

WIN!

BRAVO COMPANY MFG

RECCE-16 KMR

PLUS ACCESSORIES!



SWAT

SURVIVAL WEAPONS AND TACTICS



LEGENDARY POWER

Barrett M107A1 .50 BMG

MP5 RIMFIRES

MIGHTY MOUSE!

Viability of Medium-Sized Guns

POLICE TRADE-IN BONANZA

New Life for Used Service Weapons

NAVIGATING THE DARKNESS

Light Selection for the Next Disaster

- **WEAPON ON FOUR WHEELS**
- **DANGER IN THE DESERT**

**GO
SHORT!**
LWRCI IC-PSD



KIMBER SPECIAL EDITION PISTOLS.

UNEQUALLED QUALITY. UNMATCHED PERFORMANCE.

Kimber provides custom finishes and features that stand out in the crowd. Performance and dependability are not compromised when unique finishing details are desired. The Onyx Ultra II is chambered in 9mm and .45 ACP, and weighs in at 25 oz.



Kimber Special Edition 1911s also include the Sapphire Ultra II with a compact frame and 3-inch barrel, and the Sapphire Pro II with a full size frame and 4-inch barrel.



Kimber Tactical Wedge 3-dot green tritium night sights, ambidextrous thumb safety and slim grips are standard features in the Sapphire and Onyx gem models.



PVD finish on slide and small parts and KimPro finish on the frame offer a unique and durable firearm. Intricate engraving accents the polished slide.



MADE IN AMERICA

Kimber®

WHAT ALL GUNS SHOULD BE™



(888) 243-4522

KIMBERAMERICA.COM



- Vltor Basic IMOD Stock \$94.95
- BCM® Diamondhead Folding Rear Sight \$119.00
- Aimpoint Micro H-1 \$617.00
- ADM AD-B2 Base \$65.95
- ADM T1 SOCOM Spacer \$19.95
- Centurion Arms C4 Rail 12 Inch \$314.00
- BCM® Diamondhead Folding Front Sight \$99.00
- BCMGUNFIGHTER™ Grip Mod 0 \$29.95
- TangoDown SCAR Panel 6 Inch \$13.70
- TangoDown Short QD Vertical Grip \$89.73
- Thorntail Offset Adaptive Light Mount \$50.00
- BCMGUNFIGHTER™ Compensator Mod 1 \$94.95
- ALG Defense QMS Trigger \$45.00
- Geissele SSA Trigger \$210
- BCM® A2X Flash Suppressor \$34.95
- B5 Systems SOPMOD Bravo Stock \$58.00
- CTT Solutions Mag Cap
- Inforce HSP WML \$119.00
- Blue Force Gear VCAS Sling \$45.00
- Trijicon TA31RCO-M4 \$1,422.05
- GDI R-COM B-Model Mount \$205.00
- BCM® Low Profile Gas Block \$44.95
- BCMGUNFIGHTER™ Vertical Grip \$49.95
- BCM® KMR-10 KeyMod Rail 10 Inch \$254.95
- Midwest Industries SSK-KeyMod 12 Inch Free Float Handguard



- SureFire X300 Ultra LEDWeaponLight
- EOTech XPS2-0 HWS \$499.00
- EOTech G33 STS Magnifier \$549.00
- Midwest Industries Folding Front Sight \$79.95
- Midwest Industries SPLP Rear Sight \$119.95
- BattleComp 1.0 \$149.99
- BCM® KMR-13 KeyMod Rail 13 Inch \$269.95
- IWC KeyMod QD RL Sling Mount \$17.00
- TangoDown ARC MK2 Magazine \$14.95
- TangoDown PR-4 Rear Sling Mount \$73.65
- BCMGUNFIGHTER™ VPG-KeyMod QD Vertical Grip \$44.95
- ALG Defense ACT Trigger \$65.00
- BCMGUNFIGHTER™ Buttstock
- BCMGUNFIGHTER™ Compensator Mod 0 \$89.95
- BCM® Enhanced Trigger Guard
- BCMGUNFIGHTER™ Grip Mod 3 \$17.95
- PWS FSC556 Tactical Compensator \$98.95
- PWS KeyMod Bipod Adapter \$23.95
- Wilson Combat Tactical Trigger Unit \$269.95
- Vltor Carbine EMOD Stock \$119.65
- Geissele Super Modular KeyMod 13 Inch Rail MK4 \$350
- Daniel Defense AR15 Lite 7.0 Rail \$219.00
- Aimpoint PRO Patrol Rifle Optic \$416.00
- TangoDown BattleGrip \$35.75
- BCMGUNFIGHTER™ Grip Mod 2 \$29.95

SWAT

SURVIVAL WEAPONS AND TACTICS



76

THE
BOOTLEG
TURN

NOVEMBER 2015

LINEUP

26

SHOOTING A LEGEND AFFORDABLY

MP5 Rimfires

Two .22-caliber versions of the iconic H&K MP5 are now commercially available to the public and, more importantly, are affordable.

BY KYLE WINSETT



42

COVER STORY

LEGENDARY POWER

Barrett M107A1 .50 BMG



Celebrating 30 years of what many feel is the ultimate combination of rifle and cartridge: a Barrett rifle with the .50 BMG.

BY TODD BURGREN

Cover Photo: Todd Burgreen

50



SWAT SWEEPSTAKES



BCM
RECCE-16
KMR

Enter to win this lightweight Bravo Company Mfg carbine fully loaded with BCM's gunfighter-proven options. Plus an Aimpoint Carbine Optic, 200 rounds of premium Black Hills Ammunition, and SureFire P2X Fury Tactical searchlight.

TOTAL PACKAGE VALUE OVER \$2,200!

52

DANGER IN THE DESERT**OFF THE GRID**

Surviving a Hostile Environment

BY EUGENE NIELSEN

58

GO SHORT!

LWRCI IC-PSD

For a close-quarters rifle, shorter is better, based on area of operation, typical deployment distance, and actual application.

BY DAVE BAHDE



64

NAVIGATING THE DARKNESS**OFF THE GRID**

Light Selection for the Next Disaster

BY JEFF HALL

70

FORGED VERSUS STAMPED GUNS

Does It Really Matter?

BY WILL DABBS, M.D.

76

WEAPON ON FOUR WHEELS

Escaping the Kill Zone

BY JOHN MATTERA

80

POLICE TRADE-IN BONANZA

Used Service Weapons Find New Life

Law enforcement trade-ins offer shooters a quality proven sidearm for a hefty discount. Character is thrown in at no charge.

BY ETHAN JOHNS



84

MIGHTY MOUSE!

Viability of Medium-Sized Guns

BY NED CHRISTIANSEN

COLUMNS**6 BRIEFING ROOM**

Gear Update

BY DENNY HANSEN

18 STREET SMARTS

I've Locked Up My Last Scumbag

BY BRENT T. WHEAT

20 AGAINST ALL ODDS

TOPS Multi-Fuel Folding Stove

BY REUBEN BOLIEU

32 ENEMY AT THE GATE

Disobeying Unconstitutional Orders

BY KURT HOFMANN

34 FRONTLINE DEBRIEFS

"Master" Gunfighters

BY SCOTT REITZ

96 GOOD GUYS WIN!

BY TAMARA KEEL

98 TRAINING AND TACTICS

Motel Hell

BY LOUIS AWERBUCK

DEPARTMENTS**8 MAIL ROOM**

Letters from Our Readers

12 LAWFUL CARRY

K.L. Null Holsters

BY BOB PILGRIM

36 LONG GUNS

Pump Versus Self-Loading Combat Shotguns

BY LEROY THOMPSON

90 THE CUTTING EDGE

Steel Will Censor Knives

BY EUGENE NIELSEN

92 OFFBEAT

Blackhawk Under the Radar

BY EUGENE NIELSEN

94 GEAR LOCKER

New Products and Accessories

97 ADVERTISERS' INDEX

Gear Update

PUBLISHER

Richard J. Lucibella

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Denny Hansen

PRODUCTION DIRECTOR

Kathleen Allard

DESIGN DIRECTION

B. Bigler | WestPub Inc.

OPERATIONS MANAGER

Grit Salewski

TACTICAL CONSULTANT

Louis Awerbuck
In Memoriam

TRAINING CONSULTANT

Patrick A. Rogers

LAW ENFORCEMENT CONSULTANT

Brent Wheat

**FIREARMS DESIGN AND
TESTING CONSULTANT**

Ashley Emerson, MN

STAFF PHOTOGRAPHERS

Robbie Barrkman
Straight 8 Photography

CONTRIBUTING STAFF

Reuben Bolieu, Todd Burgreen, Jeff Hall,
Flint Hansen, Ethan Johns, Seth Nadel,
Eugene Nielsen, Bob Pilgrim, Rob Pincus,
Jeff Randall, Scott Reitz, Clint Smith,
Leroy Thompson, Claire Wolfe

CIRCULATION DIRECTOR



ONLINE INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

Justin Guyett

SOCIAL MEDIA COORDINATOR

Tamara Keel

ADVERTISING SALES REPRESENTATIVE

Billy Rogers

360-244-9185

billy@swatmag.com

I kept myself pretty busy this past summer, with three firearm courses and a couple of writer events where I shot firearms that had not yet been introduced to the public. I had the chance to give them a thorough evaluation both at the seminars and on my home range.

In short, I turned a lot of perfectly good ammunition into piles of brass.

To me, there are five main reasons to attend training:

- Learn new information, tactics and/or techniques, or just experience how each instructor presents the material.
- Get out of my comfort lane.
- Correct any bad habits that may have surfaced in practicing alone.
- Uncover problems with my firearms. (If there is an issue with a firearm, it will likely surface while running a gun hard in a high-round-count course.)
- Find out if there are any problems in how I set up my gear, and possibly how to improve a particular firearm.

I found I was pretty happy with my gear set-up, and the only thing I changed was adding suspenders to my battle belt to redistribute some of the weight.

A few months ago, I wrote an article about an AR-15 home-build (*QUALITY AR-15 BUILD: Raise Your Standards*, August 2015 *S.W.A.T.*). I was—and am—pretty happy with it. But just after I thought I was done with it, Bravo Company USA introduced their BCM® KeyMod™ Rail Panel Kit (five panels to the pack). I have Bravo Company's website bookmarked on my computer, and a few days after the kit was introduced, the panels were on the new carbine. They fit the KeyMod rail perfectly, are low profile, have a textured finish for a sure grip, and keep the rail cooler to the touch.

On that same build, I used the BCM GUNFIGHTER Stock. I was so impressed with it that I bought three more and installed them on other ARs.

One of my primary home-defense guns is a Mossberg 590A1. To get more practical use from it, I cut a wooden dowel to reduce the magazine capacity from eight to two, and I use it for dove hunting in the fall. It wears a Magpul SGA stock with a single spacer and Magpul M-LOK forend.

I'm normally a 1911 guy, but there are certain occasions when I can't conceal the Man Gun. During those times, I often turn to a Ruger LCR with a pair of Delta Grips from Ergo Grips. For me, these stocks make the revolver point more naturally, and while subjective, there is less felt recoil.

Enough about my guns and gear. Have you tried any new accessories that may give you an edge in close encounters of the worst kind?

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

Denny Hansen

SWAT

**EDITORIAL
INFORMATION**

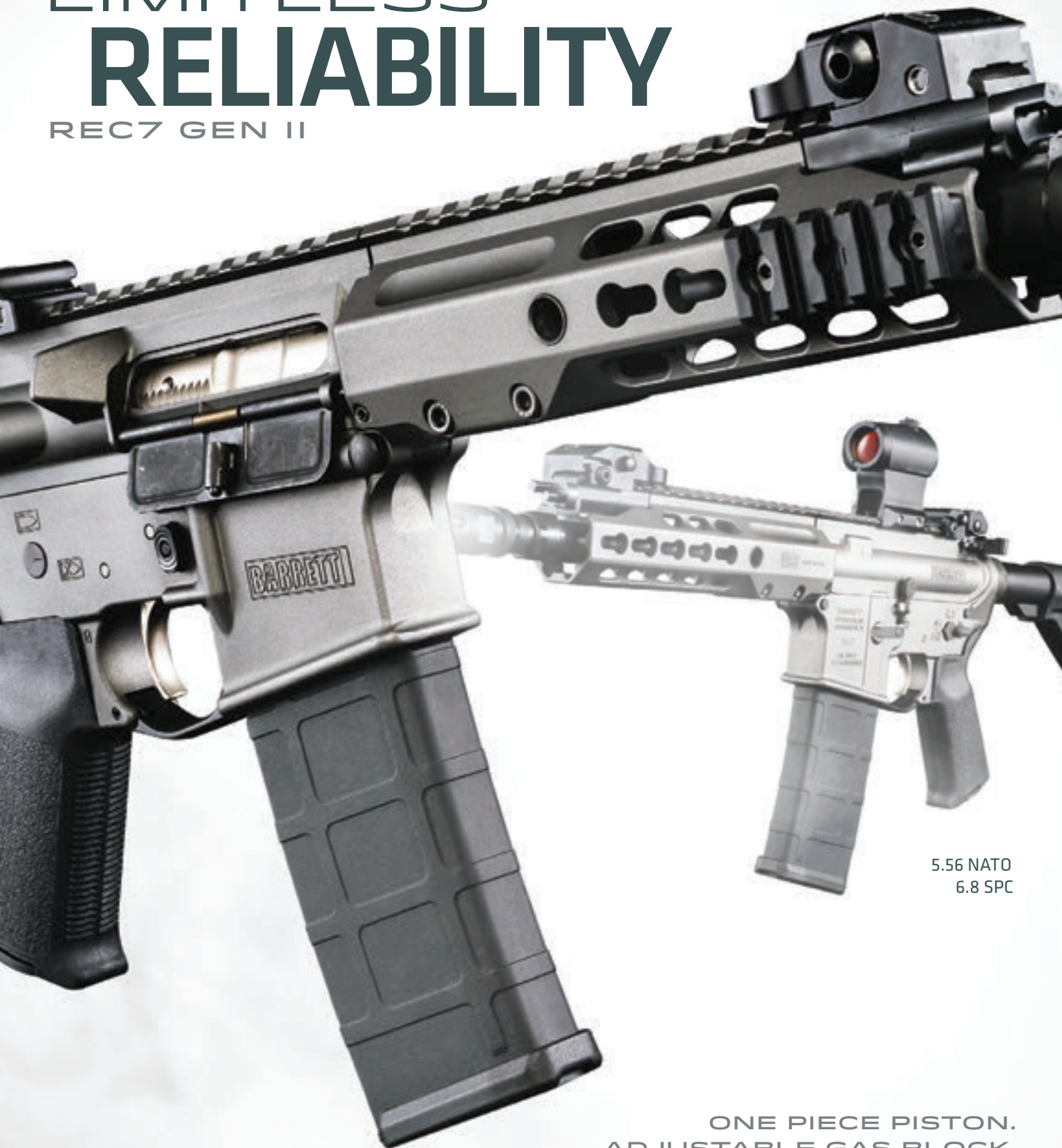
For editorial submissions,
press releases or questions,
contact the editor at:

denny@swatmag.com

DISCLAIMER Certain products represented in this magazine may be subject to prohibitions, restrictions or special licensing for sale, possession or interstate transport. If this annoys you, **Get Involved...support the Bill of Rights...all of them!** In the meantime, check with local and federal authorities regarding legality of purchase, possession and transport. The information described and portrayed in this magazine is based upon personal experience of the author, under specific conditions and circumstances. Due to time and space constraints, the entire author's experience may not be reported or otherwise verified. Nothing in these pages should be construed to substitute for a manufacturer's manual or for professional firearms training. This magazine, its officers, agents and employees accept no responsibility for any liability, injuries or damages arising from any person's attempt to rely upon the information contained herein. Responsible shooters always seek formal training. *S.W.A.T. Magazine*, its Publisher, staff and employees assume no responsibility for the opinions expressed in any Letters to the Editor and do not vouch for the accuracy of any facts contained in such Letters. This Section of the magazine is made available for the purpose of stimulating an exchange of ideas and information among its Readers.

LIMITLESS RELIABILITY

REC7 GEN II



5.56 NATO
6.8 SPC

ONE PIECE PISTON.
ADJUSTABLE GAS BLOCK.
SLIM, LIGHTWEIGHT DESIGN.



Barrett will not sell to government agencies in the State of California or New York.
Learn more at barrett.net

RUGGED DEPENDABILITY

TOP SHELF

I enjoyed Denny Hansen's article on the BCM/CMMG build (*QUALITY AR-15 BUILD: Raise Your Standards*, August 2015 S.W.A.T.). It opened up a couple of ideas that I hadn't considered previously. Now I don't have an excuse to leave the bare lower alone that has been hiding on the shelf in my shop.

I know you shopped frugally and bought top-shelf items for the upper, but how does this compare, price and durability-wise, to the excellent Mossberg MMR you reviewed a few months ago and the offerings from FN and the SIG M400?

B. Morton, Facebook

Good memory. I actually reviewed the Mossberg MMR back in 2012. As I said then, I think the MMR is a good entry-level carbine, though I did have some gripes, the biggest being the Stark pistol grip that makes you change hand position to re-engage the safety. Not a quick

fix, as it incorporates the trigger guard, requiring both the grip and trigger guard to be replaced. The barrel is not chrome lined, which may be a factor in areas with high humidity.

I have no personal experience with the FN, but reports from people I trust are positive. My son has owned a SIG M400, which for the most part is mil-spec, for several years and has run it hard with no problems. In the end we may be talking apples and oranges, and performance may depend on if the carbine is used occasionally for recreation or submitted to a harsh firing schedule.

Denny Hansen

COMING SOON TO A NEWSSTAND NEAR YOU

I have a couple of article suggestions for the magazine. Since S.W.A.T. is my only subscription, and I obviously trust the contributors, I would like to know if any of them have tested the Ruger SR-556 Takedown. It looks like an interesting

concept, but I wonder about wear and tear on the take down of the barrel and upper receiver.

My other question is holster related. It may be up Flint Hansen's alley for review, but is more a safety issue. I am talking about appendix carry holsters and their use. Not one specific maker, but just the fact of where the gun points while carried this way. I know safety is the responsibility of the user, but I was wondering how you and the writers feel about that mode of carry. I envision a pro/con piece like you have run in the past on press checks and other topics.

Thank you for your time and best wishes.

P. Castell, email

We've actually had an SR-556TD in-house for some time, with both 5.56 and .300 AAC Blackout barrels. While a few articles have already appeared, we're putting the new rifle through its paces

*Brought to you by a
wild gang of winds, winters, sun and storms.*

This place was sculpted by epic forces of all kinds (including glacial patience). Our roster echoes that union of wills, with machinists who moonlight as classic car mechanics, hand-inspectors who double as grandmothers, and a strong contingent of former servicemen and women. Our product is simple: a round of ammunition. But our process—that's an orchestra of expertise, obsession, and dedication.

www.black-hills.com | 605 348 5150



MAXPEDITION.com

(310) 768-0098 | INFO@MAXPEDITION.COM



GEAR UP AND
**VENTURE
FORTH**

INNOVATING DURABLE GEAR SINCE 2003

BAGS & PACKS | POUCHES & POCKETS | KNIVES & TOOLS | MORALE PATCHES

1 FALCON-II™ BACKPACK SKU #0513 2 FR-1™ MEDICAL POUCH SKU #0226 3 H-1 WAISTPACK SKU #0016 4 VERTICAL SHOTGUN 6RND PANEL SKU #1508 5 M14/M1A MAGAZINE POUCH SKU #1465

using almost 30 different .223/5.56 loads and at least three to four .300 Blackout loads and taking it to a class. We doubt wear and tear will be much of an issue, but we want to see how well the rifle returns to zero after the barrel has been installed and removed repeatedly. With that said, a comprehensive report will appear in the December issue.

Appendix carry has advantages and disadvantages, and is a hotly debated subject right now. We'll give serious consideration to running a pro/con article on it.

COMMON SENSE

Here is my short version of Scott Reitz's latest *Frontline Debriefs* (*Common Sense Policing*, August 2015 S.W.A.T.).

"I grew up in an era that required common sense and we applied it to everyday life. I am smarter than many police officers these days. Heck, many will even kamikaze into a relationship without using common sense.

"If cops would use common sense, they wouldn't get caught using unjustifiable force or dropping evidence

where it shouldn't be or lying about their involvement in an incident. Don't do these things in a crowd or with an air unit overhead, chances are you will be filmed.

"Young cops should learn from the veterans and use common sense. If they did, many of the recent well-publicized incidents would cease to occur."

It sounds to me like Scott Reitz is telling cops to get better at hiding bad behavior, not to *stop* bad behavior. I'm going to use common sense and rip out this month's *Frontline Debriefs* and throw it in the trash.

D. Meurer, Idaho

We truly appreciate all feedback, be it positive or negative, from our readers. Thank you for taking the time to contact us.

CLAIRE AND LOUIS

Just wanted to drop a note in praise of Claire Wolfe. I wrote you an email the first time she left, when Mr. Stewart Rhodes filled in.

I find her writing incredible. We share politics, but Claire has a great

knack for keeping things in perspective. How she gets her point across, without sounding "crazy right wing," is impressive. What I like most is that she writes articles that make everyone think.

Some have disagreed, loudly if I recall, but we always have a new way to look at the topic she's written about. There is no doubt in my mind she will move on to great things. Having followed S.W.A.T. for years, I'm also sure her replacement will be up to the task.

The recent column you reprinted by Louis Awerbuck (*TRAINING & TACTICS: Two Pieces of Silver*, October, 2015, S.W.A.T.) gave me chills when I read it—again. It is rare for a man with such strength of character to have his voice heard. Our society misses him greatly.

As always, excellent job.
Z. Thennes, email

Thank you for your support and the kind words. Claire may still drop in once in a while, but we're excited to have Kurt Hofmann on board.

We all miss Louis. His words of wisdom live on. ☺

THERE IS ONLY ONE NAME TO REMEMBER:

TROY

TROY AK47 RAILS

Comfortable, sleek and cool running TROY AK47 upgrades.

The TROY AK Top Rail:

- 5" of Picatinny rail for optics and accessories
- Easily replaces the factory gas tube
- Adjustable length for AK variations

TROY AK Hand Guards:

- For stamped and milled receivers with standard length hand guard and the sling mount on the hand guard retaining band
- Short bottom 10". Long bottom 13.5" with 3" of Picatinny



TROY
f t i y
WORLD OF TROY.COM



TROY is the American Innovator. We set the industry standard for superior design, absolute reliability and flawless performance. TROY products are BattleReady and will function without question when lives are on the line. There is only one name to remember: TROY.

Check out all of our
AK47 Accessories





NOTHING COMES CLOSE[®]

All fixed SS scopes feature
the **NEW** Patented Mil-Quad
Reticle and .10 Mil clicks



SWFA SS **10x42**

TACTICAL 30MM
RIFLESCOPE
SS10X42MQ

- Matte Finish
- Patented Mil-Quad Reticle
- 30mm Tube
- Rear Focus
- OK for .50 cal
- .10 Mrad



MIL-MIL, 10 MRAD Adjustments,
5 Mil Per Revolution



SWFA SS HD
1-6x24
SSHD16X24D



SWFA SS HD
1-4x24
SSHD14X24D



SWFA SS HD
5-20x50
SSHD520X50MQ



SWFA SS HD
3-9x42
SS39X42MQ



SWFA SS
6x42
SS6X42



SWFA SS
12x42
SS12X42MQ



SWFA SS
16x42
SS16X42MQ



SWFA SS
3-15x42
SS315X42MQ



SWFA SS
20x42
SS20X42MQ

SWFA SS
HD

SWFA SS
CLASSIC

ORDER ONLINE AT

SWFA.COM

1-972-SCOPE IT

(1-972-726-7348)



K.L. Null Holsters

Most contemporary law enforcement agencies issue holsters made of Kydex or some other synthetic material because they are less expensive, extremely robust, impervious to moisture, and easy to maintain.

But many individuals, including private citizens who function in high-risk environments, still prefer fine hand-crafted leather scabbards to park their generally expensive sidearm and spare ammunition in. These individuals believe that you get what you pay for, and spare no expense or effort when it comes to procuring personal weapons systems.

K.L. NULL AND SEVENTREES

Among the master leathersmiths who create glove-like, friction fit and ultra-light but rugged leather holsters is former Marine and police officer K.L. Null of K.L. Null Holsters Ltd. Null's pedigree stems from Paris Theodore, the legendary Seventrees holster maker, creator and manufacturer of the ASP sub-compact pistol (that featured the original hooked trigger guard and Guttersnipe sight), and developer of the Quell system of close combat.

Long before my association with

Null, premier gunsmith Wayne Novak customized two 1911s and a Browning Hi-Power for me. As a gift, he complemented these beautiful and practical firearms with two of Null's leather scabbards. After 30 years of periodic use, they are still functional and look good.

Null offers five outside the waistband (OWB), three shoulder, two inside the waistband (IWB), two ankle, and one pocket holster rigs plus numerous accessories. And if a reputable group or individual has a vexing mission-specific concealment challenge, Null will apply his experience and inventiveness to solve it for the client.

A respectable number of holster makers have achieved success by offering a good product that is mass-produced, with many of the steps done by machines. But Null, like a few other traditionalists, is a contrarian in today's era of assembly-line production. The customer often has to patiently await his order—such is the demand for Null's craftsmanship.

The highest quality leather obtainable, such as Shell Horsehide, is carefully cut and laboriously formed around the handgun to the smallest possible

tolerances between leather and steel/polymer by hand.

Retention is friction fit, and the firearm is almost sucked into the scabbard. Rolling and falls to the deck will not dislodge the gun. The fit is so tight that a break-in period is required before hitting the street with a Null product.

Since Ken uses muscle and patience to mold a rig, each holster is unique and has small differences that perfectly accommodate the piece. Each holster is meticulously designed and fabricated to assure its speed, retention, uncompromising precision, and comfort. Null's rigs are functional works of art.

Like Seventrees creations, Null's holsters were previously available on a limited basis to select individuals, but are now being bench crafted exclusively for demanding professionals, many of whom are readers of *S.W.A.T. Magazine*.

BELT SCABBARD

The SSS (Super Speed Scabbard) is a high-riding belt-mounted holster. It has a cordovan complexion that blends well into a 1½-inch cordovan or black belt. Null also offers belts and

Three K.L. Null shell horsehide belt scabbards. SSS are open-top friction fit, and Vampire has pull-through retention strap but is also friction fit. Pistols (left to right): Novak Colt Commander, ROBAR SIG P229 and Diaczenko FNHP.



OUR MAGAZINES WILL NOT JAM!

USED BY
SWAT TEAMS
ACROSS AMERICA

Caliber-Specific
Geometry

Proprietary
Coating

Over 100,000
rounds fired
by a major
Firearm
manufacturer
with zero failures!

The New 28 rd. JMAG®



CProducts**Defense**®
A firearm is only as good as its magazine®

www.CPDmags.com

magazine pouches to create a matching ensemble.

The SSS averaged 2.5 ounces in weight, and the leather was envelope thin at 0.105 inch. It has the FBI Hank Sloan cant and is designed to ride at or just behind the strong-side hip.

Although all the contours of the gun are revealed like ribs on a skinny kid, there is space where it should be. The Commander's holster has a hidden internal hole to accommodate the compact .45 ACP's magazine release, so snug is the fit. This patient molding requires a very deliberate pull to liberate the firearm. Over time it smooths out but is still reluctant to surrender the firearm to the uninvited.

Ken's gun sheaths have an absence of leather where the trigger guard stems from the grip. This allows the gunman to establish a full firing grip while the gun is holstered, which eliminates re-gripping on the way to the threat.

Double and triple stitching is evident where needed most at the belt loop and joining edge of the holster. This holster does not have a sweat shield, but four other models do.

Former U.S. Federal Air Marshal Ken Trice fully endorsed the belt rig, saying it was extremely comfortable and held the firearm close to the body.

CROSS-BODY DRAW

The Vampire cross-body draw holster is the most comfortable cross-draw holster I have worn. Specifically designed for access while seated, it was originally created for Royal Canadian Mounted Police plainclothes vehicle patrols and executive protection details.

I was involved in the establishment



Vampire on belt in cross-body draw mode. Holster is extremely comfortable but weight of ROBAR P229 causes rig to sag away from body. Lighter handgun might be better choice for this system. It's perfect for vehicle ops.



SSS belt holster has FBI cant. It is comfortable, lightweight and possesses excellent friction-fit retention. It's aided by leather detents in trigger guard and ejection port. Shell horsehide leather is thin but strong.

of the FFDO (Federal Flight Deck Officers) armed pilot program. This would be an ideal rig for them and their Air Marshal colleagues. It can be worn between hip and belt buckle or at the hip and is lightning fast by pulling through a snap release without having to contend with any retaining devices.

The firearm rides butt down and I selected it to house my ROBAR customized SIG Sauer P229. It is more concealable at the hip but can be cloaked with a loose shirt in the more forward position.

Although Trice liked this unique scabbard, he advised it would work best with a lighter, perhaps polymer, pistol. The heavy ROBAR customized P229 sags away from the body when belt mounted.

SMZ SHOULDER RIG

Null also works with 21st century synthetics when the material performs the mission as well as or better than leather. Ken offers three shoulder rigs: two in dense but very thin space-age polymer, and one in the latter material or shell horsehide.

I chose the SMZ (SMERTZ), a minimalist holster originally designed for the CIA and other covert, non-attribution agencies. Minimalist because it's a skeleton rig that has no provision for spare ammunition or other martial accessories. It avoids the main complaints that the shoulder holster system is too heavy, bulky, restrictive and prints under a suit coat.

The SMZ is not for everyone. Many will be uncomfortable with its muzzle-up design, though when positioned properly, the firearm's muzzle does not index a body part.

Weighing a mere 4.1 ounces, the SMZ is totally secure yet offers a lightning-fast, error-free and natural forward twist-draw. The rig is stitchless, does not attract or hold moisture, and



Far Left: SMZ is one of three shoulder holsters designed by Ken Null for special operators. Almost universal, the polymer rig will accommodate a variety of long- and short-barreled pistols including suppressed versions. It does not print and is exceptionally fast. Pistol is Springer Precision "Don't Tread on Me" SA XD Sub Compact.

Left: SMZ adjusted for author, who feels it should be higher on body. Pistol's muzzle lies straight up in front of shoulder.



A NEW AR15 GRIP REFINED FOR THE MODERN WARFIGHTER
THE BCM GUNFIGHTER'S GRIP
OPTIMIZED FOR MODERN WEAPON MANIPULATION TECHNIQUES



MOD 0 SIMILAR TO A1/A2 BACK STRAP
IN BLACK, FLAT DARK EARTH, FOLIAGE GREEN



MOD 1 WITH HIGH RISE BACK STRAP
IN BLACK, FLAT DARK EARTH, FOLIAGE GREEN



REDUCED GRIP ANGLE

Keeps wrist in line with trigger
for improved trigger control



TRIGGER GUARD INSERTS

Smooth or Extended, work
with a variety of trigger guards



HINGED TRAP DOOR

Interior storage compartment,
water resistant rubber gasket

MADE IN THE USA FROM HIGH QUALITY IMPACT RESISTANT POLYMER

★ **BRAVOCOMPANYUSA.COM** ★

BravoCompanyMFG.com • Hartland, Wisconsin U.S.A.

Toll Free: 1-877-BRAVO CO (1-877-272-8626) • Fax: 262-367-0989



will not damage a weapon's finish.

The holster is fairly universal in that it will accept a wide variety of handguns with different barrel lengths and including attached suppressors. Its tri-span suspension system slips over the shoulder, behind the neck, and clips to the waist of the dominant-side trousers. The clipped strap stabilizes the holster and takes some weight off the shoulder.

With my sample, I placed my Springer Precision "Don't Tread on Me" SA XD .40 S&W Sub Compact pistol's dorsal slide surface in first with muzzle up into the polymer scabbard. Although pistol insertion and return can be done



while wearing the rig (practice with an unloaded gun), I prefer to do it with it off the body.

The pistol's forward interior trigger guard rests on a poly hook that is secured by a curved piece of polymer with a female heavy-duty metal snap. Null cautions that the SMZ should not

Detailed hand-molding work on pull-through retention strap of Vampire holster.

be used for single-action pistols in Condition One or handguns with light actions. When in place, the trigger is well clear of the hook. Draw it by grasping the pistol, establishing a firing grip, pushing the holster a short distance up toward the shoulder, and twisting the gun's butt outboard to undo the snap. The pistol is withdrawn muzzle up. The firearm is secure during vigorous activity. The SMZ is available in black or white and does not print.

Trice found the SMZ to his liking and said it would have a good aircraft carry option for his former organization. He found it to be extremely fast with a minimal amount of practice.

POTENTIAL FLAW

While it takes a deliberate and exaggerated push upward until the holster's strap binds against the armpit, the hook can be forced against the trigger and will discharge the gun. While the round's trajectory will pass over and away from the shoulder, that is of little comfort to the gunman and proximate innocents.

In war, cold or hot, overt or covert, total safety may not be possible, and operators take calculated risks to accomplish the mission. Filipino Sparrow terrorist assassination teams carried cocked "hot" 1911 pistols with grip safeties taped down in their crotch area for light clothing concealment with sub-second accessibility. I am not trying to dismiss or justify the potential safety problem manifested with this rig, but perhaps only highly trained operators should apply.

CONCLUSIONS

Carrying a firearm entails great responsibility, and everyone so armed should strive to master the implement. For these warriors, Ken Null's creations are ideal. They have stood the test of time and some in circulation probably have interesting classified stories to tell. However, Ken's rigs are not limited to society's John Waynes. Any serious aspiring shootist should consider acquiring one.

It will last you a lifetime—and may actually help prolong your life. ☺

**ULTRA COMPACT.
HIGHLY CONCEALABLE.
ALWAYS PREPARED.**



(shown on Glock 19)

Introducing the new ultra-compact XC1

The formidable XC1—designed to bring all-important white light to most compact handguns—boasts a wide MaxVision Beam engineered to maintain situational awareness, while its smooth pattern, with no hot spot, was optimized for the human eye. Its incomparable beam pattern, intuitive switching, and concealable size put it in a class all by itself. Never fight blind. Get your hands on the most anticipated pistol light of the year.



- ◆ 200-Lumen MaxVision Beam™
- ◆ Designed for railed compact handguns
- ◆ Weighs just 1.6 ounces
- ◆ Powered by one AAA battery

See video & learn more
www.surefire.com/XC1



SUREFIRE

SOURCE

K.L. NULL HOLSTERS, LTD.
(706) 625-5643
www.knullholsters.com

DIY

Some folks just like to do things for themselves.

For those of you who do, Del-Ton has a complete line of rifle kits to fit any need or budget.

Del-Ton is a manufacturer of quality AR-15-style modern sporting rifles and your online source for parts, upgrades, optics, and accessories. All rifle and kit components are made in the U.S.A.



16" M4 Rifle Kit (RKT 100) / MSRP: \$510



DEL-TON

INCORPORATED



MADE IN USA



DELTON28337



www.del-ton.com



www.facebook.com/deltoninc

I've Locked Up My Last Scumbag

IT is said that all good things must come to an end and, in that regard, I have now ended my watch for the last time.

A few weeks ago I marked off-duty, took off the uniform and suddenly felt drained, relieved, excited, nostalgic, hopeful, and even unburdened. To my great relief, I didn't feel any regret; it was obviously time to go.

Now that I am officially a member of the Old Fart Retiree Club, if the kind reader will pardon a moment of self-indulgence, I'll share a few thoughts from 30 years behind the badge, all of which were learned after repeated blows from the sharp and uncaring hand of fate.

Fresh out of college as a wet-behind-the-ears 22-year-old in 1985, I was hired as a jailer at the Sheriff's Office. In our state, the Sheriff is a constitutional officer who is responsible for law enforcement duties in unincorporated areas and also operates the county jail.

type of gain and a reasonable chance of escaping punishment.

That's why you simply must be prepared and ready to respond to violence all the time.

I became a reserve officer after completing the six-month reserve academy. A watershed personal moment occurred the first time I stopped a vehicle as a lone 23-year-old reserve officer lost among the cornfields.

Walking up on a carload of troublemakers with your closest backup 20 minutes away is not a warm and fuzzy feeling. After a few such experiences, I learned that when dealing with dangerous people and dogs, you can't show fear or it will end badly for you. In every dangerous encounter, you must be the apex predator in the food chain.

I was hired as a full-time officer on the city police department in 1989, beginning a 26-year odyssey.

In the intervening decades, I've been

among today's law enforcement leaders.

Criminals must be dealt with harshly (but fairly) by hard men and women who stand always ready to serve. To think anything else is pure folly and a prescription for anarchy. The prevailing liberal, sorry, "progressive," notion that people are kind, rational, and reasonable if you talk to them long enough (and give them money and an Obama-phone) is pure, undiluted horse plop.

We need strong men and women on the front lines who aren't afraid of confrontation, controversy, injury, or death. Furthermore, they need to be backed up by strong leaders who aren't afraid to speak up and say things that aren't politically correct. Those leaders appointed by politicians must also be unafraid to tell certain loud fringe groups that they are full of crap and need to shut up.

Of course, all that will happen when unicorns are peeing beer on Big Rock Candy Mountain.

For my part, I intend to stay involved in law enforcement in some way. Judging by the above paragraphs, "pulling the pin" might actually be a good thing, as I can now speak freely about controversial hot-button issues without worry of career damage or courtroom fallout.

I will close with an admonition to my brothers and sisters behind the badge: stay proud, stay courageous, stay hard and, above all, stay honorable. There is no better person on earth than a good cop and there is no worse example of humanity than a bad cop. In the face of overwhelming odds (both without and within), always endeavor to do the right thing at the right time for the right reason. Then you'll never have to be afraid or look back.

For now, Lt. Wheat is 10-42. ☺

Brent T. Wheat is a former SWAT officer, canine handler, detective, and patrol supervisor who retired after a 30-year law enforcement career in the Midwest. A prolific freelance writer and photographer, he is the publisher of WildIndiana Magazine, a new regionally focused outdoor magazine. He can be reached at btwheat@wildindiana.com.

There is no better person on earth than a good cop and there is no worse example of humanity than a bad cop.

In that role, I quickly learned several important lessons, the most significant of which was the fact that there are many, many people in this world who will steal, rob, and kill if only given the opportunity. For a kid who had led a "normal" life, it was a shock to constantly interact with people who have absolutely no concern for other human beings: nothing, nada, zilch, zip. These weren't mass murderers or anyone so newsworthy, but simple everyday dirtbags who view you and me as mere impediments in their pursuit of happiness.

Thus, our first lesson: sociopathic people are common and, more importantly, standing right around the next corner. Over the years, when talking to "normal" folks about crime prevention and personal safety, it was readily apparent that most simply can't comprehend there is someone within shouting distance, *right now*, who would rob, rape, or kill them if there were some

a SWAT sniper, dog handler, detective, dive team member, bike patrol member, department media spokesman, and patrol supervisor. Though our rapidly growing town is a nameless, faceless burg in Middle America, I've had a chance to sample many different roles within the profession.

Along the way, a one-of-a-kind guy named Louis Awerbuck brought my words to the attention of S.W.A.T. Editor Denny Hansen and, 14 years later, we're still holding these monthly chat sessions. And I intend to keep on holding them - I'm retiring from the force, not from S.W.A.T. Magazine.

Today we've got better uniforms, weapons, vehicles, communication devices, and computer technology, but one thing remains unchanged: officers must be ready to get "down and dirty" when dealing with the seedy underbelly of society. Sadly this is contrary to the political correctness running rampant



BEST CASE SCENARIO.

Rugged, reliable gun protection with an unparalleled lifetime guarantee. Visit our website to scope out the full line of gun cases.



Use **Promo Code FCSWAT1** to get 5% off your next online order.

www.flyingcirclegear.com | 1.800.344.7242 | sales@flyingcirclegear.com

On Duty. Off Duty. We've Got You Covered.®



TOPS Multi-Fuel Folding Stove

Perhaps the most unlikely item to see at a knife convention is a cooking device, but that is exactly what I found at the TOPS Knives booth in Atlanta, Georgia during the Blade Show 2015. And the new multi-fuel stove from one of today's best cutlery companies is fueled by rocket-stove technology.

In the last five years, hordes of small companies, as well as some major outdoors manufacturers, have been developing small folding stoves for backpackers, hunters, campers, and preppers. The design is loosely based on the rocket stove, an efficient cooking stove that uses small-diameter wood as fuel and burns it in a high-temperature combustion chamber containing a vertical chimney.

A rocket stove achieves efficient combustion of the fuel at a high temperature by ensuring a good air draft into the fire and controlled use of fuel. It utilizes the heat energy from the hot rising air for quick boiling and cook times.

THE TOPS WAY

The TOPS Multi-Fuel Folding Stove consists of five main pieces made of 20-gauge stainless steel: two sides, the front, back, and fuel plate. The fuel plate can be inserted near the bottom of the stove to load small pieces of wood, in the center for alcohol and Sterno canisters, or the top for fuel tablets and gel fuel. Top it off with three included skewers that can also be placed on multiple levels, and this stove gives you a multitude of options.

The stove is approximately 6½ inches high when assembled and standing upright. The opening at the top is approximately 3⅞ inches by 3⅞ inches. It comes with an orange nylon pouch and one cedar/paraffin disc for fuel. The disc will burn for approximately 20 minutes.

CAMP COOKING

I was excited about using this stove right from the moment I left the convention. I found the set-up easy except for the last step of securing the plate to place the fuel on top of. A little bending and flexing of the unit is required to make it all fit correctly in the allotted slots. I used the stove to boil water for coffee and rehydrate some rice packets.

I used the top setting for fuel and in this case used Utility Flame gel fuel. I simply squeezed the gel onto the plate and ignited it. Once I'd placed my cook can on top of the skewers (which act as a grill too), it was a matter of minutes before the water was at a rolling boil.

Once the plate had cooled down and the fuel burned out, I changed it up a little to use the stove



As a standalone wood-burning fire, author used this for a small controlled survival fire. Fuel can be fed into the stove from the top. Damp wood can be dried by placing it across the top.

DESIGNED TO CARRY THE CROSS



SUPERTUCK®

THE BEST HOLSTER DESERVES THE BEST BELT.

Designed specifically for carrying a firearm, CrossBreed® Gun Belts are made with top grain cowhide and lined with premium hard rolled leather. Each is hand buffed, burnished, and treated, resulting in a strong belt with flexibility and comfort for every day wear.

CROSSBREED
HOLSTERS

HANDCRAFTED IN THE 

WWW.CROSSBREEDHOLSTERS.COM

FIND US ON





Left: TOPS Multi-Fuel Folding Stove boils water using Utility Flame gel fuel. Construction stands about 6½ inches high and is made of 20-gauge stainless steel.

Above: TOPS Stove fries food with wood as main fuel, using fast-rising heat for speedy cook times.

as a wood burner. This means I had to change the plate to the bottom slot. In wood-burning stove mode, fuel can be added in the form of dry sticks from the top. It worked well even if the sticks were long and uneven and protruded from the top. They all burned down to make smaller coals and acted as a heat source.

Once the sticks ignited and a sustainable flame was present, I put some camp food (canned meat) on a small steel skillet and placed it on top of the skewers. The stove was well balanced, not too high or narrow. When the skillet was on top of the stove, I was able to add small sticks from the bottom vents and larger port. I was amazed at how

fast it cooked.

The intense heat allows the sticks to burn up completely, leaving a small amount of ash, depending on the types of wood. The environmental impact is minimal because the ash collects on the bottom plate and doesn't scorch the ground or make the cooking process a liability in dry areas prone to wildfires.

EMERGENCY USE

Because the fire can be built inside the stove structure and protected from wind it makes an ideal fire starter, especially due to the design, which sends flames upward. When heat is in such a small and confined area, it burns the wood very hot, making even slight rain no threat to extinguishing the flames.

In very cold weather, the stove can be used under a tarp to help maintain radiant heat and, if kept at a low flame/



Dry twigs can be fed inside the main ports or any of the vents. Ash collects at the bottom for easy clean-up and minimal trace.



UNCLE SAM MEETS MOTHER RUSSIA



magpul.com



WILSON COMBAT.

**BETTER SHOOTING
IN MINUTES WITH THE AR TACTICAL
TRIGGER UNIT**

WILSON COMBAT AR-15 TACTICAL TRIGGER UNITS WILL RELIABLY FUNCTION IN ANY STANDARD USGI STYLE AR STYLE LOWER RECEIVER WITH STANDARD GI TRIGGER PINS OF .154" DIAMETER REGARDLESS OF CALIBER, INCLUDING 7.62/.308 LENGTH AR RECEIVERS.

**EZ INSTALLATION
WITHOUT REMOVAL
OF SAFETY SELECTOR.**

CHOOSE FROM

SINGLE STAGE
TWO STAGE
LE / MIL
OR 3-GUN

1-800-955-4856 BUY NOW AT WILSONCOMBAT.COM

temperature, can warm cold hands and feet (with caution). Placing damp or wet wood at the top of the stove will dry them out fast.

I look at every piece of gear from a survival standpoint. How can I use this to improve my situation if I'm caught in heavy rain and it's cold out?

The scenario: I'm hunkered down in a small cave or rock outcrop. The ground is wet and I need just enough warmth to keep my core and extremities warm. Obviously, a small fire is easier to make than a large one—it demands less fuel and less real estate to build. The TOPS Stove will keep my fire off the ground, which will most likely be wet. It also uses less fuel, time and energy to get the fire going.

I could easily hunker down in a small space while hovering over this little stove and survive. It wouldn't be comfortable or an ideal campfire experience, but it could save my life. A regular fire would be harder to contain and I'd need to make a platform to combat the damp, cold ground.

Being able to take the stove and set it anywhere, as well as hover over it to gain radiant heat and block rain or snow from entering the top make it a better option than trying to build a campfire that requires more space and fuel. A Mylar space blanket and this stove would be the perfect survival combination for maintaining heat and sheltering from rain, snow or wind.

SUMMARY

With a weight of 1 pound, 3.2 ounces (including nylon pouch) and a suggested retail price of only \$50, the TOPS Multi-Fuel Folding Stove is the perfect addition to almost any bug-out bag, emergency car kit, hiker bag, or camp pack. I would be very interested in a titanium version of this stove. As TOPS says, "In any situation, it pays to be prepared!" ©

Reuben Bolieu is an adventurer, writer, photographer and survival instructor for Randall's Adventure & Training. He has spent most of his life hiking and backpacking through the wildernesses of the world. A lifetime student of survival, he has studied primitive survival techniques from all over the world.

SOURCE

TOPS KNIVES

(208) 542-0113
www.topsknives.com



A CHARGING HANDLE FOR THE 21ST CENTURY GUNFIGHTER! BCMGUNFIGHTER CHARGING HANDLE

Like everything else in the last 45 years, tactics and weaponry have undergone a continuing evolution. Current CQB techniques have the shooter maintaining a firing grip while using their non dominant hand in the operation of the charging handle for loading or immediate action. This enables the shooter to utilize a faster and more efficient weapon manipulation technique in an effort to bring a hot weapon back into the fight. The drawback of this technique was that the entire operation became contingent on the sheer strength of the tiny roll pin securing the tactical latch.



The BCMGUNFIGHTER™ Charging Handle features internal redesigns to direct the force off of the weakest part of the system, the roll pin, and into the body of the charging handle during support hand only manipulations. This new design has a built in "backstop" engineered into the charging handle. As the latch is opened up, its' travel is limited by these flat surface backstops. With this travel limiting feature, the shooter has a stronger system and a smoother operation.

MADE IN THE USA FROM 7075 T6 ALUMINUM - MIL-SPEC HARD COAT ANODIZED



BCMGUNFIGHTER CHARGING HANDLE - 5.56/.223 - MOD 3, 4, 5 \$44.95

BCMGUNFIGHTER AMBI CHARGING HANDLE - 5.56/.223 - MOD 44 \$75.95

The BCMGUNFIGHTER™ Charging Handle is made by Bravo Company MFG, Inc. VLTOR U.S. Patent 8104393, other patents pending.
All pricing is subject to change without notice. Please see our website for current pricing.

★ **BRAVOCOMPANYUSA.COM** ★

BravoCompanyMFG.com • Hartland, Wisconsin U.S.A.

Toll Free: 1-877-BRAVO CO (1-877-272-8626) • Fax: 262-367-0989





GSG-522SD (top) and Walther-HK MP5A5-22.

SHOOTING A LEGEND AFFORDABLY

MP5 Rimfires

BY KYLE WINSETT

FEW firearms are as iconic as the Heckler & Koch MP5. For many people, their first glimpse of the MP5 was in the hands of SAS counterterror troops, U.S. Navy SEALs, or SWAT teams. The high cost of Class 3 firearms made civilian ownership of

these amazing firearms expensive—for many prohibitively so—until recently. Several full caliber and rimfire versions of popular military arms are now commercially available to the public and, for once, they're affordable.

The first offering is from German Sport Guns. The GSG-522SD is cosmeti-

cally a close replica of the H&K MP5SD. It's chambered in .22 Long Rifle (LR) and ships with a fixed-style stock, one magazine, a disassembly tool, an assortment of additional posts for the front sight, and the manual.

Imported and distributed by American Tactical Imports, the GSG vari-

ants have suggested retail prices from \$319.95 to \$479.95 depending on the model. Most versions can be had for about \$325.

Made from a high-density polymer with steel and aluminum parts where required, the GSG-522 is very light, weighing in at about 6.7 pounds. It has a polymer section of Picatinny rail mounted on the top of the receiver via two small screws. For purists like myself, it can easily be removed to give a more authentic appearance, and the polymer receiver will accept HK-style optic mounts.

Walther manufactures the other model tested, under license from Heckler & Koch. It is as close to the original as you can get without filing paperwork. Also chambered in .22 LR, the Walther-HK MP5A5-22 ships with a true-to-spec collapsible stock, one magazine, and the manual.

The Walther-HK retails for \$426.25 but can be had for about \$400 by shopping around. The MP5-22 comes in A5 and SD5 variants. With unloaded weight running about six pounds, the MP5-22 is lighter than the GSG-522, but by feel, it weighs significantly more. The mostly aluminum construction of the Walther MP5-22 gives it a very stout feel. This model is nearly identical to its 9mm older brother.

FIRE CONTROLS, SIGHTS AND STOCKS

Both the HK-Walther and the GSG feature ambidextrous safety selectors and MP5-style non-reciprocating manual lock-back charging handles. The GSG safety has a high angle that I found difficult to actuate with the thumb.

The triggers both have a fairly crisp pull. According to the manuals, the HK should have a trigger pull between 6.6 and 8.8 pounds, while the GSG claims 5 pounds, 12 ounces.

My examples tested at just under six pounds for the GSG and right at seven pounds for the HK-Walther. The HK trigger has minimal take-up with a clean, solid breaking point. But the GSG has a little bit of take-up that leads into a softer, but still clean, break.

In regard to the iron sights, the HK-Walther's true diopter sights are significantly better than the box and post recreation by GSG. It is my understanding that GSG once offered the round diopter-style sights, but that is no longer the case. The sights they come with now are functional but nowhere near as fast



Ambidextrous safety selectors on GSG5 have high angles that are difficult to actuate with the thumb.

and efficient as the HK-Walther sights.

That being said, the GSG sight works exceptionally well in the "CQB" setting, providing the shooter with a notch shaped like a wide U with a narrow V in the middle. This sight configuration proved to be very fast and, with a little practice, quite accurate out to 25 yards.

The HK-Walther, on the other hand, has four different sizes of round apertures, which are quick and accurate.

The GSG-522 is available with a dazzling variety of options for stocks. Avail-

able with fixed, collapsible and side-folding models, the tested variant came with a fixed stock. Patterned on the original HK fixed stock, it was very comfortable to shoot, as it gave the shooter a comfortable shoulder and cheek interface with the gun and helped create a more stable platform.

The downside is the screw-in take-down pins, which the user has to be careful not to over-tighten over the stock, because the pressure can (and will) crack the plastic stock.



H&K ambi-safety is more akin to a 45-degree configuration and is considerably easier to operate quickly while bringing the rifle up to and off of the target.

The HK-Walther MP5-22 variants all come equipped with the HK standard collapsible stock. This aluminum version is considerably more rugged than the GSG-522's plastic stock and allows the rifle to be shrunk down to a more compact package. This means your options for cases and storage spaces increase significantly. The downside is that the stock has a little vertical wobble and is not too comfortable to put your face against. But it is a significant improvement over the wire and underfolding AK stock variants.

FEATURES

Both versions come with a faux suppressor mounted to the barrel, and MP5-style handguards. The GSG-522SD features a rubberized rounded tube grip, similar to that on the full-size HK MP5SD.

The MP5-22 features an A5 plastic handguard that can be interchanged with any number of M1913 variants and the SureFire MP5 flashlight/laser. Some variants of Airsoft light/laser forends also fit the MP5-22, but the author does not recommend their continued use

because they are not intended to hold up to the heat and stresses induced by firing live ammunition.

It is significant that both guns are also available in variants that use the SD or A5 variant of handguards and can allow the use of a variety of M1913 railed handguards. Buyer beware: not all parts are interchangeable.

The faux suppressors and 16-inch barrels are significantly different. The GSG-522 has a stainless steel 16-inch barrel, with the faux suppressor mounting at the front of the handguard. The MP5-22 barrel is likewise stainless steel, but the faux suppressor slips down over the barrel and screws onto threads at the muzzle end.

While personal preference will dictate which is better to each shooter, no noticeable difference in accuracy as a result was detected, and neither gun showed significant deviation in point of impact from the bench.

Finally, the GSG-522 features a sling mount on the stock, but nowhere to attach a sling on the front of the rifle. The MP5-22 features the HK-style three-point sling mounts at the rear of the

receiver and at the front sight, with the ability to attach the third mounting point next to the magazine well.

PERFORMANCE

Both guns proved to be fantastically accurate rimfires. Out of 30 ten-shot groups fired using CCI mini-mag, Winchester bulk white box, and Federal Bulk ammo, neither gun showed anything greater than one-inch groups at ten yards. At 25 yards, the MP5-22 really shone compared to the GSG-522.

The GSG-522 still maintained impressive grouping from the bench but opened up to the point that not every shot touched the others. The MP5-22 never opened up beyond 1.5 inches and not a single shot strayed out of the group.

That said, both rifles experienced significant point of impact shift from standing to bench. The extra pressure applied to the barrels via the faux suppressors when rested on the bench caused both guns to hit between two and six inches high at 25 yards. The faux suppressors connect directly to the barrel and therefore resting them on

TENACITY THAT GOES BEYOND STAYING POWER

THE MEPROLIGHT **MEPRO M21** ALWAYS ON, ALWAYS READY

Designed for CQB, Meprolight's Mepro M21 reflex sight is designed in collaboration with Israeli Special Forces to be ready 24/7 – always on, always ready, with no batteries needed. It features a tritium and fiber optic powered self-illuminating reticle and utilizes a 30mm diameter FOV lens to allow users to keep both eyes open for rapid target acquisition.

Distributed by The
MAKO
GROUP

For more information or to purchase,
visit TheMakoGroup.com/Meprolight

MEPROLIGHT
AIM FOR GREATNESS



CRITICAL DUTY[®]

AMMUNITION

NOW
AVAILABLE
357 SIG

Barrier Blind Performance

THE MOST CONSISTENT TACTICAL HANDGUN
AMMO IS NOW AVAILABLE IN 357 SIG!

Urban barriers (heavy clothing, plywood, sheet metal and even auto glass*) are no match for the innovative FlexLock[®] bullet loaded in Critical Duty[®] handgun ammunition. Law enforcement and tactical professionals, as well as law-abiding citizens, now have a truly advanced, 21st century ammunition solution that delivers the most consistent and reliable terminal performance on the market.

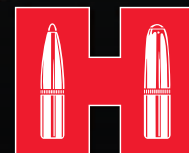
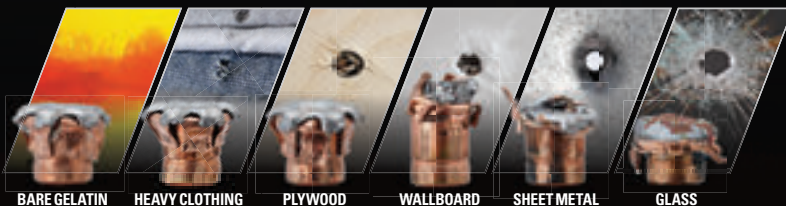
**As defined by the "FBI Protocol" handgun ammunition tests.*

NEW FLEXLOCK[®] BULLET

- ① **FLEX TIP[®] TECHNOLOGY** Initiates consistent expansion every time while preventing clogging.
- ② **INTERLOCK[®] BAND** Works to keep the bullet and core from separating for maximum weight retention and proven terminal performance through all FBI test barriers.
- ③ **TOUGH BULLET CORE** High-antimony lead core delivers controlled expansion for unparalleled terminal performance consistency through all FBI test barriers.
- ④ **CANNELURED BULLET** Provides a consistent crimp location to ensure no bullet setback during feeding.

NEW!

357 SIG 135 GR FLEXLOCK[®] CRITICAL DUTY[®]



Hornady[®]

AVAILABLE IN:

9MM LUGER 135 GR | 9MM LUGER +P 135 GR | 357 SIG 135 GR | 40 S&W 175 GR | 45 AUTO +P 220 GR

800.338.3220 | HORNADY.COM

anything pushes the barrel out of alignment with the sights.

Neither gun showed any significant functional issues until about 75 rounds into the testing. The GSG-522 presented with multiple light primer strikes indicative of a damaged firing pin.

But the HK-Walther ran exactly how one would expect a gun from either manufacturer to run: perfectly. Neither rifle had any problems feeding from factory magazines, though the Pro-Mag 25-round magazines for the GSG-522

proved to be finicky until they had been fired through a few times.

The magazines for the MP5-22 and GSG-522 are not interchangeable. They have different feed lips and a slightly different curvature, with the GSG magazines slightly more rounded and the HK-Walther a little less aggressively curved.

FINAL IMPRESSIONS

For the money, both rifles are outstanding. If you want the best overall, go with

the HK-Walther MP5-22. If you want the best bang for your buck, the GSG-522 is a good option. I'm glad I bought both.

My wife likes the GSG-522 better, while I prefer the HK-Walther. In the end, these rimfire MP5s are a ton of fun, and they throw in a bit of nostalgia for those who used them on duty or grew up seeing them in the news and every action movie.

Give them a try. You won't be disappointed. ☺



GSG rear sight has no vertical limit for frame reference on the front sight. But CQB notch is an excellent configuration for short-range shooting.



GSG front sight provides lateral frame reference only for lining up the sights.



GSG sight picture is slightly more difficult than the MP5 to acquire quickly, but is still functional inside 25 yards.



HK sight picture is traditional diopter configuration. Author found this configuration faster and more user friendly than GSG's square-framed sights.

TRIJICON 1-6x24

VCOG™

THE ULTIMATE
PATROL OPTIC



FIND OUT
MORE

TRIJICON 1-6x24 VCOG™

First Focal Plane Illuminated Reticle | Rugged & Dependable
Single AA Battery | Bullet Drop Compensating & Ranging Reticle
Six Adjustable Brightness Settings | Waterproof | Made in the USA

© 2015 Trijicon, Inc. | Watons, MI, USA | 1-800-338-0563 | www.trijicon.com

Trijicon®

Brilliant Aiming Solutions™

Disobeying Unconstitutional Orders

LAST month's column made several not-too-complimentary references to "hired government muscle." That may have raised a few eyebrows in a publication with a target audience with so much, well, "hired government muscle."

As a former "muscle" myself, I should clarify my meaning, which was certainly *not* intended to cast aspersions on the professions of law enforcement or military service.

The men and women of the military and police play a vital role in safeguarding the lives and liberty of the people of this nation. The problem comes when the people giving the orders command them not to protect the people's lives and liberty, but to destroy them.

When that happens, some in law enforcement and the military will be only too willing to obey. *Those* are the "oath-breaking hired muscle" from whom the people must have a credible means of defending themselves. The law enforcement and military personnel of honor will, on the other hand, continue to live up to their oath to preserve the Constitution.

That will not be easy. They will risk harsh disciplinary action, with demotion probably at or near the *low* end of the range of consequences, on up to ejection from the organization (and hence sudden unemployment), prison time or, not inconceivably, even death. But such risks come with the job, and anyone not willing to take them needs to be in a different line of work.

In other words, cops and soldiers must be oath keepers. That might mean actually becoming a member of the group that calls itself Oath Keepers, formed in 2009 by Yale-educated attorney and former paratrooper (and former S.W.A.T. columnist) Stewart Rhodes. The Oath Keepers are mostly active duty and retired military service members, law enforcement officers, and firefighters who reaffirm their service oath to uphold the Constitution, and clarify their intentions with a second oath to disobey any unconstitu-

tional order. Orders to disarm the people appear right at the top of the list of examples.

But one need not formally join any group in order to honor one's oath. Indeed, I strongly suspect that only a small percentage of those who would disobey unconstitutional orders have actually formalized that stance by joining the group.

For those who doubt that such orders will ever be given, it is instructive to note the volume and intensity of the vitriol directed at the Oath Keepers. The Southern Poverty Law Center, which claims to be a watchdog group keeping an eye on "hate groups," has no fewer than ten articles about the Oath Keepers in its "Hate Watch" blog, despite the fact that the Oath Keepers have never espoused racism, religious intolerance, or any other form of "hate." SPLC went so far as to voice a bit of disappointment that there seemed to be no grounds on which the Pentagon could prohibit personnel from joining the group.

The Coalition To Stop Gun Violence goes considerably further than SPLC, telling their Facebook followers that, "We've been calling them traitors for some time. And that's what our Founding Fathers would have called them." *Traitors*, for refusing to obey *unconstitutional* orders. Who could possibly find such a vow objectionable? The only rational answer is those who *want* unconstitutional orders to be obeyed, who *want* the government to have the power to use the men and women under its command as attack dogs against the American people.

These are people who have the ears of many powerful officials in government. The Obama Administration has more than once consulted with the SPLC on hate groups and domestic terrorist threats. If they want the government to be able to count on soldiers' and cops' willingness to defile their oath to uphold the Constitution, it's hard to imagine that none in the government itself share that wish. Some

day, they might try to make that wish reality.

And we have actually seen such orders given in the not-too-distant past. After Hurricane Katrina, then-Mayor of New Orleans Ray Nagin ordered the wholesale confiscation of privately owned firearms, with police and National Guard personnel expected to carry out that order. Unforgivably, they did just that.

Some have argued that it is not the place of individual soldiers (and by presumable extension, individual law enforcement officers) to decide whether or not their orders are unconstitutional. This begs the question of whose place *is* it? Their superiors? That's where the orders are coming from in the first place.

No, as at Nuremberg after World War II, "just following orders" does not cut the mustard as an excuse to abuse the rights of the people. It is the sacred duty of every law enforcement officer and military service member to scrutinize *every* order for conflict with the Constitution. With the vast majority of orders, that scrutiny will be the work of milliseconds. Some may take a bit of deeper thought. Some may require real soul searching. And a few may call for more moral courage than you have ever needed before.

Again, there is nothing wrong with being "hired government muscle," but unlike the muscles in a body, *you* have the last word on whether or not you are "flexed" in service of the government. Some in government undoubtedly hope that the men and women in uniform will shut up and do what they're told. They are in for a dreadful disappointment. ☹

A former paratrooper, Kurt Hofmann was paralyzed in a car accident in 2002. The helplessness inherent to confinement to a wheelchair prompted him to explore armed self-defense, only to discover that Illinois denied that right. This inspired him to become active in gun rights advocacy.

FROM BATTLEFIELD
TO HOMEFIELD

ATPIAL-C

AN / P E Q - 1 5
CLASS 1 / IIR



MILSPEC
BATTLE-PROVEN
IR LASER/ILLUMINATOR
CIVILIAN LEGAL

AVAILABLE
FROM



WWW.TNVC.COM



© COPYRIGHT 2014, TNVC. ALL RIGHTS RESERVED



“Master” Gunfighters

ARE there “master” gunfighters? The simple answer is no. The explanation is a bit more complicated. There is no such thing as a master gunfighter that I know of. Not a single one of the hundreds of individuals I have known who have been in actual shootings would lay claim to such a title. Not a single one. There is good reason for this.

Many claim to be masters of sorts. There are self-proclaimed four-gun masters or pistol masters, rifle masters, shotgun masters, or the ubiquitous combat masters. There are even distinguished masters who I suppose are even more masterful than a master, if such a thing is even possible. (In the near future, someone will lay claim to the title Transcendent Distinguished Omnipotent Master of Masters.)

The amusing thing is that many of these so-called masters have never been

in an actual field encounter, let alone a series of verifiable encounters.

Employed as an adjective, the word master might denote one who is supremely skilled and perhaps devoid of fault. As a noun, the individual in question might be thought of as the penultimate in their respective field.

I know many individuals who have been in a number of shootings and none of them would call themselves a master. Professional and proficient, yes, but master, no. The old adage of not believing your own press goes a long way here. I have never heard a professional golfer state that he had mastered the game of golf. Nor have I ever heard a professional surfer, football player, or the like state anything along this line.

When any endeavor incorporates a number of unpredictable variables



into the mix, there is always the chance of things going terribly south when, by all accounts, they shouldn't. Such is the world of gunfighting. I can take anyone out there at any time under any circumstances. By the same token, everyone out there can take me at any time un-

www.Caldwellshooting.com • 877.509.9160

AR-15 MAG CHARGER
Caldwell

.223, 5.56, .204 or
300 AAC Blackout



AK MAG CHARGER
Caldwell

7.62 x 39



WINNER of the
Golden Bullseye Award 2015
by the NRA!

Caldwell
Shooting Supplies

- Holds 50 rounds of loaded ammo
- Loads 5 rounds per “stroke” with an auto advance
- Instant transfer system from ammo box to Mag Charger
- AR-15 Mag Charger compatible with all AR-15 mags
- AK Mag Charger compatible with all AK mags



WATCH IT WORK!

der any circumstances. Things go right for me and wrong for you, or things go right for you and wrong for me. I make no mistakes and you make just one, or I make one mistake and you make none. It is the nature of gunfighting.

All of us are fallible. All of us make mistakes. Setting a course of fire where the sun is out, birds are singing, and everything goes along swimmingly is one thing. A shattered hand and shoulder with blood or glass fragments in the eyes in a dark, muddy alley is quite another.

Shootings entail variables that are often out of our control. If we ponder all the permutations of a gunfight that have transpired in past shootings, our heads will be swimming. I know of officers who have been pinned into locations or struck in the arms, hands, torso, legs, face, and feet. Any one of these can set you behind the power curve at the outset of an encounter. There have also been equipment failures that follow right along the line of Murphy's Law, when you least expect them.

There is another intangible aspect that no one I know of has really addressed. Having taught and been

around so many who have been in documented gunfights has brought to light one unassailable fact. Sometimes, those you least expect to pull through do just that. These are middle-of-the-pack shooters who never really stood out within a training format, yet accomplished great feats when the chips were down. You don't need to be a great shooter to be a great fighter.

What you can accomplish on a pre-set course of fire practiced again and again until you get it just right is distinctly different than what can be accomplished when a fight is unexpected, fast, not rehearsed, real, and deadly. What you can accomplish under rules and regulations with pre-set distances and clearly delineated targets is not close to the reality of unknown threats, low light, unusual target aspects, fast movers, and the imposition of real deadly force laws and force continuums.

I have come across opposing police experts in court who have freely thrown the title of master this-and-that in respect to their supposed expertise. They are very easy to discredit on the witness stand by showing the jury that their

claims are all smoke and mirrors. Such charlatans are a pure delight to destroy. Plenty of websites shamelessly proclaim their master status as well. As David Hannum (*not* P.T. Barnum) stated, "There's a sucker born every minute."

On a personal level, I am fully aware that having been successful in the past does not automatically denote that I will be successful in the future. This could be easily proven if I were to shoot every course of fire through the training day with the students. Sooner or later a glitch would emerge, I might miss or fumble an evolution, or miscalculate an event. This is due to the fact that I am human and subject to mistakes, as are we all.

And this is precisely why I do not call myself a master. ©

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.

WELCOME TO THE JUNGLE

PRECISION TAC OPTICS. YOURS FOR A SONG.

Precision ground, fully multi-coated lenses for edge-to-edge clarity and a precise mil-dot reticle. Sun shade included. It's a jungle out there. Bring the right scope.



STARTING AT
\$229.99

100% Lifetime Guarantee



info@SunOpticsUSA.com

(817) 783-6001

www.SunOpticsUSA.com

Pump Versus Self-Loading Combat Shotguns

Ferguson, Missouri is pretty much out of the news these days. Here in St. Louis we're especially tired of the subject, but one discussion that arose out of the disorder in Ferguson was the impetus for this article.

As the Michael Brown verdict approached and the rioting started, most of my friends steered clear of Ferguson. But in case it didn't steer clear of them, they also added a couple of extra spare magazines with their carry gun and made sure their AR-15 was stored safely in their vehicle.

One couple I'm friends with live in an affluent neighborhood about 10 or 12 minutes from Ferguson. They own

guns—expensive over-and-under trap and skeet shotguns. They feel confident with shotguns so wanted to get a “combat” shotgun for home defense. They asked me whether they should get a pump or a self-loader.

I discussed just loading a couple of their trap guns on the chance that things got bad, but the husband wanted a shotgun that wasn't “pretty” like their other guns, but had plenty of stopping power. I explained the pros and cons of each type of fighting scattergun to them.

Since I was recommending a shotgun for friends who would not get extensive tactical training, I thought the

self-loader would be a better choice. Then it occurred to me that our discussions might make an interesting column.

First, conventional wisdom used to be that pump shotguns were superior, as self-loaders were less reliable. I don't buy that. Especially with less experienced users, the possibility of short-stroking a pump-action presents a real problem.

Some modern self-loading fighting shotguns are very, very reliable. I'll cite the Remington 11-87 Police and Mossberg 590 Tactical as examples. I shoot both models and have found them extremely reliable. Both have hundreds



Mossberg 590A1 shotgun offers option of mounting a bayonet, which may be useful during times of unrest.

GUN FIGHTERS WANTED



Why is the Bravo Company line of **BCM® Rifles** quickly becoming one of the most sought after brands by those training for harm's way?

Because of a commitment to manufacturing products for those warriors who spend their days on the two-way range.

Quality of materials, quality of process, and adherence to specifications yield a product greater than the sum of its parts.

BCM® builds Professional Grade Weaponry™

Safe queen curators need not apply.

★ **BRAVOCOMPANYUSA.COM** ★

BravoCompanyMFG.com • Hartland, Wisconsin U.S.A.
Toll Free: 1-877-BRAVO CO (1-877-272-8626) • Fax: 262-367-0989



Author firing his Scattergun Technologies 870 with dedicated SureFire forend.



Author fires 870 from cover. With a pump-action, care must be taken when using low or tight cover so action may be operated.



Firing Mossberg 930 Blackwater Special from cover. The 930 Tactical offers many desirable combat features.

of rounds through them, and I don't remember any malfunctions—at least any noteworthy ones. Another consideration was that, assuming a 20-inch or shorter barrel, for home defense the self-loader would be easier to operate in confined spaces quickly.

When discussing the pump-action shotgun for military and law enforcement usage, I usually point out that operating the slide action from prone, especially under low cover, may be difficult since the arm operating the action needs room for movement. To some extent this is also true when firing through a window or around a door.

One consideration for choosing a pump or self-loading shotgun for home defense is safety. Since the pump has to be cycled each time, there is perhaps more awareness that there is a round in the chamber than with a self-loader, which automatically loads another round.

Having said that, awhile back, I talked to a friend who had been an internal affairs detective who responded to police shootings. He mentioned multiple times when officers thought they had fired one or two rounds through their pump shotguns, but the shotguns had been shot dry.

Cost can be a consideration in choosing a pump or a self-loader, with the latter usually being more expensive. This was not a consideration for my friends, who are quite affluent.

An interesting advantage of the pump shotgun arose with the husband. I showed him my Mossberg 590A1, which has a bayonet lug and came with a bayonet. I mentioned the deterrent effect of the bayonet, and he was very enthusiastic. Back in the day, he had served in the National Guard and received anti-riot training with fixed bayonet. The 590A1 impressed him but not his wife, who liked the idea of a self-loader much more.

Many of the features I discussed with my friends were applicable to either a pump or a self-loader. I recommended ghost ring sights, a high-capacity magazine tube, and a light attached to the forend. As it transpired, I had my Benelli M3 in my truck when I went by the couple's home, so used it to demonstrate both self-loading and pump operation since it is a dual-action. My friend was intrigued at the ability to switch to pump action for firing less lethal, but I explained he wasn't going to be part of a tactical unit dispersing a crowd. If he or his wife had to use their shotgun, it would be to deal with a potentially lethal threat.

I did not recommend the M3 for them, since dealing with one type of action would

GET SOME . . . Weapons and Tactics Training

"It's not about shooting. It's about fighting with a gun!" Pat Rogers



The best rifle in the world is of no use without the proper training. Now you can get one of the country's best battle rifles and a great deal on some of the world's best tactical training.



Each E.A.G. Tactical Carbine, manufactured by BCM®, includes a discount certificate to put toward carbine training with E.A.G. Tactical. E.A.G. Tactical, owned by Pat Rogers, has been around over 20 years teaching modern day warriors how to win the gun fight and return home safe. E.A.G. Tactical carbine or pistol training is available to military units, law enforcement departments and vetted civilians.

Please see www.BravoCompanyUSA.com for details and expiration dates.
Production of these carbines will be limited.



BCM® EAG Tactical Carbine

Package includes:

- Vltor USGI QD Front Swivel
- TangoDown PR#4 Sling Mount
- VTAC Two Point MK2 Padded Sling
- VTAC Light Mount ➤ SureFire G2 LED
- BCM® Magazine with Magpul Follower
- Slip2000 EWL- Lube and 725-Gun Cleaner Degreaser
- **\$200 Certificate toward training with E.A.G. Tactical**
(Some Restrictions Apply)

- BCM® 14.5" Mid Length Gas BFH (Cold Hammer Forged) Barrel with permanently attached BCM® A2X™ Flash Hider
- Special Edition E.A.G. Serial Number Series
- E.A.G. Logo Laser Etched on Magwell and Upper Receiver
- LaRue Tactical 9 Inch Tactical Free Float Handguard
- TangoDown SCAR Panel Covers (three)
- TangoDown QD Vertical Grip-K ➤ TangoDown Battle Grip
- Magpul MOE Stock ➤ Magpul Enhanced Trigger Guard
- Troy Industries/BCM Rear Folding Battle Sight

BCM® builds Professional Grade Weaponry™

★ BRAVOCOMPANYUSA.COM ★

BravoCompanyMFG.com • Hartland, Wisconsin U.S.A.

Toll Free: 1-877-BRAVO CO (1-877-272-8626) • Fax: 262-367-0989

THE ULTIMATE GAS PISTON RIFLES



X-Pre 2

Featuring the Adams Arms Piston System

Complete Rifles, Uppers, and Lowers

Chambered in 5.56 NATO and 5.45x39

Barrel Lengths: 14.5" • 16" • 18"

Sold Exclusively at Mills Fleet Farm



fleetfarm.com



Tactical Evo 14.5"



5.45x39 Carbine

HULDRA

HULDRAARMS.COM

Extreme Situations require an Extreme Blade!

SXB

Skullcrusher's X-treme Blade

#TOPSKnives



www.topsknives.com

DEALER INQUIRIES WELCOME

Call for a FREE catalog

P.O. BOX 2544

IDAHO FALLS, ID 83403

Phone: (208)542-0113

101th
Made in the
USA

facebook.com/TOPSKnivesofficial

be enough to absorb with the limited training they would receive. I did suggest that, whatever shotgun they chose, they get #4 buckshot instead of #00. Where they live, properties are relatively large and #4 would be less likely to endanger the neighbors or their horses.

On another trip, I let them handle a Mossberg 930 self-loader and a Mossberg 590A1 pump, as well as a Remington 11-87 Police self-loader and a Remington 870 pump. The husband liked the 590A1 pump and 870 pump, but the wife liked the Mossberg 930 Tactical. She is only a little over five feet tall, and hence had trouble operating the pump action.

I suggested the best compromise would be the Mossberg self-loader, as both needed to be able to handle the shotgun with confidence. Three other advantages of the 930 Tactical are the large cocking handle, which allows a round to be quickly chambered under stress, the quick release button, and the sliding safety at the top of the receiver, similar to the ones on their over-and-under shotguns.

My 930 is the Blackwater Special model, which is slightly different than the standard model. I took them to a local indoor range and let them try it—both liked it. I had tested the 930 Tactical with Federal Personal Defense loads and knew they worked, so let them shoot with #4 Buckshot PD loads.

There had been a run on the local gun shops due to the Ferguson Effect, but I knew a shop in a neighboring county that had a 930 Tactical in stock, so called and asked the store to hold it and sent my friends to pick it up. The Mossberg did not have a light mounted, but that can be added later. Elzetta Design makes a great mount for the 930 Tactical.

My friends were good to go, but the Ferguson "protests" (riots in non-PC speak) did not spill into their neighborhood.

Still, they now have a good home defense shotgun. ☺

SOURCES

ELZETTA DESIGN, LLC

(859) 707-7471

www.elzetta.com

FEDERAL PREMIUM AMMUNITION

(800) 379-1732

www.federalpremium.com

O.F. MOSSBERG & SONS, INC.

(203) 230-5300

www.mossberg.com

SWAT SUBSCRIPTIONS



NEW LOW DIGITAL PRICING!

ONE YEAR, 12-ISSUE
DIGITAL SUBSCRIPTION

\$19.99

FOR TABLETS & SMARTPHONES

Save almost \$40* with a yearly
digital sub and get your issue of
S.W.A.T. the day it's released!

Single Copy Digital Editions Also Available

SUBSCRIBE *YOUR* WAY!



FOR ANDROID™
TABLETS AND SMARTPHONES:

NOW \$19.99/SUBSCRIBE ONLINE AT
WWW.SWATMAG.COM/ANDROID



Android is a trademark of Google Inc.



FOR APPLE iPad and iPHONES:

NOW \$19.99/SUBSCRIBE ONLINE AT
WWW.SWATMAG.COM/iPAD



SAVE ON PRINT ISSUES!

MAIL IN COUPON,
ORDER ONLINE AT SWATMAG.COM
or CALL 1-800-673-4595

PRINT EDITION

☐

BUY 7 ISSUES, GET 5 FREE!*

1 year (12 issues) of SWAT for \$34.95

☐

BUY 18 ISSUES, GET 18 FREE!*

3 years (36 issues) of SWAT for \$89.95

Name _____

Address _____

City / State / Zip _____

Email _____

☐ Payment Enclosed

☐ Bill Me

Charge My: ☐ VISA ☐ MasterCard ☐ Discover ☐ American Express

Credit Card Number

Signature _____

Exp. Date MM/YY

Mail To: S.W.A.T., P.O. Box 16226, No. Hollywood, CA 91615

MONEY BACK ON UNMAILED ISSUES IF NOT SATISFIED! Canadian subscribers, add \$15 per year.
U.S. funds drawn on a U.S. bank. All other countries, add \$25 per year. Where applicable, sales
tax is included in stated price. Your first issue will arrive in 6 to 8 weeks. *Cover price: \$4.99.

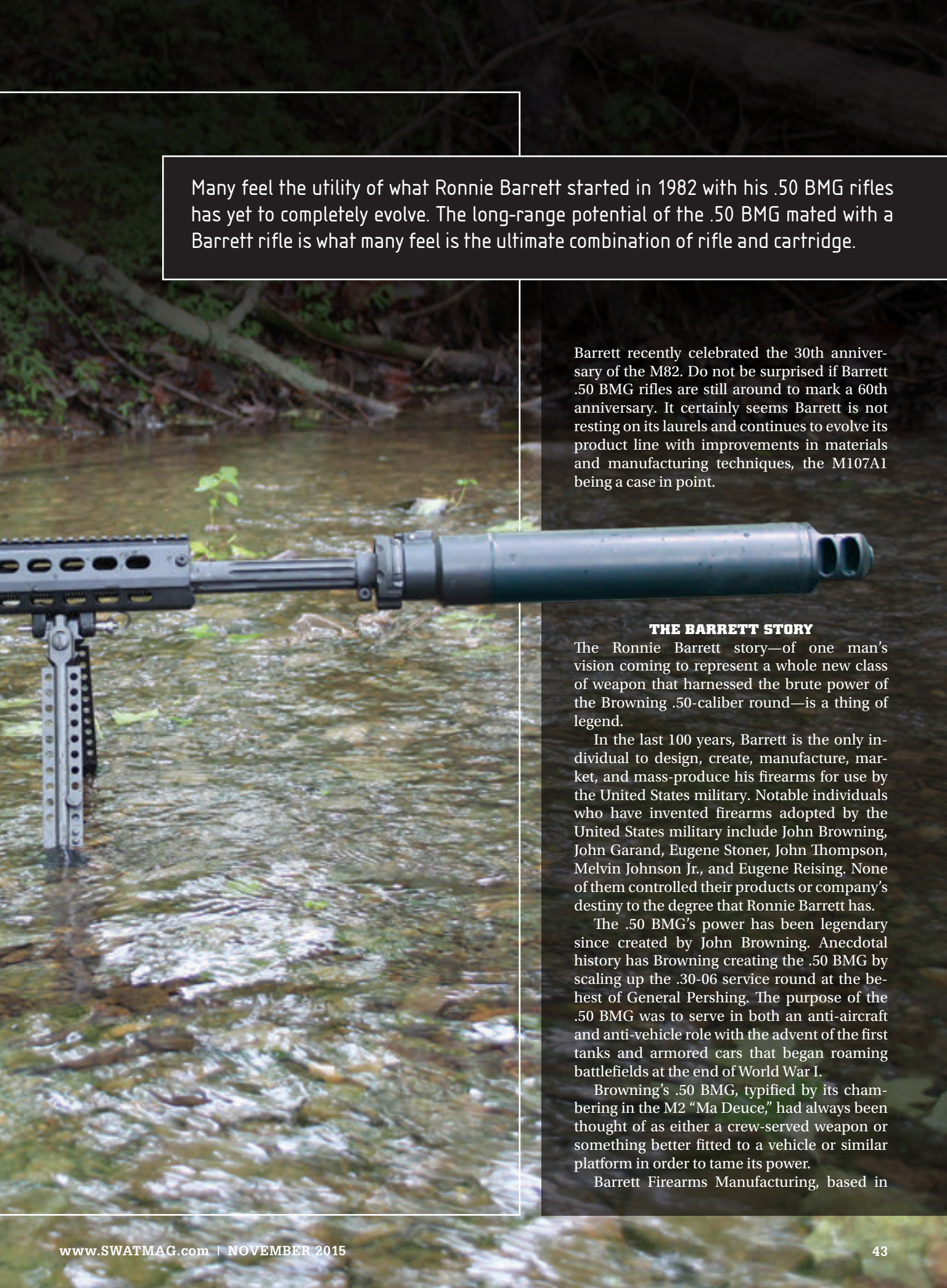
GRY00

LEGENDARY POWER



BARRETT
M107A1
.50 BMG

BY TODD BURGREN



Many feel the utility of what Ronnie Barrett started in 1982 with his .50 BMG rifles has yet to completely evolve. The long-range potential of the .50 BMG mated with a Barrett rifle is what many feel is the ultimate combination of rifle and cartridge.

Barrett recently celebrated the 30th anniversary of the M82. Do not be surprised if Barrett .50 BMG rifles are still around to mark a 60th anniversary. It certainly seems Barrett is not resting on its laurels and continues to evolve its product line with improvements in materials and manufacturing techniques, the M107A1 being a case in point.

THE BARRETT STORY

The Ronnie Barrett story—of one man's vision coming to represent a whole new class of weapon that harnessed the brute power of the Browning .50-caliber round—is a thing of legend.

In the last 100 years, Barrett is the only individual to design, create, manufacture, market, and mass-produce his firearms for use by the United States military. Notable individuals who have invented firearms adopted by the United States military include John Browning, John Garand, Eugene Stoner, John Thompson, Melvin Johnson Jr., and Eugene Reising. None of them controlled their products or company's destiny to the degree that Ronnie Barrett has.

The .50 BMG's power has been legendary since created by John Browning. Anecdotal history has Browning creating the .50 BMG by scaling up the .30-06 service round at the behest of General Pershing. The purpose of the .50 BMG was to serve in both an anti-aircraft and anti-vehicle role with the advent of the first tanks and armored cars that began roaming battlefields at the end of World War I.

Browning's .50 BMG, typified by its chambering in the M2 "Ma Deuce," had always been thought of as either a crew-served weapon or something better fitted to a vehicle or similar platform in order to tame its power.

Barrett Firearms Manufacturing, based in

LEGENDARY POWER



Murfreesboro, Tennessee, was founded in 1982 and centered on Ronnie Barrett's idea of a shoulder-fired .50 BMG rifle. While many are familiar with the Barrett story thanks to several documentaries and articles, I will give a brief synopsis of the first Barrett .50 BMG based on archival interviews with Ronnie Barrett himself.

Ronnie was a professional photographer and artist who

wanted to create a rifle chambered in .50 BMG. He had no prior experience in manufacturing or as an engineer. He hand drew the design for what was to become the Barrett semiautomatic .50 BMG rifle. When he took the drawings to machine shops in the area, they laughed at his ideas. Instead of giving up, he decided to manufacture it himself.

It is only fitting to begin with the Barrett model that started it all—the M82A1. Ronnie Barrett's instincts, as laid out on his kitchen table, proved very keen in making sure the M82A1's construction was geared toward durability and reliability in the tactical arena. Barrett's first conventional military success was the sale of about 100 M82A1 rifles to the Swedish Army in 1989.

World events transpired to give Barrett a major impetus toward success in 1990, when the United States armed forces purchased significant numbers of the M82A1 during Operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm in Kuwait and Iraq. The U.S. Marine Corps initially bought about 125 rifles, and orders from the Army and Air Force soon followed.

In addition to the United States, Barrett M82A1 rifles have been bought by various military and police forces from allied/friendly governments including Belgium, Chile, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Italy, Jamai-



Muzzle device found on 20-inch M107A1's barrel permits quick attachment of Barrett QDL Suppressor.

Right: Witness holes are incorporated on M107A1's ten-round magazine.

Below: Field-expedient positions were explored with Barrett M107A1 around Echo Valley Training Center's varied terrain.



Barrett M107A1 field stripped for inspection.

LEGENDARY POWER



Above: Barrett's Jeff Burch fires M107A1 and QDL from the bench.

ca, Mexico, the Netherlands, Norway, the Philippines, Saudi Arabia, Spain, Sweden, Turkey, and the United Kingdom.

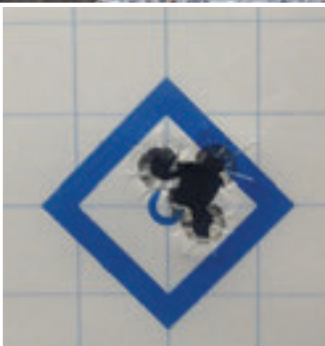
BARRETT'S NEWEST: M107A1

The M82A1 has steadily evolved over the years, with the latest iteration the Barrett M107A1. This design modification is a result of battlefield requests from operators using the big Barrett rifles afield.

Pounds equal pain for the warfighter on the ground. The M107A1 addresses this with a revisiting of materials used in its construction. Aluminum, stainless steel, and titanium are used where possible to shave weight. The end result is the M107A1 weighs five pounds less than its predecessors.

This is gained via an aluminum upper receiver that features an integral 27 MOA optics rail. The Barrett bipod also contributes to weight reduction with titanium in the legs. The redesigned bolt carrier moves on a hardened steel wear strip. The titanium barrel key and chrome-lined bore and chamber add to durability and field resilience.

The bolt, accelerator rod, accelerator, bolt assist, and firing pin are Nickel Teflon (NP3) coated. This increases lubricity



Inset: M107A1's factory target fired at 100 yards.

and provides increased corrosion resistance, which greatly eases cleaning. The M107A1's lower receiver includes a new aluminum recoil buffer system specially designed for use with the Barrett QDL Suppressor.

QDL SUPPRESSOR

Even more operator feedback resulted in Barrett adding the ability to be suppressed to the M107A1's repertoire. The Barrett QDL Suppressor addresses the need to reduce the .50 BMG's muzzle signature without reducing reliability—no small task considering semiautomatic operation and the recoil forces generated with .50 BMG rifles.

This suppression capability sets the M107A1 apart from its Barrett semiauto brethren. In fact, the M107A1 operating mechanisms are not interchangeable with M82A1 or M107 rifles. For example, the M107A1's bolt assist is not found on the M82A1. The bolt assist is held in place by the accelerator rod on the M107A1's bolt group.

The QDL Suppressor is not for use on the Barrett M82A1 or M107. The QDL offers sound reduction in the 23 to 25 decibel range. Earmuffs are still recommended. What the QDL Suppressor offers is a significant reduction in muzzle signature



Barrett QDL Suppressor enhances M107A1's performance by reducing muzzle signature when fired.



Well thought-out ratchet design allows for quick mounting of QDL with reliable indexing.

and blast. The QDL assists in reducing the chance your position is given away when firing the M107A1.

The typical "thump" to the chest and assault on your other senses is drastically reduced with the QDL Suppressor mounted. Measuring 2.5 inches in diameter and 15 inches long, it looks like a small muffler. The Barrett QDL Suppressor adds nearly five pounds to the M107A1 when attached, and in my opinion is well worth it.

The QDL Suppressor incorporates a removable two-port muzzle brake. This is in acknowledgement of the blast generated from touching off a .50 BMG even with a suppressor mounted. The QDL Suppressor is a dual layered tube design constructed of heat-treated high-strength alloys redundantly welded around the circumference of the QDL. The QDL is simple to install via sliding it over the M107A1's muzzle brake. Barrett uses a lock-ring coupler that clicks into ratchet grooves for a secure, repeatable fit installed in seconds.

M107A1 ROLES

The M107A1 evaluated herein featured a 20-inch fluted barrel with overall length of 48 inches and weight of 27 pounds. A 29-inch barreled version is also available. The M107A1's barrel comes equipped with Barrett's cylindrical four-port suppressor-ready muzzle brake. Like other Barrett semi-auto .50 BMG rifles, the M107A1 is fed from a ten-round detachable magazine.

Reliability is something that cannot be compromised with a tactical rifle regardless of caliber. Barrett has altered the M107A1 bolt and dual recoil springs to ensure functioning when firing with the QDL Suppressor. The M107A1's barrel moves about an inch rearward during the recoil cycle.

Considering the brute power of the .50 BMG, I have always marveled at how well recoil is tamed with Barrett rifles.

My unscientific opinion is that recoil feels between a 20 and a 12 gauge with the M107A1.

The M107A1's size makes it more of a fixed-position platform perfect in an overwatch role, especially with its extended effective range and power. One role it has been pressed into is a close-range weapon found at checkpoints and gated entrances to bases and facilities. Developments in .50 BMG ammunition are keeping pace with the rifle component of the platform. This serves to wring even more range and lethality from the Barrett M107A1. Nothing will shut down an engine block faster than an incendiary/HE Raufoss Mk211 .50 BMG round if a driver is not complying with approach procedures.

The Barrett M107A1's aesthetics instill a certain sense of purpose. The purpose is allowing one rifleman to dominate his space on the battlefield against myriad targets. The M107A1 is a weapon with unsurpassed power and effective range for a shoulder-fired weapon. Barrett manufacturing quality and attention to detail provide an accurate, rugged, and reliable weapon that wrings the utmost performance out of the .50 BMG capabilities with the M107A1.

The ability to configure the M107A1 with either a 20- or 29-inch barrel goes back to an earlier Barrett model—the M82A1 CQ, which featured a 20-inch barrel. The shorter barrel lightens the M107A1 by approximately two pounds and goes back to a Coast Guard request for a .50 BMG rifle for drug interdiction. The specific application involved Coast Guard watercraft or helicopters having to deliver accurate fire to stop high-speed drug runners.

The favorite method to stop a smuggler's boat was a .50 BMG round into a motor compartment. The power of the .50 BMG, combined with accurate semi-auto fire from a Barrett rifle, was the perfect choice for this mission. The full-size



M107A1 is available in Flat Dark Earth Cerakote™.

LEGENDARY POWER



Barrett coupled with the .50 BMG round is well known for long distance accuracy.



Barrett has incorporated titanium in M107A1's bipod legs, leaving no stone unturned in their quest to reduce weight while increasing strength.

M82A1 or M107A1 was difficult to handle in small boats or helicopters, and made tracking fast-moving targets problematic.

Faced with these challenges, Barrett responded by developing a carbine version of the M82A1—the M82A1 CQ. A similar situation resulted in the creation of the M107A1. Crew members on a helicopter or teammates working in close proximity appreciate a QDL-equipped M107A1.

LET'S SHOOT IT!

A unique opportunity presented itself to experience the M107A1 and QDL Suppressor with Barrett's Director of U.S. Commercial Sales Jeff Burch visiting Echo Valley Training Center (EVTC). Jeff is intimately familiar with the M107A1 thanks to extensive travels demonstrating and training users on the platform.

We met at EVTC to take advantage of its multiple bermed training bays and other unique opportunities found on the property. EVTC has fixed dug-in firing positions that proved perfect for this evaluation. The shooter can remain standing while maintaining the Barrett rifle firing from off the ground stabilized by bipod. This proved easier for managing recoil compared to lying behind the rifles in a more traditional prone position.

With good ammunition—not delinked bulk FMJ—sub-MOA accuracy is obtainable with the M107A1. The large .50 BMG rounds often exhibit the phenomenon of going to “sleep” after traveling some distance downrange. Let me explain.

Accuracy levels at 100 yards are often

improved upon at 300 yards. For example, a 100-yard group measuring an overall dimension of 1.5 inches is often followed by a 300-yard group measuring less than three inches. One would expect the 1.5-inch group at 100 yards to generate a 4.5-inch group at 300 yards.

Burch reported and then demonstrated phenomenal accuracy from the demo M107A1s he has been using. A five-round group at 100 yards measured .736 inch at 100 yards, and five rounds and ½ MOA at 200 yards removed any doubt. In short, “minute of man” is well within the Barrett's capabilities at mind-blowing distance. The Barrett M107A1 will exceed your expectations in terms of accuracy.

Remember that the military uses the Barrett .50 BMG rifle, whatever specific model it may be, as an anti-materiel weapon. Yes, rounds on enemy personnel have happened, especially in current theaters of operation in Iraq and Afghanistan, but this is not the primary mission role of the big Barrett rifles.

The longer the Barrett .50 BMG platform remains in service, the more varied its mission becomes. The uniqueness of the Barrett continues to allow its users to explore new applications. The M107A1 fully characterizes this flexibility, and totally satisfies the U.S. military labeling of it as “Special Applications Scope Rifle” (SASR). ☉

SOURCES

BARRETT FIREARMS

(615) 896-2938
www.barrett.net

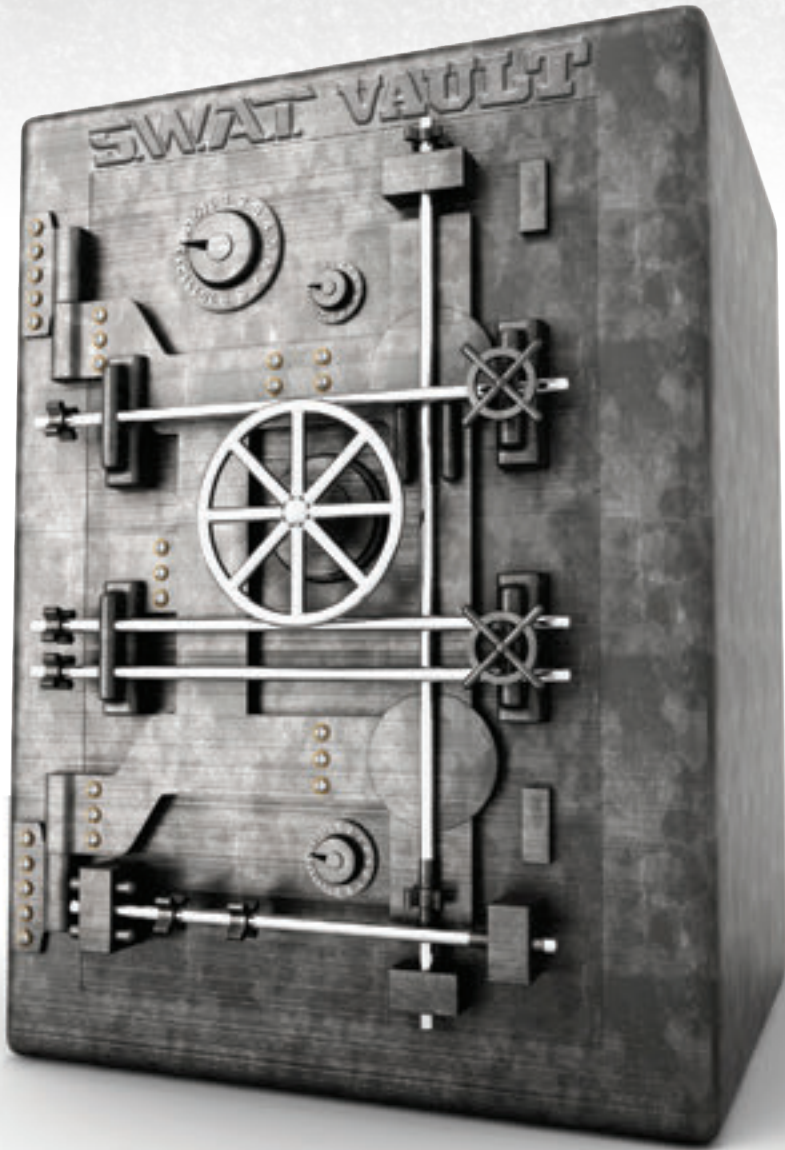
ECHO VALLEY TRAINING CENTER

(540) 450-7998
www.echovalleytrainingcenter.com

Todd Burgreen has been a freelance writer for 20 years, with articles appearing in numerous publications. He has attended many personal defense, team tactics, firearms, and driving courses from some of the country's most influential training personalities and schools.

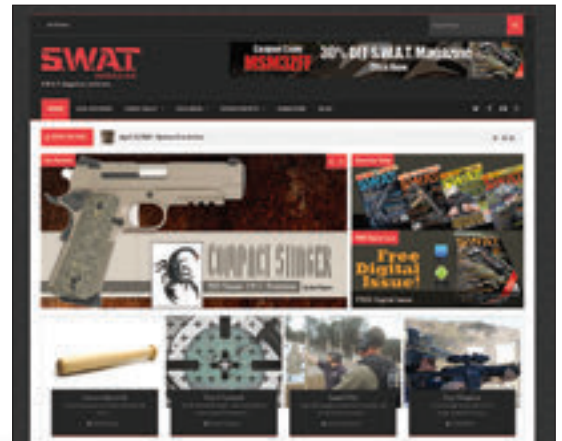
UNLOCKING THE **SWAT** VAULT

S.W.A.T. Vault is a sample collection of archived *S.W.A.T.* Magazine content going back to the early 2000s. And it's all FREE!



FEATURING:

- In-depth firearm and gear reviews
- Timeless survival and prepper tips
- Invaluable tactical training from the legendary Louis Awerbuck
- Firearm mods for DIY enthusiasts
- Second Amendment coverage
- Highlights from *S.W.A.T.*'s most popular columns



COMING SOON:

- Related videos
- Downloadable guides
- Official *S.W.A.T.* Magazine merchandise — by popular demand!



To stay informed of archive additions, go to www.swatvault.com and sign up for the newsletter updates.

Current issues are NOT included —
Subscribe now! www.swatmag.com

www.swatvault.com

SWAT

SWEEPSTAKES

WIN THIS!

Bravo Company Manufacturing has a well-earned reputation among dedicated shooters for making some of the finest rifles, carbines and AR accessories available. Just one example of this is the BCM RECCE-16 KMR featured in this month's Sweepstakes. This lightweight carbine has a 16-inch barrel and features a Dark Bronze Cerakote finish.

BCM RECCE-16 KMR

Take Bravo's industry-leading quality control and add in the options that gunfighters have tested and proven: KMR handguard, Mod 4 Charging Handle, Mod 0 Compensator, Mod 3 Pistol Grip, QD End Plate, and the incredible combination of strong and lightweight Mod 0 Buttstock, and you have a premier example of out-of-the-box Professional Grade Weaponry™. Weighing in at six pounds, this product will fill the mission requirements of serious shooters who find themselves in harm's way.



AIMPOINT CARBINE OPTIC

A good rifle deserves a good optic, so we have included an Aimpoint Carbine Optic red dot sight. The ACO was developed with modern sporting rifle owners in mind, and is ready to mount and shoot out of the box. Front and rear flip covers, an anti-reflection filter, and spare battery holders are options that let users customize the sight to fit their specific requirements. The 30mm

aluminum alloy sight tube has a rugged fixed-height mount designed to co-witness with AR-15 backup iron sights.

A two minute of angle (2 MOA) red dot is utilized to allow maximum target acquisition speed and accuracy at all distances. The ACO is completely waterproof and offers one year of constant-on use from a single 1/3N battery.

BLACK HILLS AMMUNITION 5.56MM 69-GRAIN OTM

This Sweepstakes includes 200 rounds of premium Black Hills 69-grain OTM Match 5.56mm ammunition. The 69-grain Sierra is a bullet of long-proven accuracy and is the optimal weight and design for use in the 1:9 rifling twist rate found in the majority of AR-15 rifles commercially available today. OTM (Open Tip Match) is the military designation for Match bullets such as the Sierra MatchKing design.

This 5.56mm round provides a flat-shooting, wind-bucking 2,875 fps (from a 20-inch barrel) and sub-MOA accuracy. It's loaded with a powder selected for extreme temperature stability and flash suppressed for use in low-light conditions. Black Hills added a special bullet cannelure to increase reliability without sacrificing the extreme accuracy of the Sierra MatchKing projectile, resulting in military Match toughness and precision for your rifle!



TOTAL VALUE OVER \$2,200!



SUREFIRE P2X FURY TACTICAL

The P2X Fury Tactical is a simpler, single-output version of SureFire's dual-output Fury. Built for tactical professionals, this pocket-sized searchlight delivers 600 lumens of intense, blinding light with a simple press or click of its tactical tailcap click switch—the same type used on many SureFire weaponlights for years. Partially press for momentary-on and press further until it clicks for constant-on activation.

A precision micro-textured reflector shapes the light from its virtually indestructible high-efficiency LED to create a smooth, far-reaching, comparatively wide beam with a bright central area that's perfect for tactical and general use. The Fury Tactical's high-strength aerospace aluminum body is smoothly sculpted for a comfortable, secure grip in all kinds of weather, and it's hard anodized to military specifications for extreme use in harsh environments.



SOURCES

BRAVO COMPANY MFG.

(877) 272-8626
www.bravocompanymfg.com

AIMPOINT INC.

(703) 263-9795
www.aimpoint.com

BLACK HILLS AMMUNITION

(605) 348-5150
www.black-hills.com

SUREFIRE, LLC

(800) 828-8809
www.surefire.com

HOW TO ENTER

SEND YOUR

- name and complete mailing address
- phone number • email address

TO: S.W.A.T. Magazine
November Sweepstakes
2240 W. Woolbright Rd, Suite 317
Boynton Beach, FL 33426

POSTCARDS ONLY! NO LETTERS PLEASE

Or even easier, click the November Sweepstakes tab on the S.W.A.T. Magazine Facebook page at www.facebook.com/swatmag.



RULES: Contest is open to individuals who are residents of the United States of America and its territories. Limit one entry per household. Agents and employees of Group One Enterprises and their families are not eligible. All state and local firearms regulations apply. If contestant is unable to take lawful possession through a local registered firearms dealer, an alternate winner will be chosen. Winner shall be responsible to comply with all tax and firearms laws and regulations. Contest void where prohibited by law. Deadline for either mail-in or Facebook entries is November 10, 2015. The winner will be chosen on November 24, 2015. Limit one entry per person. No purchase necessary to enter. S.W.A.T. Magazine reserves the unconditional right to publish winning name and city in promotional materials.

The desert Southwest encompasses an immense area. While the desert offers many opportunities, it's an unforgiving environment to the unprepared. Always tell a friend or relative when and where you're going and when you plan to return.

Clothing requirements vary with the season and elevation. Lightweight light-colored clothing that fully covers the body provides protection from the sun and lessens dehydration during the hotter months. Footwear should be lightweight, durable, comfortable, and protect the ankles. Other necessities include wool outdoor socks, a wide-brimmed hat, and work gloves. A layered approach consisting of several lighter garments offers the most versatility in the winter. Include a lightweight water-repellent windbreaker. Water-repellent footwear helps prevent fungal infections and frostbite.

Keep a survival kit with you. Randall's Adventure and Training/ESEE Knives offers several excellent survival kits.

MOVING ON FOOT IN THE DESERT

A topographic map of the area is a must, along with water containers, sheath knife, at least 30 feet of 550 cord, a firearm and ammunition, cell phone, and any required medications. Study the map before traveling into unfamiliar territory. Pay attention to

Surviving a Hostile Environment

BY EUGENE NIELSEN

DANGER IN THE DESERT

the terrain features, roads, directions to nearest habitation, locations of water, and other important information. At your campsite, orient yourself with prominent landmarks.

When traveling away from camp, look behind often and make a mental picture of the features. Stay on established trails if possible. Take into consideration the position of the sun and shadows and where they'll be when you plan to return. Move from one easily recognizable terrain feature to another. Mark your trail using rocks placed in the shape of arrows or with sticks stuck into the ground in your direction of travel.

If lost, stop and think for a moment. Ask yourself how long it has been since you last knew your position. It's often best to stay where you are and let others find you by building a signal fire. Three fires in a triangle are the international signal for help. A signal mirror can be seen for over ten miles on a clear day. If necessary, you can improvise one from a shiny can lid or aluminum foil.

Signals made by sound are



Rattlesnakes such as the horned rattlesnake—aka the Sidewinder—are common in the desert Southwest.

Photo: Victorrocha, via Wikipedia



Small light brown Arizona bark scorpion is common to Southwest United States. Adult male can reach 3.14 inches in length, while female is slightly smaller, with a maximum length of 2.75 inches. Photo: Brian Basgen, via Wikipedia



Photo: Doug Dolde, via Wikipedia

the least effective. Sound carries best just before dark. The standard distress signal is three blasts of sound—a car horn, firearm, whistle, etc.

Move with a purpose. Conserve energy. Rest every ten minutes. Go around obstacles, not over them. Adjust the rate of travel to that of the slowest individual in your party. When it's hot, travel late in the day or early in the morning. Spend mid-day resting in any available shade. Travel at night if the terrain permits you to do so safely. Cooler temperatures will lessen dehydration and help conserve water supplies. Pick the easiest and safest route.

During rest stops, unlace your footwear and adjust your socks. Don't remove your footwear unless you can keep your feet elevated and out of the sun. Swelling may make it difficult to put your footwear back on.

VEHICLE KIT

Many items that you have in your home for a natural disaster should also be in your vehicle: food, water, bedding, cooking gear, eating utensils, can opener, first aid kit, flashlight with batteries, lantern with fuel or batteries, soap, towels, toilet paper, matches, old newspapers, etc. Inspect your vehicle before traveling in the desert. Top off the gas tank. Check the cooling system, battery and oil. Spare belts and hoses are good ideas, as is a roll of duct tape.

When driving off road, have one or more shovels, a tire pump, axe, pick-mattock, tow chain or cable, full water and gas cans, at least 50 feet of 3/4-inch nylon rope, and a basic tool kit. If you have enough space, a handyman high-lift jack can be extremely helpful.

FINDING WATER

In a survival situation, if you're near water, stay where you are. If no water is available, look for it. Desert trails may lead to water or civilization. Pay particular attention to trails that join together and travel downward toward a specific location.

Look for water in the waste rock at the base of cliffs or gravel of washes coming from the mountain valleys that

Having the right tools is essential. ESEE 6 is a great wilderness survival knife that can handle most any task. Photo: Randall's Adventure & Training

get seasonal rain. Springs can be found along the sides and floors of valleys. Lava and limestone have more springs than any other types of rock. Cold-water springs are the safest to drink from.

Water may often be found below the surface of dry streambeds at the lowest point on the outside of bends in the stream channel. Dig until you reach wet sand. Water will seep into the hole. The activities of animals may also indicate where water can be found. Flocks of birds will often circle over water holes. Doves fly toward water morning and evening.

Look for plants that only grow where there's water, such as willows, sycamores, cottonwoods, hackberry, salt cedar, arrow weed and cattails. Many plants, such as ripe cactus fruits, can be eaten or chewed to help prevent dehydration. The immature flower stalks of yucca, agave and sotol contain moisture, and their pith can be chewed. The pith of most cacti provides a high degree of moisture.

Solar Stills

Water can be obtained in even the driest desert areas through the use of a solar still. The two basic types of solar stills are box and pit stills. Several solar stills are necessary to provide adequate water for one person. The basic requirement is a six-foot-diameter sheet of thin, rough-surfaced plastic (water droplets won't adhere to smooth plastic). Place the rough side down and use a wide-mouthed container to collect the distilled water.

A solar still needs full sunlight. Two to three pints of water may be obtained from a single still per day at sites with indications of water. You can break up cacti and other plants with a high moisture content and place them in the pit to

increase the recovery rate. Non-potable water can be poured into a trench around the inside of the pit and distilled for safe drinking.

Water that has not been distilled should always be filtered and purified before drinking. Filter water through several layers of cloth to remove particulate matter, though this does not kill pathogens. Purify water with water purification tablets, tincture of iodine, boiling, or solar water disinfection.

NAVIGATION

A GPS doesn't eliminate the need for a compass. An analog watch, the sun, stars, shadows, and even nature can also guide you. To orient and use your compass, hold it horizon-



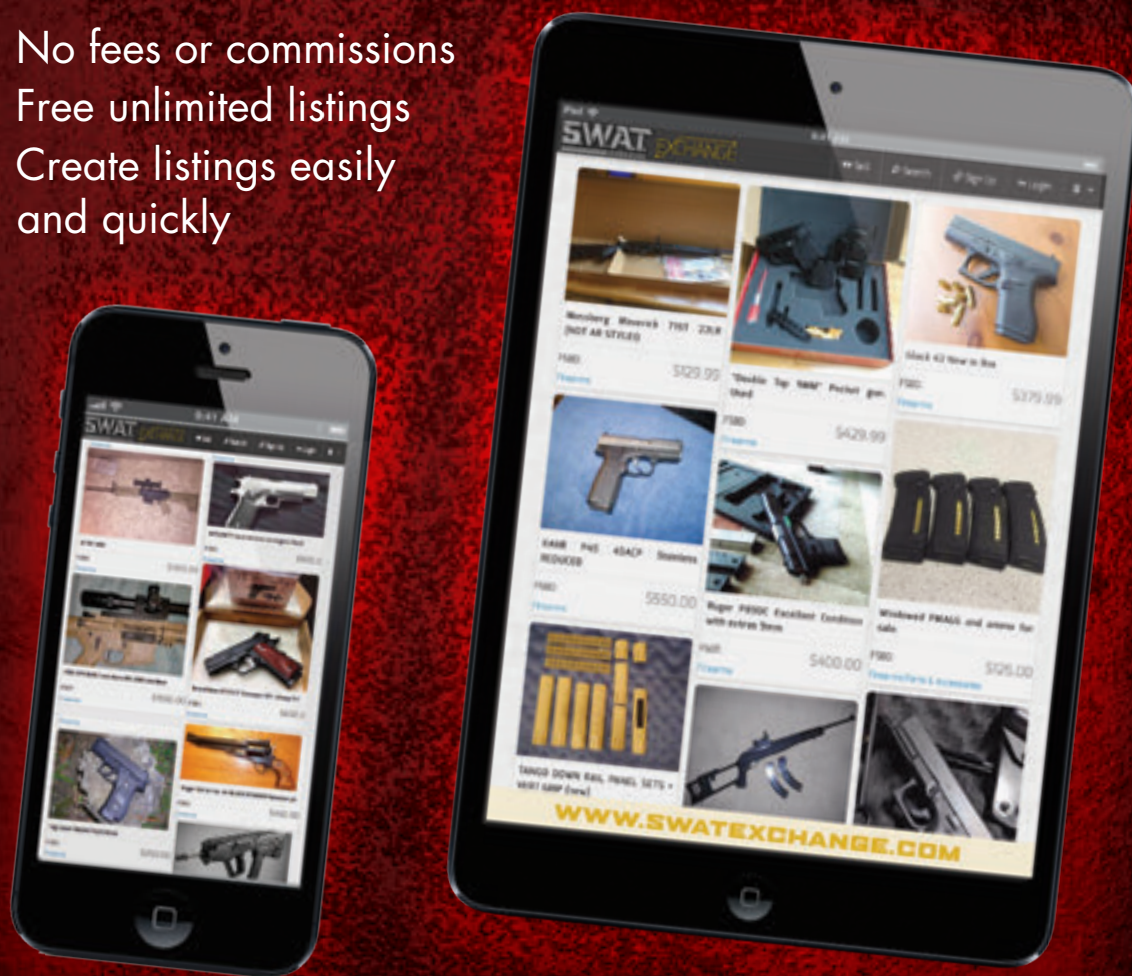
Survival kit is a must any time you travel off the beaten path. This excellent pocket survival kit from Randall's Adventure & Training is compact and lightweight.

Photo: Randall's Adventure & Training

BUY ■ SELL ■ TRADE FIREARMS AND GEAR
DIRECT FROM YOUR MOBILE DEVICE
24/7 FOR FREE AT

SWAT **EXCHANGE**.com

- No fees or commissions
- Free unlimited listings
- Create listings easily and quickly



Join our growing community!

Sign up today at www.SwatExchange.com

ALL FEDERAL, STATE AND LOCAL LAWS APPLY.

DANGER IN THE DESERT

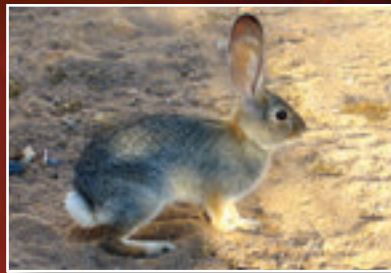


Photo: Jessie Eastland
aka Robert DeMeo, via Wikipedia

Desert Cottontail on alert. Small mammals may have tularemia, a serious infectious disease that can be fatal if untreated.



Photo: Benjamin444, via Wikipedia

Wildlife such as javelina abounds in Arizona desert. Javelina are also called skunk pigs due to their nasty-smelling scent glands.

Photo: Santryl, via Wikipedia

tally and turn it so the pointer on the dial and the north mark on the compass bezel coincide. Keep the compass away from any iron or steel and allow the pointer to come completely to rest. Determine the direction to a prominent terrain feature in the direction of travel.

The sun is an excellent navigation tool. Stand with your right hand to the morning sun or your left hand to the evening sun and you're facing north. In the Northern Hemisphere, if you hold your watch horizontally and point the hour hand at the sun, south will roughly be midway in the smallest angle between the hour hand and 12. At night, you can determine directions from Polaris (the North Star). Learn to recognize it and the pointer stars that help locate it.

Never travel during storms. Mark your direction of travel and seek shelter. Dust storms can be seen long before they reach your location. If caught in a dust storm while on foot, lie down with your back to the wind and cover your head with a cloth. Whether on foot or in a vehicle, stay out of washes and gullies if a rainstorm is on the horizon.

Quicksand (fine-grain sand plus water) may occur in riverbeds, washes, and the run-off areas of recent flash floods. The surface may look like dry sand, but it acts like thick liquid. If caught in quicksand, don't struggle. Throw yourself on your back. You'll float. Quickly remove any equipment and spread your arms on the surface. Roll slowly to firmer ground or turn on your stomach and do a slow breaststroke. If you move slowly and carefully, you'll easily be able to swim to safety.

ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERNS

Don't remove your clothing in an attempt to keep cool, since this will hasten dehydration. The human body requires two to three times more water in the desert than it does in a tropical environment. Thirst is *not* an accurate indicator of dehydration. Fluid needs can vary based on individual differences as well as exertion. Hourly fluid intake shouldn't exceed 1½ quarts. Daily intake shouldn't exceed 12 quarts. Avoid smoking, coffee and alcohol, which increase dehydration.

Be alert for the initial signs and symptoms of dehydration. Ration sweat, not water. Heat cramps result from a water-to-sodium imbalance in the body and generally occur in the arms, legs or abdomen. Drink water and rest. Gentle, steady stretching and direct pressure on the cramping muscle(s) may help.

Heat exhaustion isn't life threatening but may progress to heatstroke if left untreated. The signs and symptoms of heat exhaustion include profuse sweating, weakness, dizziness, and headache. The skin will be moist, clammy, and pale. Breathing may be rapid and shallow. A victim of heat exhaustion should rest in the shade with legs elevated. Water should be given if the victim is conscious.

Heatstroke is a life-threatening medical emergency. The skin will be flushed to red in color and usually hot and dry. The victim will be disoriented and confused and may lose consciousness. Pulse will be rapid and body temperature elevated and rising. Brain damage can occur if the body temperature isn't lowered. Cool the victim immediately to 102°F and monitor closely. Summon emergency medical assistance as soon as possible.

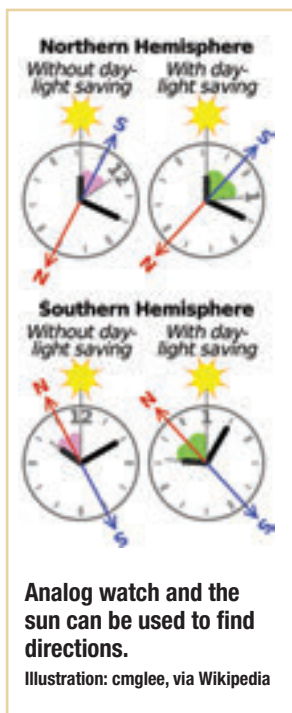
Winter brings the risk of hypothermia. Signs and symptoms include shivering, weakness, loss of coordination, and difficulty performing tasks and making decisions. Shivering stops as hypothermia progresses. Unconsciousness and death eventually result.

Protect the victim from further heat loss. Shelter from wind and water. Replace wet clothing with dry and cover the head. If the signs and symptoms are mild, heat may be added to the neck, armpits and groin. If moderate to severe, prevent further heat loss and seek medical assistance for re-warming.

NATURE'S BUFFET

Most animals, reptiles and many insects and plants in the desert Southwest can be eaten. Learn what foods are available, how to obtain them, and how to prepare them in a survival situation. Be aware that eating increases your need for water. If water isn't available, don't eat. Small mammals, especially rabbits and rodents, often carry tularemia, a disease that is transmittable to humans. If an animal appears sick, don't eat it. A spotted liver in an animal is also an indicator of the disease. Thoroughly cook meat. Some animals may have grubs in the hide or flesh, but these don't affect the food value of the meat. Animals such as javelina have scent glands that must be removed prior to cooking.

Insects are an excellent source of fat and protein but must be cooked to kill parasites. Locusts, grasshoppers, and crickets are abundant and tasty. Don't eat hairy caterpillars—they may be poisonous.



Preserve surplus meat by drying. Jerky can be made from the fat-free meat of large animals. Slice the meat into strips about one inch thick and several inches wide. Hang the meat in the sun for two or three days until it's completely dry. Meat can also easily be smoke dried. Lay ¼-inch thick strips of meat on a lattice about three feet above a slow-burning fire. Don't let the fire become hot enough to cook the meat or draw juices. Smoke the meat until it becomes brittle. Oily or pitchy woods impart an undesirable flavor to the meat.

Learn to construct snares, traps and dead-falls. While not as effective or selective as a firearm, they are easy to construct and may provide the only means of obtaining meat if you lack ammunition.

Desert cacti fruits can be eaten. Singe ripe fruits over fire to remove the spines before peeling and eating. The seeds of old cactus fruits can be pounded between rocks into powder that can be eaten dry or mixed with water to form gruel. Eat young pads of the prickly pear cactus after you singe, peel and boil them.

The beans of the ironwood, Palo Verde, cat claw acacia, and honey and screw bean mesquites are edible. Their fern-like leaves may identify the trees. When green and tender, the bean pods can be boiled and eaten. Mature beans must be crushed in order to be digested. You can also eat the roots of the night-blooming cereus, which is found growing near bushes and trees and looks like a cluster of old sticks. Eat the root raw or sliced and fried.

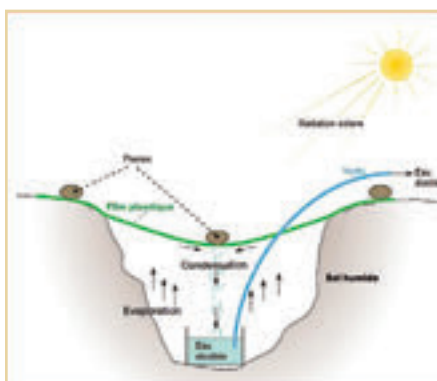
The fruits of the squawberry, hackberry, and jojoba are all edible. The young bark of the cottonwood, aspen, spruce and pine may be eaten. Pine nuts are a highly prized food. Acorns can be eaten after boiling for approximately two hours to remove the tannins. In less arid areas, cattails, burdock, dandelions, dock, lambs quarters, Miner's lettuce, and watercress provide a delicious meal.

Many desert plants are poisonous. Avoid eating any plant unless you are sure it is edible. Don't eat any unknown plants with a milky sap or red beans. Boil questionable plants and test them by holding a small quantity in your mouth for a few minutes. If there's a bitter, nauseating or burning taste, don't eat them. Only eat mushrooms you can positively identify as edible. Even mushroom experts have been fooled on occasion.

BITES AND STINGS

Rattlesnakes and the coral snake are the only venomous snakes in the Southwest. Their broad, arrow-shaped head, blunt-tipped nose, and rattles on the tail identify rattlesnakes, which are most often found where food, water, and protection are available. They don't always give warning before striking. Like all desert reptiles, rattlesnakes hibernate during colder months. In

» Continued on page 88



Solar still is simple way of distilling water using sun's heat.

Illustration: Smack and Happyrabbit, via Wikipedia

GO SHORT!

LWRCI IC-PSD

BY DAVE BAHDE



**Compact, light, and reliable,
PSD is well suited to duty use.**



The gun industry, especially the “tactical” side of the house, is full of circular and never-ending arguments. Since I’ve been in the firearms world for over 30 years, I can attest that the range of contention is astounding. Experts argue everything from the value of the .25 Auto for back-up to the application of the .50 BMG for “urban deployment.”

If the experts spent as much time honing their “expertise” as arguing, we’d all be better off. But that’s not going to happen, because it’s a new world. When experts really were experts—and few and far between—it was manageable. Decades of marketing and social media fantasy have made that nearly impossible. Society’s five-second attention span makes it difficult to learn from history. Myth, legend and hyperbole are the norms.

Questions asked and answered in the real world pop up every day with the same old arguments. No single arena better exemplifies this phenomenon than the entry, or close quarters, rifle discussion. Caliber, barrel length, system of operation, you name it and there’s an expert to tell you what is best.

Truth is, simple physics apply here, and based on your real area of operation, typical deployment distance, and actual application, shorter is actually better—often much better. Recent testing of an LWRC IC-PSD 5.56mm carbine with PDW upper only confirmed my conclusions from 20 years ago. Working in close quarters, in and around vehicles, with a range inside 200 yards, they rock!

SHORT-BARRELED CARBINES

Over 15 years ago, I deployed my first sub-ten-inch rifle on an entry team. An HK53, chambered in 5.56mm using an 8.5-inch barrel, it was a paradigm shift during real operations. My world was mostly across the room, the yard, or maybe the street, making it plenty powerful. What it does at “300” was meaningless to me, since that was never going to happen.

No tack driver, it met any reasonable battle accuracy standard of the day. It was great moving around a house be-

Using LWRC PSD in MH-6 “little bird” was incredibly handy, allowing for easy movement in and out of the chopper.



IC-PSD can be operated from either side. Right-side bolt release makes reloads fast and easy from either side.



LWRC PSD is compact, rugged, ambidextrous, and perfectly suited to any urban police operational environment. Even 40-grain frangible ammunition functioned without issue in this short and handy 5.56mm rifle.



Compact stock permits ease of deployment using plate carrier or tactical vest.

cause it was so handy. In tubes (buses, trains, planes), it was a dream. Working in and out of a car, there was nothing better.

Its only drawback was that it was loud—*really* loud—but suppressors were rare in those days, so that was true of everything. Those times have changed, as suppressors are now built much better, and short ARs—especially piston guns—are making them more viable than ever before.

LWRC INTERNATIONAL IC-PSD

LWRC has been building some of the best piston-driven ARs for years. They remain the first choice of many whose life depends on their rifle. One of the pioneers of the gas tappet system, LWRC guns are rugged, reliable, and built to last. Their IC-PSD is one of three 8.5-inch barreled rifles they offer chambered in 5.56mm. While the super-short stocked PDW gets much of the attention, the PSD with its short but standard stock is far more practical for entry, self-defense, or patrol operations.

Starting with the Monoforge™ upper receiver, it uses an LWRC Modular seven-inch smooth handguard. Rail sections can be added to accommodate lights or other accessories. It houses an 8.5-inch NiCorr-treated 1:7 twist barrel capped with an LWRC High Efficiency Flash Hider. Skirmish flip-up sights sit at the end of the rail, and the ambidextrous charging handle operates the nickel boron-coated bolt carrier group. The one-piece carrier is one of the strongest on the market. LWRC's forged lower receivers are completely ambidextrous too, including the bolt, magazine release, and safety.

Magpul's MOE+ rubber-coated pistol grip is used, along with a crisp mil-spec trigger. LWRC's compact stock and Ambi Rear Receiver Sling mount were installed. My test rifle was finished in Flat Dark Earth Cerakote™ and is shipped with one 30-round PMAG.

TESTING

This rifle was going to see close-quarters testing, to include some time in an MH-6 "little bird" helicopter, so it was set up for entry work. The flip-up front sight was replaced with a Daniel Defense rail-mounted fixed front sight. If your red dot sight (RDS) fails during CQB operations, there's no time to stop and flip up your sight. This fixed sight lets you drive on without interruption.

In front of the sight sits a SureFire

X200 light. It allows for completely ambidextrous operation, with no switches to fail, come loose, or get entangled in gear. It also keeps the carbine well balanced and light.

A Trijicon SRS using an adjustable 1.75 MOA dot was attached. It has the least obstructed field of view of any combat-ready RDS. It is fast, with very little tunnel effect, making it great with gas masks or in full kit.

Sling duties were carried out by a Blue Force Gear M249 padded two-point sling. Adding a VTAC QD attachment lets me carry in two-point, then move it to the QD adapter on the lower receiver extension for single-point operation. As I've used this on several operational carbines over the years, it is my preferred method by far. Simple, quiet, and capable of comfortable carry for hours, it has proven very efficient.

Three issues have plagued these short rifles over the years, and still do to some extent. Reliability is often spotty, although piston systems have mostly dealt with that. They are loud, with a distracting if not damaging muzzle blast and flash. Lastly, ballistics in the 5.56mm can be compromised in barrels this short. Ammunition manufacturers have dealt with the ballistics issue to a great extent, and the best solution to noise and concussion is a suppressor.

Two Delta P Design Brevis II suppressors were used during testing. The Ultra is a Titanium version that weighs only 7.5 ounces and measures 3.7 inches long and two inches in diameter. Its compact size and weight make it feel more like a flash hider than a suppressor. A standard Brevis II, built from Inconel and weighing 11.5 ounces, was also tested. An H3 buffer was installed, along with a Sprinco Blue extra power buffer spring.

RANGE TESTING

Rifles this short were never designed to be precision instruments, and shooting tiny little groups is mostly meaningless to begin with. Still, this carbine was incredibly accurate. Testing numerous short-barreled ARs these days, I have found the quality ones are all accurate. Barrel length just does not matter at 100 yards if the gun is built well, and the LWRC is incredibly well built.

Keeping it real, shooting from a barricade at 50 yards, it put ten rounds into roughly 1.5 inches using Barnes VOR-TX 70-grain TSX—my preferred self-defense round. According to sev-



Elzetta
Made in USA



Elzetta High Output Shotgun Illumination Kit

Combine the 650-lumen Elzetta Bravo Modular Flashlight with Drop-In Flood Lens and the Elzetta ZSM-T Shotgun Flashlight Mount and experience the ultimate CQB lighting system for Remington, Mossberg, Winchester, and Benelli Shotguns.



www.ELZETTA.com

Elzetta Design, LLC • P.O. Box 54364 • Lexington, KY 40555 • 859-707-7471



1 MILLION MOMS AGAINST GUN CONTROL

We are Moms (& Dads) who take our 2nd Amendment Rights seriously. We train, we teach, we advocate, and most importantly, we protect our families with the 2nd Amendment. We raise our own money and we support our local economy, all while responsibly exercising our 2nd Amendment Rights.

- Founded in response to Moms Demand Action for Gun Sense in America
- Promotes true gun safety: responsibly owning, carrying, and training with firearms
- True grassroots, not funded by a billionaire former mayor
- Staffed by people who own, carry, and train with firearms regularly
- Supports businesses that follow state and local laws

1MMAGC.org
One Million Moms Against Gun Control

LEARN MORE AND SUPPORT
OUR MISSION AT
WWW.1MMAGC.ORG



Bravis II adds only 3.7 inches to the overall length, about the same as 1½ flash hiders, keeping things compact.



Using either Alkaline or Lithium AA battery allows Trijicon SRS to be used almost anywhere in the world.



Mounting a light at 1200 keeps things light, well balanced and permits operation from either side.

eral members of military special missions units, the Barnes 70-grain TSX is fast becoming their bullet of choice. Loaded to their specifications, it has been acquitting itself well operationally. Barnes is now offering a similar load in their VOR-TX line available to private citizen buyers.

Velocity out of the PSD with this round was 2,400 feet-per-second (fps), plenty for 200 meters and in, and incredibly effective at any practical police or self-defense range. Moving back to 100 yards, from a bench, I had basically the same results with the Barnes 69-grain Precision Match.

But the real test came at an Aegis Academy Heliborne Assault school. Range rules required frangible, something many guns just don't run, let alone shoot well. Shooting from prone using a box for a rest, it consistently grouped 40-grain frangible into less

than 1.75 inches at 50 yards using an RDS. Reliability with the heavier buffer and spring was flawless—not something you generally see with these short guns. Excess gas was so minimal as to be almost unnoticeable.

Testing with several loads on my home range, it never suffered a malfunction of any kind. Brass ejection was very consistent at three o'clock, making a tidy little pile of brass. Fast, slow, it didn't matter—it just kept running and kick-

ing out the brass. Most impressive was its ability to run the range and frangible loads at the Aegis Academy training.

This little PDW fed it like nobody's business, with zero malfunctions. In fact, the only failure during hundreds of rounds and several days was an occasional failure to seat the magazine (operator head-space timing). This setup was as reliable as an AR gets, no matter how it's built or how long the barrel is.

Both suppressors were what I would

» AMMUNITION PERFORMANCE

LOAD	VELOCITY (fps)	ACCURACY (inches)
Barnes 69-gr. Precision (BTHP)	2,410	1.25
Barnes VOR-TX 70-gr. TSX	2,400	1.50
Silver State Armory 77-gr. OTM	2,290	1.75
Hornady 60-gr. TAP (AMAX)	2,350	1.68
» Three five-shot groups fired from a bench at 50 yards.		

» SPECIFICATIONS

LWRC IC-PSD

MANUFACTURER	LWRCI
MODEL	IC-PSD
ACTION	Semiautomatic, piston operated
FEED DEVICE	Standard AR-15/M16 magazines
CALIBER	5.56mm NATO
BARREL LENGTH	8.5 inches, 1:7 twist
OVERALL LENGTH	24.75 inches
WEIGHT	6.5 pounds
SIGHTS	LWRC Skirmish Flip-Up Sights
HANDGUARD	LWRC modular handguard
PISTOL GRIP	Magpul MOE+
FINISH	Flat Dark Earth Cerakote
PRICE	\$2,599.00



Soft-shooting PSD was very accurate and never suffered a malfunction using a wide variety of ammunition.



Plastic covers keep you in control and cool during rapid fire.

Right: Magpul MOE+ grip is covered in rubber for comfort and control in any environment.



call battle quiet on the border of ear safe on a rifle this short. Few suppressors are truly quiet on 8.5-inch barrels, and most won't even run. Either way, they are worlds apart from a flash hider.

Given a real fight, even without auditory exclusion, you would not be hampered, nor would you remove your partner from the fight. Flash was minimal to non-existent and muzzle blast was barely noticeable. Using a barrel this short, it was about as good as it gets, and the Brevis II keeps it short. Roughly the length of a flash hider and a half, you keep the benefits of the short barrel along with your hearing.

Running this rifle in full kit, in and around barricades, the shoot house, and from the truck was a dream. It was easy to get in and out of the truck, even in full kit. Moving around the shoot house, it was fast to target. Square range drills were fast and less fatiguing. While

using a gas mask, I had no problem using the RDS.

Moving back and forth between sides, the ambi-controls make things easy. It also facilitates loads or ma-

nipulation from odd positions where you don't want to rotate the rifle. You can run it pretty much from either side wherever you end up.

Where it really shone was running it out of the helicopter. Rolling out, the muzzle was not interfered with. It was well balanced leaning out the door, with no front-loaded barrel weight. Running it side by side with a 13-inch carbine and standard suppressor, the difference was huge.

Reloads in this environment are different, and this little gun makes it easy to lean back, keep the muzzle in a safe direction, and safely take care of business, even packed into the back of a small helicopter.

FINAL THOUGHTS

Using this rifle has affirmed my affinity for suppressed short barrels (when they work), for just about anything related to entry or home defense. This is one of only two similar rifles I've tested in years that really worked. Both are piston driven, though of different designs.

Since the SBR is not possible for many, LWRC makes a pistol in the same basic configuration. A suppressor is not optional for me, but it may be for others. Either way, this setup works, and will definitely stick around for a long time. ☺

Dave Bahde is a retired police lieutenant with over 20 years police experience and over ten years SWAT experience as a police sniper, team leader, and commander. Attending hundreds of hours of firearms and tactical training from world-renowned instructors keeps him current.

SOURCES

LWRC INTERNATIONAL, LLC

(410) 901-1348

www.lwrci.com

AEGIS ACADEMY

(800) 852-2692

www.aegisacademy.com

BARNES BULLETS

(800) 574-9200

www.barnesbullets.com

DELTA P DESIGN

(503) 487-0007

www.deltapdesign.com

TRIJICON

(703) 445-1600

www.trijicon.com



Preparation for live fire in helicopter under watchful eye of Aegis Academy training rangemaster Chris W.



NAVIGATING THE DARKNESS

Light Selection for the Next Disaster

BY JEFF HALL



Low tech—a candle, old-fashioned kerosene lamp, Aladdin lamp, and quart of kerosene. Don't forget matches and lighters.

Light has been a requirement for human existence for thousands of years. Ancient cultures all had some sort of crude light, from fires and torches to small lamps with a wick and oil. I was once in a traditional house of an old Y'upik Eskimo who had a small dish of seal oil with a piece of cloth for a wick. In addition to the ability to see, even a candle flame seems to give comfort against the things that hunt in the night.

Man was made in the image and likeness of God, but God must have been working day shift when he got to man's eyes. Either that or he was becoming an admin type and forgot what the working troop needed. Compared to most other mammals, the human eye sucks. Cats see six times better than we do in the dark.

A few years ago, I went through the five-day SureFire Institute Low-Light instructor class held at Gunsite. In addition to building great lights, SureFire has done lots of research on how eyes work. We can all use blue lights and walk around with one eye closed to preserve our night vision, but here are the numbers.

When we go from light to dark, 20/800—blind as a bat. After 12 minutes in the dark, we're at 20/300, still blind. After 30 minutes, 20/180. Even with the addition of bright white light, the best we see is 20/70!

In most states, glasses are required at 20/40 or 20/50, so we should all be wearing specs when we drive at night. The end result is that we all need light. If (when) the power goes out, we should have several options to navigate the darkness, and we should include both high and low tech.

CANDLES

Candles are about as low tech as you can get—just a piece of string surrounded by wax. They can be bought in dozens of configurations, from short fat ones to tall skinny ones, short to long burning, and with scent so you won't notice the lack of a shower.

They are available from dozens of sources online and virtually any hardware or box store in the country. They have two drawbacks: the open flame can be a fire hazard, and they don't put out enough light to even read by. Regardless, every prep plan should include a couple dozen candles.

LANTERNS

I have several old-fashioned kerosene lamps left over from my tipi-dwelling days. They burn kerosene, which is a very stable, long-lasting fuel—a five-gallon can will last for years. You want to burn clear kerosene, not the red-dyed stuff, since the dye can clog the wick.

They use a wide, heavy wick that's controlled by a dial, which exposes more or less wick, allowing a slightly brighter flame. Kerosene has a strong odor and smokes up the glass chimney if the flame isn't burning correctly. A downside is that, like candles, they don't put out much light. These lanterns can be found at any antique store for \$40 to \$50, and wicks are sold in most back-to-earth publications.

Another option is made by Aladdin. It uses kerosene but has a generator system that puts out about 60 watts. It's fairly expensive, starting at about \$150 and going up, but puts out good light.



Coleman propane lantern, mantles, and Streamlight Siege battery lantern. Below: Hose and coupler allow Coleman propane lantern to connect to larger tanks.



Gas lanterns come in two varieties, liquid and propane. I've used a Coleman gas lantern, which burns lantern gas, for decades—a newer model, the multi-fuel, burns regular gas or lantern fuel.

The mantle, a small silk bag that hangs in the middle, takes a little work to replace—after it is mounted inside the lantern, it's burned to ash. Once burned, the mantle is fragile. The only real drawback is filling the tank with gas. Do it outside—I've never been able to fill one without it running over.

Propane lanterns are easier to use. A small canister screws into the base, the gas is turned on, and a match is held below the mantle—poof, light. These canisters are reasonably priced and available at any sporting goods store. An optional hose and coupler allows you to hook a five-gallon tank to the light. This will let it burn for weeks. I keep two gas and two propane lanterns, along with several bags of mantles, in my prep gear.

Battery-powered lanterns are available from lots of sources. I found a new lantern made by Streamlight called the Siege, which the company provided for this article. I spent two nights in March camping in 20-degree weather to test some gear—this lantern is outstanding.

The Siege runs on three "D" cells: alkaline, lithium or rechargeable batteries. It offers three white-light modes (low, medium, high) and two red-light modes (high and SOS flashing). The light floats, gives bright, 360-degree light, and it can hang from the top or bottom by using a D ring. MSRP is \$61. I liked it well enough that I bought four.

FLASHLIGHTS

Flashlights have improved, well, light years since I was a young trooper. We used five or six "D" cell lights that provided feeble illumination but were great impact weapons. There's more than one way to make a bad guy see the light.

The good news is that today, you can buy handheld lights that rival landing lights on a 747 or give just enough light to read a map. And they're inexpensive enough that they're almost throwaway items.

For the purposes of this article, I'll divide flashlights into practical and tactical. Practical means a flashlight that uses common batteries, may be made of plastic or aluminum, and casts enough light to see where you're going or what you're doing. Tactical means a higher-power light, more lumens, and possibly several different functions (low, high, strobe) with the press of a single switch. Most are machined of aluminum and come in non-reflective colors. Arbitrary definitions, but you get the drift.

Tactical Lights

Tactical high-intensity lights were pioneered by SureFire and Streamlight (the Stinger is outstanding). I carry a SureFire M3 and an Aviator in my range bag, and habitually carry two lights on my person. My carry-on bag has a Columbia River Knife & Tool light that is powerful and compact and won't get taken away by the TSA like my SureFire Defender. Since most S.W.A.T. readers are familiar with SureFire and Streamlight, I'll mention a few other sources for high-output flashlights.

I've been torturing a couple of lights from Powertac, the E5 and the E3. They are well made, very bright, compact, and offer several intensities. They're inexpensive too. The lights



Practical lights from Maglite, Streamlight, SureFire, CRKT, Dura-cell, and SOG. Below: Tactical lights from Frontgate, Streamlight, SureFire, Leupold, and SOG.



caught my eye when I saw one in the bottom of an aquarium, still running. Like most consumer goods sold in the U.S. today, Powertac lights are made in China. They come in a power range from 90 to 2,100 lumens, with lots of models in the 200 to 600 lumen range.

SOG Knives have been making very good lights for several years. I've been using a Dark Energy 120 (120 lumens, max run time 5.7 hours). This model runs on a single AA battery, which makes keeping it fed easier. The Dark Energy 750 (750 lumens, max run time 32 hours) is larger, has a nice striking bezel on front and rear, and uses one rechargeable 18650 battery. Like SOG knives, they are rugged, fit my hand well, and can be used as a Kubotan or yawara. They cost \$58 and \$174 respectively.

Leupold has come out with a line of very good lights, in keeping with the quality of their scopes. They are well made of machined aluminum and have all the features a shooter needs. The luminosity is very good. The largest one is about six inches long and puts out 500 lumens.

Nightstick Lights from Bayco Products are newer kids on the block. They make a large number of lights, from small to large, in all colors and in any power range imaginable. I tested two for this article.

The TAC460-XL is a rechargeable 525-lumen light. It's 6.5 inches long, weighs 6.3 ounces, and is well made of machined aluminum. The light is waterproof, has a tailcap switch and momentary or constant-on positions. I tried it out the front door one night and could see the antlers on a small buck 125 yards out. That's outstanding output and clarity, and a bargain at a suggested retail price of \$74.95. The mounting kit (mentioned below) allows this light to be weapon-mounted.

Practical Lights

Practical lights come in lots of flavors. I was walking through

Costco last week and saw a three pack of lights from Duracell. The three 250-lumen lights came with AAA batteries for each light, all packed in a blister pack. The price was \$15.95. For that, you could buy a couple of sets and stash them away, and at \$5 each, they're practically disposable. Costco also has large packages of D, C, AA, AAA, and nine-volt batteries for very reasonable prices.

Streamlight has released a couple of great lights for anyone who works in dust- or vapor-filled environments: the Haz-Lo. During some demolitions training I received years ago, one technique was to set off a small charge in a room to fill the air with dust and particles; a second, delayed charge ignited the particles, amplifying the power exponentially.

If you work around barns, fuel, grain elevators, etc, these lights are mandatory, as they won't emit any sparks when they're turned on. For those of you who lose stuff, like me, they are fluorescent green, so you can find them.

WEAPON-MOUNTED LIGHTS

The one problem with weaponlights is that everything in front of you gets muzzled. I rarely use lights on guns, except for my defensive 870s, as I've never found a good way to run a pump gun and hold a light. I also have a 1911 with a light on the nightstand. But I live in a remote area and my few friends don't drop by unannounced, so if something goes bump in the night, it's either one of my cats or a goblin—either one will get covered.

I looked at both cheaper and more expensive lights for weapon mounting, since budget is a consideration for all of us.

The Nightstick TAC 300B-K01 weaponlight is the polymer long gun kit. It's a 180-lumen light that comes in a kit with all you need, including a tailcap with pressure switch. It can also be easily dismantled and used with a side switch button. The light is clear and bright, and the rail mount very solid. The light is good for inside or close range, but faded a little on identifying the above-mentioned buck. However, at an MSRP of \$44.95, it's a bargain!

The Powertac E5 model has a conventional weapon-mounting kit, complete with pressure switch. The light seems well made and puts out 650 lumens. But

CACTUS TACTICAL

COMBAT PROVEN

TACTICAL EQUIPMENT

SELF DEFENSE GEAR

AR-15 ACCESSORIES

SHOOTING SUPPLIES

VISIT US ONLINE AT...
WWW.CACTUSTACTICAL.COM

CALL TOLL FREE
1-877-9CACTUS

COMING NEXT ISSUE

THE SWAT MAGAZINE

2016

CALENDAR

included with the December issue of SWAT.

On Newsstands Everywhere November 3rd

LUTH-AR

The **NEW** Fully Adjustable Buttstock For AR's

The "MBA"

Skullaton "MBA-2"

Modular Buttstock MBA-1 Assembly / 1.2 Lbs. **\$139.95**

MBA-2 Stock / .7 Lbs. **\$49.95**

FEATURES:

- Fits all .223 and .308 AR style rifles
- Interchangeable with standard A2 or A1 buttstocks
- Sling swivels not included
- Not interchangeable with carbine rifles with telescoping assemblies
- Easy to replace and quick to install
- Super strong glass filled nylon

Order online at: www.Luth-AR.com Made in the USA



When weapon-mounted lights are needed, author trusts SureFire.

I haven't beaten it up much yet, so I can't talk about ruggedness or run time.

One thing about old guys: we hesitate to change from something that works, even if it's new and shiny. SureFire pioneered much of the light technology we enjoy today, and most of the weapon-mounted stuff.

SureFire is more expensive than the others tested, but I've used their lights a lot, and they work. If I'm looking for my car keys, any light will do. If I'm fixin' to deliver deadly force, only the best I can afford will do. I use SureFire lights any time I want a light on a gun. If we ever get to an Omega Man lifestyle, I have SureFire lights I can put on my handguns and carbines.

There's a Scottish and Irish word, *sassenach*, that means both "stranger" and "enemy." I'll still be remote and everyone may be an enemy, so they all may get guns pointed at them.

HEADLAMPS

I first used a headlamp years ago on a climb in the Olympic Mountains. We started out at 0-dark-30 and the lamp kept me from falling on my face. On my Idaho elk hunts, it's *much* easier to saddle a horse when you have two hands to do it.

Streamlight makes a great head/helmet-mounted light called the Sidewinder. It functions in white, red, blue, and IR modes. It can be rotated up, down or front and runs on AA alkaline, lithium or on 123s. This can make your logistics easier. If you have NVGs or wear a brain-bucket, this light would be great for maps or minor jobs. At \$131, it's expensive, but very useful.

The only headlamp I've used much I bought at Costco.

A three pack costs \$19.95, runs on AAA batteries, puts out sufficient light, and is tough enough that I haven't broken it. At that price, you can buy six lights and have all you'll ever need.

BATTERIES

I reached out to Batteries Plus Bulbs to get the dope on batteries. I've used their retail stores, located by the bright orange and green signs, all over the country. I can get AAs and Ds anywhere, but 123, 2032 and 1/3N batteries are not available at WallyWorld. I'd read enough conflicting material on the Infernalnet that I didn't know what I needed. Batteries Plus offers all sorts of batteries, bulbs, lights—pretty much anything you need, and they were really helpful. I'll condense what they told me.

Don't store batteries in the freezer—store food—store



Headlamps can be simple, like those from Costco (left), or sophisticated, like the Streamlight Sidewinder.

batteries at room temperature. Alkaline batteries, regardless of brand, have a shelf life of five or more years, so buy lots. Duracell Quantum and Rayovac High Energy store seven and ten years, respectively, and have a longer run time.

For long-term storage, Energizer lithium AAA, AA, D, and 123 batteries have a 15-year shelf life and longer run time, but cost quite a bit more. Rechargeables are not the best choice because they lose 20% per year more power in storage, so may only run at about 50% charge, leading to short run time.

Small solar panels charge too slowly for use in most emergencies. Use quality alkaline or lithium non-rechargeable batteries.

SUMMARY

My preparedness plan calls for me to start high-tech and go downward. I'll use my generator as needed to run the well, lights, radio and freezers. I'll use the battery-powered Siege lanterns until I run out of batteries (a couple of years). If I run out or they fail, I have gas and propane lanterns, followed by kerosene lamps. I figure I'll eat the cat by candlelight. ☺

SOURCES

BATTERIES PLUS BULBS

(800) 677-8278
www.batteriesplusbulbs.com

BAYCO PRODUCTS

www.baycoproducts.com

COLEMAN

(800) 835-3278
www.coleman.com

COSTCO

(800) 220-6000
www.costco.com

COLUMBIA RIVER KNIFE & TOOL

(800) 891-3100
www.crkt.com

LEUPOLD & STEVENS, INC.

(503) 526-1400
www.leupold.com

POWERTAC

(919) 239-4470
www.powertac.com

SOG SPECIALTY KNIVES & TOOLS, INC.

(888) 405-6433
www.sogknives.com

STREAMLIGHT, INC.

(800) 523-7488
www.streamlight.com

SUREFIRE, LLC

(800) 828-8809
www.surefire.com



Ashley Performance, LLC, is bringing to market original and new ideas from **Ashley Emerson**, renowned designer of sights, scope mounts, and other firearms accessories. Ashley's **rigorous design philosophy** and commitment to **superior production standards** result in **high quality products** that exceed normal expectations.



AR-15/M16 FRONT SIGHT
White stripe with
1/2 MOA adjustment

M4 - 14.5" sight radius
(13 positions)

A2 - 20" sight radius
(10 positions)

\$75 + \$5 shipping

ashleyperformance.com

ASHLEY PERFORMANCE, LLC
PO Box 911 Azle, TX 76098

(844) ASH-PERF [274-7373]
or (817) 933-9666

THE GUNS OF S.W.A.T. 2014

SURVIVAL WEAPONS AND TACTICS

189 PAGES
OF FIREARMS
EVALUATIONS

- RIFLES
- SHOTGUNS
- HANDGUNS

BONUS!
TACTICAL TIPS
FROM THE EXPERTS

SPECIAL DIGITAL COLLECTOR'S EDITION

SPECIAL DIGITAL COLLECTOR'S EDITION

THE GUNS OF S.W.A.T. 2014

ALMOST 200 PAGES OF HARD-HITTING FIREARMS EVALUATIONS FROM S.W.A.T.'S 2014 ISSUES, ALL PACKAGED INTO ONE SPECIAL ISSUE!

BUY IT NOW FOR \$9.97 EXCLUSIVELY AT:

FOR ANDROID TABLETS
AND SMARTPHONES

WWW.SWATMAG.COM/ANDROID



FOR APPLE IPAD
AND IPHONES

WWW.SWATMAG.COM/IPAD



FORGED versus STAMPED GUNS

Does It Really Matter?

BY WILL DABBS, M.D.

PHOTOS BY SARAH DABBS

World War II saw the world's militaries equipped on a truly breathtaking scale. Industrial art gave way to military necessity, and the same technology that mass-produced everything from cargo planes and coffeemakers to cigarette lighters and children's toys found its place in gunmaking.

As a result, WWII brought the advent of guns like the German MP40, American M3 Grease Gun, and British Sten, each of which made extensive use of industrial steel pressings for many of their vital components. Sheet steel pressings stamped out quickly produced guns on a scale previously unimagined.

The German stamped-receiver StG44 typified the apex of the art during the war. Despite German industry being bombed day and night, the Germans were still able to produce hundreds of thousands

Best example to compare and contrast salient features of stamped versus forged receivers is the Kalashnikov. Original Chinese gun (left) has stamped receiver rifle, while AT47 from American Tactical Imports is built on an American-made milled receiver. Otherwise, these two underfolding AKs are identical.



of these revolutionary rifles right up until the closing days of the war.

A young Soviet tank sergeant named Mikhail Timofeyovich Kalashnikov took inspiration from these guns and whipped up a fairly remarkable firearm himself. Perhaps you've heard of it.

GENERATIONS

The very first AK-47 rifles were actually built on stamped receivers. These rare early guns were found to be insufficiently robust and the weapon was subsequently redesigned around a forged receiver cut from a big chunk of steel.

Given the penchant of Cold War Communists for secrecy, the details of this transition are still not fully understood. In this case, a heavy solid steel blank is run through a mill or series of mills until everything that is not an AK-47 receiver is cut away. The resulting part is robust and durable, but by definition slow and tedious to manufacture.

In the mid-1950s, the Soviets redesigned the AK-47 around an improved and reinforced version of their original stamped receiver. These receivers were pressed out quickly on large industrial steel presses and reinforced with a series of heavy rivets. Manufacturing time was a fraction of that of the earlier guns, and these stamped-frame weapons will likely remain in active service somewhere in the world when my great-grandchildren are grappling with the thorny problem of international terrorism.

GENESIS

Milling machines nowadays are sophisticated computer-controlled affairs wherein a design is birthed in digital space and translated into steel by the combination of an appropriate computer program and a skilled machinist.

Mechanisms can be designed and tested in the digital realm to ensure that parts interact as intended and tolerances are right before the first piece of steel is cut. Modern Computer Numerically Controlled (CNC) machines incorporate a rotating tool head that allows them to perform multiple functions without stopping for retooling. When wielded by a skilled operator, these devices can make most anything imaginable out of steel or aluminum.

Industrial steel presses incorporate an expensive die that forms its shape into sheet steel when pressed together under enormous pressure. These presses often incorporate a heavy flywheel to store energy used for the pressing process. Dies can be designed to form multiple copies of an object with each pass or can be of the progressive sort that forms a finished part via a series of sequential pressing operations.

While the initial startup cost for these machines is high, once the presses and dies are properly configured, they can be operated by relatively unskilled operators and run at surprisingly high speeds. As a result, guns made via this process can be built in large quantities for a fraction of the cost of milled weapons and at a much faster rate.

FORGED VERSUS STAMPED GUNS



Forged receiver AT47 (bottom) and stamped receiver Norinco gun. Both rifles accomplish the same function yet are produced via totally different techniques. Stamped receiver gun is considerably lighter as a result.

For example, the United States produced nearly 1.5 million Thompson submachine guns during WWII. These guns were built around heavy, complex machined receivers cut from big blocks of forged steel and cost about \$45 each to build.

By contrast, M3 Grease Guns and British Sten guns were built predominantly from steel pressings and cost \$18 and \$9 each respectively. While that may seem ridiculously cheap, adjusted for inflation that would make a Thomp-

son roughly \$585, the Grease Gun \$234, and the Sten \$117 today.

Another nifty tool in common use for industrial manufacturing today is the EDM wire machine. EDM stands for Electrical Discharge Machining. This computer-controlled device uses a tiny (not much larger than a human hair) strand of brass wire that is charged with electricity. When run continuously from a big spool and controlled by a set of incredibly precise actuators, this wire zips through a piece of metal like a razor through paper.

In a computer-controlled EDM machine, this process cuts the most intricate geometry from even the thickest pieces of steel or aluminum. This is how the magazine well was probably cut in your AR-15 lower receiver.

Our world is awash in industrial pressed-steel components. The hood of your car, the body of your washing machine, the outside of your microwave, the door to your refrigerator, and the eyelets in your sneakers are all made from pressed sheet metal.

OUR CONTESTANTS

Our forged-receiver AK is an underfolder called the AT47 built from a refinished Yugoslavian parts kit on a U.S.-made receiver by American Tactical Imports. The threaded muzzle on my copy is capped by a flat muzzle nut, just like the originals, and the forearm includes a nifty flip-up grenade launching sight should you feel the need to address the neighbor's incessantly barking dog with a fusillade of rifle grenades. There's also an unusual flip-up night sight built into the front sight base. It's not found on most AK rifles. Sadly, the night sight no longer glows.

Our stamped receiver rifle is an original



EDM wire machine uses tiny strand of charged brass wire to cut precise shapes through the thickest metal stock. This is how magazine wells are typically cut on AR-15s.

Massive presses like this one are adequate to produce car hoods and washing machine bodies. While the dies used to form these parts are expensive, once appropriately configured, these machines can make excellent gun parts quickly and in large quantities.



Chinese Norinco Type 56 bought new at a gun show in 1985 for \$325. This rifle included three magazines and a bayonet and features the same underfolding stock as the ATI gun. As is the case with most Chinese firearms, the lustrous blued finish is gorgeous and the workmanship superb.

The AT47 forged receiver gun is nearly two pounds heavier than the Chicom stamped-receiver counterpart. As a result, it does feel more robust in the hand.

The magazine well on the AT47 is a little bit larger than that on the stamped version, so the magazines have just the tiniest wobble. But acceptable tolerances on AK rifles are notoriously broad and, while a bit annoying, this actually allows for easier and faster magazine changes.

Both guns run exactly the same way. Push the button to open or close the stock struts and pivot the buttplate as needed. The magazine release operates with the thumb of the weak hand, and magazines must be tilted in and out of place.

Chinese underfolder from Norinco is well-made and beautifully blued. Chinese martial arms have been prohibited from importation for decades.

The charging handle protrudes on the right and reciprocates with the bolt carrier. It can be manipulated by reaching over with the left hand, but it is frequently faster just to suck it up and take your hand off the pistol grip. Untold legions of terrorists do it this way—and quite effectively, I might add.

That wretched ranch gate safety is safe when up and off when down. In military guns, the middle position is full-auto. Curse it though we will for its clunky inconvenience and noisy operation, it is undeniably effective. The sights are yesterday's news and not the world's most efficient, but they are easy to use. Even a child could master them, and many have. Adjusting the sights requires a dedicated tool.

The Chicom AK sports a chrome-lined bore and chamber, as do most Kalashnikov products



FORGED versus STAMPED GUNS



Forged receiver AT47 rifle from American Tactical Imports is a robust, well-executed gun combining unissued Yugoslavian parts kits and an American-made receiver. Right: AT47 rifle includes flip-up night sight incorporated into front sight base.



(though the AT47 does not). Both rifles accept the standard Combloc bayonet as well as RPK drum magazines, should your proclivities extend to such. Slings mount on the left side as is appropriate, and stripping procedures are identical with one exception.

The AT47 has an ancillary catch that provides a bit of extra security for the top cover. But it almost takes a third hand to get the cover off given the extra switch, and the gun will run just fine without the cover in place. Both forearms heat up quickly after heavy use but, in all fairness, so

does that of your Information-Age SCAR.

The 7.62x39mm M43 round remains one of the best military rifle cartridges ever designed. Its tapered walls necessitate a sharply curved magazine but facilitate reliable extraction when dirty or fouled. The round is effective out to common rifle engagement ranges and with expanding bullets will reliably drop a white-tail deer.

On the range the two rifles were essentially interchangeable. Accuracy on both guns was comparable at all ranges. I did have a slight problem out of the box with the AT47, but it was easily remedied. The bolt carrier jumped out of its mounting slot just a bit at full recoil and stuck to the rear with each shot. I ordered a polymer buffer from Amazon for \$7 and it fixed the problem. Thusly configured, both guns ran without a hiccup.



Prolific use of Kalashnikov rifle by international terrorists ensures that its iconic image will remain firmly ensconced within the public consciousness for the foreseeable future. That the rifle was eventually produced via efficient industrial pressing techniques has contributed to its widespread distribution.



I have a full-auto RPK that I have run several thousand rounds through without cleaning, and it just won't quit. Kalashnikov rifles enjoy their reputation for reliability and easy maintenance for a reason.

I tried to divine some substantive difference between these two guns that might make one better than the other. At the end of the day, as I stood staring at two hot guns and a pile of empty steel cartridge cases, I really didn't have a preference.

Taking weight into account, both rifles were otherwise very similar when it came to function and reliability once the trivial buffer issue was addressed.

BIG PICTURE

Building a gun out of a big block of forged steel requires time and a certain mastery of the art of machining. Even with modern computer-controlled machines, this process is tedious. But the resulting weapon is undeniably robust and more expensive than its stamped counterpart.

Stamped receiver guns are quicker and cheaper to build and do admittedly lose some cool points as a result. But given the modern state of the art, stamped receivers are just about as indestructible as their machined counterparts. Our great-grandchildren will not wear these guns out.

So which type is best? That is a question that might best be left to the philosophers.

Chinese military arms were prohibited from importation via executive fiat decades ago, but

Germany pioneered industrial stampings to build small arms during World War II. Late-war K43 sniper rifle on the third step was built around a milled receiver, but incorporated many stamped parts. MP43/StG 44 (left) and MP40 (right) on the second step and MG42 (bottom) represented the state-of-the-art at the time.

stamped AK folders from other places are still plentiful and not too spendy.

However, if you occasionally yearn for the old days and want a connection to times when the world was not so awash in electronics, plastic, and disposable everything, a classic forged receiver AK like the AT47 from ATI is beautifully executed and a great way to get there. ☺

Will Dabbs grew up in the Mississippi Delta and has a degree in Mechanical Engineering from the University of Mississippi. He is Airborne qualified and accumulated 1,100 hours flying UH-1H, OH-58A/C, CH-47D, and AH-1S helicopters. After eight years on Active Duty, Major Dabbs left the Army for medical school. He currently works in his own medical clinic and maintains a licensed 07/02 firearms manufacturing business building sound suppressors. He has written commercially on the subjects of firearms, medicine, and survival for more than 20 years.

SOURCE

AMERICAN TACTICAL IMPORTS

(800) 290-0065

www.americantactical.us



WEAPON ON FOUR WHEELS

Escaping the Kill Zone

BY JOHN MATTERA

IT'S pretty far removed from mainstream thinking to consider a vehicle a defensive tool. We view our vehicles in many different ways, some utilitarian and others more lovingly. However, to my philosophical approach, when you are behind the wheel of the family sedan or your favorite sports car, you are in fact at the controls of the largest projectile you will ever fire.

If things get bad one day, what you do with (and how you handle) the vehicle in a time of crisis may very well tip the scales of the outcome one way or the other. In this article, I will explain the mechanics of a vehicle as they apply

to performance driving, as well as some basic skills that, if practiced, may save your life or the life of a loved one.

According to Daniel Webster, the definition of a crisis is: A time of intense difficulty, trouble, or danger. Unfortunately for us, these things tend to happen very quickly and at the most inopportune times. Hopefully when bad things happen, we are well armed and/or trained to address any violence directed toward us. What you bring into the fight both physically and mentally determines whether the outcome will be in your favor.

If you're like me, you spend a lot of time behind the wheel of an automo-

bile. Why not think of it as a tool? A tool of great versatility that, when properly handled, can perform a multitude of tasks.

We can learn many skills to use while driving a car. Ways to turn, brake, push a vehicle out of the way, rotate another vehicle that may want to do us harm, or just the best way to accelerate and get out of Dodge if things are going badly.

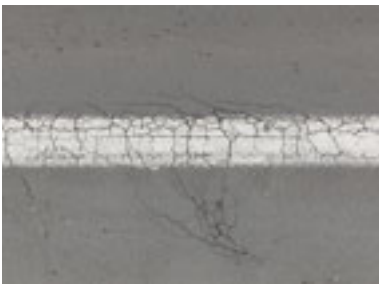
BOOTLEG TURNS

One of my favorite driving maneuvers, one we've all seen on television and in the movies, is the bootleg turn. A vehicle is driving down the road, and for whatever reason, the driver decides he



1

Driving in a straight line, downshift or emergency brake and begin turn of the wheel to inside of the turn.



Hand-actuated parking brakes are easier to operate during the busy turn, but if all you have is a foot parking brake, it will have to do.



2

Rear wheels lock and front of vehicle enters skid.



3 Vehicle enters 90-degree arc of the turn.

wants to go in the other direction. We watch, and the vehicle seems to defy physics and the law of forward momentum. As if by magic, it turns 180 degrees, almost in place.

You have just witnessed a bootleg turn.

The term “bootleg turn” originated from bootleggers transporting illegal liquor. It was a technique used to maneuver and escape from the police or

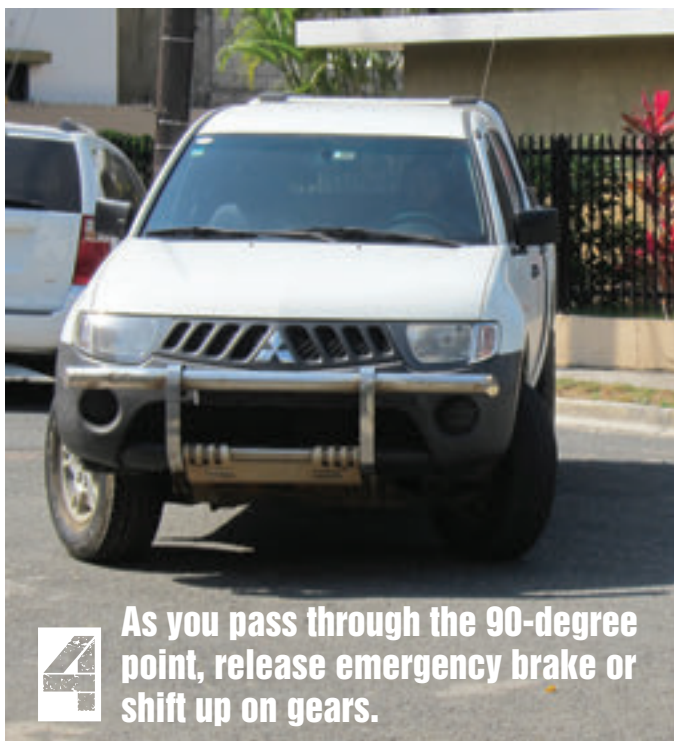
federal revenue agents. Junior Johnson is credited with inventing the bootlegger turn, or maybe just naming it while he ran moonshine liquor for his father. Johnson later became one of the greatest NASCAR drivers the oval track has ever seen.

The maneuver is also called a smuggler’s turn or power slide, depending on whom you talk to. In essence it’s not a difficult procedure to master, but first

you must understand a few basic elements of a vehicle in motion.

The sole contact any vehicle has with the ground are the four small oblong patches of rubber where the tires meet the road. They are not much bigger than footprints, yet they are all that controls a car’s performance and keeps a car in control. These points of adhesion have their limitations.

Think of each of these four patches



4 As you pass through the 90-degree point, release emergency brake or shift up on gears.



5 Spin wheel back in the direction opposite the turn.

of rubber as having the ability to give 100% implementation in a straight and direct un-accelerated line. If we add a variable into the equation, such as acceleration, braking, or turning, that 100% is downgraded by X%. X represents the amount of additional function we are asking the patch of rubber to accomplish.

Everyone who drives should understand that under hard braking, a vehicle becomes unstable, just as it does during a turn. Therefore, we should not apply too much gas or brake while turning. Our best and most effective braking is done while proceeding in a straight line.

All other factors that we ask of the tires' point of contact with the road reduces the percentage of adhesion that the vehicle has. This is considered a bad thing, but as your driving skills increase, you may realize it is not always so. Sometimes unsticking the tires from the road enables the vehicle to perform tasks that we may find useful, like the power slide or bootleg turn. In this evolution, lack of adhesion to the road when we ask the vehicle to turn aids the maneuver.

A bootleg turn in essence is intended to reverse the direction of a forward-moving automobile by 180 degrees in a minimum amount of time, while staying within the width of a two-lane road.

HERE'S HOW TO DO IT

To make a proper bootleg turn, drive straight down a normal two-lane road at about 30 miles per hour. In a manual transmission car, the turn is performed like this:

- First, down-shift the vehicle into second gear.
- Second, quickly turn the wheel in the direction of the opposite lane.
- The vehicle will enter a controlled skid, enter the opposite lane, and turn completely around.

In a perfect bootleg turn, the car will come to a complete stop at the end of the maneuver and be ready to accelerate and depart in the opposite direction.

In an automatic transmission car, we have to modify the classic bootleg turn and use a brake turn. If we apply the parking or emergency brake, it only actuates the rear wheels, thereby forcing the car into a fishtail around the locked rear wheels.

- First, drive down the road in a similar manner and speed.
- Second, apply the parking brake



Make final corrections on the steering wheel and begin to accelerate.

while turning the wheel in the direction of the opposite lane.

- Third, as the car completes the turn, release the parking brake and be ready to commence forward travel in the other direction.

It's just that easy. All it takes is a little practice to get the feel of the maneuver.

Hand-actuated parking brakes are easier to operate during the busy turn, but if all you have is a foot parking brake, it will have to do. Engage the brake at the beginning of the turn and remove the brake as the turn is completed and you are facing the opposite

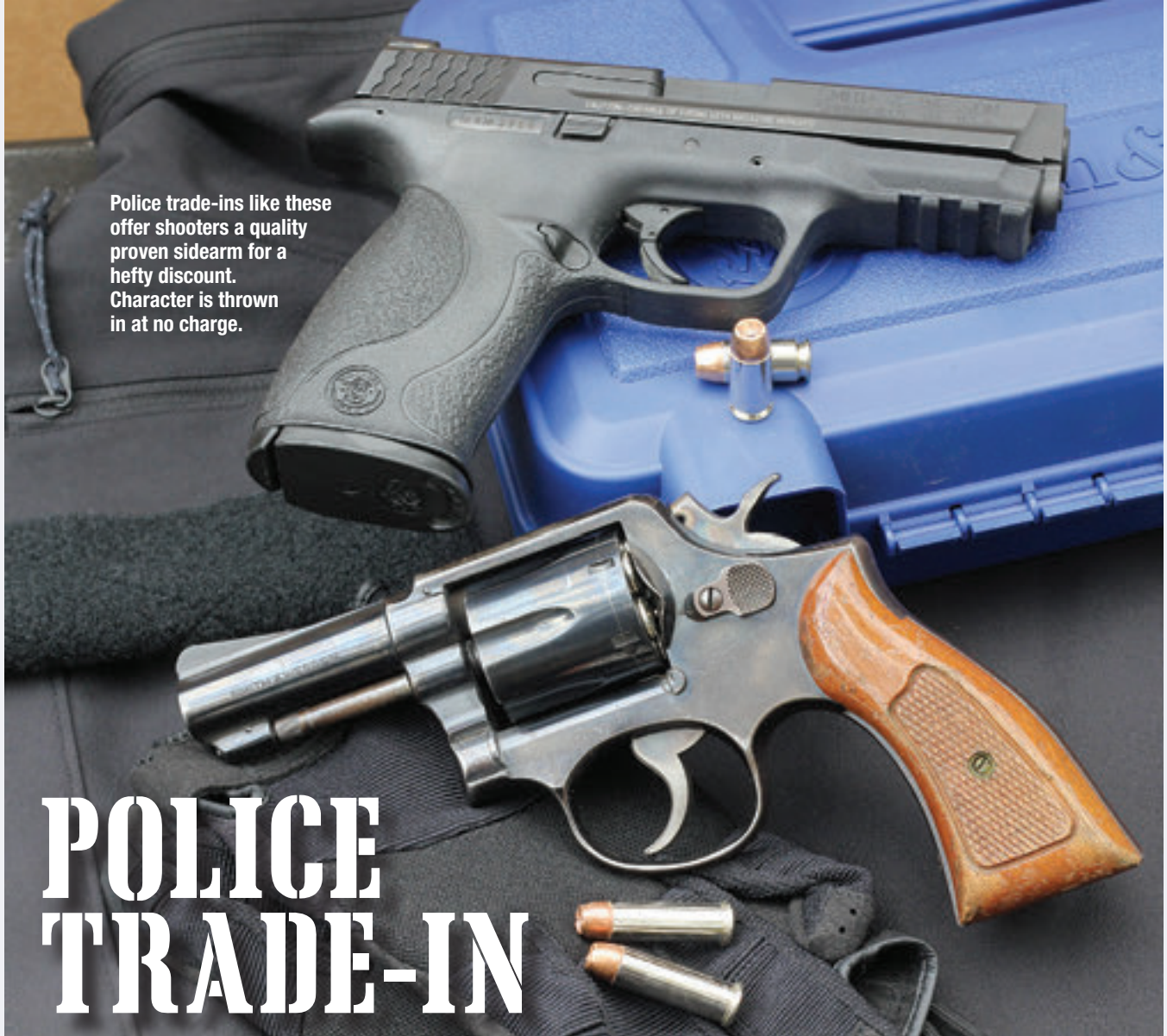
direction of travel.

You have just learned the fundamentals of a turn that can be classified as a May-Save-Your-Life Driving Tip. ©

John Mattera enjoyed a 24-year career in law enforcement, government contracting, and private sector security. Much of that time was spent training as well as teaching others. He has written three books on the subject. John lives in the Caribbean where he works in Marine Archeology. He is one of the subjects of the New York Times best seller Pirate Hunters by Robert Kurson.



With direction reversed, add power and drive away from the problem.



Police trade-ins like these offer shooters a quality proven sidearm for a hefty discount. Character is thrown in at no charge.

POLICE TRADE-IN

BONANZA

Used Service Weapons Find New Life

BY ETHAN JOHNS

I don't know about you, but for me there's just something about a former service weapon. That it protected and served gives nobility to such a piece, every bit of wear on the finish humbly calling out as time spent honorably. Whether it ever was drawn in desperation or anger is immaterial—it served.

Whether it is gently retired to a second life of shooting pleasure or called out of reserve to guard a home, the weapon's former life gives it an aura that a pristine vanilla counterpart can't possess.

Luckily the market has always made these handguns available, usually at a discount that suggests no premium for its history when it is surplus out for a newer model.

Typically, police trades have either been local affairs, where a large shop gets a bunch in from the local PD, or a wholesaler bids on a lot from the new supplying pistol manufacturer, which has taken the former guns and accesso-

ries in trade. These are in turn marked up through the distribution channels to arrive at the consumer end with a modest discount.

This has recently changed to the shooter's benefit.

BUD'S GUN SHOP

Bud's Gun Shop is the nearly ubiquitous online retailer. In 2005, Bud's was a typical local gun store in a small shop with four employees. It has since exploded into a major online operation, with 160 employees in a 180,000+ square foot facility. Bud's took the higher volume/lower margin model of large gun show retailers and was among the first to apply it in the e-commerce world. Bud's has had breakout growth through the last decade, with sales almost doubling each year and since stabilizing as a major force in the industry.

The store averages up to 1,000 sales and deliveries *per day*. Buyers simply have the gun shipped to and transferred via a local dealer, with fees in most regions ranging from \$20 to \$50 for the service.

Bud's has maintained stocks of police trade-ins for some time, bidding on lots from manufacturers as departments trade up for new sidearms or patrol rifles. They recently signed a deal with Smith & Wesson to have exclusive rights to any of the trades that S&W brings in.

Bud's turns these around via their website to the shooting public, offering near-wholesale pricing along with regular availability. At the time of this writing, the website has 19 model options in three calibers.

As departments migrate from .40 S&W to 9mm, most of the pistols featured are .40 service pistols, with the Glock 22/23 and M&P 40/.40C most common. Some pistols are engraved with the source department's name or logo, but most are stock with the exception of night sights. Those used to agonizing over the smallest variations in a pile of trade-ins at the local store have to accept fairly broad categorization.

Pricing tends to gravitate to the lowest common condition, so a number of shooters I've spoken to have gotten a bonus when a pistol shows up in excellent condition. Bud's occasionally separates lots of unissued models for a small premium. Many models ship free.

MAINTAINED VS USED

One of the real advantages of a police trade-in is that it has been fired lightly over a period of time. Any reliability issues have likely surfaced and been corrected by an armorer who is trained and experienced with working on that platform. Any true lemons are usually sent back to the factory for repair or replacement.

Contrast this with the normal sec-

ondhand market. The random used specimen at the gun store counter may in fact be a great bargain that a fickle owner traded on the latest cover-gun from the magazines. It may never have been fired enough to prove its reliability. Or it may be a lemon that the owner didn't want to pay shipping to return to the maker for repair.

Ask any group of serious shooters where the lemons go, and some variation of gun show or store counter trade is what usually comes up. This is not to say that every police trade handgun is a sure-fire winner, but the odds are definitely tilted toward it functioning reliably.

Additionally, many manufacturers treat law enforcement models or production differently than the mass market. Some simply apply better quality control and/or assurance, while others may hold LE production to a higher standard of materials and assembly.

There are no givens or absolutes here, but I have never heard an industry professional mention LE production being made to a lesser standard, so there is at least a solid chance that the product is a cut above.

Mileage is the second area that is an advantage. The average police service pistol gets shot much less than one might imagine. Every department is different, but very few are in any danger of wearing a pistol out. In many, the round

Model 10 was bragging-rights accurate with Winchester Ranger JHPs, as this 1.7-inch group from 25 yards shows.





count on the guns is less than what an enthusiast might shoot through a similar model in a year.

OLD SCHOOL

The first police trade-in I obtained was a PTI revolver that was one of a lot of 10,000+ Smith & Wesson K-Frame Model 10s that Bud's got in from Australia. It is a pinned-barrel three-inch .38 Special. The three-inch barrel is not rare but is certainly uncommon, with most domestic K-Frames running four inches, or two for the shorter barrels.

The finish showed holster wear from a right-handed shooter, the inboard side looking pretty good with about 85% blueing in place, and the outboard side having maybe 70%.

The stocks were magna-style service panels that did not appear to be original Smith & Wesson. They had the dings and dents that speak to carry over time and were more filling in the hand than some of the OEM panels of that era are.

The single-action trigger pull was quite good at just over four pounds, and the double-action ran low double digits with just the slightest hitch in its giddy-up keeping it from being exceptional. The simple fixed sights gave a very solid sight picture.

I shot the Model 10 with Winchester



Ranger 130-grain +P bonded JHPs, which clustered an impressive 1.3-inch group standing from a barricade at 25 yards. This wasn't a fluke, as the next group was a 1.7-inch knot. This is one of a small number of more modern loads available for the ol' .38, with Winchester's tests showing it penetrating 11+ inches with good expansion from an even shorter barrel across the FBI protocols.

Average velocity from the three-inch Smith was 934 feet-per-second (fps). The Ranger load is fairly mild for the level of performance it gives, feeling only slightly more "zippy" than the Win-

Top: This particular trade-in was a less common three-inch Model 10 on the K-Frame.

Above: Law enforcement migration to 9mm has created large stocks of available .40 S&W pistols. Bud's Gun Shop flagship trade-in is S&W M&P 40 furnished with tritium night sights and three magazines delivered for \$349.

Full-size M&P handles .40 S&W recoil well and is ready to continue serving.

chester 130-grain FMJ training loads.

Shooting the Tuf/Ruf timed drill at 25 yards (*TRAINING WITH A CLASSIC: B8 Target Drills*, July 2015 *S.W.A.T.*), the K-Frame put nine of ten in the black for a very respectable 93 points for the timed and rapid (20 and 10 second) strings of five shots each.

I next shot a drill at ten yards on the B8 target center. Two strings of five shots from the ready in five seconds, a challenging pace at that distance when shooting for the approximate three-inch ten ring. The Aussie .38 smoked the drill, stacking the Winchester bullets in the X ring with a heartbeat to spare each time.

The Model 10—the original Military & Police—was “the” police gun for many decades and is still a serviceable choice. Even at +P loads, a K-Frame is very hard to wear out, and this one locked up plenty tight and had no shake. It has generations of life left in it, and the trigger has only smoothed out with all of my shooting and dry fire. That it shoots as well as it does earns it a secure spot in the safe.

NEW SCHOOL

The second police trade-in was a Smith & Wesson M&P 40. Introduced nearly ten years ago, the M&P is one of the best choices in a .40-caliber service pistol, built from the design stage forward around the high-pressure cartridge.

The .40 S&W has been the quintessential American law enforcement caliber for the last 20 years, but that is gradually changing. Departments are increasingly taking advantage of advances in bullet design, which have closed the performance gap for 9mm, swapping to the smaller caliber as budgets allow.

Issues with the .40 have been ammo cost—which is significantly higher than 9mm—recoil sensitivity, and wear on pistols not optimized for the .40. I’m not aware of any organizations that have been unhappy with the .40’s performance on the street, which has been solid with most modern loads.

This shift has created a windfall in trade-in forties. As of this writing, Bud’s was offering the full-size .40 with night

sights and three magazines for \$349—delivered. Needless to say, they have sold a boatload and are unafraid of running out any time soon. I’m always keen to a deal, and this is a serious amount of gun for an almost too-good-to-be-true price. Even factoring in a transfer fee, the deal remains a head turner.

This particular M&P showed very little wear, as in it was probably test fired and put away. Factory tritium sights were sharp and bright. Trigger break was on the better end of the spectrum for M&Ps, breaking crisp with a positive reset at about 5.5 pounds. The pistol came in the factory box but was missing the removable grip inserts other than the medium size it was wearing. No drama, as the inserts cost about \$2.09 if a shooter wants the other sizes.

The .40 was pure M&P, with no surprises. Firing Winchester Ranger 180-grain JHPs, the S&W put five in 2.7 inches right to the sights from a 25-yard barricade. The load averaged 1,014 fps from the full-size barrel. Shooting the same 10-yard drill, I ran the M&P a little too fast at 4.04 and 4.24 seconds for the five-shot strings. This yielded a 98 with two shots that didn’t quite catch the 10 ring with Winchester’s new 180-grain 3-Gun loads.

Swapping over to the Ten-Shot Assault (*TEN-SHOT ASSAULT: Budget Shooting Performance Test*, January 2014 *S.W.A.T.*), I picked one shot out of the black at the 25 and again at the 15-yard line, with the balance tens across the yard lines for 96 in 16 seconds—a solid performance. I rounded out the shooting with a variety of drills on steel.

Both guns shot very well throughout testing and functioned as designed without issue.

WRAP-UP

I’ve since hung a SureFire X300 on the Smith and put it into home guard duties. The K-Frame is getting a good bit of use as a shooter, since I tend to grab a double-action revolver when I want to shoot for fun. It could just as easily end up stuffed with a cylinder of the Rangers in a ready location.

In a crowded market, there are many options vying for the shooter’s dollar. The police trade-in has always been a good source of quality iron for less than retail price.

I have to own and ride the river with a handgun quite a while before it has any character that sets it apart for me. It becomes a function of time and effort spent with the piece in training or in application of its role.

However, the surplus lawman’s side-arm arrives with a dignity all its own and character to spare, each scuff silent testimony to service. The ease of online shopping and regular availability of a variety of service models are real bonuses and temptation to collect a few. ☉

SOURCES

BUD’S GUN SHOP

(859) 368-0371
www.budsgunshop.com

WINCHESTER AMMUNITION

(615) 258-3340
www.winchester.com



"Friends don't let friends carry mouse guns."

I know, I know, there are many recommendations against carrying light calibers, say .380 or less. The main argument in favor of .380 is that some fairly recent pistol designs are very concealable. I will go so far as to say that these offerings are probably the main reason .380 continues to thrive, and at times even be in short supply, more than a century after its introduction.

As to the terminal ballistics of the .380 versus 9mm Luger, .40 S&W, or .45 ACP, I am happily in the same boat as most people. Having not been in multiple gunfights with each caliber leaves me with nothing but the numbers and formulas, factory stats and anecdotal information from *other* peoples' gunfights. Not enough to qualify me to make proclamations as to the fight-stopping qualities of a given round.

Beside the question of being ballistically challenged, sub-compact .380-caliber pistols can be so small as to be hard to shoot accurately and quickly. Intrinsic accuracy may or

may not be there with a pocket pistol, but let's say for the sake of argument that it is.

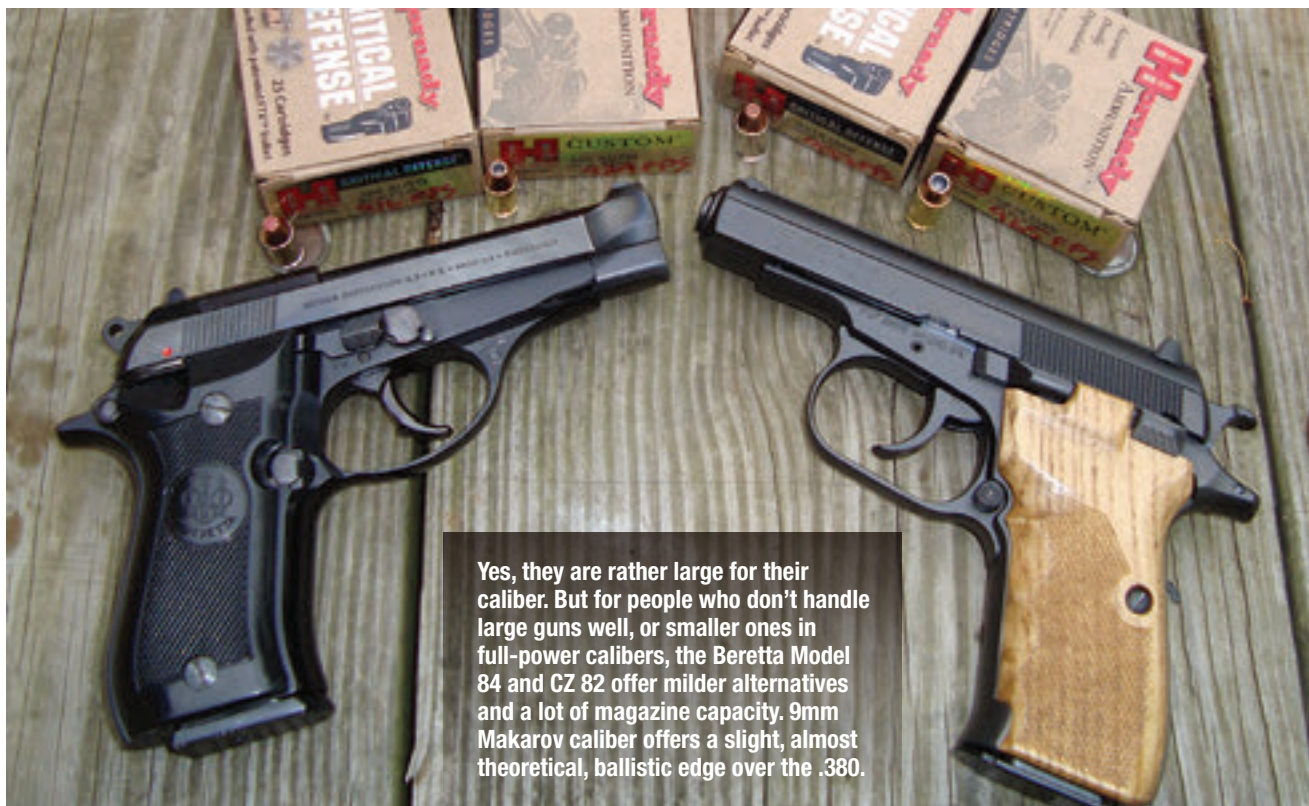
Getting great accuracy is still made difficult by a shorter sight radius; shallow, rudimentary sights; imperfect ergonomics; and triggers that aren't exactly target grade. And recoil? There's no avoiding it—the smaller and lighter the pistol, the snappier it's going to be. Some actually sting to shoot and are not much fun even for the experienced gunman, so how will they be for the novice?

It follows that subcompact pistols in "full power" calibers will also be challenging. The bigger the caliber, the less compact the sub-compact will be. There's just no making a .45 as small as a .380 and if anyone did, you wouldn't want to shoot it twice.

MIGHTY MOUSE!

Viability of Medium-Sized Guns

BY NED CHRISTIANSEN



Yes, they are rather large for their caliber. But for people who don't handle large guns well, or smaller ones in full-power calibers, the Beretta Model 84 and CZ 82 offer milder alternatives and a lot of magazine capacity. 9mm Makarov caliber offers a slight, almost theoretical, ballistic edge over the .380.

Just shoot the smallest .40 you can find next to its full-sized counterpart, and I think you'll agree that Sir Isaac Newton was correct about that whole "equal and opposite" thing. Accuracy and/or reliability will usually be diminished as well.

Many of us have friends and family who want "something for protection," but we know they might not become real shooters. What if they don't do well with recoil or big, heavy guns? They're people who aren't hard-charging, stern-faced, ardent students of the gun, and either never will be or maybe are just starting their journey toward that glorious status.

Maybe a medium-sized handgun happens to be what fits their hand, and having it in a less-intense caliber is all they can, or want to, deal with. Maybe it's what they have, all they have, and all they're going to have. Or maybe it's just what they want and they won't be dissuaded by expert steering toward something else. It's this or nothing, and you don't want them stuck with nothing.

I thought it would be interesting to explore a few .380 and 9mm Makarov handguns that, while perhaps large for their caliber, do have a few things to offer including a certain "mildness," good ergonomics, magazine capacity, and maybe economy.

THE CARTRIDGES

First, some foundational data points for each caliber: the .380, also known as 9x17, 9mm Kurz or Corto (German and Italian for "short"), 9mm Browning, and .380 ACP, is a John Browning-designed cartridge dating back to the first decade of the 20th century. It uses bullets of the same diameter (but not weight) as 9mm Luger: .355 inch. Bullets are traditionally 90 grains, but tested factory loads ranged from 50 to 95 grains.

The 9mm Makarov, also called 9x18, uses a case that is one millimeter longer than the .380's (and one millimeter shorter than the 9mm Luger's), but having blunter bullets, is within a few thousandths of the .380's overall length. Bullets for the 9mm Makarov are .364 inch in diameter.

This cartridge dates to just after World War II, when the Nikolai Makarov-designed PM pistol became Russia's new military sidearm. Since that time, many pistols and submachine-



Author took a shine to the CZ 82, enough to put twice the pistol's cost into Ion Bond's Tungsten DLC coating over WMD's NiBX plating, and custom grips from Hungary. Leather from the CZ's homeland seemed appropriate—it is decent and not expensive.

guns have been designed around this cartridge, almost exclusively in Soviet bloc/Eastern European countries. The original loading was and continues to be with a 94-grain FMJ bullet. Tested loads ranged from 70 to 120 grains.

Given the dimensional differences, the two calibers are not interchangeable. Ballistically speaking, they are very similar, with the Mak on paper running at slightly higher pressures than the .380's 21,000 PSI. But the end result in terms of bullet weight, size and velocity (and thus foot pounds of energy) makes the two probably indistinguishable on the receiving end.

Some pistols originally chambered for the 9mm Makarov cartridge are also offered in .380. I am not aware of any originally designed in .380 that were subsequently offered in 9mm

Makarov. With some of the very small designs like the Kel-Tec and Ruger LCP originally designed for .380, it would be cutting things too close to go to 9mm Mak. Everything about these designs has been pared down as much as is prudent to arrive at a pistol that is very small for its caliber.

THE GUNS

I pulled together a few pistols that represent the type I wanted to look at, and a few others for comparison. I have given each my personal, unscientific rating on a scale of 1 to 10, where ergonomics, magazine capacity, availability of spares and accessories are weighted heavily and in that order. Price was also considered. Reliability with all pistols tested was 100%.

The 1 to 10 scale was not applied to

the Ruger LCP, which was simply included as a comparative representation of the “really small hideout” category.

CZ 82, 9mm Makarov

Magazines hold 12 rounds. Made in the former Czechoslovakia, this was the Czech military pistol from 1983 until about 2001. These have been on the surplus market for years now, going for under \$250 a few years ago. I’ve seen them more recently under \$300.

Imports have slowed, but you’ll still find them in gun shops. These are police turn-ins, in conditions of pretty good to fairly holster worn and banged up, but the ones I’ve seen were not shot a lot and completely serviceable.

They often come with two magazines and the original police holster. The true polygonal bore has no lands and grooves. A typical CZ design, double-action/single-action, it can be carried in Condition One (cocked and locked). CZ-USA was offering the commercial .380 and .32 auto versions of this as the CZ 83 but recently discontinued them.

Holsters, magazines, and parts are readily available. Single- and double-action pulls are everything one could wish for. Ergonomics are great with the

exception of a slight web-of-hand sting from the hammer (easily remedied with a little grinding). Although it outweighs the Beretta by four ounces in loaded condition, recoil is a bit snappier. Rating: 10

PM, “Pistolet Makarova,” 9mm Makarov

The original Makarov-designed pistol as made in East Germany. Magazines hold eight rounds (a higher-capacity version was offered, but I’ve never seen one or heard how they were).

PMs were made in many Eastern Bloc countries and China, but the East German ones are generally considered the best. The design is Walther-esque, probably not coincidentally, but scaled up just a tad. The pistol is, in typical Russian fashion, very sturdy. Double-action/single-action with a slide-

mounted hammer-dropping safety.

Triggers vary depending on country of manufacture, from workable to pretty darn good. If you had a Makarov 30 years ago, you had a rare collectible. Now they are common, not hard to find used, and reasonably priced. Magazines, leather, and parts are plentiful. Rating: 8

Beretta Model 84, .380

Magazines hold 13 rounds. This pistol is not discontinued, but only sporadically offered by Beretta USA. They are pretty common on the used market, and in several variations including the eight-round Model 85. One with some minor design changes sold as the (discontinued) Browning BDA .380.

Used, they tend to be significantly more expensive than the Euro-surplus guns. Aluminum frames make it a little

Close, but not the same: 9x18 mm Makarov (left) and .380 (aka 9x17) have slightly different case lengths: bullet diameters are .364 and .355 respectively. The Mak enjoys a very slight ballistic advantage that is probably imperceptible on the receiving end, and some advantage in ammo cost. Bulged .380 cases at left were fired in, and actually cycled, the 9mm Makarov P-64. Nothing good comes of this, but author did it to illustrate that results would not necessarily be catastrophic. In testing, .380 pistols would not come close to accepting Makarov ammo.





Above: Despite each being shot with four different types of ammo, these composite 15-yard groups show adequate-plus accuracy. By comparison, Ruger LCP is a “10” in its own category, but tiny pistols with tiny sights are simply more difficult to shoot as well as larger pistols in the same caliber.

Right: “I know PPK, and you’re no PPK.” Polish Radom P-64 (9mm Makarov) was included only to illustrate the midway point between very small and very large. Well-made, reliable, interesting, and perhaps even collectible, it suffers from terrible ergonomics. It grouped well at 15 yards in single-action with unusual 120-grain load, but did not care much for the 70-grain Pow’RBall, which also shot very high.



lighter than the CZ, but in most other aspects they are quite similar. Action type is as with the CZ, double-action and single-action, with the ability to be carried in Condition One. A tad lighter than, one more round than, but more expensive and a little fatter than the CZ. Rating: 10 (the eight-round Model 85, rating: 8)

Polish Radom P-64, 9mm Makarov
Magazines hold six rounds. Available for under \$300 from AIM Surplus, condition varies. I paid an extra \$10 for “hand picked” and got a nice unfired one. It is smaller than what I had intended to focus on, but I include it because it and pistols such as the Walther PPK are bridge-the-gap size, between say the CZ or Beretta and the Ruger LCP.

Of the P-64 I will simply say that it is

of interest only from an historic, esoteric, or collector’s point of view. It is well-made and intriguing and I’m glad to have one in the collection, but it suffers from a double-action pull that is so mechanically disadvantaged as to make the pistol almost impossible to fire and certainly difficult to shoot well. Single-action is better, long and startlingly light—not crisp but workable. Sights and overall ergonomics are poor. Recoil is snappy and twisty. If I rated it against the CZ and Beretta, it would get a 3 or 4.

Ruger LCP

The LCP is included here for comparison purposes only. The magazine holds six rounds and is strictly a tool. It is devoid of elegance, but thanks to its size and weight is a supreme backup/deep concealment gun. It obeys the

laws of physics and simply cannot be shot as fast or accurately as the larger, heavier guns. Recoil is snappy, but an accomplished shooter can manage it. Rating: in its own category, a 10.

THE AMMO

Makarov ammo has been available and affordable for a couple of decades. Import full-metal-jacket rounds represent a decent savings over .380 if a person is going for a quantity. The careful shopper might find a CZ and 1,000 rounds

» Continued on page 88

Danger in the Desert

Continued from page 57

spring and fall, they are most active during the day. During summer, they come out in the evening to avoid the hot sun.

The Arizona coral snake is rarely over 20 inches in length. It has a small black head and tapering tail. The body has red and black bands separated by narrow yellow or white bands. Coral snakes tend to be shy, and generally come out only at night.

If bitten by a venomous snake, immobilize the affected area at or below heart level. Apply a constricting band above the bite, tight enough to slow venous circulation but not cut off arterial circulation. If you can't feel a pulse below the band, it's too tight. Keep the victim quiet and seek immediate medical attention. Identification of the species of snake will aid in medical treatment.

The only venomous lizard native to the Southwest U.S. is the Gila Monster, which has a stout body and tail and beaded black and coral colored skin. It's sluggish and seldom reaches over 20 inches in length. The venom is a neurotoxin that also seems to have anticoagulant properties. Treat the bite the same as a poisonous snakebite.

The Arizona bark scorpion and the black widow spider are the most dangerous small critters in the desert Southwest.

All insect bites and stings carry with them a great risk of infection. If bitten or stung by a poisonous spider, scorpion or insect, apply a constricting band above the bite or sting for five minutes only. Most don't need medical treatment, unless the victim is a child, elderly, has heart problems, has been stung or bitten several times or on the main part of the body.

All animal bites carry the risk of infection, tetanus and rabies. Wash animal bite wounds thoroughly with soap and water, flush the bitten area and apply a dressing. Any bite on the face or neck should receive immediate medical attention.

Only a few survival basics have been touched upon here. Pursue your survival education further! ☉

SOURCE

RANDALL'S ADVENTURE & TRAINING

(256) 613-0372
www.jungletraining.com

Mighty Mouse!

Continued from page 87

of Mak for under \$600. A used Beretta 84 and 1,000 of .380 FMJ might be more like \$875-plus, pricing depending of course on many factors and ammo pricing being fluid, but the .380 ammo famine seems to have abated.

I've fired a fair amount of .380 and many thousands of 9mm Makarov over the years, but this was the first time I'd fired them side by side. I was surprised to find the .380's recoil noticeably milder, so I chronographed the Hornady Critical Defense and XTP hollow-point loads offered in both calibers, using the Beretta 84 and CZ 82.

The Mak's 95 grainers at 970 feet per second (fps) trumped the .380's 90 grainers at 920 fps—nearly 20% in terms of muzzle energy. Would this tip the balance in a gunfight? I think that like most things, it's a matter of degree.

There are smaller guns that hit harder, but they are commensurately more difficult to shoot and are not for the faint of heart.

A medium-sized pistol in a milder caliber might be the solution for some. ☉

Ned Christiansen is known for his custom 1911 pistols and unique AR-15 armorer tools. A lifelong student of all things related to firearms, he has many years of competition shooting under his belt. He is a police firearms instructor, inventor, and firearms consultant to agencies, industry, and individuals. His AR-15 and 1911 armorer classes have been well received by clubs and agencies around the country.

SOURCES

AIM SURPLUS

(888) 748-5252
www.aimsurplus.com

BARNES AMMUNITION

(800) 574-9200
www.barnesbullets.com

BLACK HILLS AMMUNITION

(605) 348-5150
www.black-hills.com

CORBON

(800) 626-7266
www.corbon.com

FEDERAL PREMIUM AMMUNITION

(800) 379-1732
www.federalpremium.com

HORNADY MFG. CO.

(800) 338-3220
www.hornady.com

Training and Tactics

Continued from page 98

course). Satisfied that the maid service hasn't forgotten to remove any prior deceased guests (don't laugh, it's happened more than once), you check the Emergency Evacuation Plan.

Looking somewhat like Montgomery's battle plan for North Africa, the only sense you can make of the hieroglyphic blueprint is that you're not supposed to use the elevator if the building burns. No problem, Slick, the elevator was out of service when I initially tried to use it to get to the room. That's one of the reasons I reserved a ground-floor room facing the parking lot in the first place: Building starts burning, Einstein opens room door and steps forward with alacrity toward parking lot. Problem solved.

The last checks are the deadbolt and safety chain. And since the deadbolt never seems to work properly, and the safety chain has long since expired from repeated hammerings by irate drunken spouses and/or law enforcement raids, you elect instead to use your hardware-store rubber door wedge. Worst-case scenario, if someone does break into your room, a "pull" type firecracker taped to the door and door jamb will give you some audible warning that the door has been opened. And if you need to restrain a couple of cretins until the local cavalry arrives, a set of thumbcuffs connecting one of their genitalia to the other's large toe performs wonders for their immobility. (It is obviously suggested that you politely request them to perform the mechanics of this task.)

One rubber door wedge: \$1

A set of thumbcuffs: \$10

Peace of mind: priceless

There are a few primary forewarnings about staying at a specific motel. Never stop at a motel where:

1) Every car in the parking lot is painted primer grey.

2) The cashier's office consists of a steel cage and bulletproof glass.

3) The occupants have Mongoloid facial features and are seated on the porch strumming banjos.

You have to use a piece of mind to have peace of mind.

Have a nice trip. ☉

[This column first appeared in the November 2006 issue of S.W.A.T.]

"The best example of good training is never having to use it."

~Clint Smith

ADVANCED TACTICS

Logical Defense
Solutions

From Firearms
Training Expert
Clint Smith

"It's hard to learn new skills
in the middle of a gun fight."

If the only defense option

between you or your family's safety is a trigger squeeze
away, make sure you're prepared.

These three new Thunder Ranch training videos from
expert instructor Clint Smith, offer reliable solutions for
when you need them most.

ADVANCED HANDGUN DEFENSE

Logical Solutions

From Firearms Training Expert
Clint Smith

Advanced Tactics

52 Video Chapters Include:

- Tactical Leans
- Handgun And Long Gun
- Clearing Techniques
- Maintaining Escape Routes
- Working With Lights

Are you prepared to clear a staircase in your home with your family inside?

DEFENSIVE LOGIC

Common
Sense
Lecture

From Firearms
Training Expert
Clint Smith

GET
ALL THREE
VIDEOS ONLY
\$95*

Advanced Handgun Defense

47 Video Chapters Include:

- Dealing With Multiple Threats
- Lateral Movement & Pivots
- Handgun Retention
- One-Handed Operation
- Pistol Malfunction Cures

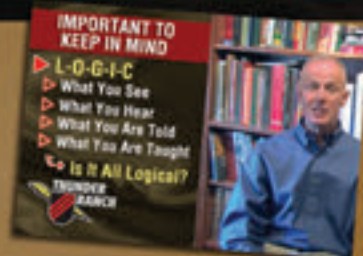
How will you retain your handgun and protect yourself from a close threat?

Defensive Logic

42 Video Chapters Include:

- What Will The Threat Look Like?
- Problems Likely To Encounter
- Mental Preparation
- Avoidance
- Deciding Factors In A Fight

Learn to buy logical equipment, think logically, and train logically.



*Offer good direct from FMG Publications and only
in U.S. Price includes standard delivery.
Thunder Ranch Training Series videos are
produced exclusively by FMG Publications.
Allow 2-4 weeks for delivery.

EACH video ON SALE separately for only \$35 each (regularly \$49.95).

To Order Call: (800) 628-9818 (M-F 8am-3pm PST)

Preview and Order Online: www.americanhandgunner.com/TRvids

Steel Will Censor Knives

Although Steel Will Knives, a subsidiary of Forest Hills, New York-based Sport Manufacturing Group Inc (SMG), is a relative newcomer to the American knife-making scene, it is quickly making its presence known as a maker of premium tactical and outdoor knives. The company has introduced the Urban series of everyday carry knives—the Censor, a compact, affordable fixed-blade knife. The Censor is offered in three blade profiles: spear-point (1310), predatory with variable-grind (1320) and clip-point (1330). Steel Will Knives provided me with samples of each.

Steel Will designed the Censor as a last-ditch backup knife for personal defense. Although folders are convenient to carry, they can be difficult to deploy

when the chips are down.

As former Navy SEAL and S.W.A.T. Contributor Jeff Gonzales of Trident Concepts, LLC succinctly stated, “Think of the fixed blade like carrying your pistol with a loaded magazine and round in the chamber, and a folder carrying your pistol with a loaded magazine but an empty chamber.”

The Censor is designed to be concealed easily, carried comfortably, and drawn quickly. It features a unique pistol-grip handle for a quick, confident draw and precise control and handling. The diamond-pattern texture on the handle and jimping on the tang provide a secure grip under all conditions. A comfortable thumb rest aids in control and keeping the knife secure in the



Censor comes with a nylon sheath and clip that provides a variety of carry options.

Photo: Steel Will Knives



Censor by Steel Will Knives is a compact fixed-blade knife for everyday carry. Steel Will describes it as a reliable backup partner for difficult situations. It's available in three blade profiles. Censor 1330 shown.

hand. The design of the handle is well suited for use with a variety of grips.

The knife has outstanding ergonomics. It balances well in the hand and is quick and lively—important characteristics for a knife intended for personal protection.

Scales are injection-molded fiberglass reinforced nylon (FRN), a very tough material built to take significant abuse and used for polymer pistol frames. Although FRN is more flexible than resin laminates such as G-10, it compensates for this in its impact toughness. Nearly any texture can be created on the surface, making it an exceptionally versatile material, ideally suited for large-scale knife production.

The scales on the Censor are attached with stainless steel hex-head screws, allowing them to be easily removed for cleaning, should it be necessary.

A full tang extends through the entire handle for ultimate blade strength and protrudes beyond the handle to form a multi-purpose pommel/glass breaker and lanyard attachment point. The glass-breaker is rounded and does not interfere with the grip.

The tang is devoid of sharp corners, further strengthening the integrity of the blade. Most of the high stresses on a blade occur at sharp corners of the shank. By eliminating these, stresses are greatly lessened.

Blade material is AUS 8, a Japanese mid-range stainless steel that has superb toughness, good edge-holding capabilities and corrosion resistance, and is easy to re-sharpen. It's an excellent choice for a knife of this type. The blade is hardened to 56-58 HRC. Blade thickness is 0.16 inch and overall length 7.68 inches.

The blade has a satin finish and does reflect direct sunlight. The blade surface is covered with small unidirectional strokes that form a uniform pattern. An added benefit is that most minor wear and scratches that occur from regular use are unnoticeable. It is more corrosion resistant than either a bead-blasted or stone-wash finish.

I really like the versatility of the Censor modular sheath system that comes with the knife. The sheath is of snap-fit design and is very secure yet affords an easy draw. The knife can be safely drawn from the sheath in a simple, single motion.

The sheath is made of glass-filled nylon and is fully ambidextrous. It comes



Censor 1310 has spear-point blade.



Censor 1320 has variable-ground blade.



Censor 1330 has clip-point blade.

with a patent-pending TOPS clip that provides a variety of carry options. The clip is sized to fit up to two-inch-wide belts. It is adjustable and attached to the sheath via Phillips-head machine screws. Repositioning the clip to switch from horizontal to vertical carry, change the carry angle, or switch from right- to left-hand carry takes only seconds.

The Censor knives provided for evaluation exhibited attention to detail not only in design, but in workmanship as well. Fit and finish were virtually flawless and on par with many custom knives.

All Steel Will knives come with a 60-day money-back guarantee and are warranted free of material and workmanship defects for the life of the

original owner. This warranty covers replacement parts and labor.

The Censor is an outstanding fixed-blade knife for EDC, and its price is unbeatable for a knife of this quality. All Censor models are priced at \$59.99. The only choice you have to make is which model ... and that may be a tough choice. ☺

SOURCES

SPORT MANUFACTURING GROUP, INC.

(877) 969-0909
www.steelwillknives.com

TRIDENT CONCEPTS, LLC

(928) 925-7038
www.tridentconcepts.com

Blackhawk Under the Radar

HOW secure are your identity and location? Perhaps far less secure than you think. Even when turned off, electronic devices emit a slight electronic signal that can be identified by thieves or others using detection devices. Passports, passport cards, many driver's licenses, identity cards, and credit/debit cards contain radio-frequency identification (RFID) chips with sensitive personal information.

RFID is the wireless non-contact use of radio-frequency electro-magnetic fields to transfer data. Although the RFID chips contained in passports are supposed to be readable only at a few centimeters, in one test they could be read at a distance of ten meters using specialized equipment.

Not all RFID systems are created equal. They use varying radio frequencies in different ways, and some are more vulnerable than others. Even as RFID technology advances to incorporate greater security, so will the capabilities of hackers to defeat it. It's an easy bet that hackers will defeat any security innovation much as they have done with computer software.

As long as RFID chips contain no personal information, any risk to you is low. RFID chips with credit-card data and passport and driver's license data pose a serious security



Smart-card technology has replaced magnetic strips in most of the world, and the U.S. is following suit. Protect your personal information. Photo: Diego soutu via Wikipedia

threat. They could be used for identity or monetary theft or to track a traveler's movements.

New U.S. passports contain RFID chips embedded in a protective cover (metal foil, essentially creating a Faraday cage), though there is some debate as to its effectiveness. The new U.S. passport cards for travel to Canada, Mexico, and the Caribbean contain less personal information than a regular passport but use a long-range system that is potentially vulnerable.

The State Department now issues protective shields with the cards in an attempt to counter threats. The new machine-readable national standard

driver's licenses appear to employ the same technology as the passport cards and are also "smart cards" with RFID technology that has been standard fare around the world for some time.

U.S. financial institutions have resisted the technology to date because of expected costs. Magnetic strip technology is fast becoming obsolete and increasingly hard to use outside the U.S., so it is only a matter of time before U.S. financial institutions come in line with the rest of the world.

What should you do? Given the uncertainties as to

BLACKHAWK! Under The Radar Courier Bag incorporates Zero Trace signal-blocking technology to protect electronic devices and RFID chips from remote exploitation.



Photo: BLACKHAWK!

security, I suggest you play it safe and use some sort of shielding such as BLACKHAWK!® Under the Radar™ products.

Under the Radar incorporates Zero Trace signal blocking technology that protects remote exploitation by blocking incoming and outgoing signals. It also helps prevent tracking of devices such as mobile phones.

The electromagnetic interior lining on Under the Radar products blocks incoming or outgoing signals with roughly 33dBm of attenuation. The abbreviation dBm—sometimes dBmW—refers to the power ratio in decibels of the measured power referenced to one milliwatt.



for an electronic device and an electromagnetically lined mobile phone/utility pocket on the front of the closure flap.

Inside the main compartment are four rows of S.T.R.I.K.E.® (PALS) webbing for attaching pouches or accessories. A large zippered pocket with padding and a loop liner for attaching hook-back pouches and accessories is on the back. Stretch side pouches are a perfect fit for water bottles.

Electronic passports and passport cards contain RFID chips that permit the passport holder's personal information to be read at a distance.



All Under the Radar products incorporate Zero Trace technology.

Photo: BLACKHAWK!

33 dBm of attenuation translates to two watts (2,000 mW), which is the maximum output from a UTMS/3G mobile phone and from a GSM850/900 mobile phone. Bluetooth and wi-fi signals are also blocked.

The BLACKHAWK! Under the Radar product line consists of the Under the Radar Courier Bag and Pouches, all of which incorporate Zero Trace technology. Available pouches include a passport pouch, cell phone pouch, oversized cell phone pouch, iPad® pouch, and 13-, 15- and 17-inch laptop pouches. BLACKHAWK! supplied the Under the Radar Courier Bag and Passport Pouch for evaluation.

The Courier Bag is constructed of rugged 1050 denier nylon and has a durable carry handle and removable padded shoulder strap. It features a large electromagnetically lined interior pocket

Overall dimensions of the BLACKHAWK! Under the Radar Courier Bag are 15"Lx18"Wx5.5"D.

BLACKHAWK! Under the Radar Pouches are also constructed of 1050 denier nylon and feature Zero Trace technology electromagnetic lining. The pouches have an adjustable hook-and-loop closure flap. All pouches except the Cell Phone and Oversize Cell Phone Pouches are foam padded for extra protection. The Passport Pouch has a vinyl window for a business card or other identification.

The material and workmanship on the BLACKHAWK! Under the Radar Courier Bag and Passport Pouch provided for evaluation were excellent. As with all BLACKHAWK! Tactical Nylon products, Under the Radar products are warranted to the original owner to be free of defects in parts and workmanship for the life of the original owner.

The BLACKHAWK! Under the Radar Courier Bag has a suggested retail price of \$149.99, and \$19.99 for the Passport Pouch. They are great products and cheap insurance. ☺



Zero Trace technology blocks signals from electronic devices, including all cell phones, such as the popular Apple® iPhone®.

Photo: Apple

SOURCE

BLACKHAWK!

(800) 694-5263

www.blackhawk.com

GEAR LOCKER

NEW PRODUCTS & ACCESSORIES

Push Draw Concealment Holster

Active Pro Gear's Push Draw Concealment Holster lets you wear what you want. Designed for deep-cover concealment of small autos, the pistol rides low inside your pants with the top of your gun level with your belt line. Only the belt clip is visible. To draw, push up on the pistol's slide to expose the grip. The holster draws straight up without a cant for a fast draw. The heavy-duty black powder-coated spring steel clip keeps the holster secured to belt or waistband. It fits up to 1¾-inch belts, is made in the USA and available for right- or left-handed draw.

The Model 44 is made of rugged Cordura® nylon with closed-cell foam and has a suggested retail price of \$29.99. The Model 54 is handmade from top-grade American steer hide and retails for \$49.99.



ACTIVE PRO GEAR, INC.
(305) 251-5981
www.activeprogear.com

Propper U.C. Pack

Propper's tactical gear launch continues with the U.C. (User Configurable) Pack, which takes cues from the proven design of the Marine Corps Assault Pack that Propper manufactures for the U.S. Military. Users can customize the pack by adding storage accessories to its MOLLE-wrapped exterior and spacious soft-touch fabric interior with hook-and-loop accessories.

The U.C. Pack and accessories are designed to be mixed, matched and customized in a variety of ways, giving users the flexibility to configure a kit that works for them on the fly. Users can easily build it into an everyday carry bag or use it for overnight trips. The U.C. Pack can also be configured as a specialized range bag, med kit, camera or bug-out bag. Built with heavy-duty 1000D Cordura® nylon, the U.C. Pack is rugged enough for the toughest jobs. It's sold in Black, Coyote and Olive with a suggested retail price of \$109.99.



PROPPER | (866) 433-9690 | www.propper.com

Mission First Tactical KeyMod Rails and Sling Mount

Mission First Tactical LLC, developer of select rifle/carbine accessories, has introduced the Tekko Metal KeyMod™ three- and six-inch rails and Quick Detach Sling Mount.

The rails mount to any KeyMod™ mounting surface and are made of high-quality Type 3 hard-coat anodized 6061 aluminum. The rails include a self-contained assembly that eliminates the common problem of losing the mounting hardware.

The Quick Detach Sling Mount is designed for use with the standard push-button quick-detach sling swivel and attaches to any KeyMod surface. It is made out of lightweight Type 3 hard-coat anodized 6061 aluminum, is low profile, snag resistant, and features a braked four-position (360 degree) non-rotating locking surface. Like the rails, the sling mount includes a self-contained assembly.

The rails and sling mount are made in the USA and have a lifetime warranty. The three-inch rail retails for \$24.99, the six-inch for \$39.99, and the sling mount for \$19.99.



MISSION FIRST TACTICAL LLC
(267) 704-0001
www.missionfirsttactical.com

Spyderco Pacific Salt SpyderEdge 1184

Spyderco's Pacific Salt folding knife is an impressive synthesis of light weight, full-service cutting performance, and 100% rustproof reliability. When the knife's blade and other metal hardware were subdued with a stealthy titanium carbonitride (TiCN) coating and it was subjected to extensive military testing, it was so impressive it was approved for official issue to U.S. Naval and Marine Corps aviation units. Now this incredible knife is also available with a fully serrated SpyderEdge™ cutting edge that optimizes its performance on fibrous materials like rope and webbing.

Spyderco's Trademark Round Hole™ in the blade ensures swift, positive one-handed opening, and a high-strength back-lock mechanism locks the blade

securely in the open position. The Pacific Salt's handle is injection molded from durable fiberglass-reinforced nylon and features a Volcano Grip™ texture that guarantees a positive grip in

even the harshest conditions. A reversible titanium pocket clip supports left- or right-side tip-up carry and, with the knife's other features, makes carry, deployment, and operation ambidextrous.



SPYDERCO
(800) 525-7770
www.spyderco.com

Tacprogear Packable Shoulder Bag

Tacprogear, a leading manufacturer of tactical equipment used by professionals worldwide, announces its Packable Shoulder Bag. This lightweight bag incorporates practical organization and compartmentalization for the savvy traveler. Expanding quickly, this bag delivers functionality when carrying a wide variety of "must haves" on the road.

The Packable Shoulder Bag features:

- 200 denier ripstop nylon
- Adjustable shoulder strap
- Dual zipper with shrink-wrap zipper pulls
- Easy-access outer pocket for quick stash
- Gun cover bottom protects the lightweight bag when setting it down
- Right side holds five Sharpie® pens
- Wolf Gray interior color aids in viewing items clearly
- Hook/loop closure for inside side pocket
- YKK zippers

Weighing three ounces, the Packable Shoulder Bag is available in Black. It measures 16" L x 4" W x 12" H and can be turned into a packable size of 7.5" L x 2" W x 6" H. Suggested retail price is \$44.00.



TACPROGEAR
(786) 292-2706
www.tacprogear.com

SureFire Unveils IntelliBeam

SureFire, LLC has released its first auto-adjusting flashlight—the popular P2X Fury with proprietary IntelliBeam™ Technology (P2XIB) featuring an intelligent sensor and microprocessor-based system that continuously adjusts light output by constantly evaluating your surroundings.



This cutting-edge technology helps preserve dark-adapted vision by evaluating the environment before turning on, so it never activates on high in close quarters. If you're in an open field, you'll get all 600 lumens. If you're prepping gear or loading a vehicle, it will dial in the necessary output based on the environmental feedback it receives, down to as little as 15 lumens. Just click the tailcap switch to engage this auto-adjusting mode. To override this mode, return to off and press or click again within one second to activate the max-output/tactical mode.

The P2XIB is powered by two included 123A lithium batteries. Suggested retail price is \$229.

SUREFIRE, LLC
(800) 828-8809
www.surefire.com

Combat Correspondent

Stopping for the night in an Albuquerque motel during a cross-country drive, a former TV news anchor was surprised in the parking lot by a strong-arm robber. As he forced her back into her motel room, she kept her cool, remembering her training as a reserve deputy. While the robber held a gun on her and rummaged through her belongings, her husband walked out of the shower and witnessed the tableau.

Calmly handing her purse to her husband, she asked as casually as possible, "Is there anything in here we can give him?" "Oh, yes," answered her husband, also a former TV reporter as well as a Special Forces veteran. He proceeded to pull her pistol out of the purse, and a gunfight ensued. The robber was killed in the exchange of shots, while the husband, though hit three times, survived after receiving medical care.

SOURCE: KRQE-TV, Albuquerque, New Mexico, 7/1/15



Parting Shots

It was two in the afternoon on a July day in San Antonio, Texas when a pair of armed men walked into an auto parts store and demanded money. But the owner wasn't easily cowed, and produced a handgun of his own. What the robbers had hoped would be an easy score instead turned into a gun battle.

The intrepid owner quickly gained the upper hand. One bandit crumpled to the floor while the other sprinted to a getaway car and sped off. EMS workers detected a pulse on the downed bandit, who initially had been presumed dead. He was bundled into an ambulance, but died en route to the hospital.

SOURCE: WOAI-AM, San Antonio, Texas, 7/7/15

Delivery Defense

An armed robber entered a Domino's pizza delivery restaurant in Albuquerque late on a June night and held up the establishment for the cash on hand. Robbery successful, he exited the restaurant and noticed one of the delivery drivers in the parking lot. Thinking to add to his haul, he approached the driver, gun out, and demanded cash.

Instead of forking over his pizza delivery dough, the driver pulled a handgun of his own and opened fire, hitting the robber in the face. The robber lay in the parking lot until police arrived. He was admitted to the hospital, listed in critical condition, and would face armed robbery charges upon his release.

SOURCE: KRQE-TV, Albuquerque, New Mexico, 6/29/15

Grocery Gunfight

The owner of a small grocery store in Fort Worth, Texas was working behind the counter early one June afternoon when three men entered his establishment and demanded money. At least one of the holdup men was brandishing a shotgun, so the owner fished his wallet out and handed it over to the unarmed accomplice before pulling his own handgun and opening fire on the bandits.

In the face of his determined counterattack, the bandits fled, but the store owner's shots had hit their intended target, leaving the shotgun-wielding stickup man on the floor. He was pronounced dead on the scene when authorities arrived, and the two robbers the owner hadn't shot were being sought by police.

SOURCE: KTVT-TV, Fort Worth, Texas, 6/17/15 ©

If you or a loved one is injured during an attack, do you carry any first aid gear -- and do you know how to use it?

ADVERTISERS' INDEX

ADVERTISER	WEBSITE	PAGE
1 Million Moms Against Gun Control	www.1mmagc.org	61
American Handgunner	www.americanhandgunner.com/trvids	89
Ashley Performance	www.ashleyperformance.com	69
Barrett Firearms	www.barrett.net	7
Black Hills Ammunition	www.black-hills.com	8
Bravo Company Mfg SWEEPSTAKES	www.bravocompanymfg.com	50-51
Bravo Company USA, Inc	www.bravocompanyusa.com	3, Cover 4
Bravo Company USA, Inc	www.bravocompanyusa.com	15, 25, 37, 39
C Products Defense	www.cpdmags.com	13
Cactus Tactical Supply	www.cactustactical.com	67
Caldwell Shooting Supplies	www.caldwellshooting.com	34
CrossBreed Holsters	www.crossbreedholsters.com	21
Del-Ton	www.del-ton.com	17
Elzetta Design, LLC	www.elzetta.com	61
Flying Circle Bag Co	www.flyingcirclegear.com	19
Hornady	www.hornady.com	29

ADVERTISER	WEBSITE	PAGE
Huldra Arms	www.huldraarms.com	40
Kimber Mfg, Inc	www.kimberamerica.com	Cover 2
Luth AR	www.luth-ar.com	67
Magpul Industries	www.magpul.com	23
The Mako Group	www.themakogroup.com/meproflight	28
Maxpedition	www.maxpedition.com	9
Sturm, Ruger & Co	www.ruger.com/2million	Cover 3
Sun Optics USA	www.sunopticsusa.com	35
SureFire	www.surefire.com/XC1	16
S.W.A.T. Exchange	www.swatexchange.com	55
SWFA	www.swfa.com	11
Tactical Night Vision Company	www.tnvc.com	33
TOPS Knives	www.topsknives.com	40
Trijicon, Inc	www.trijicon.com	31
Troy Industries	www.worldoftroy.com	10
Wilson Combat	www.wilsoncombat.com	24

**COMING
NEXT ISSUE**

TACTICAL TAKEDOWN! *Ruger SR-556 Takedown*



SWAT.
MAGAZINE

DECEMBER ISSUE ON SALE NOVEMBER 3rd

Motel Hell

Security comes in many shapes and forms. Padlocks, retirement investments, video and audio alarm systems, life insurance policies, firearms, martial arts—they're all utilized with the end objective being peace of mind. And they also exist only by rote of premeditation and forethought.

Employment of any, or a combination of some of the above, often results in success because the thinking man is usually operating on home turf, be it in his home, driving his car, or generally staying within the bounds of his comfort zone. In simple terms, a surfer swimming a mile offshore is sooner or later going to end up as a shark entrée, and a skydiver who freefalls on his first jump is probably going to experience a different "rush" than that which he'd anticipated.

Then Nostradamus comes out of his lair, heads for the hills on vacation, and drops his guard. And motel security being what it is, our hero's life insurance is about to come into effect. Once you're out of your chosen environment—no matter what hostelry you choose for your layover—you're not in Kansas anymore. And a predator can spot those cute red slippers from a mile away.

The clues start as soon as you enter the parking lot. Before you can find the office to check in, the warning signs appear: "Not responsible for damage to vehicle"; "Remove all valuables from vehicle"; and "Surveillance cameras in use." This is closely followed by an offer of valet parking. That's what I want: an 18-year-old seeing what he can steal from my vehicle while he's practicing J-turns with the car en route to the motel's Secret Parking Garage—if that is indeed where he's headed.

"What's the problem," you ask, "don't you trust anybody?" Not if it doesn't walk on four paws and poop on the sidewalk, I don't. And yes, that means nobody born under the guise of Homo Sapiens.

After partially completing a registration form (No, my home phone number, address and driver's license number are none of your motel's business, thank you very much.) and watching your credit card disappear around a mysterious corner for what seems like an interminable amount of time, you finally secure a room for the night. (Good Lord, no, we can't accept cash. Terrorists and drug dealers use that stuff, don't you know.)

Then it's on to the room, which was guaranteed ground floor facing the parking lot when you made your reservation a month prior, but has now magically morphed into a third-floor cave facing the inner courtyard. And the quoted price has gone up because it's Sunday, Tuesday, Thursday or Spotted Owl Month. Apparently for these special occasions, the proprietor has managed to gold-plate the faucets in return for supplying you with a lonely towel covered in old, suspicious stains and sheets adroitly embroidered with cigarette burns.



Photo: www.canstockphoto.com

On the trek to your room, you can't help but notice some people's lack of security consciousness. Occupied room doors stand ajar, with purses, wallets and laptop computers lying in plain view of passersby—and also within ten feet of some miscreant's sticky fingers. While the occupant is nowhere to be seen, the sound of running shower water could possibly be regarded as a hint.

Or at night you are treated to a delightful view of people going about their business with the lights on and curtains open. It's bad enough that motel curtains never completely close, and that the end gap always seems to line up with the room mirror facing the bed, or alternatively, a central gap in two curtains self-develops as the night wears on, but can't people at least have one of their party sitting facing the window while engaged in a beer-drinking contest, laptop finger exercises, or procreational activities? How about just pinning the shades together with a paper clip, or sticking the errant edge to the wall with a band-aid or cellophane tape? This isn't paranoia, it's just plain common sense.

This achieves two objectives: (1) The rest of the world isn't forced to unintentionally observe the piggish behavior exhibited the minute some people leave their own abode, and (2) Stop tempting fate.

Hang a "Wet Paint" sign on a fence post, and people will cross the street to touch the fence. Then when they find wet paint on their fingertips, they exclaim "Damn, the paint's wet." Dangle a carrot for long enough in front of the motel mule, and sooner or later he'll take a bite out of it—and probably some of your hand along with it. Out of sight, out of mind.

So you finally get to the room after having double-checked that the alarm in your vehicle is armed. You check out the room and bathroom with your trusty SureFire, noting the room safe provided "For your protection" (for a small fee, of

>> Continued on page 88

RUGER® AR-556®

DIRECT IMPINGEMENT, MODERN SPORTING RIFLE



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



Post Front Sight and Ruger® Rapid Deploy Folding Rear Sight

16.10", Medium Contour, Cold Hammer-Forged Barrel with Ruger® Flash Suppressor and 1:8" Twist



Ergonomic Pistol Grip Features an Extended Trigger Reach for More Precise Trigger Control

100%
AMERICAN-MADE

Milled Gas Block Has Multiple Attachment Points Including a QD Socket and Bayonet Lug, for Many Sling and Accessory Mounting Options



Ruger® AR-556® Rifle*



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.

Join Ruger and help us raise \$4,000,000 for the NRA.

VISIT: RUGER.COM/2MILLION



©2015 Sturm, Ruger & Co., Inc.

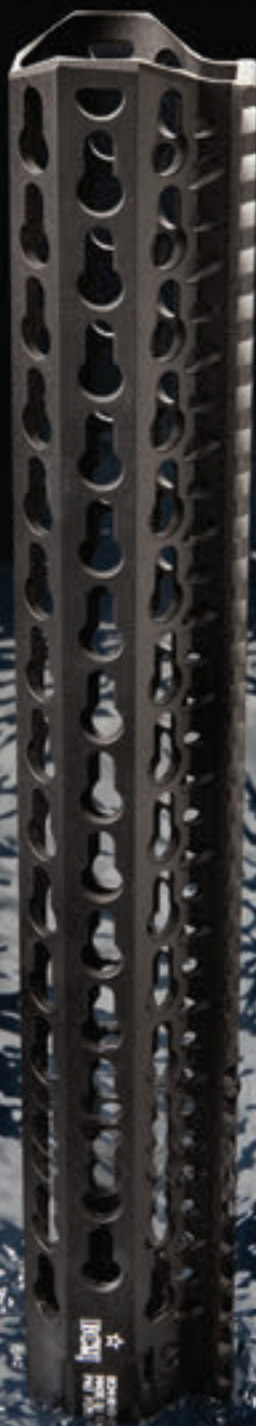
051315



KMR

CRASH BE LIKE WATER FLOW

-BRUCE LEE



13 INCHES 7 KEYMOD MOUNTING SURFACES UNINTERRUPTED UPPER RAIL PLATFORM 100% FREE FLOAT 5.5 OUNCES*

★ **BravoCompanyUSA.com** ★

Hartland, WI U.S.A. / Fax: 262-367-0989 / Toll Free: 1-877-BRAVO CO / 1-877-272-8626

* MOUNTING HARDWARE ADDS 2.2 OZ

BravoCompanyMFG.COM/KMR