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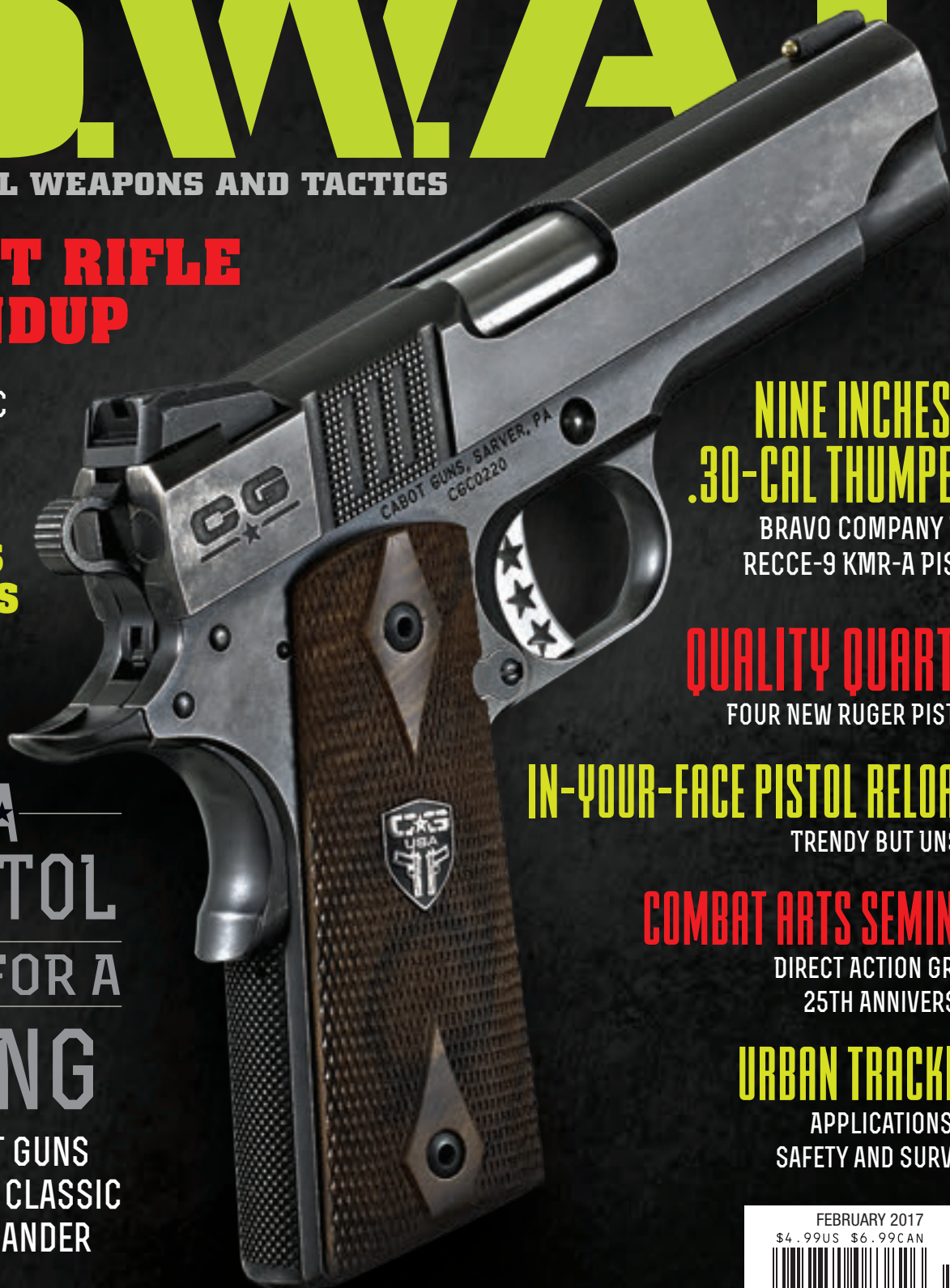
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COVER
STORY



A PISTOL FIT FOR A KING

Cabot Guns Vintage Classic Commander

It may look like a safe queen, but this exceptionally well-crafted custom 1911 is designed for personal defense.

BY BOB PILGRIM

Cover photo courtesy Cabot Gun Company

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Will They Ever Return?

Several thousand M1s have been languishing in storage in South Korea since the 1950s, and blocked by Executive Order from being reimported.

BY GARY PAUL JOHNSTON

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Direct Action Group 25th Anniversary

DAG's annual Combat Arts Seminar is a can't-miss training event for serious professionals and private citizens.

BY RON YANOR

52 NINE INCHES OF .30-CAL THUMPERY

Bravo Company Mfg Recce-9 KMR-A Pistol

What utility does the AR pistol have today? The author ran drills pitting the BCM Recce-9 against a Glock 17 and ROBAR PolymAR-15L.

BY JUSTIN DYAL



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64 QUALITY QUARTET

Four New Ruger Pistols

The range was hot as we had not one, two, or three but four new Ruger pistols to evaluate. Good times!

BY DENNY HANSEN



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Trendy But Unsafe

Tried-and-true pistol reloading techniques are being replaced by techniques lacking justification and ignoring common sense.

BY TIM SCARROTT



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Applications for Safety and Survival

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2A: Stay in the Fight

When Donald Trump was elected the 45th President of the United States, he became the first candidate to win that office with no prior experience in government since Dwight Eisenhower was elected in 1952. But that was not the only historic event that occurred.

Other firsts were that following the election, people demonstrated in the streets and anarchists rioted. College campuses established "safe" areas where special snowflakes could cope with their "trauma" by playing with Play-Doh, drawing with crayons, and cuddling puppies.

On the other side of the same nickel, social media exploded with comments such as, "The Second Amendment is safe!" and "I was thinking of joining the NRA, but now there's no need to." Well, maybe.

After the Constitutional Convention in 1787, Benjamin Franklin was asked, "What kind of government have you given us, Dr. Franklin?" He replied: "A republic, if you can keep it." And therein lies the rub.

Folks seem to forget that representatives to the House are elected every two years. Historically, the House changes which party has the majority two years after a presidential election. If that holds true, anti-gun Democrats could stalemate any pro-gun, pro-Constitution nominees to the U.S. Supreme Court after 2018.

And the real battle for the Second Amendment may be at the local and state levels. While the country was focused on who would become the next President, California voters approved Proposition 63 by a 63% majority.

On the heels of many other draconian anti-gun laws passed in California in 2016, Prop 63 removed the ownership exemption for pre-2000 owners of large-capacity magazines, making all magazines over ten rounds illegal. The proposition also instituted mandatory background checks to buy ammunition.

Further, not agreeing with the outcome of the election, in what is being dubbed "#calexit," California has threatened to secede from the Union. Since that state's philosophy differs so drastically from the rest of the country, all I can say is, "Bye."

Our great nation is more divided than at any time since the Civil War. It remains to be seen if the elections will result in any real changes to that division, but it is my fervent hope that the new Administration will unite us once again.

The fight for the Second Amendment will never be over due to those who are determined to strip us of that right. And the Second guarantees the rest of the Bill of Rights. Stay in the fight. Join the NRA and stay engaged at all levels of government.

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

Denny Hansen

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REVOLVER RELOADS

I shoot my .38 revolvers quite a bit, but inexpensive ammo for them—wadcutters and semiwadcutters—do not reload like service loads. Specifically, service loads have a round-nose profile, and the shoulders on wadcutters and semiwadcutters get hung up on the edge of the chambers.

Do you have any suggestions to make reloading the less expensive rounds easier? I'm just now getting into reloading, if that's a factor.

L. Brean, Louisiana

Thank you for taking the time to contact us. Actually, you have a few options. The first is to practice loading while dry firing with dummy rounds or snap caps that have a round nose.

Next, you could send the cylinder to a company to have the chambers chamfered. I've had excellent results with TK Custom (www.tkcustom.com), which can also machine the cylinder to

accept moon clips for fast reloading.

For practice, I cast the same bullet for .38 Special as I do 9mm—a 120-grain lead round nose. I just size them to .358 diameter instead of .355.

Denny Hansen

ASLEEP AT THE WHEEL?

In the last few months, Ruger has introduced three or four new handguns, but they have not been covered in S.W.A.T. What gives? Are you asleep at the wheel or simply not in the loop on new releases?

R. Miner, Washington

Thanks for asking, but regular S.W.A.T. readers know we are never the first to cover a new firearm, because our policy is to thoroughly evaluate each one, with several hundred rounds downrange, before publishing our findings. Our readers deserve—and expect—nothing less.

As this goes to press, Ruger has in-



troduced four new handguns: a 1911 Lightweight Commander in 9mm, the Mark IV .22, a compact American 9mm, and the redesigned LCP II. We introduced all four on our Facebook page as Ruger lifted the press embargos on each.

S.W.A.T. staffers have had all four since September 2016, and now that our usual detailed evaluations are complete, we have a comprehensive report in this issue, starting on page 52.



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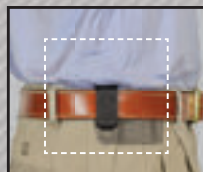
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BEYOND GUN PORN

I have never bought *S.W.A.T.* before, but I was drawn to the December issue because it was in a plastic wrapper with a calendar, so I purchased it at my local newsstand. To say I am happy with it would be a huge understatement. It's not just the usual "gun porn," but most of the photos are of such good quality I'm considering framing some.

The calendar alone was worth the purchase price, as I would have spent at least that much on another calendar. The bonus was that all of the articles were very well written and informative.

To sum it up, I didn't know what I'd been missing and will soon become a subscriber and look forward to reading each new issue.

J. Farakon, Tennessee

We appreciate the feedback and your support. We won't let you down.

SURPRISED BUT SATISFIED

When I first looked over the *Lineup* of the December issue, to be honest I didn't see anything that really appealed to me.

I got into reloading a few years ago, largely because of your *Loading*

Bench column, and so the first article I read was the one about tumblers (*AROUND AND AROUND THEY GO: Tumblers for Handloading*). I thought it would be boring, but it turned out to be very interesting.

Next I read the story on battle belts (*WAR BELTS: Rigging Up for Battle*). Since I use a battle belt when I attend firearm courses, I thought I knew everything there is to know about them. As the saying goes, I didn't know what I didn't know, and I have already rearranged my gear because of the article.

I could go on, but suffice to say that the informative articles did not only surprise me, but also completely satisfied me.

D. Powell, California

Thanks for taking the time to contact us and provide us with valuable feedback.

BATTLE BELT BUGABOO?

I liked the article on war belts in the December issue, but I noticed one glaring error that I thought I should bring to your attention.

Reloads should be placed on the non-dominant side so the weapon can stay in the firing hand while reloading. The top photo on page 74 clearly shows the reload for the carbine on the same side as the pistol, which would necessitate an extremely awkward reload.

Upon reading Jeff Gurwitch's short bio, I was surprised to see an experienced operator made a rookie mistake like this. You may want to pass this on to your readers.

R. Brewer, Colorado

We're glad you enjoyed the article. Since you took the time to read Jeff's bio, you should also have read the caption under the photo you referenced. It clearly states the reason the carbine mag is on the right side is because Jeff shoots a pistol right-handed and the carbine left-handed, hence the placement is correct.

No problem. We understand that sometimes folks make the rookie mistake of simply looking at the pictures and not reading the captions.

Denny Hansen ☺

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DeSantis Thumb Break Scabbard

I have been writing for *S.W.A.T. Magazine* for the past 15 years. I guess time really does fly. There is an old adage that the more things change, the more they stay the same. There is some truth in that.

As a rancher, I wore my gun outside the waistband for years, and later switched to inside the waistband. I have gone back to OWB for a couple of reasons. On duty I wear my gun belt outside and, for off-duty use, I want a drawstroke as close to my duty weapon as possible. Also, I no longer want to buy my Wranglers® two sizes larger.

Coming full circle again, I wore leather holsters, switched to Kydex®, and have mostly gone back to leather.

One thing that has not changed is that DeSantis Gunhide has been making quality leather holsters for over 40 years. I recently received a DeSantis Thumb Break Scabbard (TBS) for a Springfield XD .45.

The TBS is a pancake-type holster that starts out with two separate pieces of leather. It is made for the individual weapon being placed in a press, so there is a natural molded fit for the pistol. The leather is then glued together and stitched with heavy nylon thread.

The belt loops will fit up to 1¾-inch wide belts. One belt loop is at the



Front of DeSantis Thumb Break Scabbard is molded for the specific contours of the pistol it is ordered for.



Thumb break is backed up with a reinforcing strip of steel, riveted above and below the snap.

rear of the holster and two at the front, allowing the TBS to be worn either as a straight drop or with a slight forward cant. I personally find the forward cant allows a smoother, more natural drawstroke.

The bottom of the holster is open.

The Thumb Break Scabbard is a Level II security holster. To keep the thumb break from becoming flimsy, it is backed up with a strip of steel, riveted above and below the snap.

Further adding to the security aspect is a tension screw behind the trigger guard. This allows the user to adjust how much exertion is needed to draw the pistol. Initially you may find you don't need any additional tension but, being a leather holster, it will

break in over time and you may need to apply more tension.

The design of the holster forms a natural sight track to prevent the front sight from dragging while being drawn.

The outside of the holster is completely dehorned of any rough edges so it won't abrade clothing or skin.

DeSantis advises not to oil your holsters with leather dressings such as mink oil, as they will cause the holster to soften. DeSantis includes care information with each holster.

DOUBLE MAGAZINE POUCH

I often see private citizens and off-duty officers not carrying spare magazines. I have questioned friends and students

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about this, and they say things like, “I don’t think there will be more than one or two bad guys” and “How many times do you think I’m going to miss?”

With that kind of mindset, they may already be in trouble.

Along with the holster, I requested a Double Magazine Pouch, which exactly matches the finish on the TBS. The two individual pockets are separated by a rubber spacer, and two tension screws ensure you don’t lose your magazines on the run or while bending over to pick something up.

Each side of the mag pouch is stitched with heavy nylon thread. The back of the pouch is a separate piece of leather and is riveted in two places at the top. A wide belt can be run through this piece, while two slots at the sides accommodate a thinner belt. Two heavy one-way snaps at the bottom allow it to be removed without unthreading the entire belt from your trouser loops.

Yes, times have changed, but the quality and dependability of DeSantis have not. Try these products for yourself.

The Thumb Break Scabbard has a suggested retail price of \$76.99, while the Double Magazine Pouch lists for \$52.99. ©

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Chemical Weapon Attack

If you catalog all the threats facing our country today, one of the most benign-sounding yet utterly horrifying would be See Bernie.

"See Bernie" isn't a command to watch another Hollywood bomb or the slightly comical surname of some dictator in a goat-centric country. It is the proper pronunciation of the acronym CBRNE, which stands for "Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear and Explosive (weapons)." In layman's terms, this refers to the more well-known "Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD)."

Anyone with the most limited understanding of current events is cognizant of CBRNE threats. We know terrorists would love to get their hands on some horrible weapon to bring massive death into downtown U.S.A. Even more worrisome is the fact that some

of our international adversaries are more frequently mentioning CBRNE in their public military discussions, though always in a "defensive" usage.

While the threat from every single part of the CBRNE complex is likely greater today than even during the darkest days of the Cold War, we're going to take just one slice of apocalyptic pie and talk about chemical weapons.

Don't immediately dismiss the idea of a chemical attack on U.S. soil as tin-foil-hat paranoia. Japan experienced a subway attack using home-brewed Sarin nerve agent several years ago. Our highway and railroad systems carry massive quantities of dangerous chemicals that could be utilized in a criminal manner, and it is very likely that military-grade chemical weapons have either been produced or diverted into the hands of terrorists.

Regardless of source or agent, we

don't need a working encyclopedic knowledge of chemistry to survive a chemical weapon attack. We simply need the ability to recognize such an attack quickly and commence basic protective actions immediately.

Recognizing an attack seems simple: a weird-looking fog rolls in and masses of people keel over in the street. To those with even a shred of awareness, this would indicate a problem, but things might not be that obvious, especially during initial phases. In fact, many chemical agents are colorless and odorless, while some have the consistency of baby oil and only affect those who actually touch an item that has been contaminated.

Chemical weapons can be delivered in a variety of forms, but essentially, anytime you see growing numbers of people becoming distressed for no apparent reason, you can't just

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stand around and wonder why everyone suddenly developed acute hay fever or a serious drooling problem. Think chemical or biological attack and flee the area without hesitation or waiting for further instructions.

If you can't get out of the target zone fast, you must shelter in place. This means getting indoors, shutting off all air-handling equipment, and sealing the doors and windows with plastic sheeting and tape.

Honeybunches and I live sandwiched between a major highway and a railroad, so my own stash of emergency gear includes a large roll of plastic sheeting and several rolls of duct tape. These are primarily for hazmat incident safety, but would also be the first line of defense in the unlikely event of a chemical or biological attack. I say "unlikely" in my situation but wouldn't use that modifier if I lived in a major city or near an international landmark or large military base.

Tape and polyethylene sheeting don't seem highly tactical, though they are very effective. But you're probably wondering about active measures.

Above all, don't buy gun-show gas

masks! To work effectively, an Air Purifying Respirator (APR, the technical term) must be properly fitted, regularly serviced, and equipped with the proper filters for the particular agent. The gas masks I saw flying off the shelves at a gun show two weeks ago met none of these requirements. You might be tempted to buy a couple because "they might work" or "better than nothing," but there is deadly folly in that logic.

If you have a gas mask on hand, you're likely to take risks that you wouldn't otherwise, such as traveling or working outside. When your cheap mask fails as you try to walk home from your downtown office after "The Next 9/11," you'll suddenly realize why experts don't suggest buying one without fitting and consultation from a trained provider. But then again, you'll probably be dead, so it won't be quite as important anymore.

Don't consider using paint respirators or other consumer masks as improvised respiratory protection or trust army-surplus chemical suits or other makeshift protective outer garments. Placing even a tiny bit of faith

in such slapdash defense is essentially a 50/50 suicide pact. If you decide to buy chemical/biological protective gear, consult a recognized manufacturer to make sure you're getting new, effective, and properly fitted kit that is periodically maintained and tested.

Or you could just buy some sheeting and tape. You'll be adequately protected and have much more money to spend on your other necessary emergency preparations.

If you live or work near a potential high-risk target, you might invest the time and money needed to acquire the proper CBRNE protective gear. Otherwise, a trip to the local hardware store will have you reasonably prepared for a major gas attack.

That is, unless the attack involves your brother-in-law who ate an entire plate of deviled eggs at Sunday dinner. In that case, it might be best to simply evacuate and burn everything in place. ☹

Brent T. Wheat is a former SWAT officer, canine handler, detective, and patrol supervisor who retired after a 30-year law enforcement career.

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Hand-Drill Fire Making

"A great flame, follows a little spark."

– Dante, *The Divine Comedy*

When man first put spindle to hearth, he was beginning a process that would ultimately lead to combustion engines, electricity, and cities that support millions of people.

But none of that was in the minds of men who, arguably millions of years ago, first scraped fine powder from wood that ultimately melted into an ember. Early man probably had more urgent needs. Possibly he was sheltering his family from a sudden summer shower or had realized food tasted better and he had more energy when it was cooked over a fire.

In *Practicing Primitive*, Steven Watts lists some documented aboriginal uses for fire: heat, light, cooking, food prep, insect control, preparing adhesives, woodworking, flint knapping, art, music, agriculture, hunting, protection and security, warfare, water purification, personal care, and ceremony.

In the outdoor community, we call fire caveman television, as it is a tool that separates us from all other animals. It is why we are human: we are the only species evolved for fire. Now-

adays we have lighters, matches, and literally a hundred ways to bring about fire, but there is still something majestic and human about giving birth to an ember primitively.

Though fire making skills were once almost lost to modern man (save for a few anthropologists and bush hippie renegades), they are not hard to master and provide a calm comfort to the avid outdoorsman. After all, the more you know, the less you need. It never hurts to have multiple methods of firestarting in one's tool kit. Primitive methods were still being used in California by the last wild Native American, Ishi, as recently as 1911. When I crossed the Serengeti last year with the Hadza, the oldest continuous hunter gatherer tribe, they were making fire using hand drills.

TYPES OF DRILLS

Most people are successful and more familiar with the bow drill, but this improvement or modernization entails more pieces and complexity than the simple hand drill. I urge people to use this earlier method because it is quicker to construct and, once you become



proficient, easier to be consistent with. No convincing evidence exists that aboriginals in California ever made fire from a bow drill. Paul Campbell, author of *Survival Skills of Native California*, argues that the bow drill is just too modern.

MATERIALS

In many Native American proverbs, fire and water are inextricably linked. Plants that are associated with Riparian zones (a geographical area near a body of water) are always the best to test for fire kits. The roots of some of these plants are especially good, perhaps related to their capacity to carry water. When the wood dries out, there may be more air space and the wood may dry more softly.



Drilling the socket for a place for the spindle to seat.



Creating a burn in. Before adding a V-notch, burn in the socket a little to know where the spindle will end up seating.



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ABOVE: Cut a V-notch for a place for the dust to settle and coalesce into an ember.

LEFT: Use the whole hand, not just the palm, to get the most out of the spindle rotations. This builds up more heat.

Luckily, most plants have already been tested and we know certain woods work better than others. Woods for hearth and spindle alike are: Willow, Box Elder, Cottonwood, Tulip Poplar, Basswood, Yucca, Red Cedar, Trumpet Vine, Cattail, River Birch, Mullein, Sycamore, Sassafras, and Clematis vine. In the Southwest, my neck of the woods, I like using Mulefat and Sotol. Ishi was even recorded to use Poison Oak stalks for the spindle.

You can think of the spindle as the male part of the kit and the hearth as the female part. Marry the two together and a baby is produced—the coal. The spindle should be as straight a shaft as you can find. Keep it thin and no more than a quarter-inch thick.

You want it to be long. I like working with spindles at least 22 inches long. The Hadza use spindles up to

four feet long, but without a previous fire to straighten a spindle, I find 18 to 24 inches more realistic. The hearth should be long, flat and broad, a quarter of an inch thick or so, nearly a foot long, and a couple inches wide. You should be able to produce a score of fires from a hearth this size.

You need some sort of catch to gather the dust and ultimately the ember you produce from your kit. You can use bark, wood slivers, broad leaves, buckskin, or anything that is thin and won't fall apart.

The last part to have ready is your tinder bundle. The dry inner bark of trees works well for this, also cattail down, dried grasses, nests, fine wood shavings, and even lint from your dryer. Any dry natural material that has a lot of airspace and thin fibers, like hair, will work.

METHOD

Like anything else, success is in the details. Fire needs three things to be successful: heat, fuel, and oxygen. This even relates to the process of getting an ember. The friction between the spindle and hearth creates heat, the dust that builds from the previous process is the fuel, and the last part of the equation is cutting a v-notch into the center of your depression to provide a place for oxygen and the dust to coalesce into a coal.

In my opinion, there is no better description than that by Theodora Kroeber describing Ishi's method in *Ishi in Two Worlds*:

"He then squatted, holding the ends of the hearth steady against the ground with his toes. Next, he placed the drill upright, the larger end in one of the sockets, grasped it between the

Twirl the spindle to create a coal.

After using a leaf to catch the coal, add it to the tinder bundle.



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Use long, steady and hardy breaths to create flame from the hand drill.

palms of his open hands, as they were pressed together and then rubbed back and forth in opposite directions. With each motion the drill was forced to rotate, first to right then to left. His hands at the same time were bearing downward, pressing the revolving stick into the socket. Small particles of wood were ground off the sides of the socket, becoming fine sawdust or wood powder which began to turn brown, to smoke a little, to turn darker and darker to charcoal, and to smoke in good earnest, at the same time being forced by accumulating mass out of the socket into the notch, along the channel, and so off the edge of the hearth. Ishi, at this point, worked faster and faster as he approached his goal, keeping the stick twirling furiously until a tiny spark suddenly glowed within the charred and powdered wood. The effective spark formed, not in the bottom of the socket where it would be quenched by an excess of wood dust, but just outside, in the notch, from whence it traveled, spreading down the channel and onto the pile of tinder on the ground. Once this was alight, he added a small bunch of grass to it. He blew gently on the young flame, and fire was 'made.'

I urge all readers to get to the woods and practice this method of fire making. It is a great outdoor activity, exercise, and meditation. It resembles playing an instrument and takes continuous practice to maintain a level of proficiency to get fire consistently. When you have mastered this skill, your confidence as an outdoorsman will increase accordingly. ☺

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SOUTH KOREA'S GARANDS

Will They Ever Return?

By Gary Paul Johnston
Photos courtesy Lionheart Industries

Following World War II, with things heating up in Korea, the U.S. furnished some 89,000 M1 (Garand) rifles to South Korea to protect their side of the 38th Parallel with America's help during the Korean War.

After the ceasefire on 7 June 1953, the South Koreans began putting the M1s they had issued (along with many more they had not issued) into storage, as they sought to adopt more modern rifles for their military.

A half-century later, a movement to have the "South Korean" M1s returned to America began. A bidding process started, with two commercial U.S. companies competing to buy the M1 rifles and spare parts.

**Majority of M1s
loaned to South Korea
had been refurbished
to like new.**





ABOVE: Relatively few of the 89,000 M1s were inspected. Vast majority remained sealed in their original crates.



ABOVE: More M1s are unpacked for inspection.



LEFT: One of several M1 three-digit serial numbers observed by J.D. MacLean in South Korea was #592. Made in early 1937, it was originally a "gas trap" Garand. Very few of these early rifles survived World War II. This one was refurbished to as new.

The companies were Century Arms and Lionheart Industries, makers of the LH9 Pistol. Century Arms won the bid, but after initial approval, President Obama stopped the return of the M1s by executive order in 2013. As a result, Century Arms is reported to have laid off more than 30 employees.

Next the U.S. Army sought to have the M1 rifles returned in order to give them to the Civilian Marksmanship Program (CMP), but the Obama Administration continued to prevent any movement to reacquire the M1s.

In June 2015, Wyoming Representative Cynthia M. Lummis introduced HR2611 to allow the historic World War II M1s to be returned to America to be purchased by collectors and competitors. The stalemate continues, with the South Koreans considering the rifles to be a "national treasure."

There are many thousands of M1 Carbines and Model 1911A1s too.

THE TREASURE TROVE

Recently, in speaking with D.J. MacLean, President of Lionheart Industries, I learned that he had a number of photographs of the M1 rifles stored in South Korea taken prior to the bidding. He described one of the vaults being recorded as having last been opened in 1953. He allowed me to submit the photos to S.W.A.T.

Mr. MacLean's inspection of the rifles was done randomly, with relatively few M1s examined—probably no more than 100. Even so, he



ABOVE: Crates full of M1 rifles filled more than one storage building, along with M1 Carbines and 1911A1 pistols, most as new.



LEFT: As this label on one of the 10-rifle drums indicates, the U.S. and South Korea were and remain strong allies.



A few M1s see the light of day for the first time in half a century.



Technician gauges muzzle of one of M1 rifles.

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Five hundred special Springfield shipping drums still contained ten new M1 rifles. RIGHT: One of them was opened for the first time in more than 50 years.



reported that several M1s with low serial numbers were observed, including Springfield M1 #200 and #592, the latter shown on page 27. Both were manufactured in 1937.

All M1 rifles up to about serial number 50,000 were originally "gas trap" systems. Springfield began converting them to use barrels with gas ports in 1940.

Those M1s that had been issued to South Korean troops had unit numbers painted on their stocks, while the rest remained new or like new, as new refurbished, still sealed in

their original shipping crates and sleeves.

There were also 500 Springfield special steel drums, each containing ten rifles. A photo of one of these is shown above, as it was opened to examine the M1s it contained. They were new and unused.

With historical and political details of the above situation abounding, it is the photographs of our M1 rifles remaining in South Korea that are of the most interest, and they are seen here for the first time. ☺

M1 CAUTION!

Experts caution M1 Garand owners on the dangers of shooting commercial .30-06 ammunition in these rifles, as they were designed to use 150-grain GI .30 M2 ball, 165-grain .30 AP, and GI 173-grain Match ammunition, as well as the GI 7.62x51mm NATO in those M1 counterparts.

A major factor here is the harder GI primer used to prevent slam fires. Having fired many rounds of Federal .30-06 Gold and .308M rounds in M1s and M1As, I've never had or heard of a problem, and I understand that Federal uses the G210M (hard) primer in these rounds.

Federal and Hornady offer .30-06 loads especially for the M1 rifle. Special adjustable gas plugs, such as the Schuster, are also available, and remember to check and replace the recoil spring.

A slam fire from shooting commercial .30-06 with

standard primers is courting disaster, as it could drive the bolt through the rear of the receiver. My longtime friend, CWO-2 John M. Miller, USA (Ret.), also advises M1 reloaders to stick with 4895, 3031, 4064, or Ball C-2 powder, a hard primer, and bullets not exceeding 175 grains.

Favorable movement in getting the historic South Korean M1 Garands back and making them available for sale to American collectors may not be forthcoming, but writing your representatives will help keep the issue at the forefront.

Owning firearms has never been about hunting. The Founding Fathers didn't draft the Second Amendment to the Constitution because "The deer were coming."

To keep your M1 Garand and the rest of your guns, join the NRA. And do it *now*!

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"No Fly, No Buy" Gun Rights Compromise

Gun rights advocates have for a long time been on better terms with the Republican Party than with Democrats. That contrast has recently been rapidly growing sharper. In the past, Democrat politicians, many of whom have significant numbers of gun owners among their constituents, would at least make an effort to appear to be strongly in favor of the constitutionally guaranteed fundamental human right of the individual to keep and bear arms.

But now, few Republican politicians are even bothering to maintain a pretense of concern for the rights of armed American citizens. They actually seem almost to be in competition with one another for the "honor" of being the most enthusiastic gun grabber and author of the most creatively

draconian infringement on that which shall not be infringed.

Unfortunately for gun rights advocates, and for the United States in general, the Republican Party has come to be accepted by many as "defenders of gun rights" merely by virtue of being less in favor of forcible citizen disarmament policies than the Democrats—which sets the bar very low.

In the first Presidential debate of 2016, candidates Hillary Clinton and Donald Trump perfectly illustrated this point. While Clinton predictably spoke with relish of her intention to mount attacks on gun owners' rights on every front, even the NRA-endorsed Trump agreed with one of Clinton's most disturbing aspirations.

From the *Los Angeles Times*:
Clinton, in a tense exchange over

criminal justice issues, reiterated her support for what Democrats and gun control advocates have called a "no fly, no buy" policy to restrict individuals on the airline terrorist watch list from being able to purchase guns.

Trump's response: "We have to look very strongly at no-fly lists. ... I tend to agree with that."

The GOP nominee "tend[s] to agree" with a policy that would strip American citizens of the right to buy guns on the basis of their names appearing on some secretive government list of "enemies." This process would not require a conviction for any crime, nor an indictment, nor even an arrest or formal charges. All it would require is that the current Administration dislike the prospective buyer enough to call him a "suspected terrorist."

With the very purpose of the Second Amendment being to protect the people's access to arms with which to resist a rogue government's excesses, that purpose is completely negated when the government can simply des-

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ignite any citizen the Administration views as an enemy as potentially being a “terrorist,” and thus ineligible for the right to keep and bear arms.

If the terrible day comes that the Second Amendment has to be used for its ultimate, fundamental purpose, the American people will be the Administration’s enemies. To a tyrant, after all, a freedom fighter is a “terrorist.”

The idea for such a restriction is not at all new, of course, and federal legislation to put it in place has probably been introduced in every session of Congress since September 11, 2001. It has never come particularly close to passing in even one chamber of Congress, perhaps because its supporters could never point to one shooting that would have been prevented, or even merely made more difficult, by the existence of such a law.

In fact, while advocates have repeatedly pointed to hundreds of people on the terrorist “watch list” legally buying guns every year, what they could not point to was any example of anyone being shot with those guns. Not one!

After the Orlando, Florida night-

club massacre last summer by a radical Islamic jihadist, gun ban zealots wanted us to believe this had finally changed. At last they had a killer whom the FBI had considered to be a potential terrorist. Their only problem was that, although the FBI had indeed twice investigated the perpetrator of the Orlando atrocity—in 2013 and 2014—they had found nothing to warrant further suspicion.

So no, the Orlando killer was not on any “terrorist watch list,” let alone the far less expansive “no fly” list.

The gun ban zealots’ solution to this little problem was to introduce legislation to block gun sales not only to those currently on the “no fly” list, but also to those who had been on it at any time during the previous five years, even if they had since been removed from the list.

So now, to be stripped of your right to keep and bear arms, not only would you need not have been convicted, indicted, or even arrested or charged with a crime, you would not even need to currently be seen as any kind of terrorist threat.

One might hope to find more stead-

fast resistance to the tyranny of “gun control” by rejecting both of the ruling parties and going to, for example, the Libertarian Party. That sounds logical, but the Libertarian Party’s nominee for Vice President in the 2016 Presidential election, former Massachusetts Governor William Weld, dashed that hope when he advocated total bans of rifles with a magazine capacity exceeding five rounds, and then went on to say that handguns were probably a “worse problem” than AR-15 rifles, which he labeled “weapons of mass destruction.”

It has become increasingly difficult to believe that we, the American people, can successfully defend our right to keep and bear arms through the vote. Those hoping to destroy that right should probably devote some hard thought to our only alternative. ☉

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.

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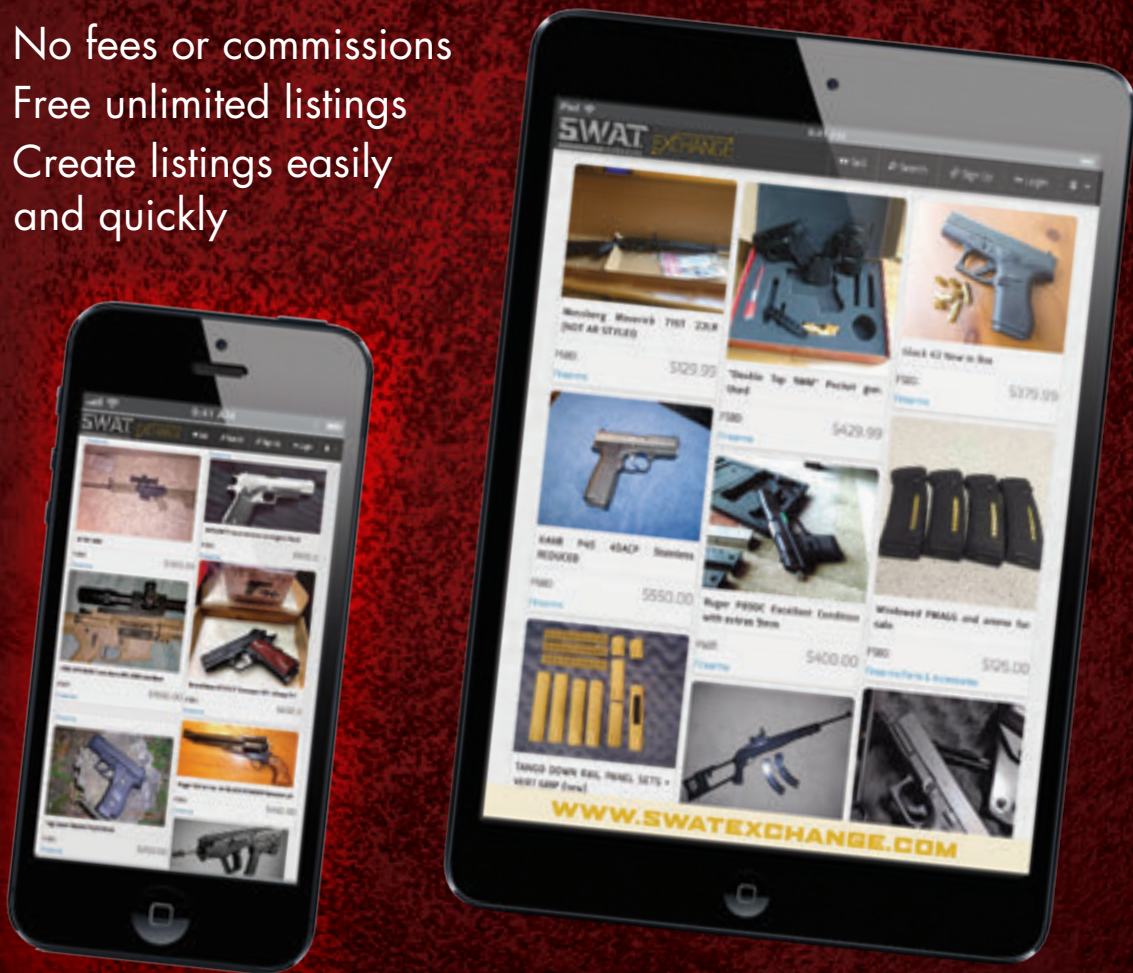
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Deadly Force Shootings

If you have not seen the Clint Eastwood-directed movie *Sully*, you need to. What does an emergency passenger airplane landing on the Hudson River have to do with police work? As it turns out, just about everything.

I have worked for over 26 years as a designated use-of-force expert on police shooting cases both in Federal and Superior courts. Officers are held accountable for their actions in the field. The real work begins after the trigger has been pressed.

Chesley “Sully” Sullenberger was the pilot of U.S. Airways flight 1549 departing from LaGuardia Airport in New York City on 15 January 2009. As the result of multiple bird strikes, both engines rolled back to a “no power” setting. In the span of 180 seconds, Sully had to make multiple critical life-and-death decisions. He landed successfully on the Hudson River in an event that had heretofore never been experienced by any pilot in the history of aviation. It had never been envisioned in simulations or the ongoing training that all pilots undergo on a yearly basis.

Many officer-involved-shooting (OIS) situations have much in common with this event. Shootings that have never and could never be envisioned. These are events in which permutations, obstacles, impediments, and unique event sequences have never before been encountered. Therefore, one could not possibly train to what one cannot possibly envision. In the movie *Sully*, a full inquiry is depicted. I don’t know to what degree the inquiry depicted in the film mirrors the reality of the actual inquiry, but I’m guessing it’s pretty accurate.

They depict two sets of pilots in simulators with all the settings designed to mirror what Sully experienced. Altitude, airspeed, control settings, and all enacted within the exact same timeline. The board’s intention is to illustrate that Sully could have returned to LaGuardia or flown to Trenton, New Jersey, safely landed and avoided the water landing, thereby

saving the aircraft. On both simulated occasions, both sets of pilots in both scenarios safely return to the airports.

Sully then raises the most important and mitigating factor that the board had conveniently decided to overlook. He queries the board, “How many times did the pilots rehearse this demonstration scenario we just viewed?” The answer: 17 times. The simulator pilots had to rehearse it 17 times before they got it right ... and they knew what was coming. Sully never had this latitude afforded to him.

They made instantaneous flight corrections the very moment the bird strikes were simulated. In real life, Sully had to analyze and determine what had occurred, how it affected flight performance, and how to correct for multiple engine failures in mere seconds. When both simulator sets of pilots factored in real-world human reaction to an unprecedented event and then re-ran the scenario, both sets of pilots crashed with a total loss of life.

I have come up against so-called “use of force experts” who criticize officers’ actions. One notable expert admitted in deposition he had not even fired his pistol in seven years but yes, he was an expert in all things tactical, deadly force, and firearms related.

Some so-called “experts” have not a scintilla of real-world experience, but find criticism with each and every aspect of those actions of the real men and women in the field whom they are paid to criticize.

What is depicted rather accurately in the movie *Sully* is the clinical examination of an individual’s action absent the reality of the human factor in concert with compressed time constraints. Use-of-force boards, opposing attorneys and opposing “experts” are often comprised of individuals with extremely limited real-world experience who have the luxury of months, if not years, to arrive at every conceivable alternative absent the stress of time limits.

This is the nature of shooting investigations and what one might ex-

pect in some boards of inquiry. I have no problem with inquiries. I have no problem with critiques. I do have a problem with those inquiring and critiquing who have the luxurious latitude of sitting in an air-conditioned vestibule without the stress of a life-imperiling event and arriving at unrealistic conclusions derived from little or no real experience.

I am aware of some use-of-force review boards that have brought in actual field tactical experts and then, for reasons unknown, summarily dismissed whatever input they might have offered. One might consider this bringing in a token tactical expert simply for the appearance of impartiality.

Studying a departmental manual ad nauseam does not translate into the tactical reality of the field. Unfortunately, the very people who decide the legitimacy of any use of force are sometimes the most ill-qualified, uninformed, least practical and, in my opinion, least qualified to do so.

My partner and I, both in SWAT, both instructors and operators, were involved in a shooting. It transpired in the span of approximately five seconds start to finish. From observing one individual stabbing another, to deployment from a moving vehicle, to commands, to our combined movement, to our application of force—in five seconds!

The board found the force reasonable and well within policy, yet recommended training. I queried, “What training?” “We don’t know, just training,” I asked, “What specific training?” Again, “Well, we don’t know, but some sort of training should be undertaken.”

To say this is exasperating is a mild understatement. None of the members of the board ever ventured onto the range to show us how to improve.

See the movie *Sully* and judge for yourself. ☺

Scott Reitz is a 30-year veteran of the Los Angeles Police Department and director of the highly acclaimed International Tactical Training Seminars.



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AK Bayonets

If you're like me, you find having the correct bayonet for a military rifle adds to its appeal. In the case of the AK-47 or AK-74, most of the bayonets can be found at relatively reasonable prices.

For many issued the AK-47 or AK-74, the bayonet was the highest quality blade they were likely to have and, in some cases, the number of spare magazines issued was so limited that the soldier or guerrilla fighter might have to resort to the bayonet.

The AK-47's predecessor, the SKS, had a folding bayonet attached to the rifle, a real advantage for the armies that used it, as the bayonet stayed with the weapon, lessening the chance of it getting lost and eliminating the cost of a sheath. Although the AK-47 normally had a detachable bayonet, some Chinese AK-47s incorporated a folding bayonet.

Among AK detachable bayonets, there are four primary types:

AK-47 BAYONET

First is the original AK-47 bayonet. Since the original AK-47 rifle did not incorporate a bayonet lug, this bayonet was designed to slip over the barrel using a dual muzzle-ring system, with the rear ring split to pass by the front sight. It uses a 7.9-inch blade similar to those on the World War II M1940 bayonet for the Tokarev SVT-40 Self-Loading Rifle.

These early-style bayonets were produced in Russia, Bulgaria, East Germany, Poland, North Korea, and China. Bulgarian ones are fairly common in the USA and are very difficult to tell from Russian ones without careful comparison. One way to tell is that the drain hole at the tip of the scabbard is on the front of the Russian version and on the back of the Bulgarian version.

Russian examples bring substantially more than Bulgarian ones, so anyone purchasing one of these bayonets should beware, as Bulgarian bayonets are often sold as Russian ones.



East German example of first type of AK-47 bayonet displays distinctive East German double band around mouth of sheath.

AKM TYPE I BAYONET

Second is the AKM Type I Bayonet. Designed for the AKM version of the AK-47 introduced in 1959, which had a bayonet lug, the AKM bayonet doubled as a multi-purpose utility/fighting knife. It has a Bowie-style blade of just under six inches and incorporates a slot in the blade so it can be coupled with the tip of the sheath to act as a wire cutter.

Normally, the metal scabbard has a rubber sleeve insulator, which combined with the non-conductive plastic handle allows electrical wires to be cut, as well as barbed wire. Another

It's fairly easy to tell the differences among the main types of AK bayonets, but it can be more difficult to decide from which country a bayonet comes.



Romanian AKM Type I bayonet and sheath with distinctive retention strap wrapped around insulator.

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Hungarian AKM Type I bayonet. Type I added saw teeth. Its plastic pommel got beaten up when used for hammering.



Russian AKM Type II bayonet features squared metal pommel and plastic sheath that does not need an insulator.

real plus for the AKM bayonet was the combination of the plastic handle and stainless blade, which make it highly resistant to rust. Saw teeth along the bayonet's spine allow it to be used for light sawing.

Since the AKM bayonet can also be used as a fighting knife, a wrist strap can be attached to help retention.

I've found that the standard hanger used on the AKM Type I sheath lets the bayonet bounce around too much and

make noise. AKM Type I bayonets are normally recognizable by their rather bulbous pommel. They were produced in Russia, East Germany, Hungary, Poland, and Romania.

AKM TYPE II BAYONET

Third is the AKM Type II bayonet, introduced in the mid-1960s and incorporating two new features. Because troops had a tendency to use the butt of the bayonet as a hammer, the bul-

bous plastic pommel had proven too fragile. As a result, the second type of AKM bayonet incorporates a squared-off steel pommel.

Additionally, the metal scabbard used on the AKM Type I bayonet was replaced with a non-conductive plastic sheath with a metal tip for the wire cutter stud. The AKM Type II bayonet was produced in Russia, Bulgaria, China, Iraq, East Germany, and Yugoslavia.

This is my favorite AK bayonet, one



Chinese variant of AKM Type II bayonet without wire-cutting slot. This bayonet was used on Chinese SVD sniping rifle.



Polish AKM Type I/II bayonet combines Type II bayonet with Type I sheath.



ABOVE: Russian AK-74 bayonet has spear-point blade and more ergonomic handle.

RIGHT: Chinese AKM Type II bayonet.



that I consider an invaluable adjunct to an AK-47 rifle. Fortunately, many of this type of bayonet were imported with Chinese AK-47s, so they are usually easy to find. One interesting Chinese AKM Type II bayonet does not have the wire cutter feature. These were reportedly used with the Chinese version of the SVD sniper rifle.

Also produced were transitional AKM bayonets that incorporate features of the Type I and Type II. These may take the form of a Type I bayonet with a Type II sheath or a Type II bayonet with a Type I sheath. Examples may be found from Russia, East Germany, Egypt, and Poland.

AK-74 BAYONET

Fourth is the AK-74 bayonet. Although some AKM Type II bayonets were initially used for the AK-74, in 1983 a bayonet designed for the 5.45x39mm rifle was introduced. It is basically an improved or refined version of the AKM Type II bayonet. The grip has a stippled surface and concentric ridges for better gripping and may be manipulated in the hand better for use as

a fighting knife.

Instead of the Bowie/clip point-style blade used on the AKM bayonets, the AK-74 bayonet uses a spear point blade that retains saw teeth and the slot for use as a wire cutter. The sheath is very similar to that of the AKM Type II. AK-74 bayonets have been produced in Russia and Bulgaria.

It's fairly easy to tell the differences among the main types of AK bayonets, but it can be more difficult to decide from which country a bayonet comes. Sometimes there are markings, which can help, but more often it is necessary to look at the color of the bayonet handle and sheath or the type of hanger used for the sheath.

FURTHER READING

The accompanying photos will help identify some of the more commonly encountered AK bayonets, but for more information and identification characteristics of the entire range of AK bayonets, I highly recommend Martin D. Ivie's *Kalashnikov Bayonets: The Collector's Guide to Bayonets for the AK and Its Variations*. Ivie's book


is extensively illustrated with sections on all aspects of AK bayonets. Frank Iannamico's *AK-47: The Grim Reaper* is the definitive book on the AK-47 and also has a good reference section on AK bayonets. Some good Internet AK bayonet sites can be found by Googling "guide to AK bayonets."


Many reading this will own an AK or be shopping for one. I recommend getting the correct bayonet to go with your rifle. Along with the sling, it was part of the rifle's original equipment. Additionally, if you keep your AK as a preparedness weapon, a mounted bayonet adds another dimension to the rifle's practical and psychological effects on a potential intruder or marauder! ☺

Leroy Thompson has trained hostage rescue, close protection, counterinsurgency, and anti-terrorist units in various parts of the world. Prior to Operation Desert Shield, he trained U.S. Army protective teams and hostage rescue units. He is the author of over 50 books on weapons and tactics and somewhere between 2,500 and 3,000 magazine articles.

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A PISTOL FIT FOR A KING



Cabot Guns Vintage Classic Commander

By Bob Pilgrim

The right size for concealed carry, Cabot Guns Vintage Classic Commander has a beautiful 1911 profile. Turkish Walnut checkered stocks provide excellent purchase without pain and are augmented by unique Rhombus front- and back-strap traction checkering.

IN

the vast realm of 1911-style pistol production, Cabot is not a household name among average shooters. Nor would Joe Plinker ever conceive of draining his bank account to acquire a contemporary handgun that exceeds the cost of some exotic automobiles.

But those in the know and who are well heeled, or a highly ranked corporate-sponsored competitive shooter who is worthy of the very best competitive tool, or has been consistently defeated by a Cabot-armed competitor are quite familiar with the name.

Cabot is associated with the highest quality materials and workmanship, and Cabot's unique innovations have been incorporated into the finest 21st century examples of John Browning's masterpiece.

Cabot's founder and President Rob Bianchin stated that from the outset, his Pennsylvania-ensconced factory has been dedicated to producing the "finest 1911 in the custom pistol genre, and without a doubt I believe we have accomplished that goal."

ASTEROID PISTOLS

Constructed of structurally superior in-house blocks (billets) of steel, Cabot offers 14 different aerospace-quality 1911s, some with increasingly astronomical prices, including a pair forged from an earth-impacting asteroid.

Although Cabot's more exotic and pricier pieces may end up in display cases as presentation guns, all of them will function as personal defense sidearms. But realizing some shooters will seek out and pay for a one-of-a-kind fighting pistol, Cabot offers its 416 stainless billet steel Vintage Classic Commander (VCC)—a new version of Cabot's S103 Commander "Full-Cycle Carry Pistol."

It is also available as a full-sized 1911 and as an inverted left-handed piece. At a tad under \$4,000 and with several extra-cost options, it's one of an increasing number of high-dollar fighting pistols being offered to today's discriminating public. This can be a risky venture for the manufacturer, because guns with Tiffany price tags are purchased with very high performance expectations.



Cabot Guns left-hand versions of Vintage Classic Commander with Fibonacci Nautilus stocks.

A PISTOL FIT FOR A KING

FAITHFUL REPRODUCTIONS

There are almost as many 1911 clones and imitations as there are stars in the sky. Everyone fields their version of the 100-plus-year-old handgun.

A number are “improved” and often are referred to as 1911-2000s. Cabot believes John Browning had it right the first time, so all their pistols are faithful clones of the original 1911. They have to their mind re-engineered “perfection” by combining traditional gunsmithing skills with aerospace technologies.

Adhering to Mr. Browning’s specifications also makes a plethora of holsters already available. The only differences are 21st century steel concepts. Thirty-one of the stronger and improved internal and external components are made in-house from scratch billet steel.

Of course sights, trigger, grip and thumb safeties, magazines and finishes have been updated, but the internals have remained true to original ordnance blueprints.

FIBONACCI-INSPIRED STOCKS AND RHOMBUS CHECKERING

Cabot considers ergonomics, especially the grip, second to reliability. Their execution of the wood and steel that compose the stock is designed for the shooter’s grip to be easily

established and maintained and subconsciously repeatable.

Cabot has accomplished this with the VCC, where beauty and mechanical perfection have been combined in checkered Turkish Walnut stocks with inlaid Cabot medallion that are solidly anchored in place by Hex screws and a second set of rare American Holly white wood panels for whimsical cosmetic change if desired.

Options here include four different Fibonacci-inspired spiral-designed stock panels. The pattern occurs in nature, in everything from Nautilus shells to DNA strands, and was chosen for its beauty and function. The trigger guard is contoured and relieved, also with shooter access in mind. Furthermore, the guard is undercut to facilitate a higher grip.

Borrowing from automobile tire technology, this feature is augmented by precise diagonally cut Rhombus 24 LPI traction checkering on both the front and back straps, further enhancing one’s hold on the firearm as it accelerates during rapid fire.

INTENTIONAL TRIGGER SLACK

Employing a Series 70 action, Cabot’s EDM Wire-cut Tristar aluminum trigger is adjusted to 3.5 to 4.0 pounds of crisp pull. There is no overtravel adjustment. Trigger travel is by design per advice from a Cabot-sponsored competitive



VCC wearing White American Holly stocks that resemble Mammoth Ivory. Holster is Sam Andrews Exotic Leather.



Top of slide has arrow-pattern serrations that cut glare and draw eye to front sight, whose gold bead is evident. Novak rear aperture is adjustable for elevation.

This old-world reliance on highly skilled and gifted craftsmen rather than solely on machines and robotics produces exquisite firearms that exude the highest quality and their own individualities.

shooter who maintains that a shooter cannot shoot as accurately with a short, crisp trigger. There needs to be some pre-travel before the break to assist in stabilizing a sight picture.

Affecting this trigger is more difficult to do than a crisp lever, but regardless, there should be no creep. Cabot EDC sinks the trigger slot to maintain tolerance to control bow position. Cabot also makes the sear and hammer. Other triggers are available per customer request.

FULL CYCLE FUNCTIONING

The VCC departs company with the *hoi polloi* of compact 1911s by retaining the full-sized features of the service pistol in a smaller package. Thus, the VCC's rails are full 1911 length, which maintains standard cycle length and avoids having to adjust its cycle length to shorten rearward travel, which affects recoil timing and feeding.

Externally we see a smaller version of the service pistol, but internally the dimensions of a full-sized service pistol are preserved. The only differences are slide and barrel length. Ergo the Commander has the same internal functions, timing and cycling that retain the legendary reliability or full-

cycle technology of America's iconic military sidearm.

Other factors such as rail smoothness, spring force and weight, initial ammo pressure, binding, impacts, and wedging influence reliable functioning and must be either balanced or eliminated to prevent the "uglies" from occurring and perfect the 1911's timing.

Attention to detail includes laser welding rather than swage pressing to install the plunger tube, which is considered a weak point in 1911 builds.

TRINITY STRIPS

Atop its slide, Cabot's reverse dovetail front sight, which bears the optional gold-dot bead, is introduced from the slide's muzzle end, eliminating line-disrupting slide-surface dovetails and any potential for sight drift or possible snag points.

The Ed McGivern-style gold-dot bead and front blade host appear to emerge from the slide's dorsal surface, which allows its creators to run serrations along the entire dorsal length of the slide. These arrow-pattern serrations run from the optional Novak-style adjustable aperture to seamlessly mate with the pistol's forward index point. This pattern

A PISTOL FIT FOR A KING



LEFT: William Bethards fires rapid-fire string with SIG Sauer 230-grain FMJ ammunition. Muzzle flash was significant. Recoil was typical 1911 but manageable.

BELOW: Vintage Classic Commander was carried in handmade KL Null leather holster with FBI cant. Fit is so snug that gun is held in by friction alone. Holster requires break-in period.



draws the gunner's eye to the front-sight gold-dot bead superimposed on the target while nixing vision-obstructing surface glare.

The slide's flats exhibit attractively milled and effective rear bilateral Trinity Strips grasping serrations that are embedded within checkering. This process takes almost two hours of machining time. These unique serrations have passed an informal Special Forces test, as detailed on Cabot's website.

The starboard-side *Panzerstahl* (Armor Steel) hand fit and tuned extractor is internal and complements the tank-like large shoe ejector, which will not come loose. Its ejection port has been flared and lowered for more efficient extraction and ejection.

Everything that reciprocates surface-on-surface is 416 stainless billet steel that is hand tuned and fitted. This includes manually marrying the slide to the frame. An untraditional hand-polished steel guide rod threads the 18-pound flat wire recoil spring. A skeletonized Commander-style hammer ignites festivities.

A modern raised beavertail grip safety spreads out felt recoil and eliminates hammer bite, a characteristic of the original design. A trimmed thumb safety of the gas-pedal persuasion is located on the port side, placed just in front of

the sweeping beavertail grip safety.

One of the neatest developments by Cabot is a scratch-proof slide lock/release. Many 1911s bear that vertical scratch caused by the slide stop being reinserted into the slide's disassembly notch. The magazine release is raised and checkered and the magazine well beveled for fast insertion of the eight-round stainless steel magazine.



VCC pistol kit includes second set of White American Holly stocks, bushing wrench, two eight-round magazines, manual, cable lock, and spent sample cartridge case.

PROPRIETARY MATCH BARREL

Sharing space in the slide and frame is the 4.25-inch Match barrel, which was designed specifically for the VCC and S103 pistol. Manufactured to proprietary specifications and tolerances by an independent source, it is not a drop-in component, but is hand fitted. It is button rifled and uses a Browning swinging link and traditional polished feed ramp.

Cabot is not partial to the ramped barrel for the .45 ACP round. Certain finishing operations are done in-house and modifications to the dimensions of the upper locking lugs and barrel diameter at the barrel bushing are also carried out. The barrel's crown is cut and deeply recessed.

This old-world reliance on highly skilled and gifted craftsmen rather than solely on machines and robotics produces exquisite firearms that exude the highest quality and their own individualities. With the human element involved, no two Cabots are exactly the same.

Cabot VCC pistol is fit for a king. Member of King Abdullah of Jordan's military staff presented ornate Janbiya dagger to author for work done at King Abdullah's Special Forces training center.



A PISTOL FIT FOR A KING

The only exception is guaranteed consistent accuracy: 1.5-inch groups at 25 yards. To verify this promise, Cabot provides an old-world test target fired at 15 yards from a Ransom rest, showing a five-round group measuring 0.492 inch.

CABOT'S KIT

The VCC was shipped in a sturdy synthetic case instead of its actual wood presentation case. Rob advised that the case was being modified and was not available to ship. Upon opening the case, I found the pistol enclosed in a red velvet glove similar to what you may find clothing an expensive bottle of aged Scotch. Sharing the space was a Cabot cleaning cloth included to remove fingerprints and smudges from the pistol's jewel-like surface.

The pistol's second magazine, bushing wrench, and other goodies were hidden beneath the padded case's interior. As mentioned previously, the VCC is accompanied by a set of white "ivory" stocks made of American Holly that resembles Mammoth Ivory.

Its finish was not the expected jewel-like, highly polished and deep hot blue specimen, but vintage to reflect its period of production, with a nostalgic patina and worn look that naturally accrues over years of existence and use.

However, this is a proprietary thermochemical treatment that is on par with the hardest finishes ever tested by Cabot. It has exceptional wear characteristics. The VCC is "not intended to be a safe queen, but a working gun that will retail for under \$4K."

MODEST LUBE

Ever since my association with USMC Weapons Training Battalion, I have run my 1911s wet with ample lubrication. I used Snail Snot, a witch's brew that the Marine armorers developed for the rifle and pistol teams.

In contrast, Cabot recommends a modest amount of lube, because one of the byproducts of building a high-tolerance gun is that it does not have to be dripping wet to function. The higher the component and overall tolerances, the better a mechanism operates for a longer period of time. The only gun oil Cabot uses is Archoil. Rob recommends that his pis-



Cabot VCC with Trinity Strip slide checkering, semi-adjustable rear sight with gold-bead front, lowered and relieved ejection port, skeletonized hammer for faster lock time, billet steel grip safety/beavertail, and Turkish Walnut stocks. One-hole group was fired from Ransom Rest at 15 yards.

tols be broken in with at least 200 rounds and then cleaned. Post break-in, it is propellant dependent, but cleaning after every 800 to 1,000 rounds is advisable.

The VCC and other Cabots are available in southpaw configurations. The VCC can be acquired as a matched "mirror image" left/right pair in stainless steel or optional Black Nitride finishes, further augmenting its collector's or shooter's desirability.

BREAK-IN PAINS

The VCC is designed to handle full-power service ammunition. A fine handgun deserves to be fed excellent ordnance, and Cabot recommends ASYM Precision Ammunition.

Cabot's team shooter and *Top Shot: All Stars'* William Bethards conducted the accuracy evaluation from a handheld rest at 25 yards.

With factory settings, the Cabot shot high and to the right. Overall the groups were very good, but Bethards actually fired a tighter group standing one-handed at the same distance. ASYM's outstanding 185-grain JHP Match ammunition had an average five-round cluster of 0.49 inch at 803.8 feet-per-second (fps).

When we were still well within the break-in number of rounds, the Cabot experienced a few problems. With American Eagle 230-grain FMJ, there was one failure to chamber and the slide did not go into battery. A failure to eject was experienced with Hornady 185-grain FTX. William felt the Black

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ASYM 185-gr. TAC-XP	987.0	1.75
ASYM 185-gr. Match	803.8	0.49
Black Hills 230-gr. JHP +P	937.4	1.13
G2 Research RIP 162-gr. HP	978.9	0.64
Hornady 185-gr. FTX	979.0	1.16
SIG 185-gr. V-Crown JHP	967.4	1.34

Top Shot: All Stars' William Bethards performed all shooting tasks. Results are from a handheld rest at 25 yards. Average groups obtained from five-shot strings. Average velocities obtained from five-shot strings fired through CED M 2 chronograph screens, ten feet from the muzzle.

Hills 230-grain JHP +P was “punishing to shoot.” All spent cases were dented at the mouth, indicating that the brass was hitting the pistol’s ejection port during ejection.

This can be caused by a combination of extractor, ejector, recoil spring, or lack of flaring and lowering the ejection port. But ejection was consistently robust, with cases flying high and yards away from the right shoulder. No stoppages occurred during rapid-fire strings.

SHOOTING IMPRESSIONS

Also present was another evaluator who is a firearms instructor for a federal agency. He called the VCC’s trigger awesome and loved the checkering on both the wood stocks and front and back straps. Recoil was typical 1911 but tolerable. Sights were quick to acquire. The gold bead and wider rear sight aperture were perfect. It is also the right size for a carry piece.

Bethards described its trigger as “phenomenal” and the gun “feels great in the hand.” He approved of its skeletonized hammer, which results in faster ignition. The beavertail grip safety was “well integrated” into the pistol’s frame and worked smoothly. When he used the gold bead, the pistol grouped high, so he used the front sight’s horizontal edges to lower the impact. Bethards predicted the VCC would hold its accuracy well after thousands of rounds were expended through it.

CONCLUSIONS

For the well-to-do and discerning self-defense oriented shooter who wants to command his immediate environment with an absolutely reliable, powerful, and accurate



VCC field stripped. With exception of flat wire spring, pistol and parts are mostly forged from billet steel. Receiver rails are full-sized 1911 pistol for Full Cycle Technology and timing. Button-rifled and crown-cut barrel is hand fitted.

piece that is also pleasing to the critical eye, the incredible Cabot VCC represents the epitome of that quest.

After researching, handling, and shooting the VCC and realizing what has gone into developing this outstanding firearm, I have acquired a certain reverence for the piece.

Cabot is not locked into America’s caliber, and because of growing demand will be offering a 9x19mm version in the future. ☺

» SPECIFICATIONS

CABOT GUNS VINTAGE CLASSIC COMMANDER

MANUFACTURER	Cabot Gun Company
MODEL	Vintage Classic Commander
TYPE	Series 70
CALIBER	.45 ACP
CAPACITY	8+1
OVERALL LENGTH	5.94 inches
OVERALL HEIGHT	5.39 inches
WEIGHT (with magazine)	34.9 ounces
FRAME /SLIDE	416 stainless steel billet, hardened
BARREL	4.25-inch Match hand fitted, crown cut, polished feed ramp
CHECKERING	Rhombus 24 LPI, front strap, back strap and mainspring housing
SIGHTS	Reverse dovetail gold-bead front, low-mount rear
TRIGGER	Aluminum Tristar. Trigger weight: 3.5 pounds
EJECTION PORT	Lowered and flared
STOCKS	Turkish Walnut and White American Holly
PRICE	\$3,995. As tested: \$4,120



SOURCES

CABOT GUN COMPANY, LLC
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This Sweepstakes features the TROY Alpha carbine. With the new TROY Tomahawk™ short stock collapsed, the Alpha carbine is only 27.75 inches long, making it the shortest non-NFA M4 available anywhere.

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a TROY Squid Grip®. A TROY Pinned Medieval® flash suppressor is permanently pinned to the 14.5-inch barrel.

Up top is a TROY 13-inch Alpha BattleRail with integrated flip-up BattleSight® front sight and TROY Folding BattleSight at the rear. Also included is a TROY BattleMag® and Proctor Sling. Operators and serious shooters alike will appreciate the manufacturing excellence and attention to detail in this exceptional, highly reliable carbine.

HORNADY MATCH AMMO

A quality rifle needs to be fed quality ammunition, so the winner receives 200 rounds of Hornady 5.56 NATO 75-grain BTHP Superformance® Match™ ammunition. Superformance Match ammunition achieves muzzle velocities of 100 to 200 fps faster than any conventional ammunition.

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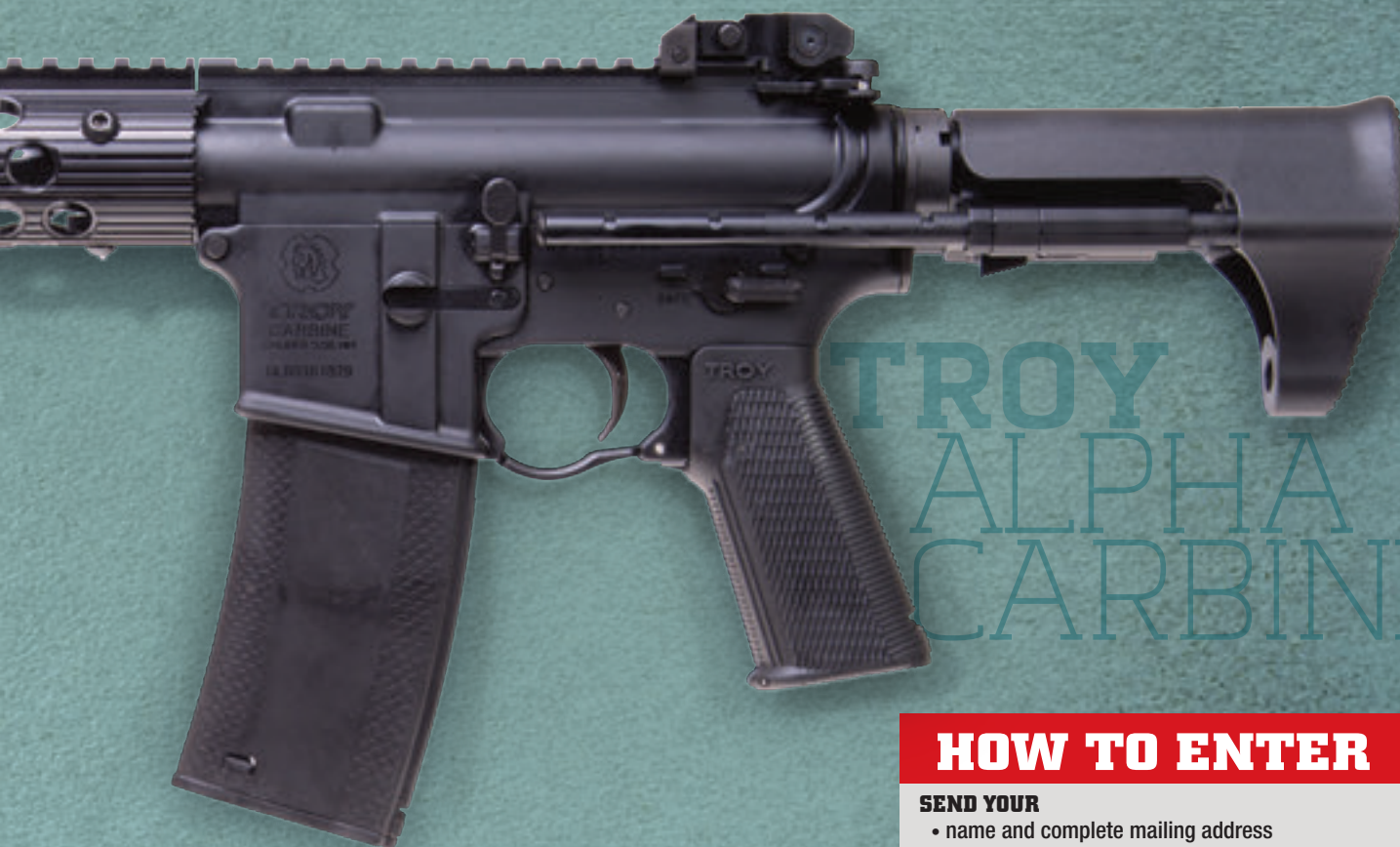
Magazines are another critical piece of gear, and this month the folks at SureFeed Magazines are including six of their aluminum magazines for the winner.

Just like you treat every facet of your shooting with serious attention to detail, SureFeed® treats every facet of delivering the world's most reliable magazines as if their lives depended on it. If a magazine is stamped with the OKAY mark, it must feed every round, every time. Unlike polymer mags, SureFeed aluminum magazines do not shatter or swell in extreme conditions like cold temperatures or hot, humid environments. You can't control the weather, but with SureFeed, you can control your magazine's performance. That's why the military prefers OKAY aluminum magazines. A dedicated inspection team verifies every weld, measures feed-lip tolerances, and tests each magazine for fit and function.



VORTEX OPTICS VIPER PST 6-24X50 RIFLESCOPE

To make the most of the Alpha's inherent accuracy, this Sweepstakes includes a Vortex Viper® PST™ (Precision Shooting Tactical) riflescope. The PST boasts features associated with top-tier riflescopes, yet comes in at a street price under \$1,000. Matching reticle and turret measurements allow fast, accurate dialing of shots. The one-piece 30mm tube, precision-machined from a single solid block of aircraft-grade 6061-T6 aluminum, offers ample windage and elevation adjustment. Born from an intimate understanding of riflescope design, forward-thinking engineering, and open ears to a market incredibly vocal about what it wants in a riflescope, the Viper PST series delivers the performance and features tactical shooters demand.



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NINE INCHES OF .**30-CAL** **THUMPERY**



Bravo Company Mfg Recce-9 KMR-A Pistol

By Justin Dyal

Danny Domin of RSR Targets fires BCM Recce-9 KMR-A Pistol. Recce-9 is best stabilized with the cheek, as .30-cal recoil gives quite a roll without shoulder contact.



Now that the SIG brace has been ruled legal only when used as a forearm brace, what good is the AR pistol? We look at its effectiveness and possible roles with the new BCM Recce-9 KMR-A Pistol in .300 BLK.

THE SIG braced AR pistol was just gaining traction and becoming an intriguing option for a “near SBR” capability when the ATF changed its mind on the brace’s legality. The brace itself is still permissible, but only usable as it was submitted to the ATF; i.e., as a forearm brace and not a stock-like support for the shoulder.

This let a lot of air out of the AR pistol balloon for some. I was genuinely curious what utility the AR pistol has, particularly in the new brace-less era. When Bravo Company Manufacturing came out with .300 Blackout pistols, that was my cue to start exploring the concept.

I’ve spent most of the past year shooting the BCM AR pistol, monkeying with different holds and techniques and generally seeing what the gun could do. I compared it head-to-head with a new, box-stock Glock 17 across pages of pistol drills. I stretched it out to carbine applications and compared it to a ROBAR PolymAR-15L I’ve been running.

After a healthy pile of brass and a stack of data, I’ve got some idea of what it will and won’t do.

AR PISTOL IN .300 BLK

The AR pistol is not necessarily a new item. What is new is Bravo Company offering one and chambering it in .300 BLK: the BCM Recce-9 KMR-A pistol. It is available in either 9- or 12-inch trim with the tapered/fluted barrel profile that has proven so popular on the extreme lightweight line. I went with the nine-inch barrel.

The pistol ships with many of BCM’s GUNFIGHTER line of accessories. The pistol grip mates well with the close-in hand position required to cheek the pistol, and the extended charging handle gives more purchase and leverage since there is no stock to anchor and offer resistance to cycling the action. Overall weight is 4.9 pounds, and the length is approximately 25 inches. I later added a Law Tactical Folding

Stock Adapter Gen 3-M to get the length down to 19 inches in transport mode.

The trim KMR-A (KeyMod Rail-Aluminum) is lightweight and offers maximum space for the support hand and KeyMod mounting points around the circumference minus the 1913 top rail. The trigger is Bravo’s new PNT, a nickel-plated milspec design of polished, hardened steel. This one broke at 6.25 pounds with a better feel than the typical stock AR trigger. A GUNFIGHTER muzzle compensator caps the barrel and earns its keep trying to keep the muzzle down.

The .300 BLK was conceptualized as a hyper-efficient suppressed cartridge that would mate with very short barrels and allow AK-like performance on the supersonic end and ultra-quiet heavy-slow on the subsonic end. The car



Nine-inch BCM Recce-9 Pistol was shot against stock Glock 17 for an honest comparison handgun to handgun.

tridge feeds through plain 5.56 magazines and uses the same bolt—only the barrels are different to account for the larger caliber.

It is a great match to a pistol-length AR. Even with the modest nine-inch spout, Hornady 110-grain VMAX was outrunning the traditional 16-inch 110-grain .30 Carbine by nearly 300 feet-per-second (fps) and doing it with a projectile that tends to expand dramatically.

Black Hills and Hornady 125-grain open tip bullets clocked in at just under 2,000 fps, about 175 slower than advertised velocities with a standard 16-inch carbine upper.

The subsonics lost about 75 fps from factory specs and printed a few inches lower at 50 yards than their speedy kin. From a numbers perspective, the subsonics are a near match for weight and velocity for the old .41 Magnum police loading, with an outrageous ballistic coefficient and sectional density.

RESULTS, PLEASE

After getting a zero with the Aimpoint H-1, I warmed up at 25 yards as usual, running five shots each in 20 and 10 seconds



ABOVE: BCM Recce-9 KMR-A Pistol in .300 AAC Blackout hits like a rifle, with standard .308-caliber projectiles stuffed into a necked-up 5.56mm length case.

RIGHT: BCM Recce-9 KMR-A Pistol next to ROBAR PolymAR-15L gives idea of comparative length with even a collapsed 14.5-inch AR.



on a B-8 bull. The dot “stuck” right in the X ring, and rolling the trigger to break the shot was too easy. The recoil teeter-tottered off well above target and back down, but the time limits seemed generous through the sight.

Black Hills 125s knotted up in the southern portion of the ten ring, a failure on my part to offset the hold enough for the Aimpoint’s height above bore. One shot had just squirted into the 9 ring, giving me a 99 of 100 possible, tying my match handgun best on the initial attempt. The shooting part was 90% of the stability and ease of a carbine, and the recoil recovery part was more akin to a handgun firing +Ps.

Breaking out the spankin’ new G17, I threw some 115-grain Hornady American Gunner XTPs in the mag and fired the same timed and rapid strings. The lousy sights and rougher-than-typical trigger (6.5 pounds by weight) on this pistol kept me from reaching my normal mid-90s average. The tally ranged from 89 to 92, with eight of ten in the black.

CLOSE ENCOUNTERS

As you look through the drill data tables, you can see that the close range drills favored the traditional pistol and carbine. The cheek-weld warrior simply rolls upward too far with each high-energy shot launch to hang with the Glock, particularly when the distances are “can’t miss” but follow-up shots are required.

The Magnum is one of my drills that has three silhouettes in echelon, one each at three, five, and seven yards. On the go signal, the shooter puts three on the near target, two on the middle, and finishes with a single hit to the seven-yard target in the back. It is a burner.

The stock 17 lagged my average by a tenth or so at 1.8 seconds, and the ROBAR 14.5-inch carbine was right there with it. The .300 was a full second behind despite the relative ease of the shots. The loss of the shoulder anchor really affects recovery time with the heavy rifle rounds. I ran it a couple of times with a single shot to each target just to see what would happen, and the time averaged 1.7 seconds.

As the distance increased, the gap narrowed, with the Glock still holding a comfortable lead at ten yards. On the plate rack, I swapped over to subsonic ammo in the BCM for safety on the steel. The 208-grain AMAXs had a mild report even unsuppressed, and the time to clear the plates was very similar to my averages with a revolver, but half a second slower than the 9mm toppling plates.

I even tried an El Presidente, starting the drill with the AR slung on a single point and hands in the surrender position as usual. The AR made the traditional ten-second cutoff, but just barely. There is a lot going on in your hands with the AR pistol rocking through an El Pres sub 10. By comparison, the Glock was pretty tame and came in at a respectable pace.

I experimented with different holds on the pistol just to see what would happen. Out of curiosity, I wrapped both hands around the GUNFIGHTER pistol grip and shot the AR as if it were a standard service auto. Hits were fine, but the gun see-sawed almost comically in recoil.

I tried the .300 pushed out in the old SAS style, with the sling giving resistance and steadying the rear. This method was sufficient and workable, but not ideal. For me the moneymaker was simply running the gun in the same overall hold and posture as with my normal rifles and relying on a little opposing push-pull as taught by noted shotgun instructor Rob Haught to control recoil and steady the front.

The rear was stabilized by a consistent and firm cheekweld and the shoulder was not involved at all, rather remaining relaxed. As an aside, shooting this way actually extensively improved my speed and consistency of mount when switching back to the carbine.

SWEET SPOT

The BCM Recce-9 KMR-A pistol has a definite sweet spot that for most shooters will run from about 15 yards out to around 100 yards. Running the plates at 25 yards with the .300 was too easy and a six-for-six proposition in five seconds.

At five seconds, I was typically only on the fourth plate with the Glock and was likely as not to require a makeup shot or two to get through the rack. Past 25 yards, the typical shooter's hit ratio with the traditional service auto

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gets iffy; more so with each couple of steps out.

Running pairs on a 50-yard reduced silhouette was doable with the AR handgun in 1.5 seconds if I were on top of things. Handing the BCM off to a casual shooter, they were connecting with ease where the Glock was a maybe/probably not thing.

At 70 yards, the .300 put solid hits on an IDPA target about half a second slower than with the ROBAR Poly-mAR-15L, but 2.2 seconds ahead of the Glock.

Standing braced on the side of a barricade, the BCM Recce-9 zapped 125-grain Hornadys into an eight-inch steel plate five-for-five at a nice even tempo. Where the AR pistol could guarantee a deliberate hit, the typical carbine allowed me to push speed a little harder and get the same results. Getting hits on a 100-yard eight-inch plate with a stock Glock is about as likely as winning the lottery—it can happen but not on demand.

Backing off to 200 yards, the Bravo

» AMMUNITION PERFORMANCE

LOAD	VELOCITY (fps)	STANDARD DEVIATION	BEST 5/50 YARDS PRONE (inches)
Hornady 110-gr. VMAX	2178	18	1.00
Hornady American Gunner 125-gr. HP	1991	30	1.65
Black Hills 125-gr. OTM	1976	9	1.35
Hornady 135-gr. FTX	1851	9	1.25
Hornady 208-gr. AMAX Subsonic	945	25	1.35
Black Hills 220-gr. BTHP Subsonic	965	38	2.00



Market is responding to .300 BLK interest with a range of supersonic and subsonic loads. These from Hornady and Black Hills were among the loads used over several months.



Bravo Recce-9 Pistol was quite capable at 50 yards from prone as this one-inch group with 110-grain VMAX shows. Try that with a service auto!

» MAGNUM DRILL

3-5-7 YARDS	LOW TIME (seconds)	AVERAGE TIME (seconds)
.300 BLK Hornady 125-gr. American Gunner HP	2.57	2.80
9mm Winchester 124-gr. +P Ranger	1.77	1.81
5.56mm Black Hills 62-gr. TSX	1.80	1.85

» 10-YARD PLATE RACK DRILL

SIX 8-INCH STEEL PLATES	LOW TIME (seconds)	AVERAGE TIME (seconds)
.300 BLK Hornady 208-gr. AMAX	3.37	3.50
9mm Hornady 115-gr. American Gunner XTP	2.93	3.06

» EL PRESIDENTE DRILL

10 YARDS	LOW TIME (seconds)	AVERAGE TIME (seconds)
.300 BLK Hornady 125-gr. American Gunner HP	9.82	9.96
9mm Black Hills 124-gr. FMJ	8.37	8.75

» 25-YARD PLATE RACK DRILL

SIX 8-INCH STEEL PLATES	LOW TIME (seconds)	AVERAGE TIME (seconds)
.300 BLK Hornady 208-gr. AMAX	5.20	5.33
9mm Hornady 115-gr. American Gunner XTP	7.55	8.78

Recce-9 pistol poked a handful of Black Hills into a six-inch group from kneeling. Hits at that distance didn't come fast: a solid position is needed to steady the gun, and a good bit of mental muscle is required to press the shot deliberately.

But I wouldn't call hitting "hard," just harder by a chunk than an M4.

OUT THERE

As testing continued, I had an opportunity to stretch out the Black to a full 400 yards. I met Danny Domin of RSR Targets and we set up a 10x20-inch Ready Ship Target (*CLANGING STEEL: Renaissance Steel Research Ready Ship Target*, January 2017 S.W.A.T.) at the 400-yard line at his club.

The target was just visible, with nice contrast against the berm, but pretty faint through the Aimpoint H-1 lenses. I checked my ballistic app on the phone to confirm my drop and sat down to shoot, bracing against a roof support post.

The drop is near a full man-height holdover (66 inches), so I held the dot up and started pressing the PNT trigger, wishing I had the last little bit

of stability of a point of contact at the shoulder. Out of ten shots, two “pings” came drifting uprange.

A 400-yard hit with a stockless AR? I’ll take it! The ten-inch wide target would be a challenge with an M4 at that distance, so I was pleased. The 125-grain Black Hills open tip should have hit the target at 1,215 fps, so it was a near ballistic match for the Glock shooting the excellent Winchester Ranger 124-grain +Ps up close.

BUT WHAT’S IT FOR?

Great question. The AR pistol as we know it is largely an American phenomenon that exists only because of the National Firearms Act of 1934 and its restrictions, which seem random some 80+ years later.

But the result is a pistol that hits harder and farther than the service auto and can be legally carried ready and “concealed” via CCW in a vehicle in many states whose laws forbid ready rifles. It is perhaps the ultimate truck gun, with a short overall length and caliber that is well suited to penetrating barriers.

I see the .300 pistol as the firearm equivalent of a Treaty Cruiser in the naval arms race after World War I. The 1922 Washington Naval Treaty nixed any further battleship or heavy cruiser production, so the powers immediately developed Treaty Cruisers, which ran up to the limit of tonnage and guns permissible.

The BCM Recce-9 KMR-A Pistol gives up its stock to keep its short barrel, and the result is less effective than a short-barreled rifle, but much more effective than I would have thought. ©

SOURCES

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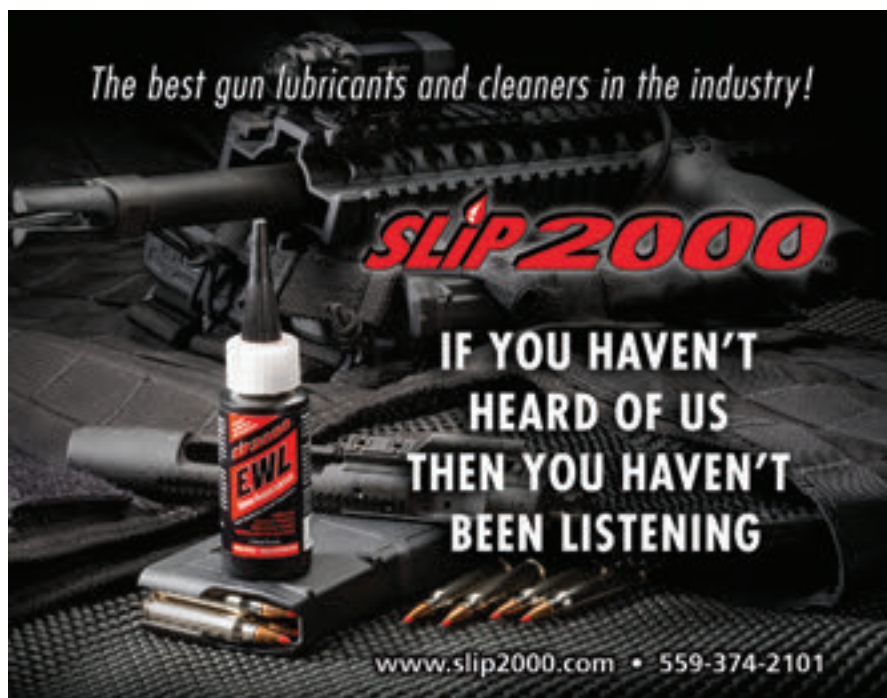
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COMBAT ARTS SEMINAR

Direct Action Group 25th Anniversary

By Ron Yanor



Direct Action Group Founder Max Joseph addresses attendees at the Combat Arts Seminar. The annual event helped commemorate the 25th anniversary of the company and provided a profusion of training topics over a four-day session.

When a tactical training entity endures for 25 years in the industry, it is a remarkable feat. That is exactly the legacy of Direct Action Group based in southern California.

When the company was formed, there were only a handful of privately owned training firms in the country. Mid-South, Gunsite, and Tactical Firearms Training Team/Direct Action Group (TFTT/DAG) were among that group. Max Joseph, who was recruited from USMC Recon into a large-scale dignitary protection team operating in Beverly Hills, founded TFTT/DAG.

The company originated as two entities within the same firm. TFTT was focused on civilian training, while DAG had military and law enforcement clientele.

Operations initially were out of the Sacramento area, but for the past 15 years, they have worked primarily out of Orange County, California. They continue to run courses out of Sacramento and at satellite facilities in Wisconsin, Illinois, and Texas. In 2015 both sides of the company were consolidated into Direct Action Group.

COMBAT ARTS SEMINAR

The Combat Arts Seminar parallels the foundation and growth of DAG. As part of their dignitary protection duties, Max Joseph and Alan Brosnan were tasked with firearms training for the team. That led to participating in competitive combat shooting events, where they networked with other professionals.

The Combat Arts Seminar evolved from that single day experience and has become a favorite event of military, law enforcement, and private sector clientele over the past two and a half decades. Each year it consists of multiple half-



day blocks of instruction from DAG cadre and select guest instructors.

The syllabus presented has varied over the event's history but has typically provided a sampling of the firm's core courses. Add-on classes over the years have ranged from knife defense to tracking. Regardless of the year, all training has been hands-on and practical-skill based.

DAY ONE

The latest seminar was no exception, offering a sampling of integral subject matter. On Training Day One, attendees were greeted with opening remarks and an orientation briefing from Max.

Being the 25th anniversary, this seminar had a unique vibe. In many ways it seemed like a reunion. Some of the people in attendance had been students for over 20 years. Many others had a decade or more experience with TFFT/DAG. Almost all had taken multiple courses.

There were a lot of handshakes and back slaps prior to the start of activities, as many "old hands" greeted each other. When asked who were first-time attendees, a few hands went up. Every one of the "newbies" had enrolled on the recommendation of a previous graduate.

After a period of preliminary instruction, attendees were divided into groups. Each group went with a different instructor for a unique range session. On signal, groups rotated to a new block of instruction until all groups had been to every range station. These preliminary sessions set the marksmanship and safety standards. The midday start time

ABOVE: Shoot house sessions included realistic full-color, life-size photo targets. Some rooms had multiple threats.

BELOW: Shooters conduct stationary turns with draw from the holster presentations. Preliminary range sessions focused on fundamental skills to lay a firm foundation for more advanced drills and exercises.





Participants lined up on flat range for initial instruction and to count-off into groups. After this first period, groups rotated among instructor stations for different blocks of instruction.

facilitated low-light training evolutions. Max conducted shoot-house operations as a prelude session to train up on two-man tactics before dark. After dark, each group worked in the shoot house as one of the evolutions.

Another station, instructed by John Taylor, involved vehicle deployment drills in low-light shooting from and in proximity to vehicles. At that range, a combination of artificial light sources was used, including weaponlights and emergency vehicle lights.

The third range was run by instructor Tim Scarrott, with students using a variety of flashlight and weaponlight techniques. For an added distraction, Tim used highway flares during portions of the courses of fire.

DAY TWO

Training Day Two featured several high-speed training blocks. The first block consisted of two distinct “shoot and scoot” combat pistol courses set up on separate range bays. The first used conventional barricades, while the other used natural forms of cover or concealment.

Another block of instruction covered Close Quarter Pistol tactics with curriculum derived from SWAT training courses. The techniques presented allowed shooters to engage targets with maximum effect at close range in quick time.

Employing the shoot house, trainees worked on active shooter response tactics. By utilizing two entry points and two instructors, training flowed efficiently and safely.



Range sessions featured a variety of targets for maximum effect. Hi-low paper targets let partners engage in close proximity, while steel targets provided instant feedback for hits.



In addition to working with participants from diverse backgrounds, a variety of handgun types was encountered. Only one had any type of optic sights.

DAY THREE

Events on Training Day Three were equally challenging and diverse. Alan Brosnan and Murray Marks taught an in-depth session on dignitary protection tasks. Attendees performed exercises that simulated an attack on the principal as well as anti-ambush drills simulating an attack on a convoy. (I was the VIP on several of these drills, and the students did an exceptional job of quickly getting me off the X and into a waiting vehicle.)

Joel Bateman presented a range session on barricade shooting with a unique perspective. Not only did students use cover, they also engaged targets behind cover. Part of this session included shooting through automobile glass to show bullet deflection.

James "Doc" Kreter provided training on casualty care from a tactical perspective. Doc is a surgeon and retired U.S. Army Major.

WHO ATTENDED AND WHY?

The student base was diverse, as were their reasons for attending. One private citizen is a long-time participant from Canada who makes the trek to DAG courses several times a year. Another was a rookie female police officer who heard about DAG from a colleague and wants to improve her firearms skills. A group of officers from San Francisco PD attend on a regular basis to bring techniques back to their trainers. Federal agents, military, and an officer from Hawaii attended. A trio of former Brazilian officers now living in the U.S. traveled from Florida. One long-time attendee is a physician



DAG Director Max Joseph critiques participant on fine points of Position Sul. Max and Alan Brosnan invented this pistol carry position in 1997 while training police agencies in Brazil.

who was a paramedic when he started training with Max.

Student groups were arranged at random. Where else can you rub shoulders with such an eclectic firing line?

The rationale for attending this and other DAG courses was equally varied. For many, it presents training opportunities or topics they cannot get at home. Some ranges or rangemasters won't allow tactical movement or night firing.

Some students say the format of the seminar allows them to refresh skills from courses they took years ago. A few considered the event a vacation. All in all, the magnitude of instruction was an essential factor.

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A photograph of two men walking on a paved path in front of a yellow house with a white picket fence. The man on the left is wearing a grey t-shirt and black shorts, and the man on the right is wearing a green t-shirt and black shorts. Both are using canes. There are American flags in the background.

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The timing of events during the seminar is in many ways like all DAG courses—fast paced with no down time. This helps everyone maintain focus.

For example, the Day Two schedule had three topic-specific training modules: close quarters shooting, a two-phase combat course at separate range bays, and active shooter exercises in the shoot house. Each module lasted approximately 2.5 hours, with 15 minutes in between to move to the next and replenish ammo. Even though it was a hectic pace, the organization showed how much training could be presented to that many people in a short time frame.

BANQUET

Another highlight of the seminar has been the closing day banquet with guest speaker. This year was atypical, with Max Joseph taking center stage in a rare PowerPoint presentation that highlighted his family, personal career, and development of DAG. The slide show displayed rare vintage photos of his personal experiences.

Next, Alan Brosnan took the stage with his own presentation underscoring his involvement with DAG, which included entertaining operational stories.



ABOVE: Tactical officer opens door in shoot house prior to making entry.

LEFT: Low-light shooting took place at end of Day One. This station featured shooting from and around vehicles.

BELOW: Some low-light vehicle drills used emergency lights from police vehicle for added effect.



The Brazilian students played a video from one of their country's largest police agencies thanking Max for his contributions to the betterment of police training and presented him a commemorative flag.

Over the past several years, Direct Action Group has partnered with Maxpedition, Edge Tactical Eyewear, and ASP. Maxpedition has used DAG cadre and courses in their promotional photo shoots. The relationship involves real-time use and assessment of the products rather than a paid promotion. These firms donated products for a raffle, and each attendee walked away with a gift.

FUTURE PLANS

How long will Direct Action Group continue? According to Max, as long as needed. When asked if someone with his skills would be better off overseas in the fight, Max responded that his job is passing those skills on to the Marines, soldiers, and police officers going into harm's way. Think of it as a force multiplier by increasing the efficiency and effectiveness of those personnel protecting our country on foreign and domestic soil.

Throughout the firm's existence, a major focus has been on the quality and continuity of training. Only a handful of instructors have worked for TFFT/DAG during its history. All were hand selected and vetted not only for their expertise but also their ability to teach effectively, to ensure that students

graduating months or miles apart come away with the same skill sets.

This is important for multi-tiered subject-matter courses where students are expected to possess certain abilities in order to progress to the next level. That is not to say the curriculum is stagnant. Programs of instruction are updated as new information comes back from the field and is validated.

Want to attend a DAG course, but you're not military or law enforcement? No worries. DAG offers several course tracks to select private-citizen applicants. Pistol courses are presented in progressive levels, where the next block builds on the curriculum of the previous block. Carbine and shotgun courses are also available.

Training can be customized for groups or agencies, and may be conducted at a host facility. Course dates are currently posted on their website. If you can make it, plans for the 2017 Combat Arts Seminar are underway.

Two and a half decades in the training arena equate to a depth of knowledge that can accommodate a range of student variables. For many years, DAG used the maxim "Building Complete Operators." That statement speaks to their dedication to sustain the highest standards. Regardless of the course topic, the instructors adhere to that philosophy. When you graduate from a DAG course, you have earned the certificate.

Congratulations to Max and his crew on their permanence in the tactical training arena. ☺

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Clockwise from top:
Ruger Mark IV, SR1911 Lightweight Commander,
LCP II, American Compact.

QUALITY QUARTET

Four New Ruger Pistols

By Denny Hansen

R

uger has become noted for not sitting on their laurels but instead listening to what their customers want—and then delivering. Late in the third quarter of 2016, the company released four new pistols: one .22, a .380, and two 9mms.

I received all four before they were officially released and also attended a five-day press event at FTW Ranch in Texas where gun writers were not only afforded the opportunity to shoot the pistols, but also to attend a condensed pistol course taught by Dave Spaulding from Handgun Combatives.

I'll cover the pistols in the order they were officially introduced to the public.

SR1911 LIGHTWEIGHT COMMANDER-TYPE

Recently a very good friend contacted me and related that his nephew was going to buy his first 1911 and intended to use it for general plinking and defense. He would also likely attend some handgun courses with it, and he wanted my opinion on what to buy.

My answer was immediate and unequivocal: Ruger.

I own a full-size and a Commander-size Ruger 1911 chambered in .45 ACP and have shot many more, including taking courses with them. While nothing manmade is perfect, I have yet to experience my first stoppage with a Ruger 1911.

The 9mm Luger cartridge is becoming more prevalent in all platforms, mostly due to advances in bullet design. And while I still believe bigger bullets are better, I have no qualms about carrying a 9mm with a proven load.

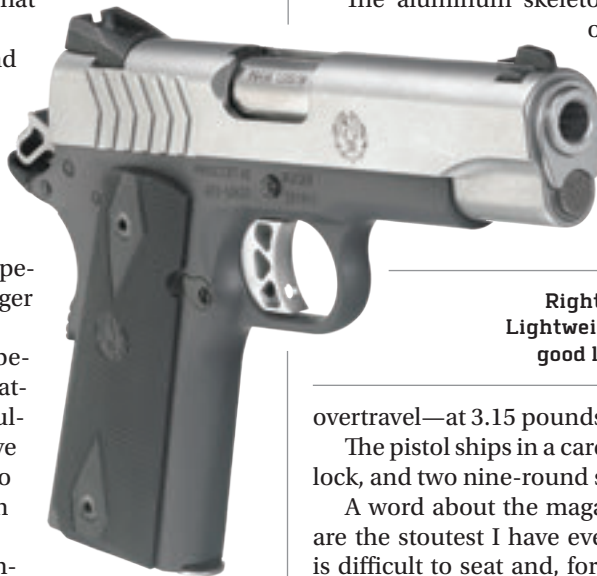
The new SR1911 Lightweight Commander-Type is of the original classic Series 70 design. The pistol has a stainless steel slide topped with genuine Novak® 3-Dot sights. Both are installed in dovetails, making them drift adjustable. The rear of the slide has grasping grooves with a unique chevron design.

On most 1911s, both the barrel and frame comprise the feed ramp. The Ruger has extended the feed ramp on the stainless steel barrel down, so the aluminum frame won't get beat up. Kudos.

The aluminum frame has a dark gray anodized finish. The beavertail grip safety allows a high grip that mitigates felt re-

coil. Stocks (grips) are checkered black rubber in the double diamond pattern. The hammer has an oblong hole that looks good, cuts its weight down, and allows faster lock time. The thumb safety and slide lock levers are slightly extended.

The aluminum skeletonized trigger has an adjustable overtravel screw. The 1911 pistol is legendary for a great trigger, and the test sample was no exception. According to my Lyman Electronic Trigger Gauge, the trigger broke cleanly and consistently—with no creep or noticeable



Right-side view of SR1911 Lightweight Commander provides good look at Novak sights.

overtravel—at 3.15 pounds. It was a joy to shoot.

The pistol ships in a cardboard box with a manual, trigger lock, and two nine-round stainless steel magazines.

A word about the magazines: The springs used in them are the stoutest I have ever encountered. The ninth round is difficult to seat and, for the first time ever, my left index finger became sore after loading only half-a-dozen mags.

I don't believe this was an anomaly, as the magazines that came with the test pistol and those I used at FTW Ranch had the same substantial springs. Since I plan on keeping the test pistol and shooting it a lot, I'm going to invest in a magazine loader such as the UpLULA™ loader sold on www.shopruger.com.

In contrast, the recoil spring used in the SR1911 Lightweight Commander is only ten pounds. I was a bit skeptical at first, but it worked well with everything from light loads to +P loads.

On the plus side, the slide is very easy to manipulate for those with weak hands or suffering from arthritis.

I put about 500 rounds downrange through the Lightweight Commander at FTW Ranch and a like number through the test pistol on my home range with no stoppages. The test pistol was a bit sluggish with no lubrication at the beginning of the evaluation, but Slip 2000 EWL got it running smoothly.

Accuracy was outstanding, capable of shooting into six inches at 25 yards standing unsupported.



Safety and slide lock levers are slightly extended on the Commander.

» SPECIFICATIONS

SR1911 LIGHTWEIGHT COMMANDER

MODEL	SR1911 Lightweight Commander
CALIBER	9mm Luger
CAPACITY	9+1
BARREL LENGTH	4.25 inches
OVERALL LENGTH	7.75 inches
HEIGHT	5.45 inches
WIDTH	1.34 inches
WEIGHT	29.3 ounces
STOCK PANELS	Checkered black rubber
SLIDE MATERIAL	Stainless steel
FRAME	Gray anodized aluminum
SIGHTS	Novak® 3-Dot
CA & MA APPROVED	No
SUGGESTED RETAIL	\$979.00

MARK IV

Bill Ruger's first pistol was the iconic Standard Model introduced in 1949. The Mark I came soon after in 1950 and continued production until 1981. It was the first pistol I ever owned. The Mark II ran from 1982 through 2005 with over three million sold.

The Mark III added a few changes that included moving the magazine release from the bottom of the grip to behind the trigger guard, and adding a magazine disconnect and an internal safety lock that locked the pistol on safe with a provided key. It was produced from 2004 until 2016.

In my opinion, the new Mark IV is the best of all examples of the line. There are two versions of the Mark IV: the Hunter and the Target.

The Hunter is the high-end version and features a stainless steel frame, stainless steel fluted bull barrel, adjustable rear sight, fiber-optic front sight, and checkered laminate stocks. At the risk of sounding like a fanboy, it is a beautiful pistol.

The Target has an aluminum frame; alloy steel, full-contour bull barrel; adjustable rear sight; Patridge-type front sight; and checkered plastic stocks. The test pistol was the Target version.

Improvements on the Mark IV start with the safety selector. Gone is the round button of past models, replaced with a lever. It is more ergonomic and is ambidextrous.

The slide release is also a lever on the Mark IV, making it easier to manipulate. The bolt stays to the rear when the last round is fired.

A spring-loaded plunger at the bottom of the frame is depressed when a magazine is inserted. When the magazine release is pressed, the magazine ejects easily out of the magazine well, even when held parallel to the deck.

One common complaint with earlier models was that they could be difficult to reassemble. The bolt stop pin and hammer strut could be tricky to align perfectly. When the housing latch was snapped into place, SOP was to pull the bolt to the rear. If it went to the rear, you were good to go. If not, the process had to be repeated.

The Mark IV greatly simplifies takedown and reassembly: just press on a single button located at the rear of the frame. When pressed, the upper receiver/barrel group swings open much like an AR. To reassemble, line up the frame and upper receiver and press them together. Simple.

Accuracy was nothing short of outstanding. At FTW Ranch, I went six for ten, standing unsupported, on a 12-inch steel plate at 160 yards on my first try. I really expected more drop out of the .22 at that distance and was holding high for the first four rounds. Using a standard sight picture



Mark IV Target exhibited outstanding accuracy.

at the top edge of the plate resulted in the gratifying sound of lead striking steel.

The test pistol exhibited similar accuracy on my home range. The trigger broke cleanly at 5.6 pounds with a short take-up and no discernible overtravel.

The Mark IV ships in a cardboard box complete with manual, trigger lock, and two ten-round magazines.



Author fired Mark IV Hunter at FTW Ranch in Texas and found it shot as good as it looks.

» SPECIFICATIONS

MARK IV	
MODEL	Mark IV Target
CALIBER	.22 Long Rifle
CAPACITY	10+1
BARREL LENGTH	5.50-inch bull barrel
OVERALL LENGTH	9.75 inches
HEIGHT	5.50 inches
WIDTH	1.20 inches
WEIGHT	35.50 ounces
FRAME	Aluminum
FINISH	Blued/anodized
STOCKS	Checkered plastic
SIGHTS	Fixed front, adjustable rear
CA & MA APPROVED	No
SUGGESTED RETAIL	\$499.00

LCP II

When Ruger introduced the LCP (Lightweight Compact Pistol) in 2008, it changed the way people viewed pocket pistols. Extremely concealable and light, it was also very reliable. It was almost single-handedly responsible for the scarcity of .380 ACP ammo on dealers' shelves.

The main complaints about the pistol were its extremely miniscule sights, the slide was hard to pull back, the double-action-only trigger pull was stiff, and its thin profile on the backstrap would cause pain in the web of the hand after a few magazines.

While I realize many people carry LCPs and other pocket pistols as their primary concealed-carry arm, I prefer a

LCP II has redesigned texturing, better sights, improved trigger pull, and is slightly wider at the rear of the frame for more comfortable shooting.

full-size service pistol or a compact version of one, relegating the LCP, for me, to status as a back-up piece.

If the situation has gone south to the point of having to transition to the back-up, one had better be very, very proficient with it. I practiced with my LCP a lot, putting 6,000 rounds downrange in the last eight and a half years, but I never really enjoyed it.

The new LCP II may change that.

To begin with, the LCP II is no longer double-action-only. It now uses a single-action striker-fired mechanism with an internal safety. The trigger on the test pistol broke between 6.1 and 6.6 pounds.

The slide is *much* easier to rack, which is quite important for folks with less hand strength or other problems. Grasping grooves are present on both the fore and aft sides of the slide. An improved slide stop makes it easier to lock the slide to the rear.

The sights on a pocket pistol are necessarily small and smooth to prevent them from snagging when presenting the pistol. While the sights on the LCP II are still small, they are at least usable.

Finally, the LCP II's grip texture has been improved and the backstrap area is wider.

In the course of evaluating the LCP II, I fired slightly over 200 rounds in one range trip. Even with the hottest .380 ACP load fired, the Winchester 95-grain PDX1, I felt no discomfort in the web of my hand.

Redesigned internally with a redesigned magazine, the slide stays to the rear when the last round is fired. Earlier LCP six-round magazines function in the LCP II but won't hold the slide back. Seven-round LCP magazines do not function in the LCP II. The magazine ejected freely.

The original LCP came with a padded zippered case. The LCP II comes with a much more usable pocket holster, which is smooth on the inside with a suede-feel exterior and rubber-type strip. In testing, I found that it stayed in the pocket, while allowing a smooth draw.

The LCP II ships in a cardboard box with a manual, lock, and one six-round magazine with both flat and finger-ledge floorplates, and the above-mentioned holster.

Ruger refers to the LCP II as a "best in class" pocket pistol. With the improvements, and a suggested retail of \$399, I think they're right.



» SPECIFICATIONS

LCP II	
MODEL	Lightweight Compact Pistol II
CALIBER	.380 ACP
CAPACITY	6+1
BARREL LENGTH	2.75 inches
OVERALL LENGTH	5.17 inches
HEIGHT	3.71 inches
WIDTH	0.91 inch
WEIGHT	10.6 ounces
SLIDE MATERIAL	Blue steel
FRAME	Glass-filled nylon
SIGHTS	Fixed, integral with slide
CA & MA APPROVED	No
SUGGESTED RETAIL	\$339.00



Older LCP magazines are reverse compatible with LCP II but will not lock back slide when last round is fired.

AMERICAN COMPACT

Ruger's introduction of the American Pistol in December 2015 took the gun world by storm. The American either met or exceeded all phases of the tests for a new American military service pistol. Now it's available in a compact carry size.

Ruger has released two versions of the American Compact Pistol (ACP): the PRO with no manual safeties and one with manual safeties. The test gun was the PRO model.

The slide is stainless steel and topped with genuine Novak LoMount Carry three-dot sights with a matte black nitride finish.

The rigid one-piece precision-machined stainless steel chassis with integral frame rails and fire-control housing is set into a high-performance glass-filled nylon grip frame. The dust cover has a mil-standard 1913 accessory rail.

The slide release, magazine release, and manual safeties (on the model with a manual safety) are fully ambidextrous.

The American line uses a pre-tensioned striker, resulting in one of the best—if not the best—striker-fired triggers I have used. The test gun's trigger broke right at six pounds with a positive reset.

How a pistol fits a user is often overlooked but is a vital component when shooting. Like its big brothers, the ACP has a modular grip system and comes with large, medium, and small interchangeable backstraps to accommodate different-size hands and trigger reach.

Unlike some pistols, the American does not require pressing the trigger to field strip it. Not having to press the bang switch to field strip is a good feature. While a firearm should be double checked to ensure it's unloaded before



field stripping, there have been negligent discharges with one brand of pistol because the user either became distracted or just plain had a case of the stupids.

The ACP ships in a fitted hard-sided plastic case and includes a manual and safety lock. Also included are two Nickel-Teflon® plated steel magazines—a 12-round magazine with a

All controls on American Compact are completely ambidextrous.

flat floorplate and finger-ledge floorplate, and a 17-round magazine. A sleeve that fits on the 17 rounder matches it seamlessly to the frame.

The American series has a recoil-reducing barrel cam, low-mass slide, low center of gravity, and low bore axis. This allows the pistol to balance well in the hand, with less felt recoil and muzzle flip than many pistols.

The ACP is rated for sustained use of +P ammunition, and it functioned perfectly with a wide variety of ammunition.

Firing slowly from a rest, the American Compact is capable of keeping all rounds into a 3x5 card at 25 yards. Magazines ejected effortlessly.



Rotating takedown lever on left side disassembles American Compact. Magazine's finger ledge floorplate can be replaced with a flat floorplate (included) for better concealment.

» SPECIFICATIONS

AMERICAN COMPACT PISTOL

MODEL	American Compact Pistol
CALIBER	9mm Luger
CAPACITY	12+1 (17-round mag included)
BARREL LENGTH	3.55 inches
OVERALL LENGTH	6.65 inches
HEIGHT	4.48 inches
WIDTH	1.40 inches
WEIGHT	28.75 ounces
SLIDE MATERIAL	Stainless steel with black nitride finish
FRAME	One-piece precision-machined black nitride stainless steel chassis
SIGHTS	Novak® LoMount Carry 3-Dot
CA & MA APPROVED	No
SUGGESTED RETAIL	\$579.00

WHAT'S NEXT?

While at FTW Ranch, attendees were treated to a preview of several other new products that Ruger has planned for release. In fact, a few may have been introduced by the time you read this, and we will have comprehensive reports as they become available and we thoroughly test them.

For the latest updates, stay tuned to the S.W.A.T. Facebook page. ☺

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IN-YOUR-FACE PISTOL RELOADS

Trendy But Unsafe

By Tim Scarrott

Pistol ready positions and reload positions are an ongoing topic of debate. We've undoubtedly come a long way since the cup-and-saucer grip or emptying brass into the support hand during revolver reloads. We all recognize our tactics and training must maintain a high standard and we cannot afford to become stagnant.

However, reinventing the wheel with dangerous or tactically unfeasible pistol positions is worse than becoming stagnant. Tried and true, tactically accepted techniques are being replaced by techniques lacking justification and ignoring common sense. The trends of high inboard pistol reloads and lack of muzzle control are not tactically acceptable.

I think we can all agree the most dangerous part of any weapon is the muzzle and the most vulnerable part of the human body is the head. Common sense tells us muzzles don't belong near our head, in our face or pointed toward teammates. Despite the existence of time-proven techniques, tactically accepted manipulation positions are too often being replaced by high muzzle ready positions and reloads.

Shooters have been conducting speed reloads with a slight inboard cant for years. For many shooters, the slight deviation of the muzzle feels more natural and enables better access of the magazine release. Some shooters associate high inboard reload positions with aircraft security personnel, and I have heard shooters call this technique the "air marshal reload" on a number of occasions.

Correct position for weapons manipulation.

"AIR MARSHAL RELOAD"

The advent of the U.S. Air Marshals program, training, and pistol qualification course certainly required thinking outside the box. Engaging a threat in the cabin of an aircraft presents unique problems, as scores of non-combatants are up range, downrange, and all around you. Weapon manipulations cannot be conducted parallel to the deck at the heads of passengers, nor toward the deck toward the aircraft control systems.

If you were on an aircraft, positioning your pistol in front of you and parallel to the deck orients the weapon at head level of everyone onboard the aircraft. With a deviation of the weapon slightly higher in front of the shooter's chest and muzzle pointing 30 to 45 degrees upward and inboard, the pistol is now pointed away from passengers' heads and toward the overhead luggage racks. If a mechanical discharge or negligent discharge occurred, the errant round would travel away from non-combatants and potentially into the overhead luggage compartment.

Even if the round struck the skin of the aircraft, no massive structural issue would result. The cabin would simply depressurize. Either way, the round would travel away from passengers, which enhances safety in this particular environment.



Downrange is the only feasible direction for a reload during shield deployments.

WEAPON-IN-YOUR-FACE RELOADS

Unfortunately, the slight inboard reloading technique continues to grotesquely morph over time, with the erroneous justification of "This is my workspace." Shooters maneuver the pistol sideways in front of their face, 90 degrees inboard and 45 degrees into the air. There is no argument that could convince me this is smart, safe, or tactically feasible.

Positioning a pistol sideways in front of your face obviously causes the pistol to be in close proximity to your head and face, toward teammates and toward other shooters on the line and, despite all arguments, it just doesn't work. This is *not* your "workspace."

I've heard a shooter describe their workspace as "the space from your face where you can read the date on a dime." This particular statement perplexes me and I'm curious how people even come up with these ideas.

Weapon-in-your-face reloads create functional and handling problems in addition to safety concerns. Rather than the magazine well and magazine being directed 90 degrees toward the deck, they are directed at a 45-degree angle. If the shooter fails to release the magazine prior to the pistol being brought high and inboard, magazines are often slowed or prevented from dropping free from the weapon.

When the weapon is high and inboard and the magazine



Proper workstation allows for verification and view of target area.

fails to eject, this inevitably causes shooters to lower the pistol across their body or shake the pistol in front of their face. I think common sense tells us shaking a pistol in front of our face isn't a tactically accepted technique anywhere in the world.

When the pistol is in this position and the shooter uses their support arm to chamber a cartridge, the pistol is inevitably pointed at the inside of their forearm—also a no-go.

Proponents of this reload position say the shooter can better accomplish their reload by looking at the pistol and see their target area by looking around their pistol. I'm not sure how you look at your pistol and around your pistol at the same time while it blocks your view of the target area.

It seems more prudent to simply keep your eyes on the threat and learn to reload without looking. If you cannot reload your pistol without looking at your weapon or equipment, your training and skillset are seriously lacking.

Proponents of this technique also say they want the pistol "back into the fight" as quickly as possible. However, use of the position causes the weapon to be off target. Using tactically incorrect justifications do not validate the technique, and you can't have it both ways.

Looking through your pistol doesn't make sense when you should be looking at the threat. Deviating the weapon off target is slower than keeping the weapon on target.

THE COMMON-SENSE RELOAD

The tactically accepted work station or manipulation space for a pistol is with the pistol eight to ten inches in front of the center mass of your body. The weapon is parallel to the



You can't see the threat or verify the stoppage with the pistol using a high reload position.

deck and the weapon is pointed at the threat. The weapon remains on target and in the fight, pointed downrange, away from the shooter and teammates.

Immediate assessments are made to verify and clear any stoppage or conduct a reload. A slight inboard cant in the angle of the weapon is totally acceptable during reloads and will help facilitate the speed of either emergency or tactical loading. The bore of the weapon remains on target and never out of the fight.

To conduct a "speed" or "emergency" reload, the shooter's focus is on the target area, and cover is sought immediately. When no cover is available, taking a knee will provide the lifesaving advantage of a 50% reduction in area exposed to return fire. Conduct a quick check to verify the stoppage to ensure the correct immediate action is taken.

Once the stoppage is verified, the magazine is ejected and the magazine well can be canted slightly inboard to facilitate loading. The shooter accesses a full magazine, indexes, inserts, and seats the full magazine. As soon as the magazine is inserted, the shooter can use the slide release or major motor movement of racking the slide to chamber a cartridge.

The same position is used for tactical reloads to prevent shooting the weapon dry. Gunny Jason Bunker coined the term "place, replace, seat, and stow" as the partially expended magazine is removed and a fully charged magazine is inserted in the pistol. Reloads cannot be easily or safely accomplished with the pistol sideways in front of a shooter's face.

STOPPAGE-CLEARING DRILLS

Stoppage-clearing drills are important parts of any tactical training regimen. A stoppage is described as "any interruption in the continued operation of the weapon."



Only safe direction is downrange!

Proponents of the high inboard reload have a difficult time explaining how they conduct immediate action to clear a stoppage. They usually give an answer including they would “just know” the stoppage exists or “they would verify a stoppage and return the pistol back to clear it.”

Unfortunately they can’t tell me how to clear the stoppage or how to do so with their pistol in front of their face. When the shooter turns the weapon in front of their face as soon as they experience any problem, the right-handed shooter is now looking at the left side of the slide. There is no way to verify the stoppage, as the shooter cannot see the chamber of the weapon.

I have never seen stoppage-clearing drills conducted with the weapon turned sideways in front of a shooter’s face and I would consider it a major safety violation if an attempt was made. The tactically accepted workspace position of the pistol works for a variety of pistol manipulations, and is in a safe direction while allowing observation of the target area and the fastest return of the gun to the fight.

This cannot be said for weapons-in-front-of-the-face positions because the pistol blocks the target area, immediate action is limited, and the pistol must be reoriented to be brought back into the fight.

TEAMWORK

Teamwork and two-man team tactics require tactically accepted work-station positions. When working within teams, high-position reloads are dangerous both on the range and operationally.

Techniques such as for sidestep drills, hi-low drills, and hi-low cuts aren’t just for SWAT or special operations teams, and some police departments are integrating shields at the patrol level.

The high reload position inevitably causes the pistol to be pointed at your partner or at the teammate on your right or left. Individual weapons-handling skills must integrate into our tactics, and we can’t allow regressive skills.

Proponents of these reloads have told me the technique is tactically acceptable because “We aren’t SWAT” or “We allow individual techniques,” or “We don’t work in teams.”

These arguments are narrow minded and ignore the reality that police officers, military members, and security personnel work in teams and groups. Police officers often work with partners and in teams, and are sent to violent calls with multiple officers.

Law enforcement officers are trained to initiate action against an active shooter in small groups, and with as few as two officers. If you think you don’t or shouldn’t form a team as soon as a few friendlies are there to help you, think again.

Team tactics are valuable, will increase your operational ability, and will save your life. You can’t place teammates in danger with your poor weapons handling. In any example, if you think you are exempt from tactically accepted and safe practices, you aren’t.



High inboard reloads create a significant safety violation.

SUMMING IT UP

Our tactics, techniques, and procedures should be consolidated and simplified to increase operational effectiveness and safety. Real-world safety and muzzle control apply to both training and operations. There is no distinction between the two when it comes to weapons safety.

As I mentioned above, the tactically accepted, orthodox pistol reload and manipulation position is eight to ten inches in front of the center mass of your body with the weapon parallel to the deck and the weapon directed toward the threat.

In this position, emergency reloads, tactical reloads, and stoppage drills can all be conducted quickly and safely with our eyes remaining on the target area and keeping our weapon in the fight. When conducting reloads during two-man team tactics, the weapon cannot be brought toward the shooter’s body as it will endanger the teammate in front of the shooter. Under no circumstances can high reload positions be used because they cause the weapon to be pointed at our teammates.

We must recognize our world is ever changing and our tactics are always evolving. But this is one area of tactics that does not need to be changed. There is no reason to replace standard work-place positions with techniques providing no tactical benefit and only resulting in tactical problems and safety violations.

Keep your weapon on target and in the fight! ◎

Tim Scarrott has served in the military and law enforcement with extensive experience as a weapons and tactics instructor. In addition to owning his own consultancy, he has worked for the Direct Action Group for 16 years.



URBAN TRACKING

Applications for Safety and Survival

By Tom Marshall

When we begin to get serious about survival and preparedness, it's very easy to become obsessed with *stuff*. What equipment, how much food, where to store it, and so on. Even when we get wise and start looking at skills, it is easy to not prioritize what types of skills we're most likely to use.

To me, shooting is one of the biggest culprits. Some people burn thousands of rounds (and dol-

lars) a year learning how to shoot like an "operator." Ask them to build a shelter or stitch a wound, and some of those folks who can hit a 200-yard target from urban prone look like deer in the headlights.

We are currently in the midst of a nationwide training glut. Classes for everything from fire starting to field surgery exist. This is a mixed blessing as, often times, the most dramatic trainers or courses get the most attention regardless of their practicality.



Two footprints at an intersection.
Can you tell which way the quarry went?

SCIENCE OF TRACKING

I recently had the privilege of attending a tracking class with Greenside Training, LLC. Greenside has been around since about 2010, quietly developing the science of tracking and spreading that knowledge to the military and citizen communities.

Their origins lie in the Marine Corps' now-defunct Combat Hunter program. While Combat Hunter taught both tracking and behavioral profiling, Greenside has planted their flag firmly in tracking territory. Greenside's lead instructor, Freddy Osuna, is a former USMC Scout Sniper and lifelong tracker who took his first formal tracking class at the age of 13.

If tracking is not already on your short list of skills to acquire, I urge you to seriously reconsider. So many times, the focus of defensive or preparedness training is what you'll need in the worst-case scenario. Tracking skills can be used in your everyday life and may help you avoid that really bad day before you wind up in one of those "It Happened to Me" columns ... or worse.

Greenside offers a selection of tracking courses. I took Grayside Hunter Urban Tracking, which does have some overlap with open wilderness tracking.

The course utilizes a highly effective building-block format that starts with the fundamentals of man tracking, augmented with mini-scenarios along the way. The three-day course culminates in a full-profile urban environment FTX that requires application of everything learned in the days prior.

My preconceptions of tracking were completely shattered by this curriculum, and in the process I learned just how much "signature" most people leave behind them as they go about their daily lives. What follows are some of the specific things I learned about the human animal, and how to follow it, thanks to the professionals at Greenside Training.

DAY 1: ENGAGING THE SENSES

Greenside's intro-level fundamentals course is called Weaponize the Senses. I mention this because it truly captures the foundation of their entire program. Going into this class, I understood tracking to be all about staring at footprints in the dirt.

But the reality requires you to engage all your senses and become fully aware of your immediate environment. In a module that Greenside calls "Primal Learning," students learned how human senses develop from birth to adulthood. More importantly, the instructors discussed how we train our senses to obey us, instead of simply allowing them to function uninhibited.

One way we do this is by using our senses in shifts: we can't find our keys, and we get so caught up *looking* for our keys that we don't *hear* our spouse across the room telling us they've found the keys. Part of effective tracking is learning to use your senses at the same time. Don't focus on looking. Focus on finding, and relax your mind enough to allow all your senses to register.

Another common problem is letting our perceptions guide our senses, instead of the other way around. Example: you want a glass of milk. You always put the milk on the top shelf. When you open the refrigerator, the milk isn't there. No matter how long you stare into the fridge, the milk is just not there ... until your roommate walks up and grabs the milk, which was one shelf below where you normally put

it. Often, when we expect to see our environment a certain way, our brains will make it so—regardless of the objective reality.

Another set of vital learning points on TD1 had to do with understanding how creatures move. I say "creatures" because we learned the principles of both animal and human tracking.

Canines, felines, and bears all have different footprints. Within those classes, there are common distinctive traits. The presence of claws, location and number of toes, and size of the central pad are some of the more obvious clues.

The way different types of animals walk, whether they are prey animals or predators, also affects how they leave tracks, based on things like speed of travel and gait.

Understanding all this translates directly into tracking humans. A footprint can reveal the speed and direction a person is traveling, their age and approximate size, and even if they have an injury or are carrying something.



Two students navigate Sensory Lane, a drill that demonstrates the need to engage all senses for survival.

The size, shape and depth of a footprint are all critical to painting a picture of the person you're tracking. A running person leaves a print that is deeper in the toe area. A person walking with a heavy load leaves a print that is deeper and better defined in the heel area.

Greenside's Index Tracking system teaches students how to read individual parts of the track to determine all these factors, as well as approximately how old the tracks are based on time, terrain, and weather conditions.

DAY 2: TEAM SPORTS

Building on lessons from TD1, the second morning of Grayside Hunter focused on the intricate details of footprints. Greenside instructors have some unique and very effective drills for teaching people how to recognize even the smallest similarities from one print to the next. This allows trackers to separate individual tracks in high traffic areas, whether hiking trails or sidewalks. Students are also taught to look for *any* kind of disturbance.

A "track" doesn't always have to be a footprint. Sometimes it's a flattened patch of grass in a traffic median, or some disturbed gravel in a parking lot.



How well can you see the boot tread?



How about now? Manipulating light and shadow can raise features on a vague print.

There is also transference, which occurs when you walk over or near something and take a piece of it with you. If you find a scattering of dandelion petals on the ground 20 yards away from the nearest dandelion, that may indicate which direction your quarry is traveling.

This led to a short module on forensic tracking, a technique used by law enforcement and often portrayed in TV and movies, where detectives match a shoe print or tire track to a suspect's footwear or vehicle.

Greenside covered this, including some parts of the analysis process and what specific requirements are placed on law enforcement to qualify a print as substantive evidence versus prints that only give circumstantial evidence or probable cause. We used dental stone to pour casts of individual tracks for later analysis.

The remainder of TD2 shifted focus to the relationships among members of a tracking team. This was one of my biggest revelations of the entire class. Effective tracking is, without a doubt, a team sport. The silver screen stereotype of a

lone mountain man following the trail from print to print is almost entirely false.

Our class was broken into five-man teams, including flank and rear security elements. In a tactical scenario, these elements provide the protection that allows trackers to do their jobs. In a search-and-rescue or forensic track, these people are redundant sensors and may be able to engage their other senses to collect supporting evidence, or they may be able to spot distant choke points or natural funnels to pick up a lost track.

Furthermore, I came to realize that following a person (or people) in real time requires much more reading of terrain than reading of footprints. Having a solid grasp of orienteering and land navigation greatly aids anyone interested in becoming a skilled tracker.

Hollywood portrays this as a sort of mystical ability to "enter the mind" of one's quarry. In real life, it boils down to understanding how your surroundings—rural and urban—create natural channels for movement, and that human



ABOVE: Students struggle to match prints from one side of box to corresponding set on other side.

LEFT: Preserved footprint can be cleaned and used as forensic evidence.

habits favor certain lines of travel over others.

Under Greenside's system, tracking breaks the world down into three separate atmospheres. The atmosphere of the living includes the sounds and movements of people and animals around the area of the track. The second is the atmosphere of the terrain, which I just discussed. The final atmosphere is the ground—reading physical prints left by the quarry. It's last for a reason. The point is not to become fixated on footprints.

Tracking involves much more, and limiting yourself to tracking from print to print hinders your ability to track effectively.

DAY 3: WHEELS UP AND EYES ON

Our final day started with safety and mission briefs for our scenario-based final training exercise (FTX, in military parlance). After two days of tracking in the desert and then across an old western movie set, we would be tracking in real time in a real urban environment.

Split into two teams, our class was tasked with tracking a known player as a local narcotics trafficker and his accomplice. Our respective quarries had a 15-minute head start on us. Each team was required to report in via text every 15 minutes with the last known location of their target. I was fortunate enough to be the Team Leader for my five-man team.

We were shown a single footprint that was known to belong to our target. No other information was provided. Our first check-in report had to include an estimated description of the target and his direction of travel, based solely on the size, shape, and depth of the footprint.

From that point on, our team had no direct supervision whatsoever. It was entirely on us as students to follow the various tracks left by our target and navigate the hazards of a live urban environment on a Sunday afternoon—including *actual* drug dealers, vagrants, a downtown festival, and local police and security forces. (The other team followed their target along a set of train tracks and was immediately and aggressively tailed by the railway police.)

As the scenario unfolded, both targets wound up in the same location for a rendezvous. At this point, with the targets located, the tracking exercise was complete and the entire class moved to a hasty hide site on the fourth floor of a parking structure.

Freddy gave us a class on basic surveillance techniques and optics, covering tips for the proper use of spotting scopes, binoculars, tripods, and accessories.

This concluded the course, and the class took advantage of downtown on a Sunday afternoon for group lunch and swapping experiences and war stories.

Above and beyond the rest of the course, I want to stress how beautifully executed the final training scenario was. It was realistic, dynamic, completely immersive, and entertaining. It tied together all the learning points from the entire weekend very well.

FTX TAKEAWAYS

- How *little* actual print is needed to track effectively. We rarely had a whole footprint to work with. At some points, we determined speed and direction of our target based on a 2x2-inch section of boot tread. In one case, all we had were displaced flower petals, but they were enough to stay on the trail.



Students use variety of optics to observe and report on target rendezvous.

- As noted, tracking is a team sport. This was even more apparent in an urban environment. Having well-trained teammates whom we trusted allowed us to move quickly without backtracking or losing the trail.

- Even in an environment made almost entirely of cement and concrete, a person leaves tracks and trails everywhere they go. Most people have no idea how many of these clues they leave in their wake.

OTHER APPLICATIONS OF TRACKING

While the primary focus of this course was tracking humans in real time, index tracking has dozens of applications for the safety- and survival-conscious person.

The animal tracking module armed me with knowledge of potential dangers while out hiking or camping. If I come across a footprint or disturbance in my yard or on my front walk, I now have greater ability to determine if it was just the postman or if somebody was casing my property.

The terrain reading and human locomotion material gave me a greater awareness of human behavior and possible indicators of nefarious activity in my neighborhood. This course material benefits everyone from all walks of life.

We had a one-day guest student who was six years old, and classmates who were in their 60s. Some were former military and law enforcement. Others were engineers and businessmen who are avid hunters and outdoorsmen.

Every single one of them finished Grayside Hunter with a better sense of themselves and their surroundings. When you take the course, you will too. ☺

SOURCE

GREENSIDE TRAINING, LLC
(520) 205-1790
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SCOUT RIFLE ROUNDUP



Four Takes on a Classic

By Denny Hansen

While Col. Jeff Cooper is best known for promoting the Modern Technique of the Pistol, many people do not know he was a rifleman at heart.

From his many years of experience, Cooper conceived the concept of the Scout rifle—a light, handy rifle with enough power and accuracy to down a 200-pound target at 200 yards or more.

Numerous articles and entire books have been written on the Scout rifle, so I won't delve deeply into its history here except to outline Cooper's general concept of what a Scout rifle should be.

THE SCOUT RIFLE'S DISTINGUISHING FEATURES

- Magazine-fed bolt action. Detachable box magazine and/or stripper clip charging is desirable but not mandatory.
- Unloaded weight of 6.6 pounds with a maximum weight of 7.7 pounds.
- Overall length of 39 inches or less.
- Forward-mounted long eye relief telescopic sight of low magnification, typically two to three power.
- Reserve iron sights desirable but not mandatory.
- Good trigger.
- Fitted with a practical sling (such as a Ching sling) for shooting and carrying.
- No more power than the .308 Winchester is necessary.
- Built-in bipod is desirable but not mandatory.
- Should be able to shoot into two MOA or less at 200 yards (four inches).
- Magazine capacity not to exceed five rounds.

Several companies make rifles that are marketed as "Scouts" but only four commercial, non-custom offerings are bolt actions: Mossberg, Ruger, Savage, and Steyr. I thought it would be interesting to obtain a sample of each and see how close they come to meeting Col. Cooper's concept. In alphabetical order, here's a description of each.

MOSSBERG MVP SCOUT

The Mossberg MVP Scout has a 16.25-inch medium bull barrel. The muzzle is threaded and comes with an A2-style flash suppressor. For those who have no need for the flash suppressor, a thread cap is included.

Overall length is 37.5 inches and it tips the scales at 6.75 pounds, making the Mossberg MVP Scout the shortest rifle tested.

Sights for the MVP are a front fiber optic paired with a rail-mounted ghost ring.

Mossberg's LBA Adjustable trigger (three-seven on MVP models) is standard. The bolt is fluted to reduce weight and

allow debris to escape. The bolt handle is elliptical in shape, measures .883 inch at its widest point, and has serrations around its circumference.

The black synthetic stock is pillar bedded. Both sides and the bottom of the forearm, as well as the pistol-grip area, are textured for a sure grip.

An 11-inch Picatinny rail rides atop the receiver for an intermediate eye relief scope. A smaller two-inch rail with five slots is attached to each side of the stock and is removable.

The rifle has a standard two-position safety.

The MVP accepts both M14/M1A and AR-10 style magazines. The rifle ships with one ten-round PMAG. (Magpul offers a PMAG Minus 5-Round Limiter for sporting and hunting applications.) The magazine release is in a recess in front of the magazine. This minimizes the chance of activating the release and losing the magazine.

Mossberg offers the rifle as described above with iron sights and also a model with a Vortex 2-7X32 Crossfire II Scout Scope, which was the one tested here. A nylon sling is included.



RIGHT: Mossberg Scout was evaluated with Vortex 2-7X32 Crossfire II Scout Scope.





Author's Ruger Gunsite Scout has proven itself on big-game hunts.

RUGER GUNSITE SCOUT

Developed with Gunsite, this rifle features the Gunsite name rollmarked on the receiver and engraved on the grip cap of laminate stock models.

The 16.1-inch free-floated, cold hammer-forged barrel is capped with a Mini-14/SR-556 type flash suppressor. Overall length is 38.5 inches with a weight of 7.1 pounds. There are no flats on the outside of the flash suppressor, but it can be removed by inserting a T60 Torx into the muzzle. The same thread caps that work on the Ruger Guide gun fit the Gunsite Scout. It can be purchased at www.shoptorugger.com.

The forward-mounted Picatinny rail allows for mounting an intermediate eye relief scope. Ruger's patented integral scope mounts, machined directly on the receiver, provide a stable mounting surface for traditional over-the-receiver mounting.

Iron sights are a ghost ring adjustable rear aperture sight and a non-glare, protected blade front sight.

The black laminated wood shows a lot of grain on samples I have seen and has checkering on the forearm and pistol-grip area. The stock has three ½-inch spacers to adjust the length of pull (LOP) to accommodate different statures, clothing, or gear.

A model with a synthetic stock is available, and reduces the weight to 6.2 pounds.

The bolt has a non-rotating, Mauser-type controlled round feed extractor. The bolt handle is round and smooth and measures .760 inch at its widest point.



Ruger Scout rifle was tested with Bushnell 3-9X40 Elite 3200 mounted in traditional rearward position.

The GSR uses a three-position safety, where forward is "fire." In the center "safe" position, the bolt can be worked to load/unload but cannot be fired. In the most rearward "safe" position, the bolt is locked.

Magazine used is the Accuracy International type, and the rifle is supplied with a single ten-round magazine. Five-round magazines are available for hunting. The magazine release is a push-forward lever in front of the trigger guard.

The Ruger Gunsite Scout used for this report was my personal rifle and set up for hunting with a Bushnell 3-9X40 Elite 3200 mounted in the traditional rearward position and equipped with a Galco Safari Ching Sling that does not require a center swivel stud.

SAVAGE MODEL 11 SCOUT

The Savage Arms Model 11 Scout has an 18-inch barrel with a muzzle brake that extends approximately 2.5 inches from the muzzle.

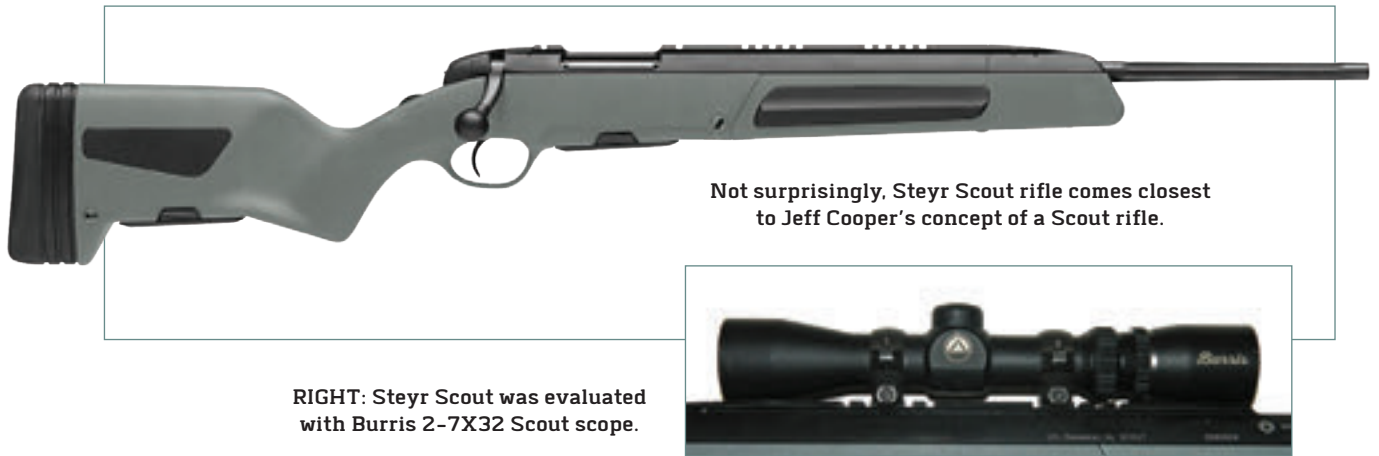
With an overall length of 40.5 inches and weighing 7.8 pounds, the Savage Scout is both the longest and heaviest of the commercially available Scout rifles.



Savage Scout not only has spacers in the stock to adjust LOP, but also an adjustable cheek piece and three swivel studs to accommodate a Ching Sling.

RIGHT: Weaver K4 4X28 Scout scope was used with Savage Scout.





Not surprisingly, Steyr Scout rifle comes closest to Jeff Cooper's concept of a Scout rifle.

RIGHT: Steyr Scout was evaluated with Burris 2-7X32 Scout scope.

A 6¾-inch Picatinny rail is mounted to the receiver and barrel for an intermediate eye relief scope. Iron sights consist of an adjustable rear ghost ring and a front blade protected by wings.

Savage calls the color of the synthetic stock "Natural" but it's very close to Flat Dark Earth. The pistol grip and forearm are checkered.

The stock has three spacers to adjust the LOP. Unique to the Savage is an adjustable cheek piece, making it the most user-adjustable stock of the four rifles. The stock also has a center sling swivel stud, so it is only one of two that can use a true Ching Sling out of the box.

The Model 11 Scout uses a three-position safety and the highly acclaimed adjustable AccuTrigger.

The bolt handle goes against tradition, as it is neither round nor smooth but somewhat elongated, with checkering around its circumference. It measures .837 inch at its widest point.

A proprietary ten-round magazine is used. Made of steel, the bottom two-thirds is covered with a tough polymer. It is double stacked inside the body, switching to single feed at the top like most pistol magazines, so that rounds feed straight into the chamber. The magazine release is a lever recessed into the stock just forward of the magazine.

The Savage Model 11 Scout was tested with a Weaver K4 4X28 Scout scope.

STEYR SCOUT

Finally we come to the granddaddy of all commercial Scout rifles—the Steyr Scout. While the other rifles featured here are basically variants from the manufacturers' lines of rifles, thanks to a decade-long collaboration with Jeff Cooper, the Steyr is a Scout purpose-built from the ground up.

The Steyr Scout has a fluted, cold-hammer-forged barrel measuring 19 inches. Overall length is 38.6 inches with an out-of-the-box weight of just 6.6 pounds.

The Steyr's stock is the only one of the four rifles that does not have checkering on the pistol grip and forearm, though it does feature texturing over the entire stock. Five press-and-twist sling-swivel attachment points allow the addition of a Ching Sling on either side of the rifle.

But we're not done with the stock yet.

Integrated into the stock is a bipod that is almost invisible

until deployed. The rear of the stock houses a second five-round backup magazine. Two spacers allow the user to adjust the LOP.

The Steyr Scout was designed to accept a low-powered, forward-mounted scope for accurate, both-eyes-open shooting. Backup "ghost-ring" iron sights, which fold down into the rail, can be deployed should the optics fail. The rifle can also be fitted with a standard scope if so desired. The test rifle was fitted with a Burris 2-7X32 Scout Scope.

The rifle comes with two five-round magazines. Double stacked with staggered feed, the mags are only two inches high, so they fit flush with the stock.

The magazines can be inserted in two positions. Inserting the rifle into the first catch acts as a magazine cutoff, so the rifle can be fed by inserting a single cartridge in the chamber. Slight pressure fully seats the magazine, allowing rounds to



Muzzle devices, or lack thereof. Top to bottom: Mossberg, Ruger, Savage, and Steyr.

feed from the magazine. The magazines are released from either the mag well or stock by depressing tabs on both sides of the mag.

A “high-capacity” conversion kit and “hi-capacity” magazines are also available to increase carry capacity to 20 rounds.

The Steyr Scout has a three-position safety, but is different from those described above. “Fire” mode is indicated by a red dot, and the first “safe” mode disables the firing mechanism while letting the bolt be cycled. The second “safe” position locks the bolt, at which point the bolt can be pushed down against the stock, locking the firing pin and firing mechanism out of firing position. Pressing the safety’s

release tab and rolling it forward return the bolt to either the “safe” or “fire” position.

The bolt handle is round, smooth and the largest of the four rifles, measuring .974 inch at its widest point.

The Steyr Scout is available in Black, Grey, Mud or Green.

MEETING THE CONCEPT

How closely do the four rifles match Col. Cooper’s concept?

The Mossberg, Ruger and Steyr all fell within the overall length and weight specifications, while the Savage just missed the weight limit by .1 pound, and was over the length by an inch.

As shipped, only the Steyr met the five-round magazine

SCOUTS AT A GLANCE

	MOSSBERG	RUGER	SAVAGE	STEYR
OPERATION	Bolt-action	Bolt-action	Bolt-action	Bolt-action
OVERALL LENGTH (inches)	37.5	38.5	40.5	38.6
BARREL LENGTH (inches)	16.25	16.10	18	19
TWIST RATE	1:10	1:10	1:10	1:10
MUZZLE DEVICE	Flash suppressor	Flash suppressor	Muzzle brake	None
WEIGHT, without optics (pounds)	6.75	7.1	7.8	6.6
CALIBER	.308 Winchester	.308 Winchester	.308 Winchester	.308 Winchester
MAGAZINE CAPACITY	Ten	Ten (five-round mag available)	Ten	Five (ten-round mag optional)
MAGAZINE TYPE	AR-10 type	AI type	Staggered, straight feed	Staggered feed
SIGHTS	Ghost ring rear & fiber optic front	Adjustable rear, protected blade front	Adjustable rear, protected blade front	Flip-up iron sights in rail
TRIGGER	Adjustable trigger (3-7 pounds)	Non-adjustable	AccuTrigger	Single-stage adjustable
STOCK	Synthetic	Laminated wood or synthetic	Synthetic	Synthetic
ACCESSORIES INCLUDED	Sling	None	None	Extra magazine, three sling swivels, owner’s manual
SUGGESTED RETAIL PRICE	\$738.00 (\$942.00 with Vortex scope)	\$1,139.00	\$818.00	\$1,499.00

SCOUT AMMUNITION PERFORMANCE (inches)

	Australian Outback 168-gr. Game King	Black Hills 175-gr. BTHP Match	Federal 168-gr. BTHP Match	Hornady 175-gr. BTHP Match	SIG Sauer 168-gr. Match
MOSSBERG	2.05	1.34	1.36	1.26	1.40
RUGER	1.63	1.02	0.95	0.59	1.32
SAVAGE	1.30	1.28	0.60	1.29	1.77
STEYR	0.59	1.12	1.12	0.91	0.34
Average of three five-shot strings fired from prone at 50 yards.					

recommendation.

The Savage and Steyr have a center sling attachment point for use with a Ching Sling.

While subjective, in handling the rifles I felt the Steyr had the best trigger, which contributes to accuracy.

The Savage's bolt was the fastest to operate, but occasionally had a failure to completely eject, leaving the fired case lying in the receiver. The Savage was the easiest to load a single round into the chamber in the event the magazine becomes lost.

Speaking of magazines, a good friend recently bought two Mossberg MVP Scouts because they use the same magazines as his AR .308 rifles, eliminating the need to buy additional mags. Something to consider...

I bought my Ruger Gunsite Scout shortly after it was introduced and have no regrets. The rifle has proven both reliable and accurate. My daughter has taken a good-sized mule deer, and my grandson filled his elk tag with it.

How important are back-up iron sights? Col. Cooper himself opined that they were desirable but not mandatory. Personally I don't worry about them much because the irons cannot be seen through the scope, and it is unlikely you will have the tools with you to remove a properly torqued scope mount unless quick-detach mounts are utilized. Otherwise, I think the idea of using them in an "emergency" is about as likely as seeing a unicorn dancing on a rainbow. Your mileage may vary.

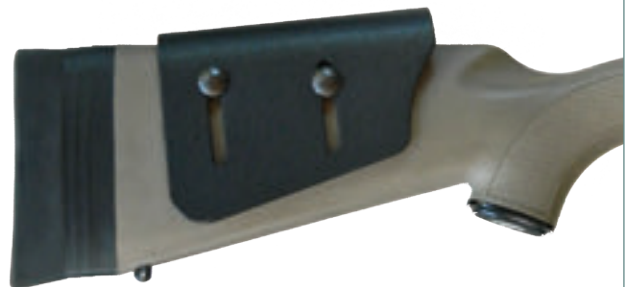
I mentioned earlier that I have a Bushnell 3-9X40 Elite 3200 mounted in the traditional rearward position. While Cooper advocated the use of a forward-mounted long eye relief telescopic sight with low magnification, it has been my experience that the smaller objective lenses on Scout scopes don't transmit light well. This becomes important in failing light, the time that critters—both four and two legged—begin moving about.

» Continued on page 89



Left to right: Mossberg, Ruger, Savage, and Steyr Scout rifle magazines. Only the Steyr has the five-round magazine limit as established by Jeff Cooper.

Top to bottom: Mossberg, Ruger, Savage, and Steyr. All but the Mossberg have spacers in the stock to adjust LOP.





MALFUNCTION *reduction*

Stay in the Fight! Part 2

By Patrick A. Rogers

IN the January issue, we looked at Type 1, Type 2, and Type 3 malfunctions. This month we'll examine some less common—but more perplexing—malfunctions. As stated before, this is not “the” way—it is “a” way. But understand this. If you use or train to use the weapon as a weapon and not a hobby item, you need to be able to clear malfunctions efficiently.

Malfunction clearance drills are used to get a gun up and running and get you back in the fight. If your job title, MOS, or vocation does not include fighting, feel free to ignore everything here. Bring the broken gun home, use tools, seek the counsel of posters on the errornet, and let polls dictate your course of action.

STUCK CASE/STUCK CARTRIDGE

While both of these malfunctions wind up inside the chamber, they are completely different in cause and reduction. Understand that a *case* is expended brass. A *cartridge* is a live round.

Stuck Case

A fired case that remains in the chamber is a failure to extract. Its cause may be a worn extractor, worn extractor spring, radically worn chamber/throat, or overpressure round.

Execute Immediate Action:

1. Finger straight.
2. Push/pull on the magazine.
3. Rack and roll.
4. Get your head back in the fight.

If this doesn't clear it, execute Remedial Action (see Part 1, January 2017 S.W.A.T.). If Remedial Action does not work, the gun is out of action until you can get tools to rectify the situation. For a stuck case, you need a rigid cleaning rod.

Elevate the muzzle.

Hold the bolt to the *rear*. Insert the cleaning rod and drop it in.

The weight of the rod will take the case out, and the case and rod will contact the bolt face. If you are not holding the bolt to the rear, the impact will cause the bolt catch to release and drive the bolt forward—and the case will go back into the chamber.

Stuck Cartridge

A stuck cartridge is a different animal. In this instance, a cartridge (remember, a *live* round) is stuck in the chamber. The extractor has control of the case rim, but the bolt cannot be

At the end of
the day, nothing
made by man
is perfect.
Weapons—any
weapon—can fail,
and generally will
do so at the worst
possible time.



Mortar 1: Close the stock. This doesn't enhance the efficiency of the drill, but prevents the potential for damaging the stock.

Mortar 2: Grasp the charging handle (CH) with your strong-side hand. Make sure you unlock the CH latch.

Mortar 3: Keep the barrel vertical or near vertical, and while exerting rearward pressure on the CH, slam the buttstock vigorously on the deck. The bolt will extract the offending case from the chamber and you can drive on.



pulled rearward in the conventional manner. The usual reason for this is a defect in the cartridge case; usually a crimp lengthwise down the neck. That crimp increases the dimension of the case, which means it will not fit into the chamber without force. Conversely, it won't easily extract either.

We have been told that a dirty chamber will cause this, but that has not been our experience. I have several carbines that have gone over 8,000 rounds (one to 9,175 rounds) without ever seeing a chamber brush, and I have not had a single problem with them. Having said that, my guns are run wet, and extractors, springs, and inserts are changed at regular intervals.

As always, when you press the trigger and get a click or mush, execute Immediate Action. In this case, it will be a mush, as the bolt is not in battery.

Finger straight.

Push/pull on the magazine
Rack and roll.

This will be as far as you can go—the charging handle will not move. Remedial Action here will necessarily be different. The solution is called “Mortar.”

Take the gun off of your body.

Close the stock (if you have a collapsible stock). This is not an absolute—it is done to prevent damage to the stock. While the gun will fire just fine with the toe of the buttstock cracked off, neither will it make life any easier for you.

Elevate the muzzle so the barrel is vertical.

With your strong hand, unlatch the charging handle and exert pressure on it rearwards.

With your support-side hand, slam the rifle down sharply. The cartridge should come out.

A while ago, a student had a stuck cartridge early on the first day of training. This was before the malfunction class,

so I decided to talk him through it. When it came to the part where he had to slam the buttstock on the deck, he became extremely agitated. He was horrified to think that a carbine should be treated this way.

Here’s a news flash: The M4/M16 is a fighting gun—not a Perazzi shotgun. It is meant to be used. It can even be abused, and is on a regular basis.

If your particular weapon/optic cannot stand something as benign as a Mortar Drill to unstick a cartridge from your chamber, you need to get a new gun/optic, or maybe just a major attitude adjustment. I fear a lot of people have unrealistic expectations as well as a warped sense of reality. While we all know that most who own guns rarely (if ever) shoot them, a lot who actually do press the trigger have a skewed outlook on what goes on. This is best exemplified by error-net forums where once a month someone complains that the brass deflector is getting marked by fired cases. Twenty



LEFT: Nothing should surprise you. Here is a Type 2 (Stovepipe) on top of a Type 3 (Double Feed).

While it looks complicated, your Standard Operating Procedure is Immediate Action, which will clear the Type 2, and Remedial Action, which will clear the Type 3 and get you back in the fight.

RIGHT: A stuck case (remember, a fired case) that has a defect may not extract normally. A rigid cleaning rod must be used to knock the case out. Here the rod is in the case, and the base of the case is touching the bolt face. You must hold onto the charging handle to keep the bolt open. Otherwise, you will once more have a stuck case....



PREVENTING MALFUNCTIONS BEATS CLEARING THEM

others will respond with their “fixes,” ranging from covering the brass deflector with electrician’s tape to Velcro, etc. Sigh....

It’s not just those who live sheltered lives who are clued out. At a recent Trident Concepts class, a Marine suffered a stuck case. Another Weapons Training Bn Marine stepped off the line, retrieved a large rubber mallet, and proceeded to wale away at the charging handle at the cyclic rate. When I asked him if he carried the mallet in combat, he told me, “Yes, we have one in every vehicle.” When I showed him the Mortar Drill, he stated he had never seen it before and it was not authorized.

The bottom line is this. We can solve this malfunction with remedial action—executed by the shooter—in less than a minute. Or you can remove yourself from the fight, hunt down a rubber mallet carrier, who will find the time to rectify your problem, assuming you have time in the middle of a gunfight to do something like this.

Square-range TTPs may have little relevance on the two-way range.

TYPE ATE MALFUNCTION

One other type of malfunction that occurs less often—but is not uncommon—is the Type Ate, as in when you get ate up (we use a more indelicate term in class). A Type Ate occurs when the extractor loses control of the case and the new round coming off the magazine bumps it up so the base of the case winds up on top of the bolt, between the bolt and the charging handle.

Execute Immediate Action. If this fails (it will), attempt Remedial Action. This will not work, and will require that you look at the gun to diagnose the issue. Your tactical situation will dictate if and when this can be done.

We need to understand the mechanics of this situation before we jump in and start using physical tools. The base of the case is wedged between the charging handle and the bolt. Pulling back on the charging handle will not solve anything, and Mortaring the gun can make it even worse. Pulling the charging handle to the rear will not accomplish anything but aggravation.

In order to clear this efficiently, you need to relieve the pressure on the case. Do that by moving the bolt, and bolt *only*, to the rear. This can be accomplished in two ways. If you have fingers of steel (and that are long enough to reach), insert the strongest finger into the mag well and press back on the bolt face.

At the same time, place your support hand on the charging handle and exert slight pressure to the rear. It is important that the charging handle moves rearward only with the

Anytime you fire a weapon, you cause wear. Eventually that wear causes parts failure and contributes to mission failure. Good preventive maintenance helps you avoid issues down the line, but it starts with buying a quality gun. The wants and needs of a competitive shooter are different from a plinker, and both of those are different from those who FISH (fight in someone else’s house).

Guns that are built to a standard make a good start. Hobby guns, on the other hand, do not have to meet a standard and cut corners to save money, and not to make the guns better.

Dean Caputo teaches a Two-Day Diagnostic Course that covers more information than one could normally absorb, but he uses the acronym MEAL to define those areas that need attention.

M: Magazines

E: Extractor assembly

A: Ammunition

L: Lubrication

If you pay attention to using quality in the above, you have gone a long way to keeping things on track.

Back to the first paragraph. Parts wear with use, and the harsher your firing schedule, the faster the wear. Consider what follows to be guidelines—your requirements may be different than mine.

Bolt Carrier Group

The bolt may start to exhibit cracks around the locking lugs much earlier than previously thought. Naval Surface Warfare Center, Crane, states in an Engineering Bulletin to consider swapping the bolt out at 6,000 rounds, and definitely by 10,000 rounds.

Understand that these are bolts that meet the TDP (technical data package). I have seen aftermarket bolts crack at the cam pin hole in as few as 500 rounds.

I change my bolts no later than 10,000 rounds. I keep them well lubricated in use, and use only MPI bolts. I have never broken one.

Extractor/Extractor Spring

I change the extractor/spring/insert at 5,000 rounds. However, we see aftermarket guns with extractors that are bad out of the box, or fail at a very low round count. Some carbines come with a four-coil extractor spring and a blue insert, which is the spec for the M16 rifle. The carbine requires a five-coil extractor spring and black insert.

The Crane Engineering Bulletin issues a Reliability Parts Set #2 that includes the proper carbine five-coil extractor spring, black insert and “O” ring (some early sets had a flat “D” ring) as well as bolt rings. These parts are available from Bravo Company USA as well as other vendors.

Bolt Rings

These may wear in as few as 1,200 rounds. I replace mine at 3,000 rounds unless I have problems earlier. Crane recommends replacement every time you clean your carbine. For me that is 3,000 rounds. Your mileage may vary.

Action Spring

This is one of the more commonly overlooked items on the gun. The service life of the action spring is unknown to me, but we see springs on service guns wearing at 7,000 to 10,000 rounds. Action springs on aftermarket guns generally have a shorter life.

We measure the action spring when we clean the gun. According to TM 9-1005-319-23&P, the length of the action spring for the M16A2 Rifle is 11¾ inches minimum to 13½ inches maximum. For the M4 Carbine, the length of the action spring is 10 1/16 inches minimum to 11¼ inches maximum.



If your fingers are too short to clear a Type Ate Malfunction, use a *fixed-blade* knife with the spine (the flat part) toward you. Insert the knife into the ejection port and press rearward while simultaneously pushing forward on the charging handle.

bolt. When you feel the system unlock, vigorously push the charging handle forward and the case will fall out. Depending on the barrel orientation, it may fall out the mag well or into the chamber.

For those who have weak and stubby digits (like yours truly), an alternative method is to use a fixed-blade knife in lieu of the finger. Please note that I said (and mean) fixed blade, *not* a folder. A folding knife may fold on you and traumatically amputate your digits, causing pain, blood loss, a feeling of hopelessness, and a general loss of morale. Save yourself the grief and use the right tool for the job. I carry a Strider DB on my holster shroud just for this reason, and I use it pretty regularly at class.

Place your fixed-blade knife's spine (the non-sharpened part) toward you, into the ejection port. Place the knife against the bolt face and press the bolt backward while exerting slight pressure on the charging handle rearward. When you feel the system unlock, push the charging handle forward and voila, success.

This beats the snot out of using knives to tear apart the case, pliers and hammers to beat it into submission, and the like.

Other problems do crop up, but we have covered the most common. Good initial and constant sustainment training will keep you sharp and more likely able to handle the malfunction efficiently and hence more likely to prevail in a fight.

We see a lot of weapons issues at class. Some of them are worn guns, bad ammunition, and worse magazines. Some



Keep several points in mind when clearing a Type Ate Malfunction. Use a fixed-blade knife with the flat side toward you. Press back on the bolt while pushing forward on the charging handle.

of them are due to manufacturers of hobby guns cutting corners, and a lot of them are shooters who are clueless about lubrication and maintenance.

Whatever the cause, clearing the stoppage is in your hands.

At the end of the day, nothing made by man is perfect. Weapons—any weapon—can fail, and generally will do so at the worst possible time.

You can clear the malfunction and get back in the fight. Or you can look at it, befuddled, and die in place. Two different courses of action with two completely different outcomes. ☹

[This article first appeared in the January 2009 issue of S.W.A.T.]

SOURCES

BRAVO COMPANY USA, INC.
(Bolt reliability kits, extractors, and more)
(877) 272-8626
www.bravocompanyusa.com

TACTICAL SPRINGS LLC
(Action and extractor springs)
(866) 515-2715
www.tacticalsprings.com

SCOUT RIFLES

+ Continued from page 83

Although three of the rifles come equipped with a muzzle device, this is also something I don't feel the need for on a Scout rifle. My Ruger usually wears a thread cap.

Some say threaded muzzles offer the ability to add a suppressor. Absolutely correct, but I think it negates the Scout rifle concept of a light, handy rifle.

RANGE ASSESSMENT

Each rifle was fired for an accuracy baseline with five commercial loads. Three five-round strings were fired from each load from 50 yards in prone and averaged for group size. Total group sizes from all five loads were then tallied for a combined average. The results, from best to worst, are as follows.

- Steyr Scout: 1.02 inches
- Ruger Gunsite Scout: 1.37 inches
- Savage Model 11 Scout: 1.56 inches
- Mossberg MVP Scout: 1.85 inches

Not precision rifle results, but the Scout was never intended to be a precision rifle, and all four were within the

two MOA criteria for a Scout rifle.

Which rifle is best? That depends on what you plan to use it for, your personal preferences in a rifle, and how much you're willing to spend.

The rifle that probably comes closest to the good Colonel's concept is the Steyr, and it was the most accurate. It is also the most expensive.

Right behind the Steyr is the Ruger. Developed in concert with Gunsite, it meets all the Scout criteria.

For folks on a budget, the Mossberg is the least expensive of the commercial Scout rifles, with the Savage costing just a bit more.

The Scout rifle is a firearm that can put meat on the table and be used for defense. In my opinion, it would also be a good choice for a patrol rifle, considering accuracy is usually more important than "firepower" in the form of magazine capacity. Based on your personal requirements, any of the four rifles evaluated here should serve you well for many years. ☉

SOURCES

O.F. MOSSBERG & SONS, INC.

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www.hornady.com

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www.sigammo.com

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www.vortex.com

TRAINING AND TACTICS

+ Continued from page 98

places the tip of the front sight above true center of the rear aperture orifice, with resultant high point of impact. High impact will also result from strong light gleaming on the top of a front sight, be it a front-and-rear sighted weapon or front sight only, such as a bead-sighted shotgun.

Why isn't this encountered more often at training schools? Because many training organizations work to rote by lesson plan, on the same firing range, at the same time of day, facing the same compass direction, irrespective of student rate of progress. This is a good idea on a baseball field, where the batter and pitcher always face each other in the same direction so the batter doesn't have sunlight smacking him in the eyeballs during day games. Where do you think the term "southpaw" originated?

Since Mister Doubleday catered for the Boys of Summer long before floodlit night games, it makes sense. But you don't often have a choice of which direction you're facing in a gunfight, unless you're ambushing troops at sunup while ensconced in a trench or flying a fighter plane into enemy aircraft with the sun at your back.

This author has personally observed ten-inch high hits at 30 yards from Arizona moonlight impacting the bottom of the rear aperture ring on M16 carbines, and high hits from sunlight bouncing off white snow, refracting inside the protective hood on an MP5 subgun and then re-refracted down onto the top of the front sight.

What do you do about this phenomenon? Check *all* your battle guns under *all* light conditions—and in *all* compass directions. There's a reason people have used sight black and/or spittle on their sights for hundreds of years.

Of course you could put all the fancy technological optics on all your guns—call me when they break or the batteries run down. Guns have been around for 700 years. Holographic sights have been on the market for 40. Figure it out.

Yes, every dark cloud has a silver lining. Unfortunately, so do most iron sights. If you want to wager your bottom dollar that it won't happen to you, you're not just gambling with money—you're betting your life. ☉

[This column first appeared in the February 2008 issue of S.W.A.T.]



All four manufacturers took a slightly different approach with the bolt handle.

Max Venom Dimachaerus

Max Venom Product Group makes some innovative products. The new Max Venom Dimachaerus is definitely one of the coolest and most innovative. Designed by Max Venom's Colin Desparis, the semi-custom/mid-tech folding knife offers a unique combination of form and function.

The Dimachaerus is named for a type of Roman gladiator, popular during the 2nd to 4th centuries AD, who fought with two swords. The name is the Latin-language borrowing of the Greek word meaning "bearing two knives."

Like its predecessor the Max Venom Direct Impact Karambit, the Dim-

achaerus was designed for edged and impact weapons practitioners seeking a single tool optimized for use both as an edged weapon and, in closed configuration, as an impact weapon. Although many tactical folders may be employed as impact weapons, most have not been designed as such and are less than optimal in that capacity.

The Dimachaerus has a 3.6-inch (4.58-inch tip to handle) single-edged spear-point blade. The blade is .125-inch thick and has a saber grind. The spear point provides a good balance between piercing and slicing ability, combining the sharp point of a dagger with the strength of a drop point, while maintaining some of the belly of

the latter for slicing. An extra-large index choil on the blade allows choking up for precise control in close-in work. The knife measures 10.15 inches overall and 5.5 inches closed.

The blade is hand-ground from Crucible 154CM stainless steel with a matte bead-blasted finish. A premium-grade high-carbon stainless steel alloy, 154CM is a high-molybdenum modification of 440C that offers improved wear resistance and better corrosion resistance. It has an extremely fine grain structure and is known for its toughness.

The handle is machined from lightweight high-strength 6061-T6 aerospace-grade aluminum alloy. It has a

Max Venom Dimachaerus is an innovative new folding knife with the ability to transform from a full-capability impact weapon into a full-capability edged weapon.

The blade may be deployed a number of ways using either the flipper or finger loop for easy one-handed deployment.



matte grey Cerakote® finish. Developed for the firearms industry, Cerakote is a state-of-the-art ceramic-based protective coating that provides a good-looking, durable, weather- and corrosion-proof finish that resists scratching, chipping, and chemical solvents.

One of the many cool features on the Dimachaerus is Max Venom's signature large glove-friendly Bottle Buster Finger Loop™ on the spine of the blade. Other than opening a bottle with your teeth (not recommended), there's no more impressive way to pop open a cold one. Definitely a conversation starter.

But the primary purpose of the finger loop is a retention feature when employing the Dimachaerus as an impact weapon and as a means of blade deployment. It also makes a nifty knuckle.

The blade may be deployed a number of ways using either the flipper or finger loop for easy one-handed deployment. An interesting and innovative technique unique to the Dimachaerus employs the finger loop to flip the knife open using the weight of the handle. It's performed from a striking grip with the index finger through the finger loop and allows for a rapid transition from impact weapon to edged weapon.

The finger loop may also be employed in a similar manner to a thumb hole or thumb stud/disk, with the bottle opener acting as a thumb stop. It can also be used to quickly deploy the blade by simply catching the outer edge of the finger loop on the back edge of a pocket as it's being drawn from the pocket in a tip-up position.

The Dimachaerus employs a button lock mechanism to lock the blade in the open position. A spring-loaded button engages a cutout in the tang when the knife is open. Although you don't need to depress the button to deploy the blade, a detent in the tang prevents the blade from opening accidentally.

The push button can be used as an alternative opening method by depressing the button and using inertial force to deploy the blade. The knife can be closed in a similar manner.

The Dimachaerus is equipped with an ambidextrous pocket clip that can be mounted in either a tip-up or tip-down configuration. The pocket clip is constructed of stainless steel with a black oxide finish for a low profile.



Dimachaerus features Max Venom's signature Bottle Buster Finger Loop.



Galco PMC Pocket Magazine Carrier is a great way to discretely carry the Dimachaerus.

For deeper concealment without sacrificing access, I have found the Galco PMC Pocket Magazine Carrier to be ideal. Although designed for front pocket carry of pistol magazines, it works equally well with folders. The model designed for 1911 magazines (PMC26B) accommodates the Dimachaerus perfectly in tip-down carry position. The PMC keeps the knife properly indexed in the pocket and conceals the outline. The hooked shape and rough-out steerhide construction keep the carrier in the pocket during the draw.

To sum it up, the Dimachaerus is a

well-built edged/impact weapon with a unique design that offers capabilities not found in any other folding knife. Like all Max Venom products, it's designed and made in the USA.

The Dimachaerus has an MSRP of \$310.00. It comes with a padded black nylon zippered storage case. ©

SOURCES

MAX VENOM PRODUCT GROUP

www.maxvenom.com

GALCO GUNLEATHER

(800) 874-2526

www.galcogunleather.com

Law Tactical Folding Stock Adapter



Law Tactical Gen 3M Folding Stock Adapter creates a hinge at the junction of an AR's action and receiver extension. Latest generation is a well-refined tool steel part that installs easily.

Photo: John Sudbrink

BELOW: Hinge lets shooter grip AR normally and cycle charging handle without interference. Visible nut is hinge tension adjustment.

For about three score years, shooters who wanted a folding stock were driven to one set of rifle platforms, while the free world settled on the AR and refined it to its current state. That the AR needed a receiver extension poking out the stern end to function, limiting its retraction in length, was accepted, although not always happily.

Enter Law Tactical.

The Law Tactical Gen 3M Folding Stock Adapter is one of those items that refuses to accept limitations and provides new utility to an accepted commodity. A few years ago, the firm offered a way to hinge the AR around the castle nut where the receiver extension ("buffer tube" in shooting vernacular) joins. The initial model

proved the concept, while extended use pointed out some areas for refinement. Now the Law Tactical crew is on Gen 3M and the design is well refined and ready for a close look.

The Law Tactical Adapter is a high-quality machined 4140 tool steel part with a matte gray Cerakote finish. Earlier generations were aluminum (Gen 1) and aluminum and steel (Gen 2). Installation was a kitchen table, couple of minutes affair that anyone who can read directions could make it through.

The hinge has adjustable tension, a unique feature that doesn't exist on most "native" sidefolders. The shooter can opt for firm resistance and a rock-solid lock-up in either position, or flick-it quickness that leaves a hint of play upon locking into firing position.



I opted for the middle: the extension resists gravity when held ejection port to the sky, but just barely, and allows a quick swipe to lock the stock firmly in place.

To unlock the hinge, the unit has a push-button release that is well protected and has enough resistance that accidental activation should be a remote possibility. In the travel position, a retractable keeper pops up to hold the bolt carrier into the action. In an emergency, the weapon could be fired as a single shot, with the most recent generation rated to handle repeated shots at a government customer's request.

If the shooter elects the emergency fire option, he must then fold the stock into place and rack the charging handle to eject the first casing and chamber the next round, so it gains a fraction of time up front at the expense of more time for follow-up shots. The unit comes with a synthetic "tail" that plugs into the rear of the bolt carrier to take up the space between buffer and bolt tail that is added by the additional length of the hinge.

Now that the unit is all steel, the 3M has less bulk and more refined curves and edges, alleviating the high points that early users found uncomfortable. The unit is now very well blended and does not interfere materially with a high grip on the pistol grip or a vigorous stroke of the charging handle with the left hand.

The bottom of the adapter incorporates a QD swivel socket for those who like to attach a single point or the rear of a two-point at that location. I prefer using a BCM end plate with its built-in socket to get the attachment point just a little farther aft, but the adapter's socket is not unduly in the way as located.

A precision-machined, coated part, the adapter is not inexpensive. A number of buddies have pointed out the cost and asked how much the unit helps. Like any accessory, the cost/benefit analysis is highly dependent on need. There are applications where the adapter truly solves a problem. A few examples:

- Motorcycle cops have told Law Tactical the unit lets them transport a short-barreled carbine in the saddlebags, secure and readily accessible. In many cases, the previous solution was to carry the long gun broken into upper and lower receivers, significantly less ready than with the hinge.
- The adapter can take a nine-inch or



Gen 3M Folding Stock Adapter turned this BCM .300 Blackout Pistol into a low-profile truck gun that can fit into even a small hydration daypack.

shorter barreled AR and allow it to fit within a standard daypack/book bag size case.

■ A 14.5- or 16-inch carbine with the adapter can fit into more discreet transport options while remaining ready. The approximately 25-inch overall length can fit into a variety of cases and repurposed bags/boxes and draw less notice than the traditional 34- to 36-inch carbine case.

As you go about your everyday routine, pay attention to what size bags, boxes and containers you notice. Most folks will find they tend to dismiss items in the 22-inch range because they are so common, unless one is incongruent with the setting. Items about 26 inches long tend to register with observers but quickly be dismissed if they "fit." Over that length, the item will get pinged on by a chunk of watchers as they subconsciously see something unusual and try to place its contents.

■ In a similar fashion, some precision 7.62mm semi-auto users find the adapter useful to more discreetly or conveniently transport those systems. This is particularly useful for snipers trying to move into an urban hide or overwatch, where the typical giant Pelican case screams what is going on to even the casual observer.

With my BCM .300 Blackout AR pistol and the 3M installed, I headed to the range to get some data on "how long does it take?" With the AR in both hands, as in carry or retrieval, and a magazine of 125-grain Black Hills seated on an empty chamber, it took me

two seconds to lock the extension into place, rack a round into the chamber, and hit an RSR 10x20-inch steel torso at 25 yards.

Doing the same from a zipped bag brought the time to 5.7 seconds if all went smoothly. Using 20-round magazines helped reduce the snag factor, as standard thirties plus an H-1 on top required a good bit of "hole" to wiggle the BCM out of.

Carrying a round in the chamber can reduce times by a half second or more, but I would be extremely cautious about doing so unless the bag/container had pretty positive control of the gun and prevented movement that would allow the safety to get wiped off.

The adapter weighs 8.7 ounces, so those with the typically overweight carbine would have to "weigh" the benefit versus the additional pull on gravity. The unit adds 1.3 inches to the length of pull, which I find helpful in general and on the AR pistol extension in particular. For those who don't need the extra length, simply run the stock one click in.

For those who have debated grabbing a side-folding AK or some other platform as a trunk/truck gun due to the AR's overall length issues, the Law Tactical adapter is the solution to a longstanding problem. ©

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Muzzle Device Adapter for AKs

Mounting Solutions Plus, a manufacturer and distributor of firearm products, introduces the MDA Muzzle Device Adapter for the AK platform.

The MDA Muzzle Device Adapter is designed to allow AK barrels to accept U.S.-made muzzle devices, such as flash hiders, compensators, and muzzle brakes. This includes metric threaded rifles, as well as some rifles with no muzzle threads at all.

The MDA Muzzle Device Adapter is made in compliance with industry standards for U.S.-made muzzle devices. Caliber-specific threads are used to prevent muzzle devices for smaller calibers from being mounted on larger caliber rifles.

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The new Olympus™ Resetting Target from the Birchwood Casey® World of Targets® line offers fast-paced gallery-type action for rimfire rifles and handguns.

The Olympus Resetting Target has three 3½-inch paddles to knock down and a fourth paddle that resets all three knock-down paddles when hit. There are no ropes to pull or mechanisms to reset. The target has an extremely rugged portable design that can be set up quickly without tools.

The Olympus Resetting Target is proudly made in the USA and has a suggested retail price of \$213.40.



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SIG Sauer® .308 Win Match Ammunition



SIG Sauer, Inc expands its Match Grade Elite Performance Ammunition line for rifles with the addition of a .308 Winchester load. Featuring a 168-grain Sierra MatchKing® bullet, the SIG Sauer .308 Win Open Tip Match (OTM) round has a muzzle velocity of 2,700 fps with a muzzle energy of 2,719 ft-lbs.

SIG Sauer engineers designed this round to excel in today's precision autoloading platforms as well as bolt-action rifles. The temperature-stable propellant in this cartridge delivers consistent muzzle velocity in all weather conditions, and premium-quality primers ensure minimum velocity variations.

All SIG Sauer rifle ammunition is precision loaded on state-of-the-art equipment that is 100% electromechanically monitored for geometric conformity and charge weight consistency. The shell case metallurgy is optimized in the SIG Match Grade OTM cartridge to yield consistent bullet retention round to round.

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Savage Arms AXIS II Rifles

The AXIS II package rifle is the perfect way for shooters to go from the store to the field, with everything you need at an affordable price. Savage Arms has added to the series with new stainless barrel and hardwood stock options. Caliber options

include the popular 6.5 Creedmoor. These options are currently shipping to dealers.

The AXIS II is built on the best-selling AXIS rifle platform with several significant performance-enhancing features. It sports the

legendary adjustable AccuTrigger system for optimized accuracy and allows customization to your individual preference and shooting style. The addition of the premium-quality mounted and boresighted Weaver KASPA 3-9x40mm riflescope allows you to confidently hunt in all conditions.



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1911 Smart Mat

The 1911 Smart Mat™ is everything you wish your gun-cleaning mat would be and more. For too long, the designs of gun-cleaning mats have lacked insight from gun owners, so we designed this mat to be different. The padded, oil-resistant mat contains illustrated instructions on how to disassemble your 1911, and it measures 19x16 inches. The attached parts keeper tray with a magnetic compartment holds small pins, springs, and barrels so you can focus on cleaning your gun and not worry about finding missing parts.

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HABU Advanced Engagement Charging Handle

Falcon 37 Inc. originally designed the HABU™ MOD 1 for military and law enforcement. It ensures robust charging while simultaneously integrating a cheek riser. The HABU's unique form factor is designed for the non-dominant hand to charge the rifle, much like a semiautomatic handgun, using your full grasp and hand. This design is ambidextrous, with no small latches to engage.

The HABU works with most commercially available AR-15 stocks. The cheek riser's placement may be adjusted front to back to accommodate the shooter's needs and comfort. The handle is machined from 7075 T6 aluminum to milspec standards, with the cheek riser molded from matte black polymer. Suggested retail price is \$119.84.

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Tales of Bravery and Fighting Back

Truck Stopped

A 73-year-old retiree was working on his truck in his detached garage in the Bevo community of south St. Louis when two young men entered the garage brandishing firearms. They told the man he was being robbed and that they wanted him to step back, as they were taking his truck. One pointed his gun at the victim's head.

That's when the victim produced his own legal handgun and opened fire on his would-be robbers, striking both assailants with fatal wounds. Police arriving on the scene secured both assailants' weapons, one of which upon further investigation turned out to have been reported stolen.

Neighbors were in shock at the violent robbery attempt, describing the old man as someone who enjoyed working on his truck in his garage and helping out around the neighborhood. A police spokesperson said the case appeared to be self-defense and it was unlikely the victim would face any charges.

SOURCE: KTVI, St. Louis, Missouri, 11/1/16

On Guard in a Parked Car

On an early October evening, two men were sitting in a car in the parking lot of a Tacoma, Washington burger joint when a stranger approached them. As he grew closer, he produced a firearm and announced he was robbing them.

But the armed suspect had made a crucial error in the victim selection process. One of his intended victims had a legally concealed firearm that he drew and opened fire with, striking his attacker, who was pronounced dead on arrival after being transported to the hospital by someone official reports describe only as "a friend."

SOURCE: KCPQ, Tacoma-Seattle, Washington, 10/8/16



"But it will rust in an evidence locker!"
"If it keeps me from rotting in a morgue, it was worth it."

The Wrong Pizza Hut

It was after midnight on a Sunday in October when three men forced entry into a Charlotte, North Carolina Pizza Hut restaurant that had closed for the night. Once inside, they started looking for robbery loot, perhaps the evening's deposits. Instead the trio encountered a Pizza Hut employee who was armed with his own legal firearm.

The restaurant worker drew his handgun and fired on the intruders, killing one and sending the other two scrambling for the exit. The deceased suspect was found on the scene, along with the firearm he'd been carrying. Police were still searching for the escaped suspects, stating it was unknown if the other two were also armed. Local media reported this was the latest in a rash of armed robberies in the area.

As of this writing, the Pizza Hut employee remained suspended.

SOURCE: *The Charlotte Observer*, Charlotte, North Carolina, 10/30/16

Trick or Treat

Just after lunch on Halloween in Turlock, California, police received a call from a homeowner reporting a shooting. Police arrived on scene and found an intruder with critical gunshot injuries. CPR was administered and the suspect was transported to a local hospital, where he was pronounced dead.

The suspect in the case had previous convictions for theft and multiple narcotics and other petty charges. While he was forcing entry into the home on N. Thor Street, hundreds of children and their parents were blocks away at a Halloween trick-or-treat event in downtown Turlock.

SOURCE: *Turlock Journal*, Turlock, California, 11/1/16 ©

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The Trigger Fairy

Everything is perfect.

It's one of those halcyon summer days: clear azure sky, gently wafting breeze, nobody on the firing range to interrupt and annoy you.

The first firing string feels perfect. Your favorite carry pistol functions flawlessly, the "go lever" feels like the Trigger Fairy paid a surprise nocturnal visit during your slumbers, and the front sight is standing out like Lady Godiva at a nunnery.

And then you go downrange to admire the fruits of your prowess, to find a dozen rounds in a nifty-sized group. And all printing at ten o'clock from your point of aim. Not too concerned, you send down the next magazine, figuring you must have been a little sloppy on the first firing run, what with all the neato weather and stuff.

A second trip downrange elicits the same result as the first—except now you have a total of 24 rounds grouped at ten o'clock instead of a dozen. Your emotional state still one more of perplexity than anger, you decide to send another dozen rounds downrange, this time concentrating with every ounce of your being.

Reloaded after firing, you take your third hike of the day, only to find a total of 34 rounds tightly grouped at ten o'clock, plus two down at seven o'clock where you'd carefully yanked on the trigger, trying for perfection. Praying that the beautiful Trigger Fairy's dainty gossamer wings are burning in hell, your perplexity has now metastasized into a boiling rage.

But that doesn't mean you're a lunatic. It merely means you're like every other irrational firearms-shooting idiot on the planet who figures he's never going to miss his mark. So, carefully remembering Einstein's definition of insanity, whereby only a halfwit repeats the same thing over and over expecting a different result, you decide to employ guile and cunning.

So you do it differently the fourth time around—you aim at four o'clock. This nets you 12 bullets in the center of the target, and you're content. Ein-

stein and the Trigger Fairy be damned. "I won," you smugly say to yourself.

That lasts for about half a second until you realize you're standing alone on a shooting range muttering gibberish to yourself—and rationalizing that you still have two live rounds left from the original box of 50, just in case you miss with the first suicide round.

Maybe it's time to rest for a while and then try again. But no, that would make too much sense. So you reach into the pickup and grab man's second-best friend and a handful of 12-gauge slugs. Now you're in full TFT (Trigger Fairy Termination) mode. And as for Einstein, what the hell did he know anyway?

But after a maniacal distribution of shotgun slugs, you look at the target through a haze of misery and self-pity and are amazed to see a ragged clover-leafed group in the center of the target. Somewhat mollified by the results, your demeanor calms down to the stage of supplanting the original thoughts of suicide with the possibility of studying up on atheism.

Obviously totally incapable of rational thought at this stage, you decide to grab your backup pistol and bust some caps. Sickeningly, these also go through the center of a fresh target. Okay, so now we're in competition with a dead scientist and a fairy. The only things missing from the scene are the spittle and drool running down your chin.

Since you've obviously lost both your sanity and most of your savings on ammunition expenditure, you may as well burn up more rounds out of your primary carry pistol. Let's face it, you have nothing else left to lose in life. So you whale away at the stupid target with a couple dozen rounds. And as you go through your ritual of covering down and assessing after firing, you experience both the best and the worst of emotions—because the hits are all in the center of the target.

At this stage of the game, you have three choices: (a) since you're now hitting where you're aiming, you can shoot yourself in the head, (b) you can drive into town and shoot everybody

you see, or (c) you can calm down and diagnose what caused the group to shift in the first place.

Electing to go for the third option, you try to figure it out. In retrospect it had to have been something minor. It's not rocket science and it really isn't enough to get your bowels in an uproar. After all, it's not the end of the world, or that the earth has stopped turning, or... Uh-oh. The light has finally dawned—literally and figuratively.

Once again, you take out the pistol and aim in. Perfect sight picture. Slowly you start rotating to your left, and a bright speck of sunlight reflects off the right edge of your front sight. There are your ten o'clock groups half-an-hour ago. And the sorry situation is that this is a lot more prolific than most people think—for one reason, and one reason only. Unless you're visually impaired, vision is more of a brain function than an eye function, as Dr. Meir Schneider puts it.

Ergo, in the above case, the camera (eye) is seeing a square-post sight, but the brain receives a false message, "seeing" a lop-sided front sight. And yes, this will happen, dependant on the location of the sun (or any other light source), with iron sights, whether a bead, aperture, buckhorn sights, etc. The net result is the same as when one encounters "shadow effect" using a glass telescopic sight—except that the shadow effect on a scope is immediately apparent to the shooter's eye and brain.

But with iron sights, the back-and-forth eye-to-brain-to-eye misinformation leads to the shooter misaligning the sights with his intended mark, either vertically or horizontally. It can also cause misalignment of correct front and rear sight relationship. An example of the latter occurs when incoming sunlight hits the base of a rear aperture sight on a rifle, such as an FN FAL, M4 carbine, or Heckler & Koch diopter ring.

While the eye sees a circle when aimed in, the brain sees a train-tunnel-shaped orifice. The shooter then

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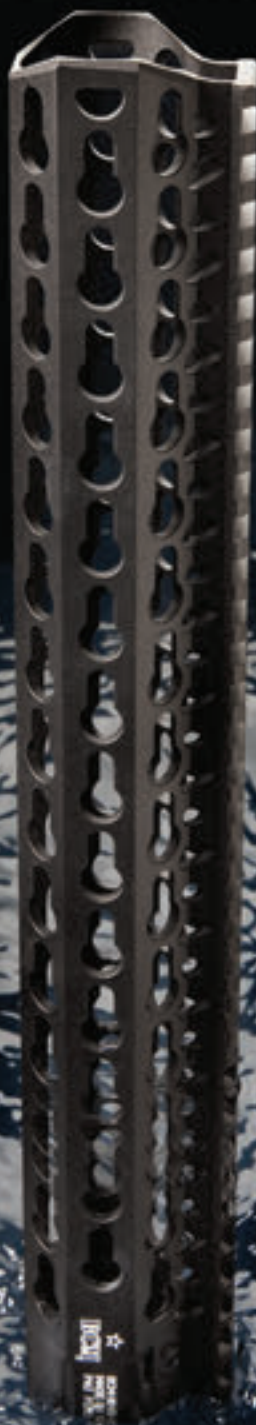
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