKE MP5, with E-T-S markings. Photo: C&S



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STI chose to use a bull barrel with the Nitro, so the typical 1911 barrel bushing is not needed.

HUNDRED-YARD 1911

STI Nitro 10

BY TODD BURGREN

What comes to mind if someone mentions a handgun specialized for defense, law enforcement, or military applications? Many would first consider a 1911 chambered in .45 ACP. An ergonomic, instinctive-pointing, hard-hitting handgun is a premium when having to react decisively to a threat. These were John Browning's guiding principles in creating the 1911.

The 1911's inherent qualities have caused many manufacturers to join the 1911 scene over the years. A lot of attention seems to be on "improving" the 1911 platform by modifying its components via full-length guide rods, Match barrels, Match triggers, bull barrels, capacity, etc. There is certainly nothing wrong with this approach, though many will advocate keeping custom items to a minimum, with precautions taken not to make the weapon too much of a "gaming" gun as opposed to a fighting implement.

STI

STI International (STI) has been in the forefront of this 1911 renaissance, modernizing and adapting the 1911 platform into forms not previously contemplated. STI grew from their initial 1980s business model as a supplier of high-end 1911 components to now offering complete 1911 pistols to meet the needs of a wide range of users in both competition and tactical arenas. STI has made a habit of approaching the 1911 platform from different angles rather than just modifying components.

Neither has STI neglected the classic single-stack 1911, with numerous offerings. For example, STI's patented 2011 frame offers a unique twist in being a high-capacity 1911 design featuring a modular two-piece bottom end consisting of a steel sub frame and detachable polymer grip. A good example of this is the pistol reviewed herein—the Nitro 10 1911.

10MM AUTO

The Nitro 10 offers another twist on the 1911 by being chambered in 10mm Auto. Many forget that Browning is not only the creator of what many feel is the ideal handgun in the form of the 1911, but also the designer of the .45 ACP cartridge. In ballistic circles, the .45 ACP has just as loyal a following as the 1911. It is considered by many

the ideal combination of terminal ballistics and controllability. But by the early 1970s, even leading 1911 proponents were considering alternative caliber choices beyond 9mm and .38 Super for the 1911.

Lieutenant Colonel Jeff Cooper is often associated with the early development of the 10mm Auto cartridge. As with most calibers, numerous .40-caliber pistol wildcats were created before the 10mm Auto design we know was solidified for use in the ill-fated Bren Ten handgun.

The 10mm Auto was designed to be a pistol cartridge intended for semiautomatic handguns that offered better ballistics—flatter trajectory and higher velocity—than the .45 ACP, and thus capable of greater terminal performance. Cooper's original concept was boosted to higher velocities by Norma and introduced in 1983 for use in the Bren Ten.

The 10mm Auto offered Magnum revolver power associated with .357 Magnum and .41 Magnum in a rimless semi-automatic cartridge. While the Bren Ten's demise is well documented, fortunately Colt introduced their Delta Elite in 10mm Auto in 1987, with the FBI lending ancillary support to the 10mm Auto by standardizing it for agent use in 1989, saving the 10mm Auto a fate similar to the Bren Ten.

While our focus is on the 10mm Auto as featured in the STI Nitro 10, the 10mm Auto story must be finished by stating that the .40 S&W eventually emerged from and succeeded the 10mm Auto, becoming a pre-eminent personal defense and law enforcement cartridge.

In short, no pun intended, the .40 S&W is a reduced length and powered 10mm Auto. The .40 S&W case is 3mm shorter than the 10mm Auto's 25mm case length. This all came about as a result of the recoil of the full-powered 10mm Auto causing consternation among certain law enforcement personnel and trainers.



Nitro 10's recoil was more than manageable.

NITRO 10 ... BY POPULAR DEMAND

STI introduced the Nitro 10 at the behest of customers requesting a single-stack five-inch Government Model 1911 chambered in 10mm Auto. The Nitro 10 is built on an STI 1911 forged frame with three lined "Nitro" front strap indentations with matching "Nitro" design mainspring housing, front and rear slide serrations, and Cocobolo grips, all of which give the STI Nitro 10 unique aesthetics.

The Nitro's undercut trigger guard allows for a higher grip for enhanced accuracy and recoil management. The controls are STI's single-sided thumb safety and knuckle relief high-rise beavertail grip safety. The slide is manufactured with an oversized ejection port. The five-inch bull barrel is an integral ramp type, facilitating both enhanced feeding and support of the 10mm Auto cartridge case.

The Nitro 10 features STI's new "Nitro" hammer, patented

STI trigger system, S-7 sear, titanium strut, and one-piece steel guide rod for smooth and reliable function. The Nitro 10 has a matte blued finish, and it weighs 38.9 ounces. Sights consist of STI Competition front and fixed "ledge" style rear. Capacity is eight plus one.

AMMUNITION EVALUATION

Many 10mm Auto loads are watered down to resemble .40 S&W velocities. Not the case with the loads tested for this article: 10mm Auto ammunition from Federal Premium, DoubleTap, Buffalo Bore, and Hornady was acquired for use in the STI Nitro 10. Buffalo Bore is a prime source of 10mm Auto ammunition, offering several bullet types ranging from hard cast to JHC to FMJ-FN.

The recently introduced Federal Premium Vital-Shok Trophy Bonded 10mm Auto shows the cartridge's potential.

The bullet used with the Federal load is based on the proven Trophy Bonded Bear Claw rifle bullet and features a jacket with formed inner profile that controls expansion to ensure deep penetration. The load features a 180-grain bullet that leaves the muzzle at 1,275 feet per second (fps) compared to the usual 1,030 fps of many manufacturers' offerings. For comparison purposes, the Federal load delivers 650 foot-pounds of energy, putting it roughly between the .357 Magnum and .41 Magnum. This kind of power offers great flexibility in terms of use for personal defense or hunting medium-sized game.

Premium 10mm Auto loads from Hornady were used, consisting of 155- and 180-grain XTP loads as well as 175-grain FlexLock Critical Duty. These Hornady loads were designed with personal defense in mind, with XTP and Critical Defense bullets loaded to between 1,150 and 1,250 fps.

A total of nearly 300 10mm Auto rounds were fired in the STI Nitro 10.



Evaluation tested ammunition from Federal, Buffalo Bore, DoubleTap, and Hornady.

Many would consider the STI Nitro 10mm Auto the ultimate combat 1911, combining accuracy with terminal ballistics.



Nitro 10 10mm Auto was evaluated through vehicle media such as windshield, side glass, and sheet metal.

The ability to reliably engage targets out to 100 yards with great terminal effect cannot be underestimated.

RANGE TESTING

The STI Nitro was tested at the range first by verifying sight zero and then firing several magazines rapidly at various steel man targets found in Echo Valley Training Center's (EVTC) training bays. This quickly shows if any reliability issues exist. If a defensive pistol is not at the very least reliable, what good is it?

Further testing consisted of strings of fire against steel plate racks and popper targets at seven, 15, and 25 yards. Sights were zeroed out of the box for 25 yards using the classic six o'clock hold. The STI Nitro 10 did not disappoint, regularly producing three-inch groups at 25 yards when fired from standing unsupported positions. STI's quality manufacturing and assembly produce an accurate handgun.

Bench testing could not be resisted after witnessing the unsupported accuracy results. Sub-two-inch groups at 25 yards were not unusual. The advantages of the single-action trigger were quickly evident during the bench testing, where accuracy was the goal with its compact pull with minimal creep.

As expected, recoil impulse was stout, but by no means unmanageable or the cataclysmic event many will lead you to believe from the 10mm Auto. The recoil spring used by STI is definitely stiffer than ones experienced on 1911s chambered in other calibers. This was evident as soon as the Nitro 10 was removed from the box and the slide opened during initial inspection. This helps dampen recoil and, more importantly, muzzle flip, so the shooter can reacquire the front sight when firing multiple-shot strings. I appreciated the nearly

2.5-pound Nitro 10 for absorbing and mitigating felt recoil.

The TacStrike steel targets were rocked with a definitive smack—obviously more than a typical handgun round when hit with the 10mm Auto. As mentioned previously, recoil was not prohibitive with the STI Nitro 10, with accurate rapid shots possible. Unscientific subjective comparison would place it in the .45 ACP range when fired from an alloy-framed 1911.



Federal Premium Vital-Shok 180-grain Trophy Bonded 10mm Auto load is a great representation of the power inherent in the 10mm Auto. With a velocity of nearly 1,300 fps, this load can do things other loads cannot.



Chambered in 10mm Auto, STI Nitro 10 is a sound combination of function and power.



If you get past preconceived notions of what a 1911 should be, it's easy to accept the advantages offered by a 1911 chambered in 10mm Auto.

All 10mm Auto loads tested had no issue penetrating windshields or car bodies. This is the type of performance and barrier penetration capability STI designed the Nitro 10 for.

DRILLS

I evaluated the Nitro 10 using drills experienced during training at firearms schools such as Storm Mountain and Pat McNamara's TMACS. The natural pointability of the Nitro 10 1911 was confirmed, along with speed getting it into action. Drills included working around breaching facades, door entries, and other CQB activities typified by experiences encountered in shoot-house environments.

A premium is placed on a quick-handling, accurate handgun such as the Nitro 10, with multiple rounds fired in quick succession the norm to put a target down. The beavertail frame settles the weapon naturally into the hand and provides a point of reference when

drawing the pistol from a holster. The Nitro 10 proved very capable of firing multiple-shot strings with the utmost accuracy thanks to the short trigger pull and reset. The number of both IWB and belt holsters that accommodate the Nitro 10 is also a plus.

EVTC facilities were taken advantage of when evaluating the STI Nitro 10 by working in, around, and through range vehicles. IPSC cardboard targets were placed within vehicles so the Nitro's 10mm Auto power could be judged through automobile sheet metal, side glass, and windshield. Targets were also arrayed in front of a range vehicle, with the Nitro engaging through the windshield from the front seat.

DESIGN EVOLUTION

The 1911 is an aficionado's weapon that continues to attract users with its natural handling and great trigger. Few can argue that there is a more instinctive-handling handgun than the 1911. The trigger and grip size and angle cause it to be the most accurate handgun in most arsenals—one reason hostage rescue units and other special-purpose teams continue to use 1911-pattern handguns. And the Nitro 10 is no different.

It was a pleasant experience dealing with the STI Nitro 10, which performed at a level justifying STI's hard-earned reputation. Successful handgun designs constantly evolve. This is for a variety of reasons stemming mainly from market and technological im-

pulses and pressures magnified by the ever-changing mission requirements of end users. The STI Nitro 10 is the poster child of this design modification creep involving the classic 1911. The inherent familiarity most have with the 1911 platform, not to mention its ergonomics, validates STI's decision to enhance it via caliber expansion. In many tactical situations, the penetration and power of a 10mm Auto fired from a 1911-type weapon could be very advantageous.

The Nitro 10 places real power in an accurate and reliable package. The ability to reliably engage targets out to 100 yards with great terminal effect cannot be underestimated. The basic 1911 design is too well-known to attempt any new exposé, but the STI Nitro 10 serves as a reminder why the 1911 design still holds a prominent place in the world. The 10mm Auto was designed as a fighting cartridge. Its chambering in the STI Nitro 10 is a sound combination of function and power. ☺

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STI INTERNATIONAL, INC.

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SWEEPSTAKES

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MARLIN 1895 GUIDE GUN



This month's sweepstakes features a Marlin 1895 Guide Gun and is brought to you courtesy of Davidson's Gallery of Guns.com. Davidson's unique website, GalleryofGuns.com, allows consumers instant access to tens of thousands of firearms in Davidson's huge inventory. All gun purchases are backed up by Davidson's exclusive Guaranteed® Lifetime Replacement Program.

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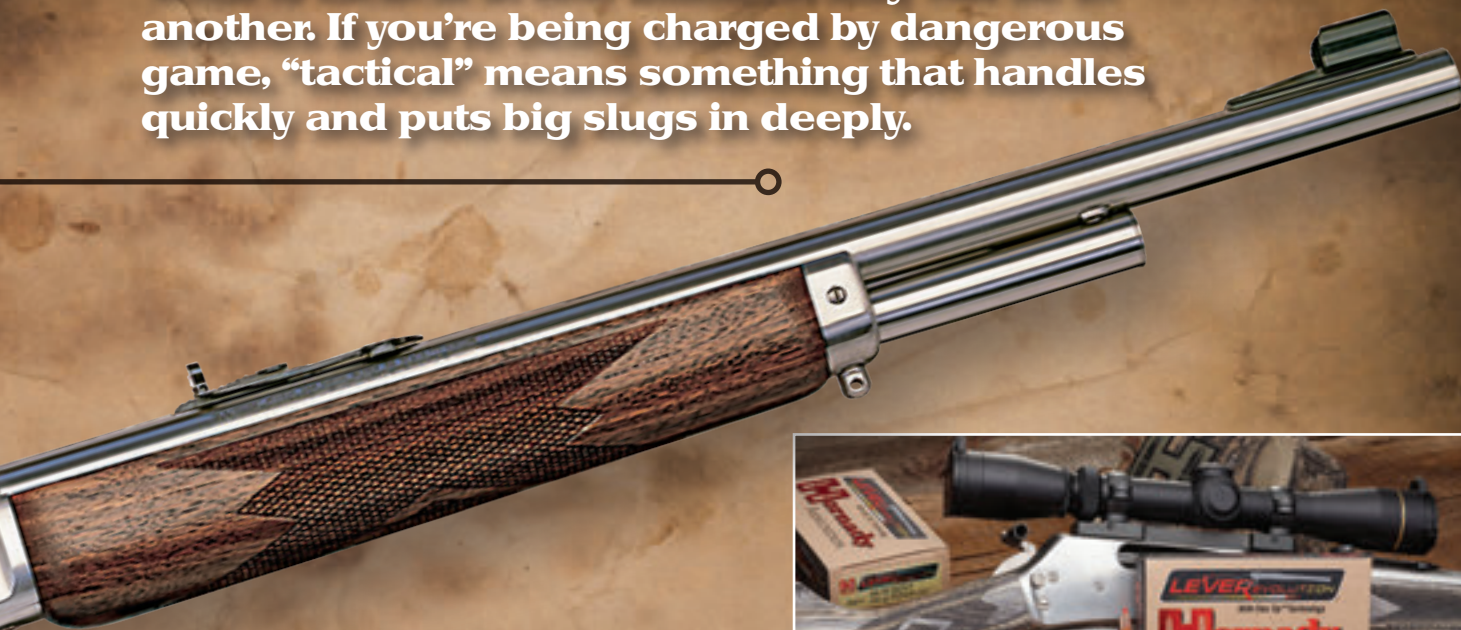
The Marlin 1895 Guide Gun offered in this month's Sweepstakes has a weather-resistant satin stainless steel finish. Its straight stock is made of black walnut and is checkered on the pistol grip and forend. The tubular magazine under the 18.5-inch barrel holds four rounds for a total capacity of five rounds. It is only 37 inches long and weighs a light seven pounds. Sights consist of a hooded ramp front and adjustable semi-folding buckhorn rear. It has a hammer block safety, sling swivel studs, and vented recoil pad. The receiver is drilled and tapped for mounting the optic of your choice.

GALCO BUTT CUFF

The Galco Butt Cuff distinguishes itself from similar—but inferior—butt cuffs with reinforced stitching between each loop that helps prevent interior cartridge loop dimensions from changing. The suede tongue and nylon lacing keep the cuff securely on your stock. The model included in this Sweepstakes is made from premium Latigo leather in a rich, dark Havana color, and holds six rounds of .45-70.



The word “tactical” is often overused. What is tactical in one situation may not be in another. If you’re being charged by dangerous game, “tactical” means something that handles quickly and puts big slugs in deeply.



HORNADY LEVEREVOLUTION

In years past, one problem with lever-action rifles that fed from tubular magazines was that when under recoil the more efficient spire point bullets may detonate the primer of the cartridge in front of it. Hornady, the leader in ballistic technology, brings you an innovation in ammunition performance featuring state-of-the-industry patented FTX® (Flex Tip eXpanding) and MonoFlex® bullets that are safe in tubular magazines. Their higher ballistic coefficient delivers dramatically flatter trajectories for fantastic downrange energy increases and amazing bullet expansion at all ranges.

This Sweepstakes includes 200 rounds of premium Hornady .45-70 Government 325-grain FTX LEVERevolution® ammunition.



PRO TAC MAG GOLD HEARING PROTECTION

The Pro Tac Mag Gold is ideal for serious shooters who want maximum protection, with a very high NRR of 30, the fastest “attack time” in the industry at 1.5 milliseconds, and exclusive DLSC™ technology that allows the user to hear all commands clearly despite continuous gunfire. Its 8-bit microprocessor ensures the unit is running right every time, and an automatic shut-off feature means you have power when you need it.



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A NATION OF



Civilian Marksmanship Program

With the multiple assaults on legitimate gun owners in the United States, one might take comfort in the fact that there exists a federally chartered organization dedicated solely to the training and education of United States citizens in the use of firearms and airguns through gun safety training, marksmanship training, and competitions.

The Civilian Marksmanship Program was created by Federal Law enacted in 1996 (Title 36 U. S. Code, 400701-40733) that created Corporation for the Promotion of Rifle Practice and Firearms Safety, Inc. (the legal name for CMP).

It has as its statutory missions:

- To instruct citizens of the United States in marksmanship.
- To promote practice and safety in the use of firearms.
- To conduct competitions in the use of firearms and to award trophies, prizes, badges, and other insignia to competitors.

HISTORY

The CMP had as its genesis a 1903 War Department Appropriations that authorized the establishment of the National Board for the Promotion of Rifle Practice and the National Rifle and Pistol Trophy Matches. In 1905, President Theodore Roosevelt signed Public Law 149 authorizing the sale, at cost, of surplus military rifles, ammunition, and related equipment to rifle clubs approved by the board.

The impetus for this creation was the abysmal state of weapons handling and marksmanship in the U.S. Military and by the citizens of the United States as a whole. The belief that every American was a rifleman was a myth, and it is one that continues to this day.

Continuing along these lines, the National Defense Act of 1916 authorized the War Department to distribute arms and ammunition to organized civilian rifle clubs under rules established by the Board, provided funds for the operation of government rifle ranges, and

opened all military rifle ranges to civilian shooters. It also created the Office of the Director of Civilian Marksmanship (DCM), under the National Board for the Promotion of Rifle Practice. Initially the DCM's programs were managed by the Army. But the National Defense Authorization Act of 1996 transferred the DCM's function to a new private non-profit corporation chartered specifically for this purpose.

The Civilian Marksmanship Program is directed by an 11-member board of directors that was initially appointed by the Secretary of the Army. The restructuring of the CMP, earnestly supported by the NRA, was opposed by anti-gun members of Congress, who would prefer to abolish the program entirely, eliminating its firearm safety training activities and destroying its rifles and ammunition.

The CMP has no future federal funding and the corporation must rely entirely upon income generated through sales of rifles, ammunition, and related equipment; affiliation and match fees; etc. The corporation is tax-exempt and may solicit funds and services by donation or request. All funds collected by the corporation may be used only to support the official functions of the CMP.

The CMP is authorized to loan, sell, or lease rifles, ammunition, targets, and other supplies to qualifying clubs and associations. CMP may provide .22 rimfire ammunition and .177-caliber pellets for use by shooters ages 10 to 20, based on junior members' participation in the affiliated organization's programs. Youth programs conducted by the Boy Scouts of America, 4-H, American Legion, and other civic groups are priorities. Competitors 20 years of age and under may receive travel stipends to attend the National Trophy Matches, Small Arms Firing School held during the matches, and special training clinics.

I have been associated with DCM/CMP going back to the 1960s and have visited the CMP North store at Camp Perry, Ohio multiple times during the National Championships. I have purchased rifles, ammunition, and as-

RIFLEMEN

BY PATRICK A. ROGERS

sorted other equipment that has greatly enhanced my abilities in my profession and pastimes.

When VP of Magtech Ammunition Mike Fisher asked if I wanted to visit the CMP in Anniston, Alabama, I jumped at the chance. COO Mark Johnson and Business Development Officer Jim Townsend opened all the doors and gave us an opportunity to see every aspect of this great organization.

COMPETITION

Competitive marksmanship is a big portion of the CMP mission. They continue to administer the historic Excellence-in-Competition program and sponsor the National Trophy Matches, which include the President's Rifle and Pistol Matches, fired with Service Rifles (AR-15, M14 and M1) and Service Pistols. Congress has directed the Corporation to give priority to programs that reach as many young Americans as possible.

The competition side of the house has been the most visible as well as the most productive. We, as a community—regardless of the discipline—thrive because of competition. Competition is the critical driver of performance and innovation. Competing is a part of life for everyone, and the need to excel is what makes us good at what we do. Competition takes people from being a once-every-two-years plinker to someone who accepts discipline and will stand in front of others to perform at their best. If instilled into the young, this mental toughness will carry through into every other aspect of life.

The CMP has over 6,000 affiliated clubs covering multiple disciplines from the National Matches to the fun matches, for M1s, 1903s, and vintage sniper rifles. Their programs include 4H Club, NVAA, and even college scholarships. From a personal standpoint, my interest was focused on Service Rifle Competition, which included the National Matches and the Excellence in Competition matches. These are the matches in which one could be awarded legs, or points, to hopefully culminate in the Distinguished Badge.

Distinguished Badges are the highest individual



CMP Business Development Officer Jim Townsend shoulders a Custom Shop "Tanker" Garand. While this type had a bad reputation in the old days, this rendition works very well. Below: Racks of M1 rifles await sale.





Jim Townsend holds a Ceremonial Rifle. With the exception of the barrel and a blank firing adapter, these rifles go through the same level of care as the M1 rifles sold at the CMP store.

awards authorized by the U.S. Government for excellence in marksmanship competition. They are awarded by the CMP in accordance with 36 USC §40722 [3] and by the respective services in accordance with service regulations. I was awarded the Distinguished Rifleman's Badge in 1996, and it proudly hangs on my I Love Me wall in the man cave.

Because of their charter, a large portion of the CMP budget is directed at Junior shooters. Three Position Air Rifle is the fastest growing and most popular sport for high school and younger shooters. CMP has two world-

class, state-of-the-art 80-point air rifle/pistol training facilities—one at Camp Perry, Ohio, and one at Anniston, Alabama. They also have a 60-point mobile training facility available.

The advantages of airgun are obvious. They provide the basics of marksmanship without the need for great distances, eliminate noise issues, and avoid the stigma that sometimes (or often) accompanies live fire. It is an excellent way to introduce Juniors to competition.

SALES

Another popular part of the CMP is sales. In keeping with their charter, they are mandated to sell surplus military rifles and ammunition to U.S. citizens. The halcyon days when the CMP had loads of Models 1903 and 1917, U.S. Carbine, Cal .30 M1, and tens of thousands of Garands and .22-caliber training rifles are long gone. The only rifle now available for general sales is the U.S. Rifle, Cal .30 M1 (Garand). There were approximately 5.5 million of these manufactured between 1936 and 1957, and a great many were sent to other countries to support their armies during the post-war period. Many of those have since been returned, but there are still hundreds of thousands in other lands, including approximately 90,000 in South Korea, and which will not likely see their homeland again. The M1s are mostly sold by direct sales, with three separate grades:

- Field Grade: fair to good condition
- Service Grade: good to very good condition
- Special Grade: excellent condition. This is a refurbished rifle with refinished parts, new barrel, and new stock. (We'll have a follow-up story about the Special Grade at a later date.)

The process for ordering these rifles is relatively straightforward and can be done via mail or pickup at either of the two CMP stores. They can be sold only to U.S. citizens. The CMP has other rifles that, due to their small numbers or particular value, are offered at auction only. For those interested, there are some very interesting guns sold at auction.

There is also a custom shop at Anniston that works



M1D rifles for sale at CMP South store in Anniston. You can buy a slice of history and support a corporation that has an important mission.



M1 rifles are assembled by very experienced armors.



Targets 1-40 on state-of-the-art airgun range. Forty additional targets are located on the reverse wall. Airgun is fastest-growing competitive shooting sport for Juniors.

Inset: Megalink Electronic Scoring Board displays competitor's name, number, plots his shots, and post his scores. Spectators can watch shooting and actually see what's going on, not become bored watching the grass grow.



on select U.S. Military surplus guns, and I can attest to the quality of the work they perform. The custom shop also conducts a very cool Advanced Armorer's Course in which you build the M1 that you take home with you.

As surplus Cal. 30 M2 Ball is pretty much nonexistent, CMP has taken steps to acquire this ammunition from other sources. Last year they sold ten million rounds of Greek Cal. 30 Ball, and they still have a large quantity of that left. They also purchased a very large quantity of Magtech M2 Ball equivalent (more on that in the Special Grade M1 article). Additional ammo for sale includes .30 Cal Ball and Match, 7.62x51mm Ball and Match, .30 Cal Carbine, .223 and even .303 British from Creedmoor, Federal, and Hornady.

The CMP understands the history that is housed within the walls of their buildings. A very strong and knowledgeable staff carefully reviews every item that comes in, looking for rare and historical parts, and what they have in those drawers and cabinets would make anyone afflicted with Garanditis green with envy. When rifles arrive, they are inspected by their very efficient armory staff. The rifles are repaired as necessary, graded, and made available for sale. Every rifle that is sold is serviceable—that is, fully functional.

Another service they perform is to provide drill rifles to various veterans' organizations. With the exception of the barrel (lower grade is acceptable as they are not firing live ammunition) and the addition of the Blank Fire Adapter, these rifles receive the same care in refinishing and rebuilding as the other rifles. As Jim Townsend said, they have one opportunity for that salute to the deceased Veteran to be perfect. To that end, when the drill rifle leaves Anniston, it is done right.

TALLADEGA MARKSMANSHIP PARK

In order to shoot, you need a facility in which to shoot. Competitive shooting—especially High Power Rifle—requires land not only for the ranges, but also for a buffer. And shooting produces noise, which aggravates people who move into an area after a range (or airport) has been well established.

CMP's Chief Operating Officer Mark Johnson had a vision and, while it took time to get it rolling, the result has been worth it. The Talladega Marksmanship Park is a \$20 million project that puts it several steps above any of today's legacy ranges. Sitting on 500 acres just two miles from the famed Talladega Super Speedway, its proximity to that very loud facility effectively squelches

A NATION OF RIFLEMEN



Marine Corps Rifle Team and AMU team at 600-yard range in early March, prior to completion of the range. They were at Talladega Marksmanship Park to test Kongsberg Targets. It was raining, but as the shooters remained stationary and under cover, they could get on with the job of being the best.

Inset: Marine Rifle Team shooter gets immediate feedback on Kongsberg Target Systems monitor. Shooter's performance is visible to him, the coaches, match director, and spectators.

any potential noise issues. The gun culture is as strong in this location as in any other place in the United States. The average temperature is a mild 61 degrees and the surrounding terrain is lush, beautiful rolling hills. The range complex itself is almost overwhelming. There are:

- 200/300/600-yard 54-position rifle range
- 100-yard 50-position rifle range
- 50-yard 25-position pistol range
- 50-foot 20-position pistol range
- Three 50-yard action pistol bays
- Twelve 25-yard action pistol bays
- 15-station sporting clay range
- Trap field with five-stand overlay

And that is only part of the package. A 13,000-square-foot clubhouse, which houses a Creedmoor Sports store (to include gun sales), several large state-of-the-art classrooms, and bay windows overlook the 600-yard rifle range.

And this is where it gets really good. The CMP supports a variety of Service Rifle competitions. The National Match Course is shot from 200, 300 and 600 yards, which is what this rifle range is built for. High Power Rifle is expensive, requiring purpose-built rifles, spotting scopes, heavy shooting jackets, premium ammunition, and a rolling cart to carry all this.

In the old days, a shooter would park his car very early in the morning and walk from the 600-yard line to the 200-yard line, where he would start the day. He'd

move back to the 300-yard line and shoot there. The relays changed, and the shooter walked to the pits, where he pulled and scored targets. The relays switched again and shooters moved to the 600-yard line and shot, and afterwards walked down to the pits and pulled targets for the other relay. All of this for a course of fire that requires 50 rounds. The time expended for this may be as little as three or four hours but may be a lot longer.

The match is, of course, subject to inclement weather delays or cancellations. Indeed, I shot at the Nationals in the early 1990s when it rained for several days—the ready line was under 12 inches of water. This is the way it has been done since 1903, and for many it is a time-honored tradition. It is also a pain in the neck, and the constant changes reduce the ability for shooters to perform at their highest level. Things are different here. The shooters remain stationary, shooting from a concrete pad with overhead protection.

Targets are arrayed at 200, 300 and 600 yards. And you don't have to travel to the butts to pull and mark targets. The high-tech targets—made by the Norwegian Kongsberg Target Systems (KTS)—are scored electronically. No more spotting scope—each shooter has a monitor that gives the shooter a plot for every shot fired. It gives him his score for that string of fire, as well as keeping a running score for the match directors. And at the clubhouse, large displays show the shooter's name, score and other assorted information for spectators.

These targets are also available at the 100-yard range at this facility.

The Talladega Marksmanship Park has as its Range Master Don Heuman, a Retired Marine Master Sergeant and USMC Rifle team shooter. There may be no better person for this job.

OUR SHOOTING LEGACY

The only way we can maintain our right to keep and bear arms is to educate people. As a part of that, we need to continually introduce people—especially young people—to what we do. The Juniors of yesterday are the Seniors of today, and that exchange should be constant. The CMP is the only organization that can provide the unique services necessary to accomplish this mission on the grand scale. It is truly worthy of the money it receives, as it is turned right around to enhance the programs that keep American citizens shooting.

CMP is an anomaly in today's society. It does a great job with relatively few people who are not only experienced and functional, but also gun guys. Some have been doing this their entire life, and that experience is reflected in the caliber of the work they do. Everyone I spoke with wanted to tell me about what they do. Their pride in their work is obvious. The CMP are good stewards of the taxpayer's money. They run an efficient and robust organization. They have a well-defined mission, leaders with experience and vision, and a very strong and dedicated workforce.

I am fortunate that I have made a great number of visits to different companies, manufacturers and others in this industry. While I always enjoy these, it is unusual that I wind up with my brain in sensory overload. But that was exactly what happened on this visit. I need to do this one again, and soon. ☺

Pat Rogers is a retired Chief Warrant Officer of Marines and a retired NYPD Sergeant. Pat is the owner of E.A.G. Inc., which provides services to governmental organizations and private citizens. He can be reached at info@eagtactical.com.

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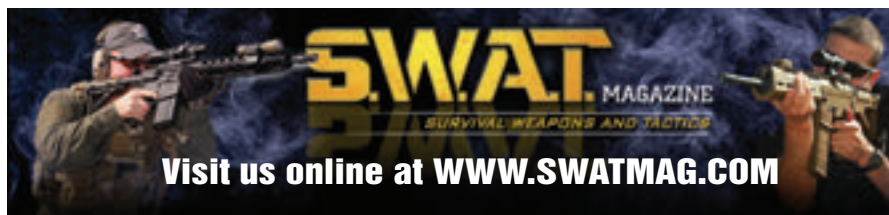


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CZ 75 Tactical Sport

BY BOB PILGRIM

There is no debate that CZ makes beautiful, rugged and reliable pistols, be they in steel, aluminum or polymer. While not as popular in the United States, the CZ 75 is recognized for its excellence by foreign military and police departments and most recently has been acquired by Egyptian law enforcement and Special Forces.

The 75 has been copied by a number of state manufacturers including Turkey, whose versions are now selling in the U.S. I enjoyed shooting with Polish SWAT teams during official liaisons. After I trained Lithuanian SWAT in Baton Rouge, they returned home and holstered their CZs. During my trips to Israel, serious shooters showed a preference for CZs and, on the other side of the world, Sri Lanka's Tamil Tigers have been photographed carrying them. CZs are international favorites.

LONG SLIDE ADVANTAGES

Several manufacturers offer long slide pistols primarily for competition and hunting. The longer slide with accompanying increased barrel length produces higher velocities, which helps the medium calibers reach required power factors in competition, deliver more lethal energy to the target, reduce muzzle rise by shifting more weight to the muzzle, and enhance iron sight accuracy by increasing the sight radius.

With minor modifications, these five-plus-inched barreled sporting pieces can also make very desirable SWAT team side-arms.

One of CZ's newest offerings, the CZ 75 Tactical Sport (TS), falls into this versatile category. Available in 9x19mm and .40 S&W calibers, this two-tone steel beauty has a full-length dust cover that provides the slide, which rides on full-length internal frame rails, with more accuracy-enhancing rigidity.

Steel frames are machined of castings and coated in multi-stage operations. Initially they are phosphated and then sprayed with a satin nickel polycote, a polymer-based coating that is extremely tough and resistant to wear.

The TS comes in a substantial padded and lockable plastic case. Contained therein are three 20-round magazines, extra slide stops/releases, magazine loader, nylon cleaning brush, cable security padlock, manual, and documents.



ENHANCED CONTROL

The TS receiver features 30 LPI front and backstrap grip checkering. With the diamond-cut walnut grip panels, the prominent checkering creates a positive hold that needs no other enhancements like skateboard tape.

Its medium caliber power to pistol weight ratio exhibits negligible torque. Excellent grip ergonomics are augmented by a recoil distributing beaver-tail and an enlarged polymer magazine well that forces the hand up high on the backstrap.

Large ambidextrous thumb safeties are within easy reach, but a little too easy to disengage. A red dot on the frame indicating "ready to fire" is exposed when the safeties are pushed down. A reversible extended magazine release resides on the CZ's port side and is perfect for speed reloads, but way too prominent for a duty pistol. Placing the TS on its left side on a firm surface and pressing down dislodges the magazine.

The enlarged slide stop/release are not ambidextrous, but three additional stops/releases are included for replacement when running punishing hot ammo in an effort to make the USPA major power factor of 165.

Although most gun gurus favor the sling-shot gross motor movement for slide manipulation over tripping the slide release, there is not much to grab onto with the TS's slide sunk so deeply into its receiver. Furthermore, grasping its small profile is further hampered by its large and sharp rear sight. Immediate action, remedial, and refunctioning actions can be painful with the current rear sight blade configuration. This is

CZ 75 TS has larger ambidextrous thumb safeties, extremely light single-action trigger and enlarged magazine release, fore and aft slide serrations, and enlarged polymer magazine well. Stock panels are walnut, and slide stop/release can be moved to pistol's right side.



CZ 75 TS fieldstripped. Visible are link-less barrel and polymer sleeve that accommodates polymer guide rod and recoil spring. Sleeve must be removed before barrel can be lifted from slide.

not just a combat consideration, but clearing stoppages is essential for competition as well.

Considering the above design features, one may be forced to resort to the slide release. But the slide's low carriage in turn lowers the bore's axis, which substantially contributes to recoil control. And in my mind this attribute outweighs any inconvenience the rear sight profile may create. Dorsally, the slide features a flat top that is tastefully striated and, like a shotgun

rib, draws your eyes to the front sight. Its extractor is external and its ejection port, while relatively small, does work well with its tiny ejector.

LIGHT TRIGGER

My sample's trigger was a whispery light 1.5 pounds. CZ is perhaps the only factory that offers such a light lever for public consumption. I know of another manufacturer that requires customers to sign a waiver when requesting triggers 3.5 pounds and below.

With this light trigger, CZ is telling the shooting world that they trust potential customers to honestly evaluate their skill level and maturity before plunking down over a grand for the TS. But if you are not happy with the fac-

On an aesthetic level, it is a handsome piece that reminds me of the graceful and lethal dueling pistols of yore.

tory settings, you can adjust the trigger for length of pull and overtravel via two screws. The trigger guard will accept gloved hands and is hooked and checkered for the shooter who wraps his support-hand trigger finger around the guard's leading edge.

Since 9mm comes in a plethora of bullet weights and velocities, one would think adjustable sights would be *de rigueur*. Former Marine Zach Hein is CZ's go-to guy for marketing and media relations. He advised that CZ anticipated hard use and therefore embraced KISS.

Typically, competitors settle on a specific load that suits their requirements, and fine-tune the sights by using a file. Obviously, CZ has much con-

fidence in the kind of client who desires the TS. However, I find the sights a tad too large for the diverse requirements of action pistol events. The front sight has a 0.122-inch width and blocks out part of the target at longer ranges. I prefer a thinner 0.100-inch blade and smaller profile rear sight with a larger aperture. I want plenty of daylight around my front post for fast acquisition while simultaneously being adequate for headshots or eight-inch plates.

STEEL-POLYMER MARRIAGE

All metal gun traditionalists will still love the TS even though its semi-curved trigger and very thin guide rod are created from super tough polymer. Mr.



Dorsal side of slide with striations that run from rear to front sight. Striations draw shooter's eyes to the front sight.

Hein explained that the guide rod has two functions, and they have seen zero rod failures when conducting years of warranty work.

Job one is to keep the recoil spring relatively straight for constant compression, and job two is to locate the end of the spring in the frame's pocket. Furthermore, Hein advises that metal rods cause metal-on-metal friction that results in damage to the pocket of the frame. This is most evident on CZ's aluminum-frame compacts, and steel rods

Former Supervisory Federal Air Marshal and Airborne vet Ken Trice rips off a triple. His grip, developed from shooting heavier calibers, kept TS muzzle rise to a minimum.



» AMMUNITION PERFORMANCE

LOAD	VELOCITY (fps)	ACCURACY (inches)
Atlantic Marksman 74-gr. ARX	1,542	3.28
Black Hills 115-gr. JHP +P	1,327	2.86
Corbon 100-gr. Pow'R Ball	1,555	2.19
Corbon 115-gr. DPX HP	1,320	2.60
Federal HST 124-gr. JHP	1,275	2.19
G2 RIP 96-gr. HP	1,292	1.76
Hornady Steel Case Match 125-gr. HAP	1,132	1.14
HPR 85-gr. Black Ops HP	1,359	1.17
Liberty 50-gr. HP	2,192	2.17
SIG Sauer 124-gr. JHP	1,211	2.23
Speer 115-gr. TMJ	1,341	2.74
Velocity Tactics 80-gr.	1,418	.92
Winchester +P+ 115-gr. JHP	1,384	1.69
Winchester 147-gr. BJHP	1,022	2.21

Five-round groups fired from a handheld rest at 25 yards. Five-round velocity averages obtained from CED Millennium M2 chronograph with sky screens situated ten feet from muzzle. Temperature: 30 degrees.





Blade-Tech carbon-fiber Pro-Series Speed Rig for TS. Holster is Level II security, adjustable for rake, and can be belt or paddle mounted. Velocity Tactics deep-penetrating ammunition delivered sub-MOA groups. With 61 rounds of ammunition, TS is ready to handle any course of fire USPA/IPSC can create.

exert more force on frames than the polymer ones.

Friction among the guide rod, spring and slide lug will cause wear and deposit minute metal shavings into the pistol over time. The polymer guide rod avoids this kind of reaction.

The TS used to be shipped with a buffer for enthusiasts who insisted on shooting the heaviest loads. Instead Zach recommends the TS be re-sprung with a heavier recoil spring. In his experience, buffers “create their own issues, and the heavier spring will cause only a miniscule increase in muzzle dive.”

At almost 45 ounces with magazine, the CZ 75 TS is heavy by anyone’s standards. While heavy guns can reduce muzzle flip and soak up recoil, they can be a little slower out of the holster and harder to start and stop when engaging in lateral target acquisition.



Blade-Tech’s sturdy Level II drop-leg tactical holster. Made of thermoplastic, it released TS smoothly after thumb break was disengaged. Mounting plate is tapped for auxiliary pouches.

RANGE TIME

It was a beautiful day—but not good for shooting. With temperatures in the 30s exacerbated by a steady wind, fingers were numbing up and protesting against the magazine’s sharp edges and heavy, yet-to-be-broken-in springs.

Undeterred, *Top Shot All Star* William Bethards produced a 25-yard cold-bore five-round group of 1.14 inches from a handheld rest with Hornady 125-grain Steel Cased JHP Match ammo. A deep six o’clock hold was required to impact the black bull of the NRA target. In general, my sample’s fixed sights shot high and, since most action shooters like to im-

» SPECIFICATIONS

CZ 75 TACTICAL SPORT

MODEL	CZ 75 Tactical Sport
ACTION	Single-action trigger, short recoil, locked breech
CALIBERS	9x19mm, .40 S&W
CAPACITY	20 (9mm), 16 (.40 S&W)
OVERALL LENGTH	8.85 inches
OVERALL HEIGHT	5.9 inches
OVERALL WIDTH	1.77 inches
WEIGHT	(empty w/ magazine) 44.8 ounces
FRAME and SLIDE	Steel
FINISH	Two-tone
BARREL	5.4 inches
SIGHTS	Fixed target
SIGHT RADIUS	7.5 inches
SAFETIES	Ambidextrous manual, hammer drop
STOCKS	Walnut
SUGGESTED RETAIL	\$1,310.00



Pistol is shipped in an attractive padded and lockable case accompanied by three 20-round magazines, extra slide stops, magazine loading device, and nylon cleaning brush.

pact point of aim or one bullet width high at 25 yards, this TS needs a higher front sight.

We shot several newcomers that featured rather exotic bullet designs. The smallest group of 0.92 inch was delivered by Velocity Tactics ammunition. Its 80-grain solid-copper, spire-shaped, flat-pointed bullet is designed to penetrate deeply and tumble multiple times in soft tissue.

Bethards emptied a 20-round magazine of the above ammo one-handed at 75 feet. His primary group measured 1.50 inches. He "likes a heavy gun and loved its trigger in every way." He praised its ergonomics and the way the enlarged magazine well forced his hand high up into the tang. The grips perfectly aligned his trigger finger with the TS's trigger. He liked the rear sight's narrow window and thought it perfect for bullseye shooting, but it might be a little too tight for fast identification in IPSC competition.

Additionally, he considered the rear blade a bit too tall. For him, recoil was very manageable and minimally perceived. In his opinion, the TS's inherent accuracy was good, more than adequate for successful campaigning in action shooting events.

From its relatively long barrel, the highest individual velocity was achieved by Liberty +P CD 50-grain HP at 2,217 feet-per-second (fps). The TS's barrel length produced increased velocities with all rounds fired. Most rounds fired of 100 grains on up make or exceed the USPA/IPSC minor power factor of 125.

HOLSTERS

Regarding the tactical role of the TS, Blade-Tech—masters of Kydex creations—has a Level II thermoplastic security drop-leg holster in Olive Drab that fits the TS like a glove and features a mounting plate that accommodates additional pouches for magazines and other accessories. It rides high on the belt but is adjustable for length of drop and is secured to the thigh with two 1.5-inch adjustable elastic straps.

A super-snug fit, augmented by two tension screws and a thumb break strap that also blocks the cocked hammer, provides a simple but adequate degree of security. There are no extra springs, levers or hoods to contend with to liberate the firearm. I am not knocking the modern Level III rigs, but some re-

» Continued on page 88



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In the April 2011 issue of *S.W.A.T.*, I wrote about the five-day Carbine Operator Course I had attended at what was then known as Blackwater (later named U.S. Training Center). That article begins, “Blackwater has been at the center of controversy and conspiracy theories ever since Erik Prince founded the company.” More on that later.

The course was everything I could have asked for. Professional and knowledgeable instructors conducted the training, and the facilities were better than most U.S. Military bases I’ve been to. Ever since I attended that excellent course, I’ve wanted to return and receive additional training from them in other areas. Unfortunately, the company Erik Prince founded has been sold,

and is now being run by wholly new ownership under the name Academi.

When my friend Kevin Lippert of Jericho Defense enrolled in the Academi Precision Rifle course, I decided to return with him to Moyock, North Carolina to see how the company has changed over the years. I was pleased to see it is still focused on high-quality training for professional agencies and responsible citizens.

I half expected the new owners to reduce or eliminate training available to citizens, but they haven’t. It’s pretty obvious with the name and focus of the marketing material that they’re trying to reinvent the facility while distancing themselves from the name Blackwater. But they’re not retreating, they’re attempting to make a good thing even better.

PRECISION RIFLE I

Precision Rifle I is a three-day course that teaches the fundamentals of operating a rifle meant for precision and distances that are beyond the capability of most weapons and shooters. I am not a stranger to the precision rifle. I picked up a Remington 700P back in 2008 and put about 2,000 rounds through it in a little over two years. I became fairly proficient with it and even shot it at distances over half a mile on a couple of occasions.

In recent years, I’ve shot less and less, and time available to handload ammunition and visit the range has decreased. So the opportunity to attend the Precision Rifle class at Academi with Kevin meant I could both reacquaint myself with the precision rifle and revisit an amazing training facility.

FROM THE ASHES OF BLACKWATER

Academi Precision Rifle I

BY TONY ALBAGELI



Upon arriving at Academi, I could not help but compare the facility to how it looked when it was owned by Erik Prince under the Blackwater name. The aircraft hangars were still there, but gone were the helicopters and the massive Blackwater sign from the façade.

The road and off-road driving courses were quiet. The canine facilities were empty. There were some firing ranges in use, but overall the facility seemed much less busy than in the past. All the amenities that made Blackwater such a great facility for warfighters were still there, and even improved, but where were the students?

TRAINING DAY ONE

The first day began with a few hours in the classroom going over fundamentals. The lead instructor was a Canadian Armed Forces veteran, Billy Solares. In fact, two Canadian military vets trained our class. Billy's presentations were well polished and the concepts presented in a way that our extremely diverse group could grasp.

Our group of 22 students came from all walks of life, including military and private citizens, six dentists (think about that the next time you're having your grill worked on), and one female Marine. Experience among participants was just as diverse. Some folks rented Academi rifles and purchased ammunition there. Others brought custom rifles and handloaded ammunition.



Instructor George Fretwell spots for Jericho Defense founder Kevin Lippert during basic spotter instruction.

Below: Instructors pop smoke to illustrate effects of wind.





Above: Kevin Lippert takes aim at targets from 100-yard mark.

Right: Solares goes over fundamentals on TD1.

Below: Instructor George Fretwell makes corrections to author's form.



Much of that first classroom day was spent going over proper use of optics. Parallax was covered in detail throughout the course and proved to be a major factor in my own shooting. I had always been taught to adjust parallax so the target was clear, and that was good enough.

But the instructors taught us that in order to properly eliminate as much parallax as possible, you have to adjust your parallax knob (if so equipped) so the target shifts as little as possible when you move your head while looking through the scope, then you adjust your focus knob to clear up the image

and recheck parallax. So here I was on TD1, already pleasantly surprised to be learning new things and clearing up old misconceptions.

We hit the range after lunch and were split up into four-man groups with one instructor per group. Our group instructor was veteran law enforcement officer George Fretwell, who paid close attention to our form and made some significant corrections to my own.

We spent the first afternoon in our "laboratory" at the 100-yard mark. At this distance, wind has very little effect on your groups, so it's a good place to nail down fundamentals and identify equipment issues. George kept having to correct my bad habits as they returned from time to time.

My biggest issue was that I thought I was lying directly behind the rifle, but in fact I was lying at an angle behind the rifle. This can push the rifle in one direction or cause you to overcompensate and pull shots in the other direction. Either way, it is best to lie

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GRU00



Precision Rifle class on the 100-yard line at Academi's long rifle range. Students worked their way to the 1,000-yard marker.

directly behind the rifle and as flat to the ground as possible. Having someone there to watch your form helps identify problems that you could not otherwise see. The old saying applies here: Can't see the forest for the trees.

TRAINING DAY TWO

TD2 started back in the classroom discussing more advanced concepts, including bullet jump, chamber and bore construction, and the molecular mass of air. Throughout the classroom portions, Billy kept the class well informed of the day's events and whetted our appetites with the possibility of shooting 1,000 yards on the final day, if we were up to it. We were also told a competition would start off TD3.

After lunch, we met back on the range and began working on our dope for longer distances. Billy explained that as the distance to the target increases, groups elongate horizontally due to the wind having a greater impact on groups

than distance or the shooter's ability. Billy and the other instructors helped fine-tune shooters to read the wind and gave basic instruction on how to spot for each other.

TRAINING DAY THREE

TD3 began on the range with the promised competition, which started with a cold-bore shot. We gradually increased distances and measured to see who had the tightest groups overall.

This kind of competition is a friendly way to challenge students and confirm all that had been taught. In the end, we did shoot at 1,000 yards, and although at that range there were a lot fewer hits, it was still the most fun part of the course. By the end of TD3, shooters and spotters were working well together and remarking about how much they had learned.

Throughout the course, all the instructors were very professional and proved to be a wealth of knowledge. One

instructor shared his favorite books with the class and the dentists shared stories that nobody else understood. The students coalesced, built camaraderie, and had a genuinely good time.

The class itself was fairly fast paced, with little to no down time or waiting. A three-day course is too short to waste time, especially with this subject. But at no point did we feel overly rushed or pushed.

With all the varying backgrounds in attendance and all the juggling of topics that must have occurred among the instructors, the class could have felt disjointed and disorganized. It never did. Academi may be a new facility, but the thing that made Blackwater so successful—the top-notch instructors—is still there. Underneath the new face beats the same strong heart.

ACADEMI AND BLACKWATER

I kept comparing the new with the old and even returned to my previous *S.W.A.T.* article as a reference. Despite the fact that the facility was less busy, it was actually a better experience the second time around. One of these days, the right agency will realize what a tremendous resource Academi is, and they're going to make the facility very busy again.

As Kevin and I left the facility for the last time, we witnessed a mother black bear and her cubs walking along the edge of a field. I was reminded of the Blackwater bear-paw emblem that became a symbol of courage and a lightning rod for the powerful and ignorant elitists who attacked Blackwater over the years.

Even now I see false news reports of "Blackwater agents" supposedly having a hand in the unfortunate circumstances in Ukraine, Syria and elsewhere.



Solares explains basics of being a spotter.



Right: Lead Instructor Billy Solares reads students' groups and provides feedback.

Blackwater doesn't exist, and hasn't for years, but the media can't stop spewing lies and misinformation.

The fact that Blackwater augmented our nation's military and saved innocent lives to include our own servicemen and women is woefully absent in the media. When the haters grow frustrated at their failed attempts to mar our military, they start throwing punches at ghosts. That's what happens when you have people ignorant of military operations and affairs giving reports about military operations and affairs.

The media isn't going to stop its senseless crusade against our military or Blackwater, but the bears at Moyock haven't gone anywhere. They're waiting for you to pay them a visit.

Whether you're part of a government agency or a private citizen practitioner of the arts, you'll be very satisfied with the quality of instruction and facilities given at Academi. The instructors are humble professionals working hard to provide the good guys with the skills they want and need.

My hat's off to them. ☺



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STEP ASIDE, J-FRAME

Make Way for the Smith & Wesson Shield

BY ETHAN JOHNS



M&P Shield strikes a wide appeal as a comfortable pistol for those with small hands. It's small enough to conceal and not be intimidating to casual shooters, but large enough to shoot well as a serious backup.

Shooters may have noticed that the Smith & Wesson Shield is making serious inroads into the market lately. Since the nationwide explosion in concealed carry began, the .38 Special five-shot revolver—best represented by the S&W 642 Airweight—has been the lead offering from the firm for backup and concealment. The small “J” frame designation is nearly synonymous with the utilization.

In the space of a few short years, the Shield has begun to seriously challenge that. I was slow to warm up to the latest M&P auto, already content with the M&P9C for most of my applications. Recently this changed as I began to see the Shield not as a replacement for the 9c, but more as a direct competitor to the snub. And it started to make a lot of sense.

BUT I THOUGHT ...

Shooters are often surprised to learn that the 9mm packs more energy than the .38 in most compact-appropriate loads. Some have trouble accepting this, the perception that the .38 is more powerful being so firmly implanted. When the .38 S&W Special debuted in 1898, it was met with enthusiasm by regular shooters and law enforcement alike.

The 9mm Luger, on the other hand, was somewhat of a curiosity on these shores until the Smith & Wesson Model 39 and other American pistols began to slowly legitimize it for U.S. shooters in the 1960s. The 9mm was mired in emotional comparisons to the service .45 ACP, and many shooters grew up with the impression that the cartridge is “weak.”

A visual comparison with the fairly large blackpowder-era .38 Special cartridge adds to the illusion. Many shooters hold a mental block that sees the .38 as more effective than the 9mm. Out of the 1 7/8th inches of a J-Frame

barrel, the .38 simply loses in direct comparisons with the 9mm out of even the stubby Shield barrel. The Velocity Comparison chart on page 73 shows identical bullet weights tilting as much as 150 feet-per-second (fps) faster from



It's not the size of the dog in the fight, it's the size of the fight in the dog. Larger .38 Special +P Flextip is actually lighter and 22 fps slower than non +P but higher-pressure 9mm 115-grain Critical Defense load.

the 9mm than the snub nose .38.

This is not to say a .38 *isn't* powerful or is a poor choice. It is thoroughly proven, and even the gentle 148-grain target wadcutter is fully capable of stopping a fight if placed properly.

The point of the matter is that in most direct comparisons, the short-barreled Shield is launching more energy at velocities more beneficial to modern bullet performance than the snubbie. The bonus is that, while doing this, it is also significantly easier for many shooters to hit with.

HITTING

The J-Frame .38 is almost legendary for its difficulty to shoot well. It *can* be shot well, but it takes work to acquire the necessary skill. I find that even then it requires regular sustainment to keep a fine edge on that skill—more so than keeping a comparable skill level with the compact auto. For those not willing to put in the time and effort, the snubbie loses effective yardage quickly.



M&P Shield is at point of overtaking venerable J-Frame Airweight snubbie for many shooters as go-to backup or off-duty gun.

As an anecdotal observation, I believe the average shooter gains as much as ten yards of range to solid hits with the compact auto relative to the J.

Coming at the problem warmed up and well prepared, I shot both the .38 and the M&P Shield on one of my favorite accuracy drills. The shooter engages a standard B8 25-yard bull from that distance with five shots from the ready in 20 seconds (timed fire cadence) and then five shots from the ready in ten seconds (rapid fire cadence). The time pressure gives a great sense of what the shooter can produce on demand at two levels of practical cadence.

As a baseline, anything over 90 is solid performance from a service handgun. I shot the J with Hornady 110-grain Critical Defense loads, which are both accurate and well regulated to the sights in this revolver. I felt pretty confident in timed fire, dropping only six points with most of the shots in the 5.5-inch bull. The rapid fire was challenging, taking the full ten seconds to cycle the DA trigger and bear down on the tiny sights. I dropped ten points there

for a total of 84; a total of eight within the eight-inch "8" ring and two on the 10x10-inch repair center paper. Overall, very satisfactory performance from a snubie.

Next I loaded the shorter magazine for the Shield with the 115-grain Hornady loads. This was my first run with the pistol on this drill. The timed fire group went into a well-centered 2.2-inch group all in the black and all right on call. The rapid fire tore three more holes in the ten ring and slipped two out of the bull for a total of 93.

Eight of ten in a baseball-sized group in the black would be good performance from any pistol from 25 yards, but as a first attempt from a pocket class 9mm? I was pleased. The pistol can clearly shoot, but I was more impressed with how *easy* it was to shoot. The Shield gave up very little, if anything measurable, in practical accuracy to its M&P9C cousin.

ZING

Outside of practical accuracy, the next matter is the relative recoil of the back-

ups. I've discussed J-Frame recoil previously (*TAMING THE SHREW: Coping With J-Frame Recoil*, November 2014 *S.W.A.T.*) and how it can affect follow-up shots. The unpleasant smacking the palm and web of the thumb take from Airweight recoil is a poor match to the most effective .38 loads and scare away many a shooter from meaningful practice.

For a measurable comparison, I shot the M&P Shield on the same ten-yard rack of eight-inch steel plates I had used to measure recovery with the J-Frame. Recoil translates into additional time to recover the handgun onto the next vital-sized steel plate at a distance that demands deliberate aim.

The 642 tumbled plates at .67-second intervals with the 110-grain Hornady +Ps. Stepping up to the 135-grain +P Gold Dots brought average recovery to the next shot to three quarters of a second, along with distinctly more "thump" into the hand.

The M&P Shield topped off with 115-grain Hornadys cleared the rack with .47-second plate-to-plate splits.



Shield and its M&P9C cousin.



Shooter can choose two-fingered grip and eight rounds or full firing grasp and nine rounds. Extended magazine gives superior hold to what is available on M&P9C.

Recoil impulse was quick but without any excessive “flip” and not at all unpleasant. I believe any adult without injury could fire the Shield with this standard-pressure load with little fanfare.

The 9mm 135-grain +P added only .06 second to recovery, averaging .53 second. I had expected a more significant difference between the two loads, but the little auto handles recoil very well, particularly with the extended magazine in place. Recapping, this puts a much faster 135-grain slug down-range at a .22-second advantage to the

snubnose.

I’m somewhat of a J-Frame fan, so perhaps more telling than my results was watching other shooters. Shooters who struggled to hit plates at all with the Airweight .38 were reliably ringing steel with the Shield at an acceptable cadence.

For those more concerned with a single-target, multiple-shot scenario, both handguns were timed against an eight-inch circle at the traditional seven yards for three shots from the ready. The Airweight averaged 1.67 seconds with

the 110-grain loads. But as I pushed the speed, I dropped the third shot just out of the circle more often than not. Slowing to anchor, all three tick-tocked at about 1.85 seconds.

The Shield was extremely controllable at speed, averaging 1.38 seconds to solid hits. This reflected two poor runs where the little pistol just didn’t press out as smoothly into center or track as well, and these “bad runs” were about equal to my “best” on the J-Frame. The most common result with the Shield registered 1.17 seconds.

The Shield is surprisingly easy to run hard, especially with standard-pressure loads. The difference in performance between the subcompact Shield and a full-size service pistol is not as significant as the difference in size would suggest.

MATH

With the most important aspect, performance, out of the way, math is instructive. The J-Frame holds five shots, the Shield eight or nine total depending on magazine. The Shield weighs in at 19 ounces empty, similar to a classic all-steel snubnose like the Model 36, where the Airweight rides empty at 15 ounces.

Many people pocket carry or wear a Shield in an ankle holster with no concern. But just as many are uncomfortable at that weight and will be happier at the 15-ounce level in these carry modes. It is a personal trial-and-error situation.

Where the Shield truly shines is in thinness—a scant .95-inch across. Looking at it side by side with an M&P9C and a J-Frame really gives an appreciation for how slim that is. This feature sets it apart for inside-the-waistband carry, where its light weight and thinness allow it to ride comfort-

» VELOCITY COMPARISON

S&W 642, .38 SPECIAL	S&W SHIELD, 9MM	S&W M&P9C, 9MM
110-gr. Hornady FTX: 905 fps	115-gr. Hornady FTX: 1,021 fps	115-gr. Hornady FTX: 1,135 fps
130-gr. Winchester Defender: 773 fps	124-gr. Black Hills JHP: 1,164 fps	124-gr. Black Hills JHP: 1,190 fps
135-gr. +P Speer Gold Dots: 884 fps	135-gr. Hornady FTX: 912 fps	135-gr. Hornady FTX: 981 fps
148-gr. Winchester wadcutter: 657 fps	147-gr. Hornady XTP: 916 fps	147-gr. Hornady XTP: 936 fps
Average of five shots taken at ten feet from the muzzle.		

ably and disappear with a good holster. The same can be said of nearly any pistol with the right gunbelt and holster, but the Shield is exceptionally forgiving in this area.

I carry the M&P9C quite a bit and have no trouble concealing it, but with some clothing combinations, its thickness causes it to print slightly. In these situations, the Shield disappears. The Shield is very forgiving for first-time concealed-carry users who haven't yet mastered all the subtleties that allow for effective concealment.

In the past, many shooters stepped

down to a J-Frame for off-duty or concealed use with some reservations about its capacity and their ability to run it well when they couldn't dress around a larger handgun. The Shield answers this niche well, concealing as well as or better than the snub on the beltline.

DOWNSIDE

To this point, it may sound as if the Shield has it all over the J-Frame and maybe even its M&P9C stablemates. But there is one area I do have some concern with: manipulation of the weapon. When Smith & Wesson got

the Shield to its impressive thinness and compact overall size, there were sacrifices, specifically the depth of the grasping grooves in the slide and the strength of the recoil spring. It is significantly more difficult to cycle the slide on the Shield than on an M&P9C or full-size pistol. In fact, I find it takes attentive effort to cycle and is downright difficult to lock the slide back.

This has implications for the less experienced buyer, particularly if they carry or store it with a filled magazine inserted and chamber empty. For most users, this is an occasional hindrance

DRILL	S&W 642 .38 SPL	S&W M&P SHIELD 9MM
Average recovery to 8-inch plate/ 10 yards	110-gr. +P FTX: .67 second	115-gr. FTX: .47 second
Average recovery to 8-inch plate /10 yards	135-gr. +P GDHP: .75 second	135-gr. +P FTX: .53 second
3 shots to 8 inches/7 yards	110-gr. +P FTX: 1.67 seconds	115-gr. FTX: 1.38 seconds
5 shots timed fire + 5 shots rapid fire to B8 at 25 yards	84 seconds	93 seconds



Shield's timed runs on steel plates averaged almost a quarter second per shot faster to recover than .38 J-Frame.



Looking at the Airweight (top right) and M&P9C (bottom right) shows how remarkably thin the Shield is.

that just requires attention and effort while at the range or loading the pistol for carry or ready access.

I genuinely wonder how effectively the average person with lower percentile hand strength can manipulate the little pistol. In this respect, there is no strength required to unlatch the cylinder on the 642 and poke .38s into the chambers to prepare it for action.

APPEAL

The Shield seems to have a universal appeal as an unobtrusive defensive weapon that we haven't really seen in generations—the non-intimidating yet easy-to-shoot concealed/backup/sock-drawer gun. The last massively popular example that jumps out is the Colt pocket hammerless .32. The J-Frame has always had a dedicated following, but how many of the beginners who buy one shoot more than a cylinder or two before deciding it's best left in the closet loaded for emergencies and not shot?

Likewise, I've seen many people

hesitate to purchase a service handgun, put off somehow by its size and "footprint," despite its being ideal for their stated needs. I've noticed quite a few of these shooters eagerly embrace the Shield. It seems to have found the sweet spot in size, where it is pleasant to shoot, easy to conceal, and gives an adequate grasp, but is small enough to slip into a glovebox, drawer, or other. There's a magic in that combination that's not immediately apparent to the hardcore shooter.

One shooter I know has examples of a wide range of effective fighting handguns in the safe. His house gun? A Shield. He recently answered a call from a neighbor whose alarm was going off. He didn't grab the 1911 or the high-capacity 9mm. He slipped the Shield into his back pocket and did a walk-around of the house in question.

This is a unique attribute of the subcompact Shield. Many people naturally resist answering an unexpected sound outside or knock at the door with a six-inch .357, even if something doesn't

seem right. They seem comfortable with the Shield.

On the other end of the spectrum, I've noticed quite a few high-end experienced and talented associates migrating to the Shield, some up from a J-Frame and others down from the M&P compacts or larger pistols. The ease of concealment, combined with decent capacity and excellent shooting characteristics, has a powerful allure.

The Shield seems poised to be the J-Frame for this generation. ☺

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SMITH & WESSON

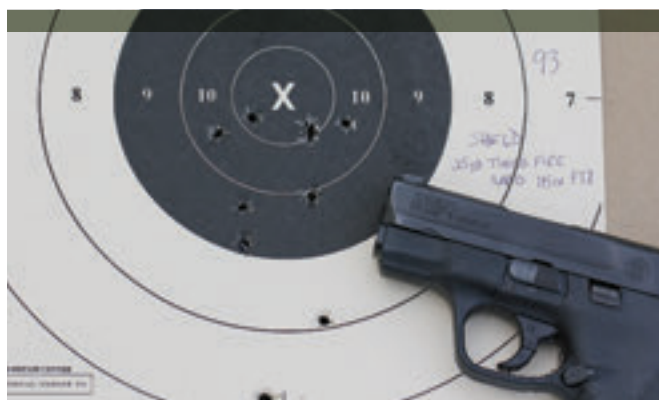
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Above: M&P Shield is exceptionally easy to shoot for its size, as this 25-yard combination of five shots each in 20 and 10 seconds shows.

Left: Snub .38 can be shot acceptably well at 25 yards, but skill required and effort to sustain it are difficult for many owners.

HANDLOADING SUBSONIC AMMO

Is It Worth It?

BY DAVE MORELLI

PHOTOS BY SARA NORMAN

Suppressors have become extremely popular, and more folks are reaping the benefits of suppressed shooting. They are so popular a push has begun to take them off the NFA list of regulated weapons.

In my opinion, they never should have been put on that list to begin with. I know—they were put there to keep bloodthirsty assassins from committing horrible murders undetected, and it has done much to keep these crimes in Hollywood movies and not on our streets. (I hope you took that as sarcasm.)

Truth be told, suppressors do just that, suppress the fast-moving gasses that cause the bang when the gun is fired. They don't silence the bang to an undetectable level, so silencer is an incorrect term. Silencers don't exist in the real world, only in the movies. Subsonic ammo quiets the weapon even more, but at the cost of other benefits.

One reason the sound is not completely suppressed—especially in rifles—is the sonic “crack” that is heard as the bullet breaks the sound barrier. The magic speed is just under 1,100

feet-per-second (fps). If the bullet exceeds this speed, there will be a crack.

CALIBERS, VELOCITIES AND SOUND

Suppressed pistols are much quieter than rifles because most of them are already traveling subsonic and the .22 pistol is *really* quiet. The .22 is the most popular because it can be used to eliminate pests (non-human) in a suburban environment without causing a stir.

High-velocity .22 Long Rifle runs out at about 1,200+ fps. Remington High Velocity runs around 1,280. Standard-velocity .22 is mostly already subsonic. Wolf Match Grade .22 ammo leaves the barrel at 1,050 fps. It is very accurate and works the Ruger 10-22 semi-auto action. As the velocity is Standard, it functions—at least theoretically—in all .22 rifles and pistols for long rifle loads.

I tried some Remington Subsonic ammo, which is really quiet, but it sometimes does not run the semi-auto. As velocity and pressure decrease, so does the ability to run the action.

It is much like using longs, shorts, or CB caps in the semi-auto—they shoot

Subsonic rounds performed well in the bolt gun, but high-velocity rounds were adequate in the sound department without all the challenges of subsonic.



fine but don't work the actions. I use these in semi-auto guns on my trapline because they don't pass through the animal creating an exit wound, but I have to manually run the action.

We cannot reload .22 Long Rifle like we can our larger calibers, but we can reload for subsonic results. Here I specifically discuss the .223, as there are other excellent calibers that were designed to be used with subsonic ammo.

MISSION: SUBSONIC .223

The .223 was designed with the intention to move a small bullet fast. My



Velocity target was 1,050 fps. Chronograph indicated when a load had unacceptable reading velocities, which varied over 100 fps from shot-to-shot of a specific load.

efforts were to get a .223 subsonic load. I have loaded subsonic rounds and they are really quiet in an AR-platform rifle, but they have some downsides, the major one being they will not work the action at subsonic speeds. I tried several loads and some failed miserably in that they wouldn't work the action even after they were well above the sound barrier velocity.

Before I get into specific loads, I must mention there are some real horror stories from others working with subsonic loads through their suppres-



Even though I didn't find a subsonic load that will cycle the AR action in .223, I did come up with some good subsonic loads for my bolt gun.

sors—both factory and handloads. A few guys had projectiles get stuck in their suppressors or hit the sides going through, causing damage. I did not experience anything bad, but if you start down this path, understand there could be problems. I take no responsibility for misuse of this information. You might even come to the conclusion that subsonic ammo is not worth the effort.

PISTOL POWDERS

Titegroup

I started with Titegroup powder. All these loads were shooting a Nosler 80-grain .22 bullet through a 1:7 twist AR-platform rifle with 16-inch barrel. My thought was the heavy bullet and shorter barrel would aid in reducing velocity mechanically.

I started with 5.4 grains of Titegroup because my Dillon was throwing that for loading my .45 ACP. Hodgdon publishes a subsonic load for Titegroup starting just under this charge, and I found it would go sonic with just a few more grains.

It was definitely quiet and I judged accuracy at this point of experimentation by trying to hit an eight-inch plate at 25 yards. Some loads I tried would not hit the steel. If I found one I liked, I put it on paper to see how it performed. It passed the first tests of hitting the plate and being quiet, but would not cycle the AR action. I ran some tests on paper and it was reasonable, shooting about a one-inch group at 25 yards. Titegroup turned out to be one of the best powders for subsonic loads, though.

It was bothersome to load a rifle case with small amounts of pistol powder, because as we all know, rifle cartridges are more accurate with a charge that most nearly fills the case. The Titegroup was designed to load small amounts in large pistol cases like .45 Colt.

Trail Boss

That brought me to the next try: Trail Boss. This powder is extremely fluffy in its donut shape and should fill the case more with a small charge. It did, but I wasn't impressed with its accuracy and it also went sonic long before the action cycled.

I was beginning to think there wasn't going to be an answer to the cycling problem, but I had a cabinet full of powders to try—both rifle and pistol. I also was testing the loads in a bolt gun with a threaded barrel suppressed with the same unit that was on my AR.

With that set-up, the only things I was looking for were accuracy and subsonic velocity. The bolt gun has a 1:8 twist barrel, so I believed the 80-grain Nosler should perform well. I built the gun with the fast twist so it could handle the heavier .22 bullets. I loaded a couple and shot them until I found the subsonic load on the chronograph, then loaded a couple more to see how accurate they were. Once they passed all these tests, I'd see if they would cycle the action. It was tedious, as I shot them through the AR to know immediately whether they would cycle the action.

Others

Other pistol powders I tried were 2400, Unique, Blue Dot, and Red Dot. They all sent subsonic loads, but also broke the sonic speed before working the action. Some of them sent the bolt carrier back but did not strip a fresh round. Some pushed the bolt back a little and closed again with the empty case. Sometimes the action was not worked enough to even cock the hammer.

Of the pistol powders, the Titegroup



Nosler 80-grain bullet and Titegroup performed best with subsonic velocities but would not work the AR action.

gave me the best results of a subsonic load, though my super-duper semi-auto was reduced to a single shot. The rounds were really quiet, and the 80-grain Nosler bullet gave targets a good wallop out to 100 yards.

RIFLE POWDERS

The first rifle powder I tried was IMR 4064, because I was in the process of loading some .308 cartridges and it was easy to weigh. I started with 11 grains and it locked the bolt back but also was supersonic. I loaded rounds slowly reducing the charge, and 10 grains was subsonic but wouldn't work the action. I did this with a variety of IMR and Hodgdon powders with the same results, not enough pop to work the bolt. Of all the powders I tried, the IMR 4064 was the closest to getting good results.

These were all slower-burning extruded powders, so I tried Winchester 748, which was very inconsistent in regard to velocities. Sometimes the velocity changed from round to round, going subsonic to supersonic on the chronograph. I started with 12 grains and reduced it to 11.1 and it was still supersonic and would not operate the bolt.



Some Nosler bullets author worked with. The 80-grain performed the best at low velocities.

Some of the many powders author used to work up loads. Metal can of IMR 4198 has been on the shelf a while.



MECHANICAL SOLUTIONS

I was starting to think I wouldn't get the results I was looking for. Some loads could be developed to an acceptable subsonic load but didn't develop enough pressure to work the bolt carrier. Two mechanical fixes I tried were putting a low-mass bolt carrier in the gun to see if the reduced weight would help, and a reduced spring, since some loads moved the bolt partway. I went to my trusty Brownell's catalog for some answers.

Several manufacturers produce low-mass carriers. I went with the JP Enterprises brand because it was the lightest of all selections in the Brownell's catalog. I loaded the charges that came close to cycling the bolt at subsonic speeds to see if the lighter mass functioned. It didn't solve the cycling problem with subsonic loads, but it functioned fantastically with standard loads. If you are going to a low-mass bolt carrier for one of the benefits they offer, I recommend the JP Enterprises.

Extreme Shock advertises subsonic .223 loads that function and cycle an AR action. An online retailer told me the factory stuff he had in stock would not cycle an AR action. He had some Extreme Shock ammo that he'd

sold out of, but several of his customers were having problems cycling their actions with it. It seems there is no solution to quieting down the .223 AR with subsonic ammo and still have a semi-auto.

HUNTING APPLICATIONS

I have been calling and shooting coyotes in tight areas around ranches and livestock and wanted to get quieter shooting so as not to disturb people living on the ranches. When I shoot, it is in a safe direction in relation to people and livestock, but to a person hearing the shot from inside the house—not knowing who shot it and from where—it can be disturbing. The suppressor solves this problem, as the residents don't hear it and it doesn't rile up livestock. Many times when two coyotes come in, the second doesn't notice the shot unless he sees movement.

Suppressed shots are plenty quiet for this, even with high-velocity rounds. When I was hunting coyotes this season, just as I set up and started calling, some elk hunters came down the road on their four wheelers to load them on their truck.

Thinking it futile to continue calling with all this commotion, I did it anyway.

To my surprise, a coyote appeared at 20 yards. He spooked off and I grounded him at about 120 yards. By the time I retrieved the coyote and walked back to the truck, the hunting party was driving by on the road. The conversation indicated they were looking right at me when I shot but didn't hear a thing. That's adequate performance out of a suppressor without going subsonic.

I hunt with a bolt gun, so subsonic rounds that won't cycle a bolt in an AR are of no consequence, but for hunting I don't see any real reason to use them, as they reduce your range and performance. In the AR in a defensive situation, the slower small bullet won't be as good a fight stopper because the .223 gets its power from velocity.

CONCLUSIONS

Other than the fact that having a Hollywood silencer that would cycle the action on an AR would be cool, I can't see any functional advantage worth the drawbacks and chance of damaging the suppressor. Even though I didn't find a subsonic load that will cycle the AR action in .223, I did come up with some good subsonic loads for my bolt gun. I just couldn't find a use for them with the disadvantages that come with subsonic.

If an individual needs to shoot subsonic AR loads, one would do better to start with a .30-caliber cartridge like the .300 Whisper/Blackout cartridges that were purposely designed for suppressed use. ☺

Dave Morelli retired from the Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department, where his duties included being a Patrol and Field Training Officer as well as a member of the LVMPD SWAT team both as an operator and sniper.



[Caveat: Since S.W.A.T. has no control over reloading practices or equipment used, this article should be used for information purposes only. S.W.A.T. assumes no liability for accidents or injuries that may occur by using loads in this article.]

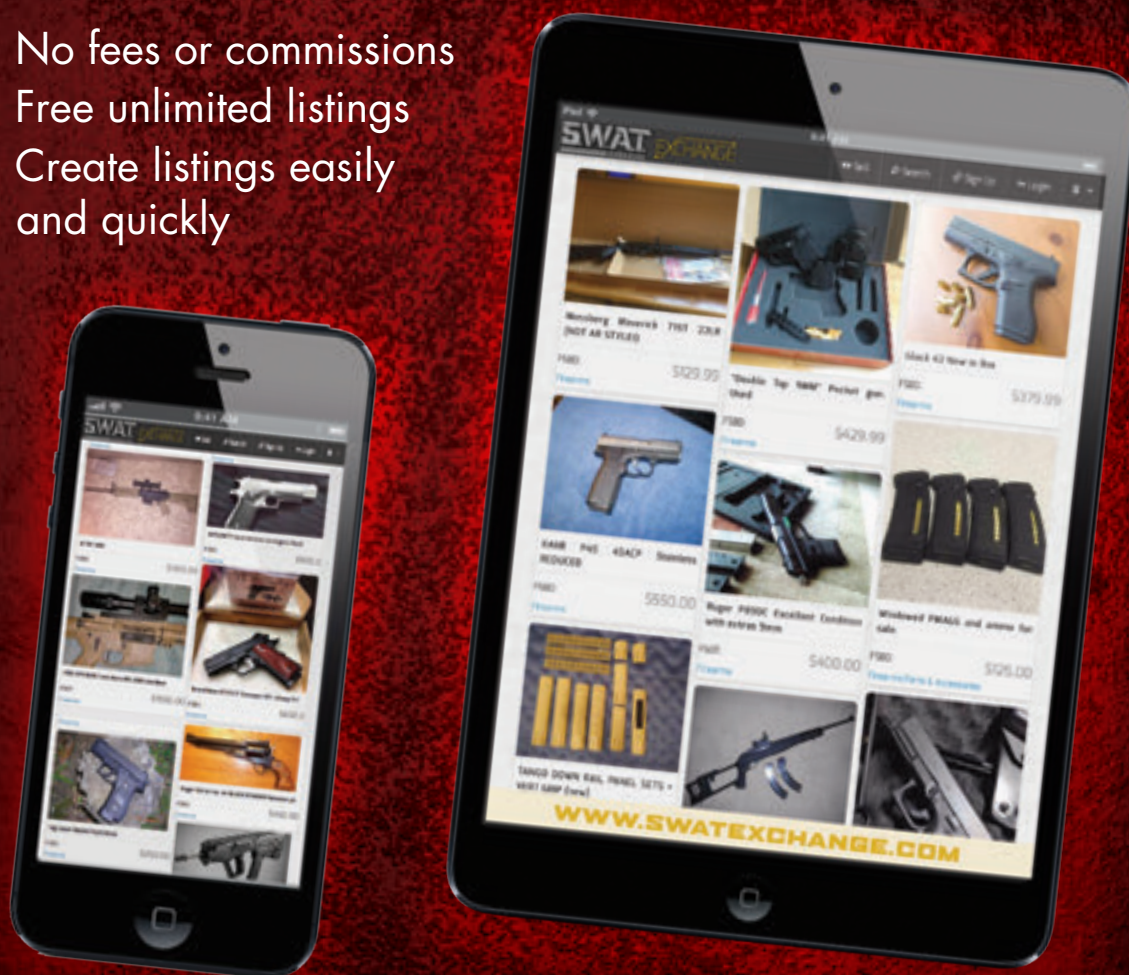


Author loaded a few rounds of a specific weight powder, then went outside and tested them on the chronograph. Tedious, but having a range out back made it easier.

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LEVEL PLAYING FIELD

BY PAUL VUNAK

PHOTOS BY JAMES ESPOSITO

Instantaneous Asymmetrical Violence



I

From a distance of 21 feet, the detective has 1.5 seconds to respond to an attack from an assailant.

More than 25 years ago, then-Sergeant Dennis Tueller of the Salt Lake City Police Department determined that an attacker with a knife could cover 21 feet in approximately 1.5 seconds. Since then there have been many articles written and countless debates regarding what has become known as the Tueller Drill.

The fact remains that the ability to draw your firearm, shoot and stop an attacker wielding a knife or other weapon and coming at you aggressively from 21 feet or less is extremely difficult, if not impossible. The key to this debate is not being able to get a shot off, but stopping the aggressor prior to a serious or fatal blow from a lethal weapon.

CLOSE QUARTERS BATTLE

Countless studies have shown that most serious confrontations on the street occur within a distance of ten feet or less. Today, many law enforcement agencies and departments have been focusing on close quarters battle training to address this

problem. Simply put, you may not have time to deploy your weapon fast enough in a life and death scenario.

Many CCW permit holders have had extensive training in gun safety, shooting from the Isosceles or Weaver stance at a target, shooting on the move, drawing from concealment, doing quick magazine changes, and clearing malfunctions. Although very proficient at handling a firearm, they may lack the necessary skill sets to deal with a lethal attack at close quarters.

This article will deal with the most difficult situation: Being charged and taken to the ground in a lethal attack situation before you have a chance to draw your firearm. The attacker may be much larger and stronger than you.

And even if you possess a high level of ground fighting skills, you need both hands to protect your sidearm, thus nullifying most of your firearm techniques. The situation is further complicated if you are worried about protecting a loved one as you are taken down to the ground.

How can you level the playing field against an attacker who is much larger, stronger and more skilled? Know how to cheat. Techniques such as biting and eye gouging can give you the edge and time you need to get the attacker off you to draw your firearm, get to your feet, or run. Think about what happens in a mixed martial arts or boxing match when someone gets poked in the eye or bitten: the referee stops the fight to give the fighter time to recover. There is no referee in a street encounter to allow someone to recover.

When someone is on top of you, throwing a barrage of punches at your face or trying to stab you, drawing a weapon from concealment is not an option. Prior to deploying your firearm, you need to deal with the attack. Trying to remember complicated moves while under extreme stress does not work. Keep it simple and effective.

INSTANTANEOUS ASYMMETRICAL VIOLENCE

The cutting-edge key to this dilemma is a principle called instantaneous asymmetrical violence: attacking the eyes and groin and evoking a little-known but lethal martial art called Kino Mutai (the Filipino art of biting and eye gouging). This is the quickest way to get your attacker off you and give you the appropriate distance to draw your firearm and get to your feet.

This asymmetrical combat is much more ubiquitous than the average pedestrian would ever know. It has been taught to the highest levels of specialized government agencies and spec war ops, including, but not limited to, the Department of Defense and U.S. Navy SEALs DEV Group (SEAL Team 6). One can become fairly proficient at this in a short amount of training time.

The best technique to use against a lethal ground attack is a hybrid of Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu and the aforementioned Kino Mutai. After countless years of training, I have found that when a stronger, skilled opponent attempts to tackle you to

2

Detective attempts to draw gun and fire while being charged with a knife from 21 feet.



3

Assailant begins to take detective to the ground.



4

Detective fights off assailant after being taken to the ground.



5

Detective pulls assailant into Brazilian Jiu Jitsu guard position. While wrapping and locking his legs behind the assailant, he controls the head with a figure-four headlock.

6

Detective uses art of Kino Mutai against assailant by gouging assailant's eye with his thumb while still controlling the head.

7

Assailant attempts to pull back after Kino Mutai eye gouge and bite. Detective creates space by using his legs to kick assailant off.

the ground, it's better to flow with the tackle rather than fight it. In some cases, it may happen so fast you might find yourself on the ground with an opponent on top of you.

As the attacker wraps his arms around you, simply lie back and wrap your legs around his waist. This tried and true position used in Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu is called the guard and has been employed for the last 20 years in the UFC—the ultimate proving ground.

From this guard position, wrap your arms around the opponent's neck in what looks like a simple choke and, with your top thumb, evoke the deadly art of Kino Mutai and simultaneously gouge the attacker's eyeball. Continue to hold on tight and gouge the eye to make him want to get off you. A light poke and quick release will just annoy him.

His visceral reaction 999 out of 1,000 times is to fly off you as if he were grabbing a hot stove and then hold on to the injured eyeball, screaming in agony (he's not thinking of you going for your sidearm in light of this intense pain). This gives you time to kick him off and draw your weapon from a seated position or get back to your feet.

IN CLOSING

This guard and eye gouge move is just one example of instantaneous asymmetrical violence. After thousands of hours of hands-on training over decades, the only techniques I can guarantee will neutralize an aggressor under such extreme

conditions are asymmetrical techniques: attacking the eyes, groin, and a specialized form of biting.

Key training points are: hardwire these moves slowly hundreds of times before going full speed, and make sure your training partner wears protective goggles to avoid injury. ©

[Editor's Note: It is impossible to become proficient at any self-defense technique by reading about it. Just as with firearms training, it is incumbent upon the individual to seek out reputable instructors and then continue to hone their skill sets. Dedicated practice and training go a long way toward creating the desired outcome in the real world.]

Paul Vunak is president of Progressive Fighting Systems, headquartered in Mission Viejo, California. Paul has more than 30 years' experience training military, law enforcement and civilians, including the U.S. Navy SEALs DEV Group, DoD, DEA and FBI.

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8

Detective takes advantage of space created when kicking assailant off, draws his weapon, and fires.

Training with a Classic

+ Continued from page 32

well to the expected precision as distance and points of contact decrease, the basis of the next drill.

Drill: 100-Yard Aggregate

Shooter engages B8 with ten rounds from the carbine in 60 seconds each from prone at 100 yards, sitting at 75, kneeling at 50, and standing at 25. Nirvana is 40 shots in the black.

The 100-yard agg is attributed to certain units, was popularized by Viking Tactics, and is widely used in numerous training programs. Several variations exist, one of the more common being a pressure cooker that drops the time to 30 seconds per string.

Some score the drill by the rings and others by hits in the black. As in the pistol drills, there is a progression from all hits within the eight ring to all in the black, with a sizable chunk of rifle shooters stuck between the two levels of achievement.

NEAT TRICKS

The B8 has a few bennies for the rifle shooter. The first is in zeroing. When zeroing at 100 yards, the iron-sighted M4 shooter seeking the popular 200-meter zero can hold securely at six o'clock and walk away happy when the group settles into the bottom edge of the "X" ring. For a red-dot-equipped carbine, the shooter can hold center and put the turret caps back on when the group hugs the top edge of the ten ring.

Second is in establishing mechanical offset. At seven yards and in, the AR shooter can hold at 12 o'clock on the bull to strike the X ring, the 2.75-inch radius of the target matching the offset for many optics. This comes in handy for a number of drills.

I used to purposely avoid the B8 target, thinking it wasn't "tactical" enough. I couldn't understand why it was such a staple in so many programs, suspecting mindless tradition. I preferred silhouettes and myriad other targets.

I still believe silhouettes, photo targets, mannequin targets, and others have real and important roles in a thorough training program. But I have come to appreciate what a classic the original pistol target is and why it is the standard in so many high-end programs. For overall versatility and skill development, the Standard American B8 is hard to beat. ◎

For Tactics or Trophies

+ Continued from page 63

quire a degree in engineering to operate with speed.

Not ignoring the TS's primary mission of racing, Blade Tech also included their beautiful carbon-fiber Pro-Series Speed Rig. It can be belt or paddle mounted and its dorsal surface is radically cut away to require a modicum of lift to free the pistol's muzzle. Additionally, the 5.8-ounce holster is adjustable for rake and the gun's muzzle can be angled toward the target. Tension is provided by its skin-like fit, Positive Lock Trigger Guard, and two adjustable tension screws. The holster's interior is smoothly polished to reduce wear on your piece's finish and to facilitate its quick exit.

Blade-Tech's well-deserved eminence has been elevated even more as they recently won the FBI contract for special agent issue holsters.

TRANSFORMATION

Some may deem the TS too long for practical SWAT team use even in the ubiquitous drop-leg holster. I do not agree, and for years LAPD officers and SWAT carried the S&W M-14 K-38 revolver with six-inch barrel before the latter transitioned to the 1911 pistol.

Furthermore, a return to the 9x19mm caliber has begun with its better-designed projectiles. The FBI has tested specific .355-caliber rounds that

they claim match the performance of the Bureau's previous .40 S&W caliber service load.

For operations where people shoot for blood rather than trophies, users should blacken the TS, swap the rear sight for a lower-profile fixed rear sight like the Heinie Straight Eight ledge model, change to a standard magazine release, square up the dust cover, and add accessory rails. Increase the trigger pull to three to five pounds and install a butt-mounted lanyard loop.

CONCLUSIONS

The CZ 75 TS is simply an extension of the famous CZ line of steel combat pistols, but with added refinements and a very light fire control system. Its accuracy, while good, does not rival match-tuned 1911s but is adequate for action pistol events. Like its siblings, it is rugged, extremely reliable, and worthy enough for law enforcement tactical operations.

With minor changes, it could be easily recruited for this latter duty. With its size and high magazine capacity, it is ideal for ballistic shield drivers without having to resort to extended magazines for fire sustainability.

In heavier calibers, it could be turned out for medium game hunting as well. On an aesthetic level, it is a handsome piece that reminds me of the graceful and lethal dueling pistols of yore. For CZ aficionados, it is a desirable addition to their collections. ◎

SOURCES

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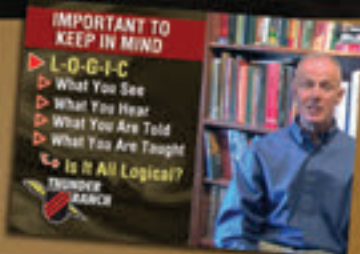
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Two Versatile Tomahawks

IN 2011, I wrote a *S.W.A.T.* article on tomahawks that I would recommend for military usage, though they could also serve other purposes (*COUNTING COUP IN THE 21st CENTURY*, March 2011 *S.W.A.T.*). The emphasis on most of the ones I evaluated was their close-combat utility.

Since that time, I've received emails asking if I can recommend tomahawks that can serve for combat but are well designed for survival or rescue usage, and are reasonably priced but still of high quality.

I've been evaluating two that I think offer a lot of versatility and very good value. First, a bit of history. Trade tomahawks were originally based on the Royal Navy's boarding axe. When I was

living in the U.K. and attending graduate school, I purchased one of those boarding axes and kept it in my room for self-defense.

An interesting aspect of the combat tomahawk is that they were often used for throwing. I've never been much for throwing the "hawk," but I've seen some who could do it really well. Here in St. Louis, we used to have a serious group of Lewis and Clark re-enactors, one of whom was deadly at throwing the tomahawk. On the side opposite the blade, tomahawks typically have a spike or hammer.

Another characteristic of the tomahawk is its cutting edge, which is usually not as wide as that of a typical axe—four inches is about the maximum. Fighting

tomahawks often have the under edge of the head sharpened for use in hooking and cutting a leg or arm.

Tomahawk shafts currently tend to run 12 to 24 inches. I prefer 18 inches or less. Some modern tomahawks intended for tactical use have a shaft that incorporates a pry bar or other tools. Many tomahawks used for rescue tasks or entry have steel shafts.

CRKT KANGEE T-HAWK

The CRKT (Columbia River Knife & Tool) Kangee T-Hawk offers a nice compromise between combat and utility usage. Designed by Ryan Johnson of RMJ Tactical, one of the best producers of combat tomahawks, the Kangee is extremely sturdy, as it is fabricated from a slab of high-carbon SK5 steel.

Tapered cutting edges on the 2.75-inch blade work well for splitting, chopping or shaving wood for tinder. Its spike can penetrate equipment or heavy clothing in combat or a vehicle during a rescue.

For close combat, the underside of the head is sharpened. The top of the head is also sharpened, so the cutting edge can penetrate with less drag, and this portion of the T-Hawk can be used for back swipes in close combat.

The tang protrudes from the handle enough that it may be used for prying or light hammering, though it is not



Hardcore Hardware LFT01 (left), and CRKT Kangee T-Hawk (right). Both are functional, versatile tomahawks that can perform myriad tasks.

Inset: Both T-Hawk (left) and LFT01 (right) include quick-release sheaths. LFT01's sheath is set up for a variety of carries on military equipment.

wedge shaped to make prying effective. Three holes in the tang and two in the grip are for attachment of a lanyard or for lashing.

The grip is of glass-filled nylon and is textured so it does not slip in the hand. In fact, while I was shooting photos for this article, it was snowing. I threw it into the snow, then picked it up and hacked at a piece of firewood without cleaning off the snow—definitely non-slip.

I like the Kangee T-Hawk's weight, a little over 24 ounces at 13.75 inches overall length. Both the length and weight make it a good companion tool or weapon, while the lighter weight and balance make it very easy to wield. The black powder coat finish offers good durability.

A good carry system is important in a tomahawk, and the Kangee has one. Its black Kydex sheath incorporates a quick-release retention snap. All cutting edges are completely enclosed for safety. At \$185, the Kangee T-Hawk is a good value.

In addition to the black model I tested, an orange handle is available for rescue personnel.

HARDCORE HARDWARE LFT01

The other tomahawk I evaluated is from Australia but has a U.S. distributor, Sharper Now, so ordering is easy. Designated the LFT01, the hawk is made by Hardcore Hardware. This tomahawk was recommended to me by a former Australian Special Forces operator.

At nearly 32 ounces, the LFT01 is 25% heavier than the Kangee T-Hawk but is similar in overall length. I find the extra weight keeps it from being as lively in the hand as the T-Hawk, but when chopping it seems to increase the force with which the blade strikes. This could be just perception, as the T-Hawk's lightness allows it to build more speed before striking. Both chop well.

The cutting head of the LFT01 is about three inches, so the user gets a bit more cutting surface. The manufacturer calls the LFT01's spike a "modified tanto point," but it appears more of a spike to me. In any case, it is designed for penetration.

The LFT01's literature lists tasks for which it is suited: chopping, hammering, digging, cutting, climbing aid, defeating locks, smashing windows and windshields and raking out their



Sharpened underside of T-Hawk's head makes it usable for grabbing and slashing a leg or arm.

frames, puncturing steel radial tires, smashing steel-clad doors, and breaking through walls, including those made of brick.

The same list could apply to the Kangee T-Hawk. Note the mention of "defeating locks." On the CRKT website, an interesting video shows how to use the T-Hawk to break locks. Both are very versatile tools and weapons.

The LFT01 incorporates a large lanyard hole in the butt for attaching a carabineer or rope lanyard. The butt may also be used for light hammering. Like the T-Hawk, the LFT01's handle allows various handholds for different tasks (e.g., don't use your chopping handhold to shave bark). The LFT01 is constructed of D2 tool steel with a black Teflon coating and G10 handle. It is built for durability.

Its sheath is Kydex molded and allows fast access to the tomahawk. It comes with Blade Tech Tek-Lok and Molle-Lok attachment systems so it may be affixed to whichever carry system the operator is using. In addition to friction retention, a quick-release strap with press-stud helps retain the LFT01. Cost of the LFT01 is \$349 Australian (about \$270 U.S.).

Both the Kangee T-Hawk and LFT01 are high-quality durable tomahawks capable of serving for survival, rescue, or close combat. Both are also reasonably priced for their quality. ◎



Both handles are designed for various holds, with butts usable for light hammering. Texturing of T-Hawk's handle (right) allows a surer grip when wet.

SOURCES

COLUMBIA RIVER KNIFE & TOOL

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Maxpedition Unterduffel

Specifically designed to meet new airline restrictions on carry-on luggage, the new Maxpedition® Unterduffel™ Adventure Bag is the smallest of the Maxpedition Adventure Bags. Not only is it sized to fit under most airline seats, it's an outstanding range or gear bag as well. It retains all the great features of its larger brethren.

Airlines limit a carry-on bag to a maximum number of linear inches that will fit in most airplanes' overhead compartments. The maximum size carry-on bag for most airlines is 45 linear inches (the total of the height, width, and depth of the bag). But meeting the maximum size requirements may not be enough. As more passengers opt for carry-on to avoid checked baggage fees, overhead compartments often do not have enough room.

If your carry-on is too large to fit in the overhead compartment or under your seat, the airline will require you to check it. To avoid the fees, think smaller. The Unterduffel Adventure Bag measures 42 linear inches. Overall size is 13 inches long, nine inches wide, and 20 inches high, with a volume of 2,300 cubic inches. The main compartment measures 12 inches by eight inches by 19 inches, respectively. Weight is 3.4 pounds.

The front of the Unterduffel Adventure Bag features an integrated padded

grab handle made from 1.5-inch webbing, four rows of seven-channel PALS webbing, one 12-inch long by seven-inch high zippered slip pocket with six-inch wide zippered opening, full dual-directional zippered access to main compartment, and lockable #10 YKK® self-healing zippers.

The rear of the bag features a drainage grommet, two D-Ring attachment points for use with backpack straps, and one 12-inch long by 13.5-inch high zippered padded compartment for concealing backpack straps. The compartment can double as a 100-ounce hydration reservoir pocket and has a bladder hanger.

The Unterduffel Adventure Bag has four adjustable compression straps made from 1.5-inch webbing with 1.5-inch quick-release buckles. Both the right and left sides of the duffel have three rows of three-channel PALS webbing, as well as zippered pockets that measure eight inches long by six inches high with 13-inch wide zippered openings. The top and bottom of the bag each have two D-Ring attachment points for attaching an optional shoulder strap, as well as tapered grab handles made from two-inch webbing.

The Unterduffel Adventure Bag features a full clamshell opening. The interior has two 10-inch long by five-inch high zippered mesh pockets, plus two



Maxpedition Unterduffel Adventure Bag comes in five colors: Black, OD Green, Khaki, Foliage Green, and Dark Brown.



Unterduffel has integral backpack shoulder straps and sternum strap. Compartment on back can stow straps out of the way and double as a 100-ounce hydration bladder pocket.



Unterduffel has a long list of features, including removable adjustable Tactical Shoulder Sling with removable shoulder pad and 12 channels of PALS webbing.

adjustable compression straps made from one-inch webbing with quick-release buckles.

It can be carried via a removable adjustable Tactical Shoulder Sling made from 1.5-inch webbing with removable two-inch shoulder pad and 12 channels of PALS webbing, plus integral concealable three-inch ergonomic shoulder straps with four elastic retention points. It also has a removable sternum strap made from one-inch webbing.

The shoulder and sternum straps quickly convert the Unterduffel into a backpack. They distribute the weight of the luggage very well when you need to walk longer distances. For shorter jaunts, you can stow the backpack straps out of the way and carry it vertically or horizontally using the webbing handles or the adjustable shoulder sling.

Unterduffel's interior has two adjustable compression straps with quick-release buckles and two zippered mesh pockets. Main compartment measures 12 inches long x eight inches wide x 19 inches high.



Maxpedition cut no corners with the Unterduffel. Materials and workmanship are top notch. It's made of 1050 denier water- and abrasion-resistant lightweight ballistic nylon fabric that is triple polyethylene coated for water resistance and has DuPont® Teflon™ Fabric Protector for stain and grime resistance and easy maintenance.

Other features include high-strength YKK zippers and

zipper tracks, paracord zipper pulls, UTX-Duraflex® nylon buckles for low sound closures, military-grade high tensile strength nylon webbing, high tensile strength composite nylon thread (stronger than the industry standard), and #AS-100 high-grade closed-cell foam padding material for superior shock protection. All internal seams are taped and finished. Stress points are double stitched, bartacked or "Box-and-X" stitched for added strength.

Outstanding for travel or as a range or gear bag, the Unterduffel is available in five colors: Black, OD Green, Khaki, Foliage Green, and Dark Brown. Maxpedition also makes a full line of travel accessories that are perfect complements to its Adventure Bags.

The Maxpedition Unterduffel Adventure Bag (SKU PT1100) has an MSRP of \$187.99. All Maxpedition products are covered by a limited lifetime warranty. ©

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Stealth Cam RX24

Stealth Cam is setting a new standard within the industry with the RX24, providing small, effective game cameras that operate equally at night and during the day. The RX24 is distinguished by an ultra-compact design with an integrated Python Lock Latch. The HD video records lengths of five to 180 seconds and includes audio. This camera also features time lapse with PIR Override, Reflex™ Trigger, Matrix™ Blur Reduction technology, and even operates manual shots. Setting the compact camera to burst mode allows it to take one to nine images per triggering and offers five to 59 seconds to five to 59 minutes recovery time out. Each image or video recorded has the date, time, moon phase, temperature, and name stamped, keeping track of individual animals' habits and baselines.

The RX24 can be mounted on a tripod, eliminating the need for a tree or post like traditional game cameras. It can store large volumes of images or videos with a 32GB SD card. Suggested retail price is \$129.99.



STEALTH CAM, LLC | (877) 269-8490 | www.gsmoutdoors.com

TOPS Knives Overlander 2

The Overlander 2 from TOPS Knives is a great starter tool that experienced users will love as well. It is a simple, basic design that lends itself to many uses, yet it's overbuilt and rugged like all TOPS knives. The ergonomics of the handle give you positive purchase and make it comfortable to use while hunting, camping, fishing, hiking, and in tactical situations. Its size makes it easy to carry, conceal, and use in outdoor and urban environments. The user-friendly configuration of the knife and sheath makes the Overlander 2 a great choice for a knife less than four inches long.

The Overlander 2 boasts TOPS Black Traction Coating and oiled Tan Canvas Micarta handle scales. Slightly thinner handles give this version an even slimmer profile that is as comfortable to use as it is to carry. When TOPS first developed the Overlander many years ago, samples were sent to a military SERE training center. The feedback on the knife was overwhelmingly positive, which is why the Overlander is still in use today.

TOPS KNIVES | (208) 542-0113 | www.topsknives.com



Steyr L40-A1 Now in America

Steyr Arms has announced the arrival of the .40 S&W version of its full-size L-A1 service pistol on American shores. Following last year's introduction of the L9-A1, the L40-A1 pistol features a full-length slide, 4.5-inch cold-hammer-forged barrel, and 12-round magazine capacity for .40 S&W.

The new L40-A1, like other handguns in the Steyr line, combines unparalleled ergonomics, a low bore axis, remarkable safety features, extreme reliability, and amazing accuracy. The L40-A1's full-size polymer frame offers a high grip that places the barrel axis lower in the hand to mitigate muzzle rise, while creating a perfect grip angle with natural point of aim.

The drift-adjustable sights are Steyr's trapezoidal configuration, and a Picatinny rail on the frame's dust cover provides a mounting position for illumination and laser-aiming devices. The integrated trigger safety within the recently redesigned Reset Action System trigger requires positive finger pressure to operate Steyr's remarkable double-action-only mechanism. This striker-fired pistol also incorporates a keyed safety lock. Suggested retail price is \$560.



STEYR ARMS
(205) 417-8644
www.steyrarms.com

Streamlight ProTac 1AAA

Streamlight® Inc. has introduced the ultra-lightweight ProTac® 1AAA, the latest addition to the ProTac® series of tactical handheld lights. The new light uses one easily sourced AAA alkaline battery and delivers up to 70 lumens.

Compact and versatile, the ProTac 1AAA also offers high- and low-intensity modes, a strobe feature, and the latest in C4® LED technology. Its Ten-Tap® programmable switch allows users to select one of three programs: high/low/strobe (the factory default), high only, or low/high. The light delivers 30 minutes of continuous run time on high over a beam distance of 47 meters, 11 hours on low, and 1.2 hours in strobe mode using an alkaline battery. For extended run times, a lithium AAA battery can be used.

The light uses a C4 LED with 50,000-hour lifetime, which is impervious to shock. It features 6000 series machined aircraft aluminum construction with an anodized finish, and includes a convenient multi-function push-button tactical tail-cap switch for easy one-handed operation. Suggested retail price is \$48.00.



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Leupold Carbine Optic

Leupold & Stevens, Inc. introduces the Leupold Carbine Optic™ (LCO™), the first red dot sight rugged and durable enough to bear the Leupold® name.

The 1X LCO delivers a wider field of view than other red dots on the market while also providing a clean, crisp aiming point. The one minute-of-angle dot allows the operator to make a precise shot at longer distances, while Leupold's lens coating technology prevents "blooming" of the dot.

The LCO is protected by a rugged machined aluminum housing. The optic weighs in at 9.5 ounces and takes up just 3.6 inches of rail space, so other accessories, such as the Leupold D-EVO™ magnified optic, may be added. The LCO features 16 brightness settings, including daylight bright and night-vision compatible. The common CR123A 3v lithium battery delivers up to five years of battery life. Adjustments are measured in 1/2-MOA clicks, with an easy-to-adjust slot for a coin or cartridge rim. A total of 60 MOA is available for both windage and elevation adjustments. Suggested retail price is \$1,249.99.



LEUPOLD & STEVENS, INC.
(503) 526-1400
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Mama Grizzly

An hour after her husband left home for work, the young wife of a James City County police officer heard an intruder forcing his way into her Newport News, Virginia home. Fearing for the safety of her daughter, she grabbed a phone and a gun and placed herself between the sound of breaking glass and her two-year-old daughter's bedroom.

While the woman was on the phone with the 911 dispatcher, the intruder confronted her and made the mistake of rushing her. She opened fire, and her assailant dropped to the floor with life-threatening injuries. He was still lying there when police arrived moments later. "It was either him or me," she later told reporters. "I have my daughter to protect."

SOURCE: WAVY-TV, Portsmouth, Virginia, 3/12/15

The Great Equality

An East Tulsa, Oklahoma man found himself embroiled in an argument with several other men outside his apartment just after midnight in early March. Confined to a wheelchair, he retreated into his home with a friend to escape his antagonists. The adversaries were not inclined to let things end so easily, however.

According to the wheelchair-bound victim, three of the disputants, one of whom had a gun, forced their way into the apartment and began assaulting his friend. Pulling his own sidearm, he opened fire on the trio, hitting at least two and sending the third fleeing. When police arrived, they found two assailants dead on the floor of the victim's dwelling.

SOURCE: KJRH-TV, Tulsa, Oklahoma, 3/12/15

Fight Crime, Shoot Back

In the wee hours of a snowy March morning in New Haven, Connecticut, several friends left Eli's Tavern and headed for the parking garage to make their way home. Upon entering the garage, they were approached by two men who demanded their valuables. One assailant pointed a pistol at the group and fired once, hitting one of the friends in the neck.

At this point, one of the intended victims drew his own licensed handgun and returned fire, striking one holdup man and causing the other to flee into the wintry New England night. When police arrived, they found the wounded suspect and his firearm, which turned out to be stolen. The victim who'd been shot in the neck was treated for minor injuries and released that day. The robber was admitted to the hospital with serious injuries and faces multiple felony counts upon his release.

SOURCE: WVIT-TV, New Britain, Connecticut, 3/3/15

"You Did What You Had To Do"

A 67-year-old man was taking a walk in a West Darby, Pennsylvania park when a masked figure ran up behind him, pointed a gun and yelled, "Give it up! Gimme all you got!" The man reached for his attacker's gun and a struggle ensued. In the scuffle, the intended victim produced his own pistol and fired once, hitting his assailant in the head and killing him.

Police arrived, and the masked figure was found to be a local 18-year-old with several stolen cell phones on his person. The holdup weapon was a realistic-looking pellet pistol. The intended victim was transported to a hospital with chest pains. "He was really shook up—really upset. And I told him point blank, I said, 'You did what you had to do and, as far as I'm concerned, I don't see any criminal charges forthcoming,'" said a police superintendent to reporters.

SOURCE: WPVI-TV, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, 2/4/15 ©



Multiple assailants make the larger capacities of service-size autos worth considering.

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AUGUST ISSUE ON SALE JULY 7th

SWAT.
MAGAZINE

Have an Ice Day

YOU learn to ignore the daily puerile goings-on surrounding you. You learn to utilize years of accumulated cunning and knowledge to full advantage. And you learn to control anger and use it as an effective weapon—what’s colloquially known as “keeping your cool.”

Simply baring your yellowed fangs is now usually enough to keep the young puppies at bay, even though the occasional one still needs a convincing snap of the jaws. And now even the owner of the junkyard observes you with a surreptitious glance as he serves your daily bowls of gruel and water, because none of them can discern whether you are rabid or merely irritable and disillusioned with the world at large.

Some people get the message early in life, some take years to cotton on,

gracious hosts, I carefully slunk off into a quiet corner. This both kept me in line of sight with the front door of the palace (and arriving guests), and also semi-removed me from the maddening crowd. So far so good, but I should have known my ever-present poo-poo magnet was about to set up its force field one more time.

Enter my two evil twins, one with a friend and spouse in tow. I move over to jawjack with them for a while, then turn around to ask someone if he would be gracious enough to give up his chair for the lady.

The cretin glares at me and asks, “What lady?” Let’s take a wild flyer here, Sherlock. There are literally 50 people in the vicinity, 49 of whom have large biceps, buzz-cuts, and clothing depicting weapons, camouflage and

extended digits while driving, inane puerile challenges to fisticuffs, and exhibitions of ill-mannered behavior similar to that described above.

Though unprovoked and initially small in nature, such situations so often snowball into physical aggression—and even bloodshed—that you have to de-escalate the problem by keeping your cool. Whether it’s an incident in traffic, someone trying to be the Alpha lion when nobody else has any interest in contesting the point, or even in the middle of a battle situation, only the man who controls his mental temperature has any hope of success.

Controlled anger is beneficial in a fight—or potential confrontation, for that matter. But losing one’s temper results only in the loss of calculated thought processes, with the inevitable

Controlled anger is beneficial in a fight—or potential confrontation, for that matter. But losing one’s temper results only in the loss of calculated thought processes ...

and the majority just doesn’t get it until it’s too late. The Big Joke of Life is that most people live Thoreau’s “lives of quiet desperation” governed by their concern over what their peers might think of them, with a resultant aspiration to be King for a Day. The revelation comes when you realize that if your reasoning is that pathetic, whenever you have Warhol’s 15 minutes in the sun, you will always get skin cancer after 14 minutes.

It’s pathetic, it’s childish, it’s egomaniacal—and it’s just not worth a hill of beans living your life like that, because once you’re king, there’s nowhere to go but downhill.

Armed with this sagacious and omniscient prowess, I attended a large soirée at a Las Vegas mansion replete with tennis courts and swimming pool. Since I don’t drink and am more familiar with mangling than mingling, the occasion was a rarity for me. I attended with some trepidation considering the 100-plus expected guests combined with a catalyst of free booze.

After exchanging pleasantries with

silk-screen printed shirts with quotations announcing contempt for terrorists, lowlifes, and scourges of society in general. You think maybe the one with the long blonde hair and black cocktail dress might be the lady in question?

Unbelievably, Sir Galahad keeps his major muscle glued to the chair and asks, “Where will I get another seat?” Too flabbergasted to decide whether I should boot him through the plate glass window or slam his head into the table, I manage to back off my rage to just below melting point. Finally optically embarrassed into giving up his royal throne, he storms off, presumably to beat up a handicapped pensioner.

I hand over the seat in question and go outside to cool off. Internally bemoaning the fact that I’d apparently been born with an implanted feces magnet, and simultaneously realizing why I prefer canines to humans, I begin to reflect on similar situations that occurred over the last couple of decades.

Thanks to the midden magnet, I’d been treated to a bewildering array of

second-place trophy—not a desirable podium position after a gunfight.

As Rudyard Kipling’s poem states—taking poetic license—if you can maintain mental control while everyone else is running around like a decapitated chicken, you’re streets ahead of the game.

To emulate the calm demeanor one so often hears from a doomed pilot who knows he’s about to hit the deck—or for long-serving police officers who remember the monotone running commentary delivery of the Iceman’s phone-booth shootout—is the ideal, but not all of us have that much thermometer control. However, if you can attain even half of their cool under pressure, it will help win fights and indeed often stave off avoidable confrontations.

Chill out, and maintain your mental thermostat at an even temperature.

Have an ice day. ☺

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RUGER® AR-556®

DIRECT IMPINGEMENT. MODERN SPORTING RIFLE

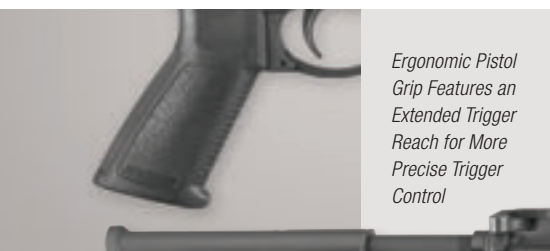


Flattop Upper Receiver Features a Forward Assist, Dust Cover and Brass Deflector



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The Ruger® AR-556® semi-automatic, M4-style, direct impingement Modern Sporting Rifle is American-made and constructed from top-quality components, including a forged 7075-T6 aluminum upper and lower receiver and a cold hammer-forged, chrome-moly steel barrel with M4 feed ramp cuts. Chambered in 5.56 NATO, the AR-556's carbine-length, flattop, M4 design is fully configured with a Ruger® Rapid Deploy folding rear sight, milled F-height gas block with post front sight, forward assist, dust cover, brass deflector, telescoping six-position stock, improved trigger-reach grip, enlarged trigger guard and one 30-round Magpul® PMAG®. Standardized M4/AR components are utilized throughout, so the AR-556® is easily customized.

* Some rifles may not be available in all states and locales due to laws limiting magazine capacity and feature-based restrictions.

Please check with your local law enforcement agency prior to purchasing this firearm to verify that it may legally be purchased and/or possessed in your particular state and locale.

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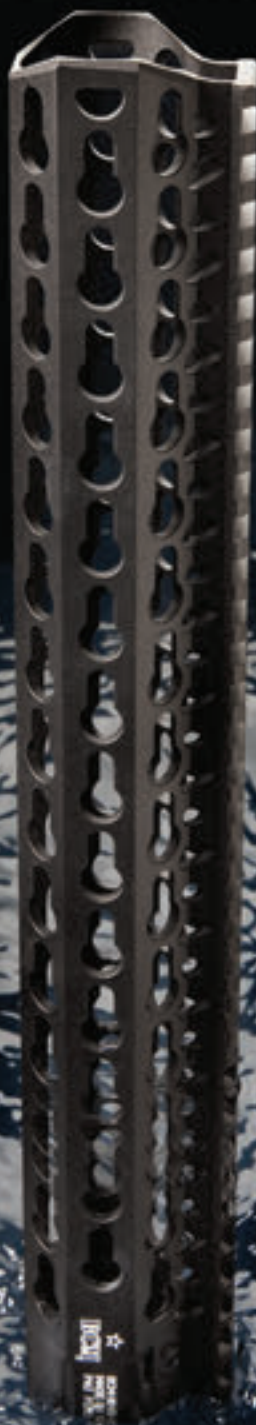
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-BRUCE LEE



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