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BY DENNY HANSEN

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DENNY HANSEN

The New Super Vel Ammo

For the last couple of generations, most shooters have taken jacketed hollow point (JHP) bullets for granted. This was not always the case.

In 1978, the sheriff's office I worked for transitioned to the 1911 pistol. This was groundbreaking at the time and well before most agencies went to semi-autos. Before that, of course, we carried revolvers. On the approved list were revolvers made by Colt, Ruger, and Smith & Wesson with a four-inch barrel. I carried a Colt Python.

The wheelguns could be chambered for .357 Magnum, but the only load issued was the 158-grain round-nose lead .38 Special—the load that gave the .38 such a poor reputation as a fight stopper.

Only .38 Special loads could be carried on the theory that if one deputy ran out of ammo, he could use ammo carried by another. I was of the belief that if someone could not hit his target with 18 rounds—the basic load-out at the time—I wasn't about to share any of my ammo.

A decade or so previously, a company named Super Vel (vel for velocity), started by Lee Jurras, began making a "revolutionary" 110-grain jacketed hollow point fired at high velocity. We were allowed to carry this new offering, but deputies had to buy them out of pocket.

In 1974, I saved up my \$5/month uniform allowance in order to buy a couple of boxes.

The next year, Super Vel went out of business. And while I have fired many quality JHP loads over the years, I've always had a soft spot in my heart for those bright yellow boxes.

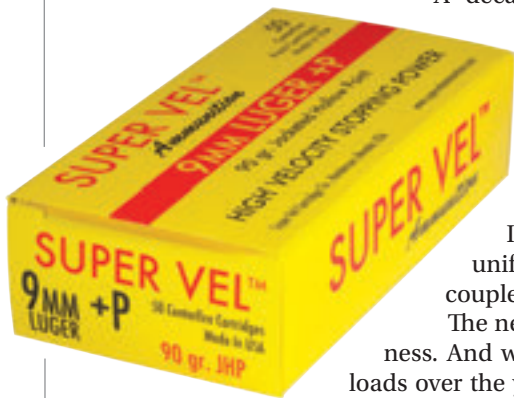
Cameron Hopkins, former editor-in-chief of *American Handgunner*, has brought back Super Vel with Lee Jurras' blessings. Loads initially consist of a 90-grain .38 Special "Super Snub" designed for snub-nose revolvers at over 1,300 feet-per-second (fps), a 90-grain +P 9mm from a 3.5-inch barrel at 1,473 fps, a 115-grain +P leaving a full-size pistol at 1,350 fps, and a 185-grain .45 ACP +P at over 1,100 fps. All in the same bright yellow boxes as the original!

I fired the Super Snub load out of several snubbys at Gunsite in December 2016. Remembering the past, I felt a bit guilty firing them into a dirt berm, but was impressed with the load.

We look forward to using the new Super Vel loads in upcoming evaluations. The company has other new products coming down the pike as well, so stay tuned for some exciting developments.

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

Denny Hansen



SWAT

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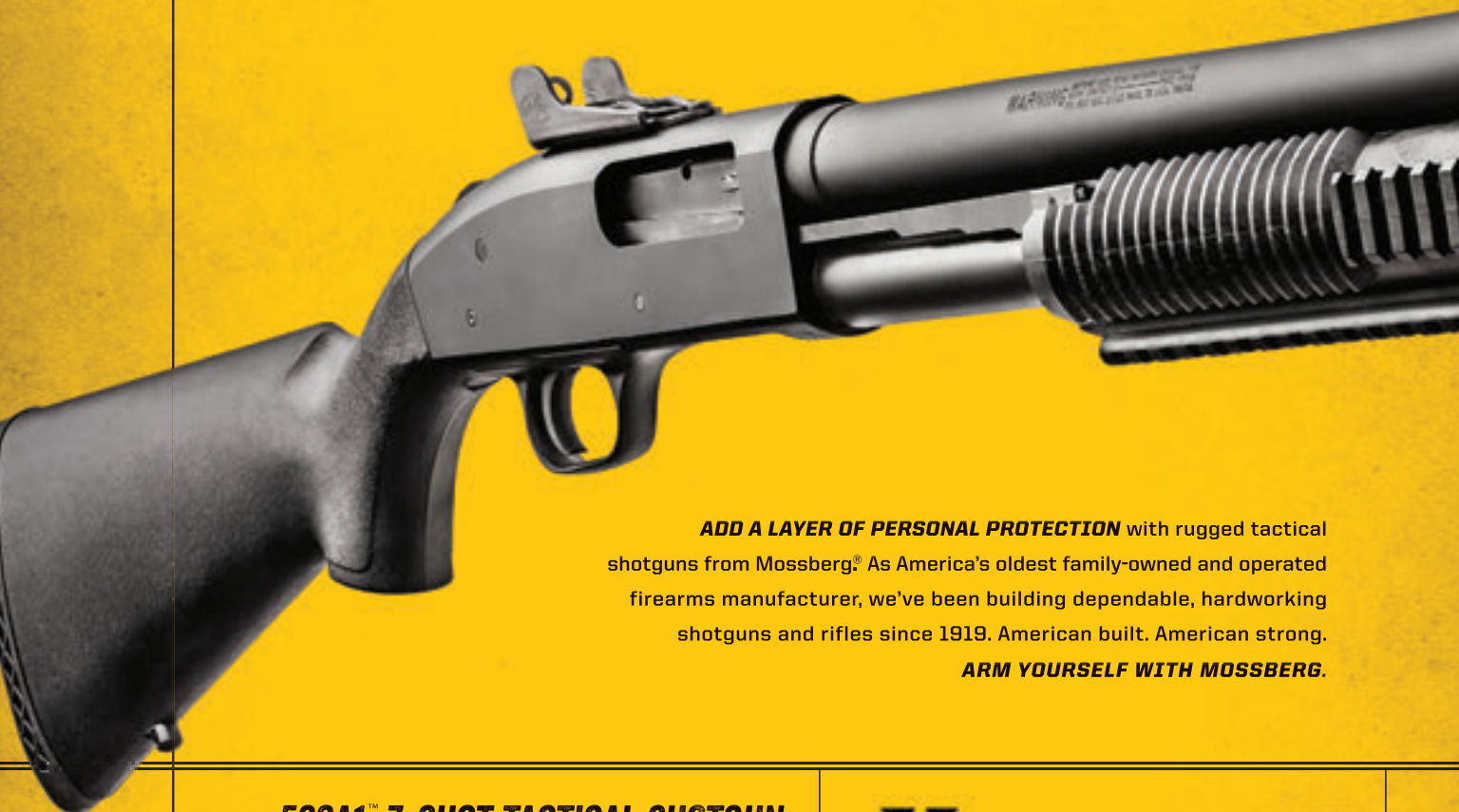
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DRONE DO'S AND DON'TS

I found the recent article about drones and robots (*REAL-LIFE ROBOCOPS: Drones and Robots Provide Edge in Threat Environs*, April 2017 S.W.A.T.) very interesting, but have concerns about their use in law enforcement.

First, I do think that searching for a suspect in a crime or a lost person is a legitimate use of drones. However, if a drone is flying over an area and finds contraband of any type, I doubt the evidence could be used in court, as it would be a violation of the Fourth Amendment unless a warrant was obtained *before* the contraband was found.

C. Hendy, Illinois

Thanks for the feedback on the article.

You raise a good question. In the past, courts have ruled that evidence spotted by a police helicopter falls under the "in plain sight" exemption for obtaining a warrant. Drones could feasibly fall into this same category.



The article about drones triggered one of my peeves. If a drone with a video camera is hovering over my backyard, this is a violation of my privacy and the same as trespassing. I will not tolerate such behavior in my city. I'm grabbing my shotgun and shooting the damn thing down.

R. Ray, Tennessee

While we generally agree with your sentiment, you may want to reconsider shooting at a drone.

First, the trespasser argument is spe-

cial, because you cannot shoot a person who is only trespassing and does not constitute a direct threat to you or a third party.

Second, shooting in the air is against the law in almost all municipalities.

Third, let's make a hypothetical situation that your shot connects, and when the drone falls to the ground, it seriously injures someone. You may find yourself in court in criminal and civil proceedings.

Finally, the FAA considers a drone an aircraft. It's a violation of federal law to shoot at an aircraft and can result in heavy fines and/or imprisonment.

Some courts have found people who have shot down a drone innocent, but in other cases, the shooters were found guilty. It is better to err on the side that keeps you out of jail.

DANGER IN THE BACK SEAT

First I'd like to express my pleasure that S.W.A.T. does not take a politically

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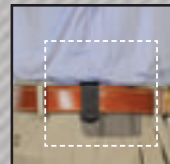
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correct view on the many varied subjects you cover. With that said, I think Brent Wheat's column about danger to women (*STREET SMARTS: Danger in the Back Seat*, April 2017 S.W.A.T.) went too far in the opposite direction. Frankly, I was seeing red as he all but said women are asking to be assaulted by having a few drinks.

He also stated that women having the right to flirt and party without being assaulted was as likely as him having more hair and being 80 pounds lighter.

I wait with bated breath for his counsel to women who are victims of domestic abuse. Maybe tell the little woman that boys will be boys and to just be quiet and take what their spouse hands out?

L. Barerra, California

Thank you for contacting me and expressing your opinion. But by "seeing red," I think you may have missed a few critical points in the column—most notably where Brent emphatically states he does not believe women "deserve what they get." The unfortunate

fact is that all too often, some lower form of life posing as a human male is waiting to prey on a woman who's not functioning at 100% physically or mentally due to alcohol consumption.

Sexual assaults can be difficult to prosecute in court and often come down to "he said, she said." The whole point of the column was to give advice to women on how to avoid bad situations in the first place.

Denny Hansen

SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE

Home run with your April issue! From the new FBI Glock, to the .41 Magnum revolvers and budget AR-15s, to the high-tech drone article and your sweepstakes, the issue truly has something for everyone. I plan on subscribing to your excellent publication soon.

Keep up the good work. It's truly appreciated.

D. Grasskey, Ohio

Thank you for the kind words. Never satisfied, we endeavor to make each issue better than the last one.

NUMBER OF ROUNDS IN AR MAGAZINE

I'm writing in hopes you can settle a dispute I have with one of my shooting buddies. He says he was taught that only 28 rounds should be loaded into a 30-round AR-15 magazine, but he does not remember the reason why.

I retort that, since the magazines were made to hold 30 rounds, 30 rounds should be loaded.

Who is correct?

Name withheld by request

Actually you are both right, though it might depend on which magazines are being used. With the bolt closed and 30 rounds loaded, there may be no "give" to the cartridges/followers and the magazine may not lock easily in place, thus the "rule" to download them to 28. This is especially true with older GI mags.

Most modern designs, such as the Magpul PMAG, TangoDown ARC, and Lancer L5 Advanced Warfighter magazines, are generally good to go with 30 rounds loaded. The Daniel Defense DD magazine is made to hold 32 rounds.

Denny Hansen ☺

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Flying Circle Brazos Concealed Carry Backpack

I'VE been writing for *S.W.A.T. Magazine* for almost 16 years. Over that time, I've had the honor of meeting some great men and women in the industry and making some friendships that will last forever. I've also been able to use some great gear, which I've written about in the column.

I learned quickly as a young man the need for a quality pack. I was 19 years old and riding bulls in Payson, Arizona. The town was closed off for the rodeo dance, so I was forced to park half a mile away and walk. Less than a block away from the truck, my cheap gear bag ripped out and my gear went everywhere.

A cowboy's gear bag is worse than an old lady's purse. I was lucky enough to win third place on the ride, so I put most of the winnings into a quality bag and never had that problem again.

Long-time readers know I have a soft spot for quality packs. A new pack I have been evaluating from Flying Circle Gear is one of the better ones I have used in a while. The name of the



Rear of Flying Circle Brazos Concealed Carry Backpack has four compartments, each with slip-proof zipper pulls.

pack is the Brazos Concealed Carry Backpack. It has more than 20 pockets, and I will describe some of the most noticeable/usable ones.

The Brazos Concealed Carry Backpack measures 16.5 inches wide x 19 high x 12 deep. It is constructed of durable 900-denier polyester water-resistant fabric.

The shoulder straps are padded, fully adjustable, and have quick-detach buckles at the bottom. The sternum strap has a quick-release buckle as well. MOLLE webbing at the top of the shoulder straps is for additional gear. The left strap has a pocket large enough for a cell phone, small GPS, or compass. The pack also has two compression straps with quick-detach buckles.

The waist belt is about four inches wide, with six rows of MOLLE webbing. On each side, a zippered pocket about three inches long and three inches deep could hold a small billfold or miscellaneous items like lip balm. A large quick-release buckle attaches in the front. The belt is also fully removable if desired. The back of the pack,

the side that is against the user, is covered in a mesh-like netting to allow it to breathe and keep cooler. The back is also fully padded for comfort.

On the outside of the pack are two pockets. The top pocket can hold items about six inches long and two inches wide. Inside this pocket is a plastic sleeve for an ID and a plastic clip for keys.

The bottom front pocket is larger, with four rows of MOLLE webbing. The top portion is covered in Velcro for a nametape and patches. The zippers (in fact, all the main zippers on the pack) have non-slip pull cords. It is big enough for a good-size first aid kit or a couple of MREs. It also has a smaller zippered pocket inside.

The backpack has two middle main compartments. The closest to the front zips completely open on all three sides to lay the pack open. One side has nylon mesh so you can see all your loose items. The other side has three rows of MOLLE webbing. On the same side is a large nylon pocket that takes up over half the inside. It is sealed with hook-



Each side of pack has built-in zippered pouches with MOLLE webbing to attach even more gear.



Small pouch on left shoulder strap is well placed for a mobile phone, small GPS, compass, etc.

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and-loop fasteners to keep items from getting dirty.

The other pocket of the main pack also zips down all three sides. The side closest to the front has three zippered pockets about 7.5 inches long that are between 8.5 and 6 inches deep. A 4x3-inch zippered pocket and one that closes with Velcro complete this side. On the side opposite this is a large nylon pocket secured with Velcro.

Having two main compartments that zip down makes the pack efficient for carrying large items.



Removable waist belt has a zippered pouch on each side.

On each side of the pack are two small gear pockets (four total) with MOLLE webbing. These pockets are ideal for items you may want to access immediately without opening and digging through the pack. The pack has two grab handles: one on the top and one on the side.

The very last compartment on the back is the hidden "pass through" pocket. It has zippers on both sides, making it a convenient concealed carry compartment. There are no straps or holster, so it does not limit the size of pistol you choose to carry. Also if you use this pack when traveling, you can zip down both sides and slip it over the handle of your rolling suitcase.

Overall I am quite taken with the Flying Circle Brazos Concealed Carry Backpack and look forward to putting it to hard use. It would be ideal for search and rescue, as a law enforcement "jump bag," or for prepared citizens. It would also make a great bug-out bag to keep by the bedside or in a vehicle. Suggested retail price is \$134.95. ☺

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Firearms Gear for Women

This column is about ladies, but it is addressed to the guys. Here is our vital public service message of the month: Stop buying things for women.

Actually, you can continue purchasing chocolate, flowers, birthday cards, jewelry, fancy soap for the guest bathroom, and all the other stuff that women typically enjoy (and men pretty much hate), but we really need to stop buying them firearms and hunting accessories.

This advice is based upon the opinion of pretty much every woman I have encountered. Our topic falls squarely into the whole “Man/Woman, Mars/Venus” thing and came about as most do: after a major failure on my part.

I made the common man-mistake of buying my wife a gun purse to carry her Smith & Wesson Shield 9mm. It was a great purse, understated, styl-

ish, functional, and I spent a considerable amount of money on this quality leather handbag that seemed to fit her “look” perfectly.

And it *was* perfect ... except for the fact she hated it.

Purse Incident.” During our hour-long talk, she finally laid out an important tidbit that I apparently missed during my man training: “Purses are so personal to a woman that you should let her pick it out herself.”

Women have significantly different requirements for equipment versus men.

She didn’t tell me right away because she didn’t want to hurt my feelings. That she recognizes I actually harbor one or two feelings shows we are truly meant to be together. But I also learned that no matter how well you think you know the woman in your life, you can’t buy her shooting accessories.

This point was hammered home when I began to talk to Sweetie about what is now known as “The Great

“Fair enough,” I thought.

But the topic grew wings and soared off the chart after I shared our humorous minor misunderstanding with a couple of other women. I think we can acknowledge that guys are usually the ones who get so worked up that they end up flailing their arms, shouting in spit-flecked sentences and generally giving the appearance of a raving lunatic while trying to explain why the Indianapolis Colts need

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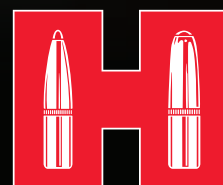
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a better offensive line.

But if you want to provoke the same reaction in a woman, talk to her about this subject of female shooting gear produced by a male-dominated industry. Just try to protect your feelings with armor plate beforehand, because it won't be pretty.

I honestly wasn't aware this was even a problem because I'm a guy. From my own experiences, I know that some shooting gear fits me and some doesn't, but I never imagined a world where many firearms and nearly everything else doesn't work well because of my body configuration.

Before we continue, in the unlikely event that anyone in the S.W.A.T. readership is part of the modern "butt-hurt brigade" that thinks men and women should be treated equally in every single aspect of life, I say "Pffft!" In most things, men and women are equal and should be treated as such, but there are profound biological differences that no amount of politically correct indoctrination can ignore.

In fact, these problems arose because men simply ignored the needs of women and have consciously or

unconsciously assumed that what is good for the goose is equally fine for the gander. Judging by my informal polling, this ain't the case, at least when it comes to gun gear.

Women have significantly different requirements for equipment versus men, due to some obvious and less-obvious differences in our bodies. Women are generally smaller of stature and have smaller hands and less upper body strength, their hips flare more noticeably, their chest area is radically different, and most of them can't just unzip their trousers and "let fly" in order to pee when outdoors. Add in the significant issues of men's style and taste (or total lack thereof) versus that of women, and you have a recipe for serious dissatisfaction among the ladies.

Fortunately, the shooting and hunting industries are waking up to the fact that "shrink it and pink it" doesn't always make for suitable women's gear. With more women shooting, especially in competition and personal defense, manufacturers are realizing they need to actually ask women what works, what doesn't, and what appeals to their specific fashion sensibilities.

All their men would be smart to do likewise.

So, as Christmas, birthdays, and other gift-giving events roll up on the calendar, don't make my mistake of thinking a purse is just a purse is just a purse. Either hatch another gift plan or make sure the lady in question has major input on the purchase, because it is highly likely that whatever you buy isn't going to work for her, and it will end up causing heartache and discontent for both parties.

In our case, Honey felt terrible about the situation, but I pointed out that this is the same reason why men typically have so many nearly new holsters stuffed into drawers and bags. What seems great in the package doesn't always work out once carried, so sometimes even good gear ends up on the "Island of Misfit Holsters."

She bought that reasoning and we're happy. She even grudgingly agreed that the same logic applies to my ever-growing collection of backpacks, the seventh-largest privately held stockpile in the U.S.

I love that woman, but boy, is she gullible! ☹

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Survival Colors

Bright colors have their place in our personal gear loadout. Whether hunting, day hiking, canoeing, or out shooting for the day, finding gear in the brush or low light is important. This goes beyond gear: Finding lost people is even more important.

The tactical and outdoor gear industries have been predominantly using black, OD green, and camouflage for their gear, which doesn't help casual outdoorsmen who want to keep their gear visible. Lucky for us, more color options exist now than there were ten years ago for backpacks, tents, knives, and clothing.

SURVIVOR WEAR

A camper or survival student usually hits the woods determined to blend in with the wilderness. Donning green, black or camo, he rarely thinks of the slight chance he may need to be seen for emergency reasons or to find his own way back to camp or vital gear. Clothing and backpacks that blend in

will not help Search and Rescue (SAR) efforts should he become lost.

I've seen students come into a survival class completely camouflaged from head to toe, with a camo pack, knife, and tarp/tent. When we discuss



practical signaling in case of an emergency, we point out the importance of having at least something on the body that is very bright to contrast with the environment.

If a person sustains an injury, it is difficult to find them under any circumstances, but when they are wearing earthy colors, the chances of finding them decrease even more. If they had brightly colored clothes or pack, they would be much easier to locate.

When packing for any outdoors trip (unless doing covert operations), in-

LEFT: Author wearing bright red shirt and blue pack that contrast with Arizona desert. It only takes one article of clothing that stands out to help be seen.

BELOW: Author used this Izula Gear tarp while camped in Georgia. Visible from a distance, it can help rescuers locate the camp. Author can also keep his camp in sight should he get turned around.



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clude something that can be mounted up high on a pole or hung from a tree or trail marking to catch attention on land or from the air.

The backpacking world has come to recognize the need to be seen. Gossamer Gear, a backpacking company that has made its reputation with ultralight backpacking gear such as backpacks, sleeping mats, tarps, and accessories, has been offering bright royal blue and white gear for years. A lost person walking or hiking with a bright-colored backpack is a walking beacon for attracting attention that could save their life.

KNIVES

Over the past eight years, a plethora of knife companies have made high-visibility tools part of their product line-ups. ESEE Knives made the pink Izula knife part of the mainstream knife world back in 2008.

Soon after, a horde of companies, including Spyderco, TOPS, Benchmade, KA-BAR, and many custom companies realized the need to make their tools visible to the average Joe, who was not engaging in covert opera-



In Sedona, Arizona, the color blue doesn't naturally occur and can be seen from afar. Gossamer Gear backpacks provide visibility with super-lightweight packs and gear.

tions but just enjoying the outdoors. From blade coatings to sheaths and handle materials, many production knife companies have added orange, pink, bright venom green, blue, red, purple, and everything in between to their products.

One custom knifemaker who has taken high visibility to an über level is Dan Eastland of Dogwood Custom Knives, with his groundbreaking handle materials. Dan told me he has crawled around in debris looking for his knife, hoping to find the handle before the blade, many times. His de-

velopment of what he calls Firefly is a game changer.

Firefly is a proprietary material that provides eight to ten hours of glow from 30 minutes of direct sunlight. The bright-colored resin makes it highly visible in dim or dark lighting. Dan said that having chunks suspended in the handle increases the surface area of the glow material.

Firefly is very resistant to the elements. Small pieces that have been drilled out are being tested as hammock attachments to help see the lines in the dark or as zipper pulls for

Many times I've gone somewhat far from camp for tinder, only to end up a little "off course."

Dogwood Custom Knives feature revolutionary Firefly handle material. The knives are available in different colors such as this one with greenish-yellow handle.



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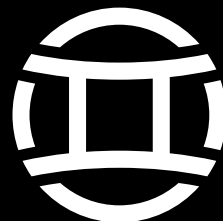
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a backpack or pouch. Dan said they would also make handy trail markers.

TARPS/TENTS

Imagine a lost hunter or hiker who is hunkered down using earthy colors for his tarp or tent, and a search party comes along while he is asleep. It would be very hard to find the person in the day, not to mention in dim light. This is a case where bright orange, blue, or yellow (in some environments) shines.

Call it a rescue beacon that works while you are sheltered and sleeping. Or if you make camp and set out to explore or look for a source of wood, a bright-colored shelter is easier to see on the way back from a distance. Many times I've gone somewhat far from camp for tinder, only to end up a little "off course."

My bright yellow tarp and royal blue backpack hanging from a tree stood out and acted as a lighthouse, keeping me moving in the right direction. Having equipment that contrasts with snow, green vegetation (jungle), desert, and woodlands is a must for any serious outdoorsman, even if it means having only one brightly colored item.

Getting found if injured or finding loved ones may depend on the ability to signal for help. A brightly colored tarp that blows in the wind when held up over one's head or lashed to a stick catches the eye of anyone who sees it and can bring the assistance needed.

Hats and scarves do the same thing, but when it comes to emergency signaling, the bigger the better.

CONCLUSION

It happens: People make a camp or set out from an established hunting camp or cabin and get lost. If you can break away from the colors that blend in and instead bring along something bright that contrasts with the environment, you'll be ahead of the game if an emergency arises and you need to be found.

SAR will thank you for it! ☺

SOURCES

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MODERN RIOT DUTY



Tactical 4-Shot Launcher is made of lightweight aluminum alloy. Frame is 6061-T6 and barrel is made of 7075-T6 aluminum alloy with a black anodized finish.

Defense Technology 40mm Tactical 4-Shot Launcher

By Jim Weiss and Mickey Davis

THE new less-lethal projectile launcher (#1440) 40mm Tactical 4-Shot Launcher by Defense Technology® of the Safariland Group is heralded by the company as revolutionary.

At about half the weight of competitors, it has a new and different Pump Action Cylinder Advance. Lewis Machine & Tool (LMT), a precision firearm manufacturer, makes the 4-Shot Launcher exclusively for Defense Technology.

FEATURES

According to Defense Technology, features of the 40mm Tactical 4-Shot Launcher include an expandable Rogers Super Stoc™ and adjustable front grip. There isn't a gas-mask cheek-weld rifle-aiming issue when using the Tactical 4-Shot with a gas mask, because the Rogers Super Stoc is upscaled from the more common AR-15-type stock.

The Tactical 4-Shot Launcher utilizes a pump-action direct-drive mechanism to advance the rotary magazine and bring the next cylinder into the firing position. The magazine rotates around a shaft that extends forward to the forend grip. The rearward motion of the pump-action forend causes rotation of the shaft and the rotary magazine.

This system requires no winding and, unlike other launcher designs, it ensures that the cylinder is captured during the entire operation, so a slow or fast pump-action results in the same positive result.

A unique characteristic of this design is that the magazine cylinder can be advanced with a single rearward motion of the pump-action forend, instead of requiring a back and forth cycle to complete rotation. This means the operator can rapidly fire two rounds with a single movement of the pump-action forend, or more practically, it allows the

weapon to be fired in the front or rear positions.

In addition to being made by a precision gun manufacturer, it incorporates a single/double-action Smith & Wesson (S&W) trigger group, an X-frame assembly with ambidextrous safety mechanism.

When used single-action, the cocking is done by manually pulling back on the hammer before putting pressure on the trigger and firing the launcher. This strikes the primer of the less-lethal round, firing the projectile down its 10.2-inch rifled barrel. Like all double/single-action revolvers, pressure on the trigger is lessened, resulting in better accuracy, especially when shooting at long distances.

The Tactical 4-Shot has an ambidextrous lever-style safety.

For aiming, the launcher has a Picatinny rail with front and rear pop-up adjustable sights. Some buyers prefer other sights, so the Tactical 4-Shot's Picatinny Rail

Mounting System accepts a wide variety of enhanced optics and sighting systems. Additional rails are at the three and nine o'clock positions on the forend.

The Tactical 4-Shot is made of lightweight aluminum alloy. The frame is 6061-T6 and the barrel is made of 7075-T6 aluminum alloy. The Tactical 4-Shot has a black anodized finish.



ABOVE: For aiming, launcher comes with front and rear pop-up adjustable sights. Tactical 4-Shot's Picatinny Rail Mounting System accepts numerous enhanced optics and sighting systems.

RIGHT: Tactical 4-Shot Launcher can fire wide range of less-lethal ammunition.



Accuracy at the farthest distance using single-action was exceptional, with almost 100% of those rounds finding their targets.

AMMUNITION

The Tactical 4-Shot is capable of firing standard 40mm less lethal ammunition up to 4.8 inches in length. It is *not* designed to fire 40mm high-velocity, High Explosive (HE) ammunition.

Defense Technology has developed a couple of unique dual-range 40mm less-lethal rounds: the 40mm Direct Impact Adjustable Range Round and the 40mm eXact iMPact Adjustable Range Round.

The 40mm eXact iMPact Adjustable Range Round and the 40mm Direct Impact Range Round have the ability to engage subjects from five to 120 feet to deliver the same energy throughout these distances in a single round.

The significance of “eXact iMPact” is that the round has a foam nose. This dense foam compresses upon contact, reducing the risk to the targeted subject. The patented design allows velocity and kinetic energy to be adjusted at two design points for close-in and extended-range engagements.

Tactical engagements are fluid in nature, so the ability to transition from close to extended range in a single round while providing point of aim/point of impact and energy is an industry first. Until now, this could only be accom-

plished by using two different munitions.

While the projectile on the adjustable nose is made up of a few different components, they’re assembled to become a single unit. Adjustment is made by rotating the top portion of the projectile counter-clockwise. A 90-degree rotation to “close” the ports achieves the extended-range capabilities, but the round can be readjusted as the situation dictates.

The ranges of the different projectiles are:

- Exact/direct impact standard: 5 to 120 feet
- Exact/direct LE impact extended range: 33 to 229 feet
- Exact/direct impact adjustable range: 5 to 120 feet in open position and 120 to 229 feet in closed position

The projectile is shipped in the “open port” configuration as a safety default, with a red tape strip that needs to be removed before use. This provides the user with a visual safety cue.

Defense Technology 40mm munitions include: eXact iMPact™; eXact iMPact™ LE; Direct Impact®; Direct Impact® LE; Direct Impact® Reloadable Training Kits; Multiple Foam Baton; Multiple Rubber Baton; Bean Bag; Aerial Warning/Signaling Munitions with Payload; and eXact iMPact™ 24-Shot Reloadable Training Kit.

During evaluation, 100-plus rounds of various impact projectiles were fired. Tactical 4-Shot Launcher was also dry fired almost as many times. At no time during dry or live fire did launcher bind up or malfunction.





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FIELD EVALUATION

The Tactical 4-Shot Launcher by Defense Technology was tested on a sunny afternoon at approximately 80 degrees with very little wind. It was evaluated from the perspective of Central Ohio Technical College's Professor Mark Prince, who is also a force science instructor certified in training police cadets in civil disturbances regarding mob and riot control techniques by the Ohio Peace Officer Training Academy.

In this evaluation, a reflex-type (red dot) sight was utilized.

The Tactical 4-Shot is surprisingly lightweight for its size (due to the aluminum alloy "lower") and easy to shoulder, aim, and fire. The product's design technology facilitates a pumping action advance, which allows for smooth rotation of the cylinders and is fast, with no lag time or drag.

During the evaluation, 100-plus rounds of various impact projectiles were fired. The Tactical 4-Shot Launcher was also dry fired almost as many times. (As with most modern firearms, it is okay to dry fire the Tactical 4-Shot in moderation.) At no time did the launcher bind up or malfunction during dry or live fire.



Projectiles are shipped in the "open port" configuration as a safety default, with a red tape strip that needs to be removed before use.



Tactical 4-Shot Launcher's circular magazine rotates around shaft that extends forward to forend. Grenadier demonstrates loading launcher while wearing gloves.

The various 40mm rounds utilized in the evaluation consisted of eXact iMPact, Direct Impact, and eXact iMPact Adjustable rounds. The projectiles were fired from about five feet out to 150 feet, with plastic 50-gallon drums as targets.

Accuracy at the farthest distance using single-action was exceptional, with almost 100% of those rounds finding their targets. Up close, striking the targets center mass using double-action was not much of a chore. The farthest-distance hits were spectacular, as the marking powder on the dense foam nose made small clouds. Up close, one could observe the energy from the rounds deforming the plastic drums.

Many agencies are familiar with and own single-shot 40mm launchers. These launchers are sufficient for their intended purposes but lack the ability to engage multiple targets rapidly. In the world of modern law enforcement, the single shots would do well to be assigned to patrol vehicles for all officers to use.

However, the Defense Technology Tactical 4-Shot Launcher is the next step in advanced riot control technologies and should be considered by agencies that are responsible for fielding riot control teams being deployed in the current dangerous era of violent protests in America.

The Tactical 4-Shot Launcher has a suggested retail price of \$1,899. ©

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Suppressors and the Lie of Gun Safety

THE forcible citizen disarmament lobby, realizing that the term “gun control” has become toxic in the eyes of much of the American public, has rebranded itself as a force for “gun safety.” For example, the rabidly anti-gun Coalition To Stop Gun Violence refers to gun control as “the outdated term,” as if government control of guns and gun owners is no longer at the top of their agenda.

CSGV, by the way, is no stranger to this kind of rebranding. They once called themselves the “Coalition To Ban Handguns,” and changed the name not because of a softening in their position on handguns, but because they wanted to ban so-called “assault weapons” too.

This new “gun safety” term carries its own logic problems for the gun-ban zealots, one that goes beyond the obvious problem of claiming mandated defenselessness is necessary for “safety”: namely that they also lobby *against* private citizens’ access to equipment that makes shooting safer. This can be seen in the zealots’ response to the introduction in January, in both chambers of Congress, of the Hearing Protection Act.

The HPA would effectively remove suppressors (“silencers” in popular, and rather inaccurate, parlance) from the list of items (like machine guns, grenades, cannons, and short-barreled shotguns and rifles) heavily restricted under the National Firearms Act of 1934. The purchase of a sup-

pressor would still require the background check and other legal hoops necessary to purchase a long gun, but would no longer require the \$200 tax stamp, fingerprints, and far more comprehensive background check that takes months.

Identical legislation was introduced in 2015 and went nowhere, but there is considerably more energy behind it this year, partly because President Obama was thought likely to veto any such legislation even if Congress approved it. President Trump is considered very likely to sign such a bill into law if it reaches his desk. His son, Donald Trump, Jr., has publicly expressed his fervent hopes for legislation that would relax the laws governing sale, possession, and use of suppressors.

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And the laws regarding suppressors *should* be greatly relaxed, because they *are* valuable safety equipment. In many European countries, where guns are regulated just about as harshly as any American gun-ban zealot could wish, suppressors are completely unregulated—or even *required*, in some cases.

Unsuppressed gunfire is (obviously) quite loud. Anyone who spends a lot of time around guns being fired without suppression and who doesn't wear quality ear protection inevitably suffers hearing loss *with every shot*. Gun-ban zealots respond to that by saying that if shooters are concerned about hearing loss, then using ear-plugs, earmuffs, or some combination is all that is necessary.

But that undermines safety in a different way. When hearing protection is applied at the ears rather than at the source of the noise, the ability to hear *anything* is compromised. That includes commands from the range safety officer at gun ranges, and hunting companions wanting their fellow hunters to know where they are, so no shots are sent in their direction.

Alternatively, anti-gun groups simply deny that hearing damage is any concern at all. "There's no evidence of a public health issue associated with hearing loss from gunfire," says the Brady Campaign's Kristin Brown, in perhaps the first instance of the group *minimizing* a health concern connected to gun use.

The Violence Policy Center may be the group most aggressively offended by the idea of easier public access to this kind of hearing protection. In their "study" stating the supposed dangers of suppressors, they list some rather odd "dangers": improved accuracy stemming from harmonic stabilization of the barrel and reduced gas-induced instability as the projectile exits the muzzle, increased accuracy due to reduced muzzle flip, better communication among shooters, and reduced muzzle flash, thus protecting the shooter's night vision.

The VPC claims these advantages are a problem because "In a civilian context, these 'benefits' could help enable mass shooters and other murderers to kill a greater number of victims more efficiently." In other words, *accuracy* is dangerous, as are unin-

dered hearing and vision.

What's next, banning sights? Requiring shooters to wear glasses with lenses that blur their vision?

Perhaps most amazing is that opposing suppressors is not even the most egregious attack on gun safety advocated by these groups. The VPC wants *body armor* to be far more strictly regulated than it currently is.

When former Representative Mike Honda (D-CA) introduced a bill in 2014 that would ban private ownership of so-called "enhanced" body armor (with "enhanced" apparently making the distinction between soft body armor, intended to stop most handgun rounds, and the much heavier, bulkier, and less flexible rigid body armor, intended to provide protection from rifle rounds), the VPC was one of Honda's loudest cheerleaders. "Criminals who wear enhanced body armor embolden themselves and put law enforcement in greater danger. Congressman Honda should be applauded for this legislation that will help protect the safety of first responders as well as the general public," VPC stated.

But the VPC doesn't limit its opposition to privately owned body armor to only the enhanced variety. Quoted in a 2012 *U.S. News* article called *The Other Loophole: Bulletproof Armor*, VPC's executive director Josh Sugarmann called for tighter regulation of *all* body armor, enhanced or not. Yes, VPC's idea of "gun safety" is that laws should make it inevitable that all bullets hitting private citizens should penetrate their flesh. Otherwise, presumably, the government cannot kill us fast enough.

And these people call *us* terrorists. Maybe this explains why they are opposed to improved protection for shooters' hearing—perhaps they believe that if we go deaf, we won't be able to hear their monstrous arguments, and would thus be unable to confront them. ©

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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Police Habits

Police are a funny bunch. Many times their own humor goes unnoticed by them. What others find amusing from a detached and objective perspective isn't considered humorous by the police themselves. In fact, many don't realize how comical they are when they are making no attempt whatsoever to be comical.

For years I have told my son Jordan that most cops (this might be more of a California thing than anywhere else) are easily spotted when either retired or off duty. They wear short-sleeved tropical-print shirts known as the "Hawaiian" shirt, which is worn in profuse proliferation by sunburned tourists on the beaches of Waikiki.

Many retired officers, old and wrinkly with greying or white hair, sport such attire. Most don't even own a surfboard, let alone participate in the aquatic pursuit of "tasty tubes," but boy, do they ever own a plethora of surfing shirts! If they wear shorts, they wear socks with sandals. I kid you not!

At this stage of the game, they don't care what anyone else thinks, and I can somewhat see their point. It might even be a badge of honor to personally affront the effete couture of society that they protected for so many years.

Jordan was skeptical about this point of fact. He is of a different generation, one that prides itself on their wardrobe ensemble providing as attractive an appearance as possible to the opposite sex. Coincidentally at the same time this subject came up, so did the opening of the new LAPD Metropolitan Division station, relocated in the old Rampart station on Temple Street (proving someone has a sense of humor, as this is located in the heart of a notoriously violent division).

The color scheme is a sick, off-color mustard hue (leading me to believe the city did in fact hire a color-blind architect) and there is not nearly enough parking for the officers, so they're off to a great start. How rare!

Along with past members of Metro, I was invited to attend this festive gala held in the early morning hours, with all the attendant speeches, pomp and

circumstance befitting such a momentous event.

Out of respect for this, I dressed in business attire sans tie. Everyone else showed up in—you guessed it—Hawaiian shirts! I mean everyone. Jordan turned to me and said, "I always thought you were kidding about the shirts?" "Nope ... not a bit." Point of fact, son, point of fact!

Police always, always want the proverbial discount. "Do you have a police discount for the elephant rides?" "Ahhh, not really." "Is there a discount on these paper clips?" Probably not. At some point one would think police types would realize that not everything merits a police discount. But they don't.

Cops are essentially good guys with a sense of humor, even if they're not aware of it.

Police spend a fortune on drinks with their buddies or a targeted species with whom they are attempting to become intimate. They think nothing of doling out greenback after greenback across the bar when engaged in such pursuits.

They are on point, on target, and demonstrate a laser focus singular in determination, giving no thought whatsoever to the subject of police discounts. But this same individual would never in a million years spend \$25 on a box of ammo to practice with, nor pay \$125 for a decent light that might make the difference between shooting a bad guy or an innocent bystander. Perish the thought.

This is a predilection common to many of a law enforcement bent and is perhaps structured deep within the DNA nuclei of police types.

Observe any police station and you will encounter three types of vehicles: old beaters (divorce), standard models (rational thought process), and the exotic (a vain attempt to impress beyond one's budget). Check any bulletin board and you will find jet skis, motor-

cycles, speed boats, motorhomes, and such all posted for sale at supposed cut-rate prices.

Divorce proceedings account for a majority of the shedding of unnecessary materialistic acquisition phenomena (UMAP). Another percentage of UMAP items results from the stark realization that a police budget simply does not encompass the ability to afford such items.

As an aside, we trained the actress Kristanna Loken for *Terminator 3*. The boys in SWAT who were training that day started shedding their shirts, and I gently informed them that, without a high-end Ferrari, they could pretty much forget about it. A take-home city ride just didn't cut it!

The all-pervasive "Can I get this for free?" syndrome also exists. Such requests are usually surreptitiously veiled within the T&E (test and evaluation) thread. "My department might be interested in deploying such a device ... [pause] ... is it at all remotely possible?"

This one really comes into its own at venues such as the SHOT Show in Las Vegas. You can spot a cop at these events as they actually wheel around little carts piled to the top with every conceivable device even remotely tactically related. At the end of four days, it would take a U-Haul to get it all home. It's beyond hysterical.

Cops are essentially good guys with a sense of humor, even if they're not aware of it. ☺

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

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DRD Tactical M762

Quite a few years ago, I was working with a security team that was relatively small but still wanted a countersniper/overwatch capability.

For my own interest and as a possible answer to their need for an easily handled countersniper rifle, I had ROBAR build me a folding-stock Remington 700 with a 16.25-inch barrel. With good IOR Valdada optics and a ten-round box magazine, it was and is a formidable rifle—capable of sub-MOA

accuracy—yet easily stowed in a pack or satchel.

Another team I worked with used HK53 SMGs in 5.56x45mm instead of the 9mm versions used by a lot of protective teams. The HK53 gave longer range, more striking power and, with proper ammo, much better anti-vehicle capability. Plus it was quite compact.

Members of the British 14th Intelligence Company (now the Special

Reconnaissance Regiment) carried their 53s in a backpack that allowed quick access.

With the availability of the 7.62x51mm (.308 Winchester) AR, I saw the advantages of having a self-loading rifle that was accurate enough for short- to medium-range countersniper or fire-support usage yet was relatively compact.

Again primarily for my own use but also to demonstrate the concept, I had

The DRD M762 is a clever design that gives one a 7.62x51mm AR that can be carried quite compactly.



DRD Tactical M762 in its carrying case. ACOG used with it is wrapped in bubble pack and secured at upper left.

DS Arms build me an FAL Para model with folding stock and 16.25-inch barrel. It was very accurate—usually about 1.5 MOA—and quite compact.

For the most part, I don't work with high-threat security teams these days. Lots of younger guys with recent trigger time are out there. I've been content with my DSA Para and my ROBAR 700. But I'm still intrigued by the availability of compact self-loading, serious-caliber rifles for preparedness or security work.

As a result, I've followed the weapons developed by DRD Tactical, including a group of rifles that can be taken down into two main components and transported in a case or backpack. These offer quite a few possibilities.

I've used the CDR-15 version in 5.56x45mm NATO for a few years and have been happy with its quality, reliability, and accuracy. I was intrigued with the DRD M762, which offers the increased power of the 7.62x51mm round in a takedown model.

When broken into its two primary components, the M762 is designed to fit in a case that will also take spare magazines, an ACOG or similar-sized optic, suppressor, and, if desired, a pistol and spare magazines.



Two primary components of M762.

Though heavy, the case is sturdy and will easily fit in a vehicle trunk. I would rate it highly for vehicle carry but would consider an option in a backpack or satchel to make it more portable.

The way the cutouts in the case are designed, the optic is carried off of the receiver rail and must be mounted prior to use. This entails marking the rail so it can be remounted in the proper slot. It is possible to use custom cutouts in the case, allowing the optic to remain mounted. This would speed re-assembly time.

As standard with the rifle, the case holds three Magpul 20-round magazines.

The M762 has a 16-inch hammer-

forged, chrome-lined barrel with 1:12 twist. A flash hider is mounted. Weight of the rifle is 8.7 pounds.

Both upper and lower are made from 6061 Billet Aluminum. A DRD Quick Takedown MIL-STD-1913 13-inch rail that uses Magpul L-4 rail panels allows mounting of accessories. Grips and stock are Magpul MOE.

Assembly of the rifle is relatively quick. As I have some experience with the DRD system, I can prepare the M762 for action, starting with it in the case, in one to one and a half minutes. Practice could readily get that under a minute.

Once the two main sections of the rifle are removed from the case, a thread guard has to be removed so the

barrel/gas tube can be attached to the receiver. Then the forearm is slid over the barrel and locked into place. If the optic is not already on the receiver rail, it has to be installed.

Clear and easy-to-follow instructions come with the rifle. As it takes some precision to align the gas tube and tighten the collar to lock the barrel to the receiver, then align the handguard and lock it with a cross pin and throw lever, I recommend practicing assembling and disassembling the rifle to get used to the system.

I have not yet tested the M762 to see if assembling and disassembling affects accuracy. However, on the previous 5.56x45mm takedown AR I have used, it did not. I also have



Handguard removed from barrel prior to assembling the rifle. Polymer thread protector on barrel has to be removed before assembly.



Barrel assembled to receiver and awaiting installation of handguard. Cross pin is pushed out and locking lever is up for installation of handguard.

not tested the removal and replacement of the ACOG to see if zero holds. Previous experience with removing the ACOG from a rail, then replacing it in the same location has shown that the zero remains close, though not always exact.

Speaking of the ACOG, to test the DRD M762, I used a 3.5x35 TA11E, regulated for the .308/7.62x51mm round and with a green chevron. I have found that with ACOGs, I shoot best with the chevron. Although the bar with stadia lines is marked out to 800 meters, with 3.5X, I don't usually do that well past 300 meters.

Having said that, with a Trijicon RCO, the 4X optic used by the USMC, I have actually shot some good groups at 500 meters. For the mission I see for the M762, I think the 3.5X ACOG should suffice, and shooters better than I should be able to use it to 500 meters or more.

The DRD M762 is a clever design that gives one a 7.62x51mm AR that can be carried quite compactly. It is accurate enough to shoot at least 1.5-inch five-shot groups at 100 yards. Though compact, it is heavy when



M762's 16-inch barrel allows good use of cover as well as keeping rifle compact for transport. INSET: Green chevron reticle used on ACOG employed in testing.

packed in its case. It is also expensive.

The complete package of rifle with case and with "Battle Worn" finish as the one I tested has an MSRP of \$3,500. For comparison, a DSA SA58 16-inch barrel Para model has an MSRP of \$1,975.

However, folded length of the DSA Para is 26.5 inches, while the longest portion of the DRD M762 when disassembled is 19 inches. The decision thus becomes, what is the savings of 7.5 inches worth?

The DRD Tactical is a quality, well-

designed rifle. It can perform the tasks that other self-loading 7.62x51mm rifles perform, yet stow more easily. For those who like or need that feature, it is definitely worth considering. ©

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THE HISTORY OF SOPMOD

PART II

Block II and the Fight in Afghanistan

By Jeff Gurwitch

FOR the last 20 years, the Special Operations Peculiar Modification (SOPMOD) program has been equipping Special Operations Forces (SOF) with optics and accessories that allow them to shoot faster, farther, and more accurately than the enemy. In the May issue of *S.W.A.T.* (*Block I and The Early Years in Iraq*), I covered the time when Block I first hit the teams and my experience with those items during my combat tours in Iraq.



Afghanistan, 2015: Author's teammate takes aim with most popular set-up used by Special Forces: SOPMOD Block II-equipped MK18 with SU-230 piggy-backed by EOTech MRDS, LA-5 IR/visible laser, SureFire SOCOM suppressor, and WMX200 light.

Let's move on to the development and implementation of SOPMOD Block II, including my experience with Block II items while deployed to Afghanistan.

While SOPMOD Block I optics got the job done, one thing that was realized early on in both Iraq and Afghanistan was that the Aimpoint, EOTech, and Trijicon ACOG offered only enhanced capability for a specific range in shooting.

Yes, the Aimpoint and EOTech can work past 300 meters, improving a shooter's chances of getting long-distance hits, but let's face it, trying to hit a moving human target out past 300 meters with a red dot can be very challenging. And yes, a Trijicon ACOG can be used for close-range shooting, but at a fixed four power, it's not ideal, as operators were finding out as they were getting into real firefights. This held true even if the mission was merely a single target building, where they'd expect just room-to-room CQB as they cleared the building. In reality, they were having to fight their way to the target, on target, and as they ex-filled the target.

That meant having to engage threats anywhere from room distance out past 500 meters at any time. So regardless of which optic was on the carbine—Aimpoint, EOTech or Trijicon ACOG—for 50% of the mission, it was not the proper choice for the range the enemy was at. We needed something that offered dual capability on the M4A1, enhancing one's ability to hit both near and far targets at any time.

The first attempts to address this dual capability came about circa 2005. That is when I saw the first piggy-back-mounted mini-red dot on an ACOG, the SU-237.

Also near this time, red dot magnifiers were making their way to some teams. While these items were both workable, they were still not the ideal answer. The mini Docter red dot mounted on top of the ACOG usually requires the operator to lift his head up slightly off the stock to get a good sight picture—not the most stable or fastest method of shooting. At almost five inches height above bore, that is a lot of hold-off the shooter has to account for, depending on the range of the target.

The issue with red dot magnifiers is that, while they do give the shooter three to four power magnification, they also amplify the size of the red dot.

So while you can see a long-range target better, with the old M68, the four MOA dot with magnification now appears as a 12 MOA dot. Placed on a 400-meter target, it will appear as a 48-inch circle. At twice the width of a normal person, it's very hard to determine where your hold (dot) is on the target to hit at whatever range the enemy is at.

DUAL CAPABILITY, PROBLEM SOLVED: SOPMOD BLOCK II

If I had to choose one SOPMOD item that has made the biggest impact with Special Forces soldiers, it would be the ELCAN SpecterDR (SU-230 Articulated Telescope). In fact, since its adoption with SOPMOD Block II in late 2007, it's a safe bet that more insurgents in Afghanistan have been killed by SOF soldiers using SU-230s than any other optic mounted on M4s and MK18s.

Finally, with the 1-4X variable power ELCAN, we had one optic that with a simple flip of a lever was well suited to both CQB and long-range shooting. Additionally, for those who were comfortable with piggy-backed mini red dots, it also came with the same Docter red dot on top.

Performance

To this day, the ELCAN with its 5.56 BDC (bullet drop compensator) reticle still has one of the best fields of view of any 1-4X scope I have ever played with. And despite early skepticism about its external windage and elevation adjustment mechanism, using an ELCAN-equipped M4A1 in training to get hits out to 650 meters is easy. In combat, the ELCAN has proven to be a tough and reliable combat optic.

I used one mounted on both an M4A1 and MK18 upper for two tours in Afghanistan. Even on the shorty MK18, getting hits around the 500-meter mark is doable in combat using the ELCAN with Mk262 77-grain match-grade ammunition.

Probably the biggest reason most operators (myself included) run an ELCAN, even on the MK18, is the enhanced ability it affords the shooter to scan for threats and spot hits for bigger weapon systems that are much better suited for hitting targets at extended ranges.

In the mountains and hills of Afghanistan, with just the ELCAN on my carbine I was successful spotting and talking onto targets as distant as 700 meters away M2 .50 calibers, 60mm mortars, and M134 miniguns at least half a dozen times.

It is only just in the last two years (my third and last



Top: conventional Army M4. Bottom: SOPMOD Block II-equipped MK18. Performance wise, it's no contest. SOPMOD Block II accessories take the carbine to the next level!



Two M4A1s with full SOPMOD Block II.

Afghan tour) that I thought the 1-4X ELCAN was getting a little out of date. In the fall of 2015, I switched out my trusty ELCAN for a Trijicon 1-6 variable power VCOG.

The reason was not that I was trying to extend the range of the M4A1 and MK18 any farther. Let's face it, 5.56 is only good for so far. It's just that with the extra magnification, it gave me the best possible chance of getting hits on targets at 300 to 500 meters—well within the performance range of the Mk262 round from a 14.5-inch barreled M4A1. There are, in fact, 1-6X power ELCANs on SF teams. But since they come with a BDC only for 7.62mm, they are primarily used on the FN SCAR-H (MK17).

MORE RAIL SPACE

Another issue SOPMOD Block II did a great job addressing was the lack of rail space on the M4A1 and the first MK18 upper (with front sight post). When SOPMOD debuted the carbine-length Knight's Armament RAS (or RIS I) forearm, it was actually seen as an outstanding accessory by most Assaulters.

But adding the PEQ-2 laser and a white light did not leave much room for your support hand. It was not an issue at first because in the late 1990s, the V-grip (palm facing up on the bottom of the rail) was still the primary gripping technique.

And as much as I hate to admit it, also just as popular was holding onto the vertical grip with your entire support hand. Yes, I know that's not the most stable technique, but luckily we all evolved, and by 2006 the wrist-over or C-clamp grip (palm on side of rail with thumb on top) was in widespread use. The C-clamp grip was in use prior to being made famous by the very popular Magpul Dynamics videos.



MK18, circa 2005: ACOG with piggy-backed mini red dot sight was first attempt by SOPMOD to offer dual capability for both near and distant targets.

I think better gripping techniques that required more forearm extension (more rail space), and the rise of slim, full-rifle-length rails doing well in 3-gun matches influenced the demand for better rail systems for the military carbine.

In 2007, I heard we were getting the Daniel Defense RIS II FSP (front sight post cut-out version). Like many SOPMOD items, it took an extremely long time to outfit all teams with it. How long? I was not issued one until 2014 (my second tour in Afghanistan), and the newest RIS II, with no front sight cut-out, not until my last combat tour in the fall of 2015!

Another great item to come out of Block II was the ATPAL (LA-5) IR and visible aiming laser, replacing both the CVL AN/PEQ-5 visible red laser and AN/PEQ-2 IR laser. Two benefits of the LA-5 are that it projects a stronger IR beam and flood laser, and that using the co-aligned visible red laser, you can zero it in daytime (if it's not too sunny).

Despite the popularity of visible red lasers with "Special Ops" in Hollywood movies, in real life no one uses visible lasers in combat.

The only thing I don't like about the LA-5 is that it attaches to the rail via a screw, as opposed to every other item on the planet, which use a locking throw lever. If you do not regularly check it, it can come loose (losing your zero), or worse, fall off completely. Hence common practice is to zip-tie it down to the rail. As far as zeroing the LA-5, I have found dialing it onto the dot of my primary optic while aiming at something 100 to 200 meters away works just as well zeroing it as shooting groups does.

WHERE BLOCK II FALLS SHORT: LIGHTS

In late 2006, I saw the first weaponlight with a LED bulb: the SureFire X200 pistol light. So LED technology did exist during SOPMOD Block II's roll out, but the light chosen for Block II, the SU-233 Gun Light (MX3 by Insight Technologies), had a halogen (incandescent) bulb.

Like the previous Block I weaponlight, the VLI, it was too dim (producing at best 125 lumens), and the bulbs did not stand up well to the shock and recoil of shooting. In one year over the

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ABOVE: Afghanistan, 2014: Author's ELCAN (SU-230) equipped MK18. Even on this shorty carbine, getting hits out to 500 meters was doable with SU-230.

RIGHT: Pre-deployment training, 2010: Author takes aim with ELCAN (SU-230) equipped M4A1.



BELOW: Current barrel lengths and forearms available to SF soldiers. From top to bottom: 10.3 MK18, 14.5 upper with newest RIS II, and older RIS II FSP (front sight post) cut-out. Unfortunately, author did not receive newest upper until mid-tour Afghanistan 2015, hence why older RIS II FSP is rigged up on M4A1.



Despite the popularity of visible red lasers with "Special Ops" in Hollywood movies, in real life no one uses visible lasers in combat.

course of 8,000 rounds, I went through two bulbs.

Another issue with a halogen/incandescent bulb is that it does not produce a true white light. It is more of a yellowish light and, when it starts to dim, it gets worse and becomes more of what is referred to as “dirty light,” where it’s hard to see objects clearly. This also applies to the edges of the cone of light, where it is again hard to distinguish what you are seeing.

In CQB, dirty-light areas and shadows produced by weaponlights tend to slow the Assaulter’s pace because he cannot go past something until he knows it’s clear. And that’s not to mention the possibility of getting shot by someone in the shadows.

The true white light produced by LED bulbs is not only a clearer form of light, but the beam produced by LED bulbs also has a more solid edge, making it easier to distinguish where you can see clearly and where you can’t.

Unfortunately, the MX3 was not replaced until late 2010, and that was with another Insight Technology light, the WMX200. It has a built-in hinge designed to fold down, allowing its position on the forearm to be changed. The problem is it does not stay tight, leading to the light flopping around on the rail. (At least it utilizes a LED bulb.)

I never used either light in combat. In 2005, I purchased a Blackhawk Gladius light. It has proven indestructible, surviving one tour in Iraq and three tours in Afghanistan—with its original bulb!

CQB SIGHTS

By now everyone is aware of the zero shift/temperature issues of EOTechs. As I stated in Part I, I’m not a fan of EOTechs, as I find the EOTech circle/dot reticle too busy for my eyes. I prefer a single dot. Are guys still using the latest SOPMOD SU-231A, the EOTech EXPS3? Yes, they are. The reason? While it may suffer from zero shift from temperature changes, there is not much temperature shift going on during a three- to six-month combat tour in the Middle East.

Have I seen issues with EOTechs? Yes, I have seen some with very poor parallax, where the reticle appears to fade unless you are perfectly aligned behind it. But I have seen an EOTech retain its zero even with a cracked lens

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from being banged up in combat. With soldiers, though, I think in terms of reliability it all boils down to a shooter's personal confidence with an item. If it works well for you, then by all means drive on with it.

As USSOCOM now searches for a replacement for the EOTech (possibly the Aimpoint T1), I hate to point out that back in 2010, most SF teams were also issued Aimpoint CompM4s. But for some unknown reason, we were forced to turn them all in! As I write this, EOTechs are still in use by a lot of SF teams.

SUPPRESSOR

The last Block II item worth covering is the SureFire SOCOM

suppressor, a total game changer. While the previous SOPMOD Knight's Armament suppressor worked, I was never a fan. The extra gas blowback and increased muzzle weight were too much of a tradeoff for its suppression capability. In addition, it had a relatively low round count capability and had to be run "wet" (fill with water, then shake the water out and tape the muzzle closed to keep moisture on the baffles) for optimal performance.

I say the SureFire SOCOM suppressor is a game changer because, between sound suppression and virtually no muzzle flash even with the short MK18 upper, it's very difficult for the enemy to pinpoint your position in order to return accurate fire. And with the ludicrously high round count it can



Current optic and light options available to SF soldiers. Left: EOTech SU-231, Trijicon ACOG, and old MX3 light. Mounted on MK18: SU-230 with EOTech MRDS, LA-5 laser, WMX200 light, and SureFire SOCOM suppressor. Just above LA-5 is latest CQB optic, SU-231A (EOTech EXPS3).



Author's last combat tour, Afghanistan, fall 2015: Trijicon VCOG-equipped M4A1. With 6X magnification and 5.56 BDC, author felt this was ultimate combat set-up for Afghanistan, where the enemy often makes use of max effective range of their weapon systems.



Top: M4A1 with older RIS II FSP, LA-5 laser, SU-231, and SOCOM suppressor.

Bottom: MK18 with same items except optic is EOTech SU-231A.

Despite parallax issues, SU-231As are still being used by a lot of SF.

handle, you can basically put it on your carbine and forget about it.

Still a little on the heavy side, but it especially complements the MK18 very well, doing a great job of taming the blast and allowing for very fast follow-up shots.

Critics will point out that some quieter and lighter suppressors exist. True, but military operators don't need it to be super quiet, just quiet enough to be able to shoot the carbine without ear pro. I used one for two tours in Afghanistan, first mounted on an MK18, then later I switched it onto an M4A1 for longer range.

I'll admit it made the rifle heavy to carry on a 14.5 upper. But on more than one occasion, I was able to put it to great use, returning fire from cover at PKMs shooting at us from 500+ meters away with good effect and, more importantly, with the enemy having no idea where I was.

THE FUTURE

What should the next wave of SOPMOD items be? For optics, I'd like to see a 1-6X, 5.56 BDC, ELCAN or equivalent, the same size as the current SU-230, also perhaps a compact red dot sight with built-in thermal or IR laser capability.

For the M4A1/MK18, a slicker, narrower forearm. The Magpul M-LOK gets my vote. On the current quad rail design of the RIS II, the circumference of the rail is rather large. A narrower one would better facilitate the various wrist-over or C-clamp style grips most Assaulters use.

Whatever does come next with SOPMOD, based on the performance over the last 20 years it has been in implementation, I feel confident the program will continue to provide our nation's Special Operations Forces with the best small arms accessories, allowing them to keep winning against the enemy during small-arms engagements. ©

Jeff Gurwitsch is a retired Special Forces Soldier who served 26 years in the United States Army (18 years with Special Forces). He served in the First Gulf War, three tours OIF, and three tours OEF. He is an avid competitive shooter, competing in USPSA, IDPA, and 3-Gun matches.



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MAVERICK ARMS MODEL 88 SHOTGUN

The working man's shotgun, Maverick pump-action shotguns are Mossberg's economy line, but still proven performers that are equally at home in the woods and upland fields or for home defense. This Sweepstakes features the Model 88 Security, based on the Mossberg 500/590 series. Like all Mossberg pump-action shotguns, it has dual extractors, twin action bars, and an anti-jam elevator to provide trouble-free operation. Robust dual locking lugs give secure barrel-to-receiver lock-up.

The 18.5-inch barrel and chamber are chrome lined for corrosion resistance, with a cylinder bore choke and capable of firing 2¾- or three-inch Magnum shells. The top tang-mounted safety is considered the ideal placement for ambidextrous use. The shotgun has a black synthetic stock and subdued matte blue finish.



HORNADY AMERICAN GUNNER AMMO

To feed the Model 88, the winner receives 50 rounds of Hornady American Gunner one-ounce slugs and 100 rounds of American Gunner Reduced Recoil 00 Buckshot.

Designed for smooth-bore barrels, Hornady American Gunner Reduced Recoil Slugs feature a one-ounce lead alloy projectile. A compression-style wad softens recoil, protects the slug at ignition, and helps seal the bore for consistent velocity.

Reduced Recoil 00 Buckshot is loaded with eight pellets of swaged high antimony lead shot that is held to exacting tolerances. The Hornady Versatite wad does the patterning, so this load does not require shotgun modifications or specialized chokes.



SUREFIRE WEAPONLIGHT

You can't shoot what you can't identify, so this Sweepstakes features the SureFire DSF-500/590. With two levels of tactical illumination, ambidextrous switching, slender ergonomic design, and legendary SureFire reliability and durability, it is the ultimate weaponlight for shotguns.

The compact, lightweight system replaces the weapon's original factory forend and features a recoil-proof LED that generates 600 lumens at maximum output, or 200 lumens on the low setting. A precision reflector focuses the light for a smooth, wide beam perfect for the close-range shotgun applications typical in law enforcement and home defense, with enough reach and surround light to properly identify threats and maintain situational awareness.



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TACSTAR SLIMLINE SIDESADDLE

Tacstar's new Slimline™ SideSaddle carries extra ammo right where you need it for a fast reload. The Slimline SideSaddle utilizes a non-glare, anodized aluminum backing plate contoured so it takes up less space on the receiver and has fewer areas that could potentially snag. The shell carrier itself has Tacstar's proprietary flexible synthetic rubber material, which offers durability, weather resistance, and secure shell retention. Like the backing plate, the shell carrier is smaller in size than Tacstar's traditional SideSaddle, adding to its sleek appearance.



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A PISTOL FOR THE FUTURE?



Smith & Wesson M&P M2.0 Pistol

By Denny Hansen

Photos by Straight 8 Photography



Smith & Wesson M&P M2.0 is a serious pistol for serious users.

Although it doesn't seem that long ago, it was over ten years ago when Smith & Wesson introduced the M&P® (Military & Police) pistol line, which includes full size, compact, and the popular Shield pistols.

The S&W M&P is issued by many agencies, including the Maricopa County, Arizona, Sheriff's Office (MCSO). Maricopa County is the fifth largest county in the United States. Encompassing 9,226 square miles, it is actually larger than four states. MCSO is the third largest sheriff's office in the country. MCSO employs 3,300 people (sworn, detention, and civilian). With a budget of \$353.4 million, they have the resources to choose whichever pistol they feel is best for their needs—and they chose

the M&P as their issue pistol. Incidentally, the Shield is MCSO's only *officially* authorized off-duty gun.

In January, S&W introduced the latest pistol to the M&P line—the M&P M2.0™ pistol.

M2.0

Though based on the previous M&P pistols, the new M2.0 is an entirely new platform, with innovative features in nearly every aspect, including the trigger, grip, frame, and finish. The pistols have an extended rigid embedded stainless steel chassis to reduce flex and torque when firing.

There are a total of eight different versions in three calibers, including a full-size .45 ACP with no external

A PISTOL FOR THE FUTURE?

safety or ambidextrous thumb safeties, full-size 9mm with no safety or ambidextrous thumb safeties, and full-size .40 S&W with no safety or ambidextrous thumb safeties. The above all have a 4.35-inch barrel and Armornite® finish (a hardened nitride, corrosion-resistant finish).

The last two versions—a 9mm and a .40 S&W—have a 5-inch barrel, are .90 inch longer than the other six pistols, and are available only with ambidextrous thumb safeties. They have the Armornite finish on the barrel and slide. The slide has a Cerakote® Flat Dark Earth finish over the Armornite on Flat Dark Earth M2.0 slides.

All models have ambidextrous slide stops and a reversible magazine release. The pistol tested here was the five-inch 9mm model (SKU: 11537).

The M2.0 has a more aggressive textured grip than previous M&Ps for enhanced control. While several manufacturers offer three interchangeable palm swell grips, the M2.0 has four—S, M, ML, and L—to offer a better fit for a wider range of shooters.

The M2.0 has low-profile cocking serrations placed at the bottom of the slide vice across the entire slide. They help the M2.0 maintain a sleek look. The dust cover has a rail for attaching a light or laser. Sights are of the three white dot type.

The pistol has an overall length of 8.3 inches and weighs 26.9 ounces empty. It can be disassembled without pulling the trigger.

It arrives in a hard-sided fitted case, with two 17-round magazines, manual, and cable lock. Magazines are compatible with previous M&P mags—a good call on Smith & Wesson's part.

ACCESSORIES USED

I tested the M2.0 with an Off The Grid Concepts Nocturnal Sidewinder Holster and Adaptive Speed Pouch (*LAWFUL CARRY: Off The Grid Concepts*, May 2017 S.W.A.T.). My older M&P clicked securely into place and retained the pistol even while shaking it up and down.

Although the longer slide of the test pistol did not allow it



» SPECIFICATIONS

S&W M&P M2.0

MANUFACTURER	Smith & Wesson
MODEL	M&P M2.0 (SKU 11537)
ACTION	Striker fired
CALIBER	9mm
CAPACITY	17+1
BARREL	5-inch, 1:10 twist
OVERALL LENGTH	8.3 inches
WEIGHT	26.9 ounces
SIGHTS	Three white dots
SLIDE AND BARREL MATERIAL	Stainless steel, Armornite finish
FRAME	Polymer
ACCESSORIES	Fitted case, lock, manual
SUGGESTED RETAIL	\$599.00

to be fully holstered, the precise molding let it hang onto the SureFire X400 Ultra and withstood the same shake test.

You can't shoot what you can't identify, and when it comes to weapon-mounted lights, my first choice is SureFire. The SureFire X400 Ultra is the latest pistol weaponlight from the esteemed company. The X400-GN produces 600 lumens of blinding white light and has a built-in green laser (a version with red laser is also available). In my opinion, a green laser is vastly superior to red for two major reasons.

First, green is the color most easily seen by the human eye. Second, and possibly more important, not all encounters occur in the low-light environment where a red laser is best seen. Green can be seen outdoors on all but the brightest day.

I changed the floor plates on my personal M&P mags to the Vickers Tactical Magazine Floor Plates from TangoDown. These floor plates are flared slightly at the bottom with non-slip grooves, making extraction of a stubborn magazine effortless. They also work well with one-handed reload of a stuck mag by placing the flare under your belt. Dimples in



ABOVE: Front face of rear sight is flat, for ease of one-handed manipulation.

BELOW: M2.0 comes with four backstraps: S, M, ML, and L to fit a wide range of hand sizes.



A PISTOL FOR THE FUTURE?



ABOVE: Right side shows ambidextrous safety and slide lock. Magazine release is reversible.

RIGHT: X400 Ultra is SureFire's latest pistol weaponlight/laser combination. It's a great choice for those who desire or need a light on their handgun.

BELOW: New aggressive texturing fully covers the grip.



ABOVE: Although bottom of frame has small scallops for removing a stuck magazine, author prefers Vickers Tactical Magazine Floor Plates from TangoDown for sure extraction. Dimples on baseplates can be filled in with a marker or paint pen to number them.

BELOW: M&P M2.0 disassembles easily without tools and without having to pull the trigger.



the floor plates allow them to be marked/numbered.

Pleased with how these floor plates have worked for me in the past on my personal M&P, I installed them on the test pistol's magazines.

ON THE RANGE

I begin each evaluation by pulling an Otis Ripcord down the bore to remove any particles or oil that may have been left behind during manufacturing, then I lubricate the firearm.

Firearms are a lot like people when it comes to liking what they're fed. Shotguns are the pickiest, but handguns and rifles can be as well. Compounding the situation is that all brands of ammunition may not be available in a given area. With that in mind, I arrived at the range with 28 factory loads and one handload. Loads ranged from 80-grain screamers to 147-grain subsonic loads.

I began by firing 20-round strings of each load over the screens of my PACT Professional Chronograph to establish average velocity of each load.

At this point in the evaluation, problems occurred with two loads. Both the Colt Defender and HPR Black Ops would not function the pistol. The HPR Black Ops completely failed to cycle all 20 rounds in the chronograph test. The Colt load had stove pipes on 18 out of 20 rounds, and the two that ejected literally dribbled out and landed on my wrist. Since they failed to function, they were not included in the accuracy tests.

» *Continued on page 89*

» AMMUNITION PERFORMANCE

BRAND	LOAD	AVERAGE VELOCITY [fps]	BEST 10-SHOT GROUP [inches]
Aguila	124-gr. FMJ	1,051.5	5.2
Atomic	124-gr. JHP	1,271.8	3.9
Atomic	124-gr. JHP (training)	1,175.6	2.6
Black Hills	115-gr. FMJ	1,153.2	1.9
Black Hills	115-gr. TAC-XP +P	1,155.5	1.8
Black Hills	124-gr. JHP	1,169.0	2.6
Black Hills	147-gr. FMJ (subsonic)	1,031.5	4.1
Colt	115-gr. Defender	1,081.6	N/A
Double Tap	115-gr. FMJ (Training)	1,146.0	5.8
Double Tap	115-gr. JHP	1,310.2	3.7
Double Tap	124-gr. JHP	1,269.5	1.9
GBW Legend	115-gr. FMJ	1,124.8	4.3
GBW Legend	115-gr. JHP	1,187.4	2.1
Hornady	115-gr. XTP AG	1,152.4	1.8
Hornady	124-gr. XTP	1,172.5	2.5
HPR	85-gr. OTF Black Ops	1,273.7	N/A
HPR	115-gr. JHP	1,115.9	4.2
HPR	124-gr. JHP	991.6	3.6
Nosler	124-gr. JHP	1,167.7	5.3
Ruger	80-gr. ARX	1,486.6	2.4
SIG Sauer	115-gr. FMJ	1,208.5	3.6
SIG Sauer	115-gr. V-Crown JHP	1,236.4	2.4
Super Vel	90-gr. +P	1,591.5	1.8
Super Vel	115-gr. +P	1,249.4	3.6
Super Vel	147-gr. FMJ	926.6	3.6
Winchester	115-gr. JHP	1,163.7	4.6
Winchester	115-gr. JHP KHE	1,264.9	2.3
Winchester	147-gr. JHP	950.6	3.4
Handload	128-gr. LRN	1,133.4	N/A

Velocity obtained with PACT Professional chronograph, 20-round strings with first screen ten feet from muzzle. Groups fired from rest at 45 feet. Elevation 4,843 feet, 82 degrees, 17% humidity.

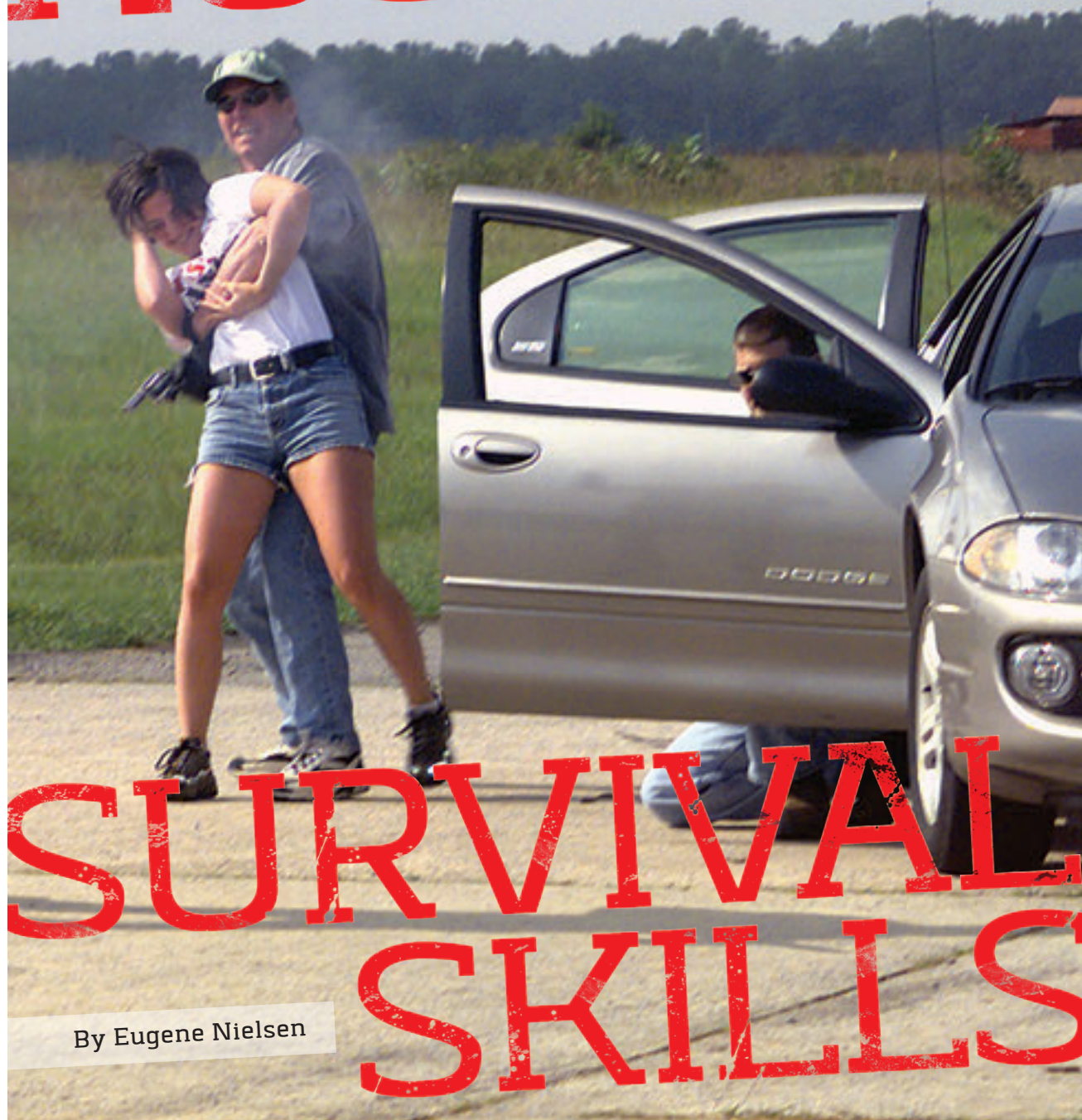


M2.0 has lanyard loop incorporated into takedown tool.



Left side of M2.0 shows mag release, safety, slide lock, and takedown lever. Only takedown lever is not reversible/ambidextrous.

HOSTAGE



By Eugene Nielsen

Increase Your Chances of Coming Back Alive

Hostage situation exercise conducted in cooperation with South Carolina State Law Enforcement Division. If you were kidnapped or taken hostage, would you know what to do? Following proven strategies can increase your chances of survival.

Photo: U.S. Air Force photo by TSGT James Burnett

WE

live in an age of increasing terrorism and criminal activity. Hostage taking and kidnapping have dramatically increased. No country is totally safe. Although the chances of being kidnapped or taken hostage are small, would you know what to do if it happened? Are you prepared? You can follow a few proven strategies to increase your chances of survival.

TYPES OF HOSTAGE TAKERS AND HOSTAGE SITUATIONS

Identifying the type of hostage taker can provide information as to the reasons behind the hostage-taking incident. Hostage takers may be broken down into several main types: military and paramilitary, terrorists, criminals, the mentally ill, and the emotionally distraught. In some incidents, the hostage takers may fall into multiple categories.

There are four main types of hostage situations:

- **Barricade:** Hostages are held by the hostage takers at a clearly identified location and their lives bartered for demand. This is the favored action for terrorists seeking publicity. It is a highly charged situation, as the hos-

tage takers are also in a sense captives to the responding authorities.

- **Kidnapping:** Unlawful taking away or transportation of a person against that person's will. It may be done for ransom, political leverage, in furtherance of another crime, or in connection with a child custody dispute. The motive for terrorists is usually the release of political prisoners or imprisoned terrorists.

- **Containment:** When a group is surrounded and contained by a larger force that has control of the area. Violence is averted as long as those contained remain stationary. There is no direct control of the hostages other than the zone of containment.

- **Human Shields:** In military and political terms, human shields are the deliberate placement of non-combatants in or around combat targets to deter the enemy from attacking those targets. It may also involve the use of non-combatants to shield combatants during attacks, by forcing them to march in front of the combatants. Criminals may also use hostages as human shields.

A hostage situation typically has several stages: planning and surveillance, attack (taking and restraining of hostages), movement (typically only in kidnapping), captivity, and release.

Although odds favor a safe and incident-free trip when traveling abroad, take precautions to ensure travel safety and know what to do in the event of problems.

Photo: Rene Ehrhardt



Although there is great variability in the behavior of captors, you should expect the possibility of physical restraint and sensory deprivation, verbal abuse, interrogation, indoctrination/brainwashing, sleep deprivation, threats of injury and death, and physical and sometimes sexual abuse.

Reaction and adaptation to captivity are highly variable among individuals. Six broad stages and their approximate lengths have been recognized:

- Startle/panic (first seconds to minutes)
- Disbelief (first minutes to hours)
- Hyper-vigilance and anxiety (first hours to days)
- Resistance/compliance (first days to weeks)
- Depression and despair (first weeks to months)
- Gradual acceptance (first months to years)



ABOVE: Military police from Marine Corps Air Station Beaufort and Marine Corps Recruit Depot Parris Island conduct hostage scenario training. Rescues are conducted with three pillars of CQB: speed, surprise, and violence of action.

Photo: U.S. Marine Corps photo by Lance Cpl. Jonah Lovy

RIGHT: Members of U.S. Park Police SWAT team take down "terrorists" who were holding hostages at Naval Station Anacostia during training exercise. Rescue is generally attempted only after negotiations have failed. Rescue is the most dangerous time of an incident.

Photo: U.S. Navy photo by Photographer's Mate 2nd Class Jim Watson



SURVIVING A HOSTAGE SITUATION

This is to a considerable degree a matter of chance and will vary with the type of hostage taker and situation. The first 45 minutes of a hostage situation are regarded as the most dangerous, since both the captors and hostages are highly stressed and prone to act impulsively.

The more time that passes, the greater your chances of being released alive. If you are to be used as a bargaining tool or to obtain ransom, you will likely be kept alive.

Following a few guidelines can maximize your chances of survival. These are based on the experiences of previous hostages and experts in the field. Keep in mind that these are only general guidelines and not strict rules. Every situation is different.

The best opportunity for escape may occur at capture and while you are still in a public place. Things will likely get much worse once you are in private with your abductor(s). You need to be willing to incapacitate the threat if you are unable to escape. If this is impossible or deemed too risky, make as much commotion as is safely possible to draw the attention of others to you and the situation so authorities are immediately notified. Be aware of escape opportunities during transit.

Always maintain a survivor's mindset. Preparation needs to start before an incident. Maintain situational awareness at all times. Have an escape plan in advance and plan your evasion before trying to escape. When attempting to evade, your goal is to get outside the hostile forces' perimeter.

If you are taken hostage, regain your com-

posure as soon as possible. You need a clear mind. Concentrate on surviving. Overt resistance is usually counterproductive in a hostage situation. Remain calm, control impulsive behavior, and follow instructions. Studies show that individuals who present a threatening manner to captors are the most likely to be injured or killed.

Be observant. While being transported (and you may be moved multiple times), make a mental note of the route. Attempt to visualize the route being taken, turns, street noise, smells, and other route identifiers that can help you recognize where you were held.

you as a human being. Maintain your dignity.

Foster communication on non-threatening topics. Talk about family and interests, but avoid political and sensitive issues. After you have established rapport, you can try to ask for items of convenience, but keep requests reasonable and low-key.

Be prepared for a long stay. Set goals. Attempt to maintain some control of your environment to reduce feelings of hopelessness. Keep your mind active. Eat and exercise as much as possible to maintain body conditioning and counteract the effects of stress. Always maintain hope.



At what you believe to be your final destination, pay attention to the details of the room and layout of the building. Listen and make mental note of sounds and smells. Note the routines, number, names, physical descriptions, accents, and rank structure of your captors.

Try to memorize this information, as it will be helpful to authorities after your release. It will also be valuable in assessing and planning any escape.

Attempt to establish rapport with your captors. Captors generally consider hostages expendable objects. It is important to win your captors' respect and get them to recognize

If you become aware of the presence of other hostages in the same building, try to establish ways to communicate. Be tolerant of any other hostages and don't vent your frustrations on them. Don't regard incidents of emotional breakdown in others as weakness.

During interrogation, be cooperative, non-antagonistic, and non-hostile toward your captors. Be polite and control your temper. Give short answers. Talk about nonessential matters but be guarded on any matters of substance. Do not be lulled by a friendly approach. The "good cop/bad cop" routine is a common interrogation technique.

If you are forced to present terrorist

U.S. Army CID
Personal Security Detail.

With terrorism and violent crime increasing globally, security details are no longer only the domain of governments and the wealthy.

Photo: U.S. Army

demands either in writing or on tape, clearly state that those demands are from the captors. Do not compromise your integrity or country.

STOCKHOLM SYNDROME

Watch for signs of Stockholm Syndrome, also commonly known as capture bonding. This is a psychological phenomenon in which hostages express empathy and sympathy toward their captors or captors' political cause.

The syndrome's title was developed when the victims of a bank robbery in Stockholm, Sweden defended their captors after being released. Later they refused to testify against them in court.

The FBI conducted a study of over 1,200 hostage-taking incidents. FBI researchers

found that 92% of the hostages did *not* develop Stockholm Syndrome. They concluded that three factors are necessary for the syndrome to develop:

1. The crisis situation lasts several days or longer.
2. The hostage takers do not put the hostages in a separate room.
3. The hostage takers show some kindness toward the hostages or at least refrain from harming them.

The study also found that people who often feel helpless in other stressful life situations or are willing to do anything in order to survive seem more susceptible to developing Stockholm Syndrome if they are taken hostage than those who do not.

Hostages abused by captors typically feel anger toward them and do not usually develop the syndrome.

Stockholm Syndrome can be a two-way phenomenon. Captors may begin to develop empathy for their hostages. Some hostages have been able to use this to their advantage to gain concessions and even release from their captors.

RESCUE AND RELEASE

Hostage negotiations can take time. Be patient. Most kidnappings and hostage-taking end without loss of life or physical injury to the captive. Do not try to escape unless you are certain you will be successful.

If you are able to escape and are outside of the United States, go to an American Embassy or Consulate for protection. If that is not possible, go to a host government or friendly government office.



ABOVE: C-130 Hercules in front of old Entebbe Airport terminal in 1994. Bullet holes from successful 1976 Israel Defense Forces raid to rescue hostages being held as result of Air France airliner hijacking are still visible. As a result of the operation, U.S. military developed hostage rescue teams modeled on the unit employed in the Entebbe rescue.

Photo: U.S. Department of Defense photo by SRA Andy Dunaway



Founded in 1982, elite FBI Hostage Rescue Team is FBI's counterterrorism and hostage rescue unit. Considered one of the best counterterrorism tactical teams in the world, it is part of the Tactical Support Branch of the FBI's Critical Incident Response Group.

Photo: Federal Bureau of Investigation

Rescue will generally only be attempted after negotiations have failed. It is the most dangerous time. It is often said that more hostages are killed during rescue attempts than are executed by hostage takers.

Rescues will be conducted with the three pillars of CQB: speed, surprise, and violence of action. You will have no advance warning. In a rescue attempt, the lives of hostage takers, hostages, and rescue forces are all in danger. The rescuers will be under great stress.

You do not want to be shot in the confusion. Do not run. Drop to the floor and remain still. Make no sudden moves that a rescuer may interpret as hostile. Keep your hands clearly visible and empty. Follow all commands. Expect to be treated as one of the hostage takers until the rescuer determines you are not, as it is not uncommon for hostage takers to disguise themselves as hostages. Do not resist being handcuffed and searched.

Try to avoid media exposure after release until you have been properly debriefed. You may unintentionally



Kidnapping is such a well-established industry in Mexico City that the wealthy sometimes buy kidnap insurance. Hostage taking and kidnapping have increased rapidly around the globe in recent years.

Photo: Marrovi

create difficulties for any remaining hostages. There is also the possibility of your thinking being influenced by Stockholm Syndrome.

Any comments to the press should be focused on how happy you are to be free and looking forward to seeing your family and friends.

IT ISN'T ALWAYS OVER WHEN IT'S OVER

The transition from hostage to freedom can be accompanied by difficulties in adjusting. Although everyone is different, how well hostages cope with recovery is generally dependent on the length and brutality of captivity. The need to appear to be coping can sometimes mask serious readjustment problems.

Stress reactions to captivity can occur long after release. Often former hostages do not realize the reactions are the result of their captivity. Readjustment problems can have a significant impact on one's life and the lives of one's family and friends. These problems can often be alleviated or remedied with assistance from professionals with experience in post-traumatic stress. ☉

Eugene Nielsen's background includes investigative and protective services, threat management, red teaming, and security consulting. He has a Bachelor's degree in political science from the University of California.

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IWI US

GALIL ACE

Upgraded
Israeli Classic
Returns

By Todd Burgreen



Right side of Galil ACE
with stock folded.

Photo: IWI US

IWI took full advantage of the passage of time to improve and update the original Yisrael Galil and Yaacov Lior design.

The current Galil ACE can be traced back to the Galil, which in turn was inspired by the Finnish Valmet Rk 62, itself an improved AK derivative. The Finns are a country of serious riflemen, with a large, aggressive neighbor it has eyed warily for centuries—Russia.

The Russian AK's rugged reliability and adaptability to harsh operational environments earned grudging respect from the Finns. The Valmet Rk 62 sought to maintain AK reliability while improving accuracy. This was accomplished with the use of a quality barrel, extended iron sight radius, higher quality manufacturing techniques, tweaks to the gas tube, and long stroke gas piston operation.

Israel's Galil followed the Valmet Rk 62's path after the Israel Defense Forces (IDF) found the FAL wanting in terms of size, recoil and, most im-

Following its 2015 introduction, the IWI US Galil ACE rifle is now steadily arriving on dealer shelves, joining other notable IWI US offerings such as the Tavor SAR/X95 and Uzi Pro in making waves in the U.S. market.

The original Israeli Galil was choked out of the U.S. market in 1989 through an Executive Order signed by President George H.W. Bush.

IWI US is making available the highly respected Israeli Galil via the enhanced Galil ACE. This is achieved by assembling the rifles from a combination of Israeli and U.S. manufactured components at IWI's Harrisburg, Pennsylvania facility. The Galil ACE is not merely a copy of the 1960s design.

portantly, reliability. The Galil in 5.56mm was officially adopted by the IDF in 1972 but immediately faced competition within the IDF from the large number of M16s acquired from the U.S. It made more fiscal sense to make the most use of the relatively inexpensive U.S. rifle versus exclusive reliance on the Galil.

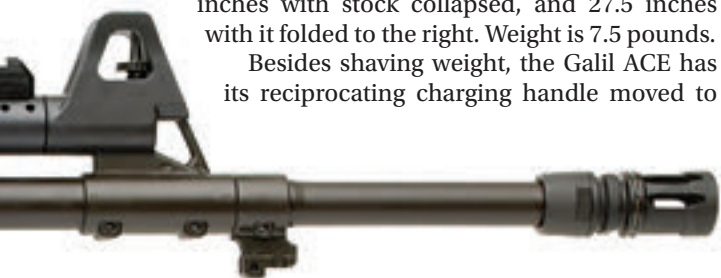
IWI US GALIL ACE

The current IWI US Galil ACE rifle seeks to improve the original Galil in a number of ways. Galil reliability and performance have never been doubted, but its near ten-pound weight drew criticism from troops, especially when compared to the six-pound M16.

The Galil ACE makes use of a polymer lower for the magazine well, trigger guard, and pistol grip. The railed forend on the Galil ACE is also derived from high-strength polymer. The upper receiver containing the action and hinged folding stock trunnion is milled from ordnance steel. This translates to a rifle weighing less than eight pounds.

The IWI US Galil ACE evaluated in this article is chambered in 7.62x39mm and fed via AK magazines. The rifle features a 16-inch 1:9.45 right-hand twist, chrome-lined, hammer-forged barrel with removable A2-style flash hider. Overall length is 38 inches with stock extended, 34.5 inches with stock collapsed, and 27.5 inches with it folded to the right. Weight is 7.5 pounds.

Besides shaving weight, the Galil ACE has its reciprocating charging handle moved to



the left side of the steel receiver for easier manipulation. A spring-loaded gate on the left side minimizes the chance of dirt and grime entering via the charging handle pathway.

The original Galil had a distinctive vertically upturned handle on the right side. The absence of the right-side charging handle on the Galil ACE facilitated creating a metal recess in the bolt-carrier body's right side. This acts to further enhance reliability in harsh environments, preventing dirt, mud, snow, or ice clogging the bolt group while functioning.

OTHER ENHANCEMENTS

Other enhancements to the Galil ACE consist of a full-length two-piece metal Picatinny top rail along the upper receiver and a gas tube for mounting optics. IWI US has accentuated the previous Galil design by securing the upper top cover tightly via an oversized release button at the end of the recoil spring protruding out of the top cover. A rubber grommet/gasket is also included. This ensures the rear-aperture iron sight stays zeroed as well as other optics that may be mounted. The top cover exhibits no wiggle. In fact, removing and reinstalling takes some effort, but is worth it considering the advantage gained.

Following this theme, the Galil's gas tube is dovetailed into the receiver's front block. This limits any movement

of the gas block that can influence barrel vibration and thus degrade rifle accuracy. A recoil buffer is also present on the recoil spring. This serves multiple roles: it cushions impact of recoiling parts, eases wear on the rear trunnion, and tames vibration, which assists accuracy potential.

A further nod to current firearm trends is the Picatinny polymer tri-rail forearm. Slide on/off rail covers are standard and allow for pressure-switch access for lights or lasers.

The Galil ACE comes with a right-side folding adjustable telescoping buttstock with two-position removable comb if elevated optics are used.

Interestingly, IWI US decided not to go with an AR-type buffer tube. A proprietary buttstock arrangement was instead decided on.

Attention to detail is found with the ability to easily remove the rear aperture sight if an eye-relief-dependent optic is utilized, avoiding the necessity to mount the optic uncomfortably high to clear. Another nice touch is that tritium vials are installed in the front post and rear aperture sights for night use. Orientation of the front sight needs to be paid attention to when sighting in. A further half turn may be needed to keep the tritium vial focused rearward.

The Galil ACE comes equipped with the trigger type used in the Galil sniper rifle. This is a good upgrade, offering a five-pound pull after initial take-up.

MAGAZINES, OPTICS AND AMMO

The Galil ACE utilizes the proven AK-47 magazine. A Magpul AK magazine arrives with the rifle. IWI US literature makes mention that a U.S.-made magazine was used for



IWI US Galil rifle being tested with Trijicon MRO red dot.

922r compliance purposes.

I put forth that the IWI US Galil ACE is worthy of serious consideration for anyone needing to focus effort on one rifle fulfilling a general-purpose role. The Galil ACE emerges from the box remediating known AK shortcomings in terms of mounting optics over the receiver. This is combined with a rifle already inherently more accurate than an AK.

It was decided to take full advantage of the Galil ACE's flattop upper by mounting multiple optics during testing, such as a Trijicon MRO red dot and variable-power 1-6X VCOG. Both sights offer the capability to engage multiple targets in rapid sequence compared to open sights, while at the same time providing adequate accuracy out to 200 yards.

The 7.62x39mm round's trajectory is conducive to making hits out to 300 yards without having to resort to excessive hold over: three inches high at 100 yards produces a 200-yard zero with a 15-inch drop at 300 yards.

Loads from Hornady, Wolf, and Red Army Standard were tested. Steel-cased FMJ loads from Wolf and Red Army hovered in the three- to 3.5-inch range at 100 yards. Hornady 123-grain SST loads delivered 1.5-inch groups at the same distance. The IWI US Galil ACE mated with quality optics and ammunition is what many AK connoisseurs have been waiting for.

RANGE EVALUATION

Range tests consisted of moving around barricades and

simulated cover while engaging an assortment of paper and steel targets, including automobiles, at Echo Valley Training Center.

One immediately noticeable positive feature was the Galil ACE's ambidextrous safety/fire lever. The right-side safety lever has been reduced in size, as it is no longer required to act as a dust cover. It is accessed via the right index finger or removing your hand from the pistol grip and using multiple fingers.

On the left side just above the pistol grip is another safety/fire selector, meant to be operated by the shooter's thumb. This was the favored method of use in terms of ergonomics.

One aspect of the original AK design is how the front of the magazine is hooked into place and kept steady behind a wide feed ramp, allowing the bullet nose and case a clear path to the chamber. This is one factor that contributes to the AK's "hell and back" reliability. The Galil ACE maintains this method. AK magazines are not made to a tight "standard" pattern, dimensionally speaking.

Based on this, a plethora of AK magazines were evaluated with the IWI US Galil ACE. This consisted of US PALM, Magpul, Tapco, Bulgarian (smooth and waffle), and IO Inc, as well as multiple surplus steel magazines. Even drum magazines were tested. US PALM, Bulgarian waffle, and drum magazines were "no-gos" in the Galil ACE.

A centrally located magazine release reinforces ambidextrous functionality. Magazines do not drop free and

Polymer lower receiver aids in reducing weight of Galil ACE rifle.





ABOVE: Rear aperture sight can be removed from top cover rail system to allow mounting of eye-relief-dependent optics such as Trijicon VCOG.

RIGHT: Safety offers ambidextrous manipulation. Centrally located magazine release behind magazine is also ambidextrous. Tab extending well past the top cover assists in keeping it tightly in place.



Israel's appreciation of the base AK as a fighting rifle carried over into the Galil and now the Galil ACE.



Multiple magazine types were tested with Galil ACE during evaluation.

GALIL ACE

Many consider Galil ACE an evolutionary step forward in the AK family tree. Photo: IWI US



there is no last-round hold-open provision or bolt hold-open device on the Galil ACE.

Several hundred rounds were fired through the Galil ACE during this evaluation. After initial inspection and light lubrication, no cleaning of the rifle was performed. No reliability issues were encountered.

Special focus was paid to maintaining iron sight and optic zero by removing and reinstalling the top cover numerous times between evaluation scenarios. Initial concern was raised about heat transfer to the railed polymer forend.

This proved a non-issue thanks to the effective heat shields and spacing between barrel/gas block and forend. In fact, even after multiple rapid-fire magazine dumps, the forend could be gripped with a non-gloved hand.

TEAM TACTICS DRILLS

Range testing took place at Echo Valley Training Center's Jungle Walk range. Several ISPC-style man targets and steel silhouettes were engaged from different firing positions. This was expanded into team tactics exercises. Moving to and from a designated target area using cover

while either changing magazines or engaging targets when a partner is reloading makes for excellent weapon evaluation drills.

One gets a good sense of the way a weapon handles, along with its reliability, from the sum of ammunition expended in the short time frames characteristic of these team tactics drills. The full gamut of rifle manipulation is encompassed in team tactics training evolutions—handling around cover, accuracy to effectively strike at distance and CQB ranges, magazine changes, and reliability once a weapon heats up.

I find testing any rifle in this format helps highlight strengths or weaknesses in handling or weapon manipulation. The Galil ACE handled as well as any rifle I have tested.

T&E GEAR

Two products I have found helpful in testing the myriad rifles I am fortunate to handle are the High Speed Gear (HSG) Sure Grip patrol belt and TACO magazine pouches. Many shooters train and operate with multiple calibers ei-



Galil ACE field stripped. Similarity to long-stroke piston AK is obvious.



Hornady 123-grain SST ammunition produced sub-2 MOA groups.



ther by choice or necessity. Others are tasked with training different weapon systems as part of their job description.

The logistics of maintaining different belt systems or switching magazine pouches on one belt repeatedly is daunting. Imagine having to accommodate AR magazines one day, AK-47 magazines the next, AR-10/SR-25 magazines another training evolution, and so forth. You get the point.

Just as important in any transition between gear systems is making sure nothing affects magazine drawstroke muscle memory, pistol presentation, or obtaining medical equipment. Accessing gear must remain seamless, with no hitches caused due to different feel or location of pouches. High Speed Gear's TACO magazine pouches and patrol belt were developed with this set of circumstances in mind.

READY FOR ACTION

Israel's appreciation of the base AK as a fighting rifle carried over into the Galil and now the Galil ACE, which further accentuates these characteristics. The full-length upper rail and forend are nods to the advantages offered by red dot optics or possibly mounting a tactical light/laser without succumbing to the urge to hang items that are not necessary, thereby ruining handling.

The higher quality barrel, trigger, and manufacturing found in the Galil ACE further enhance performance. All this is accomplished without compromising rugged reliability in real-world environments.

Anyone looking for a hard-hitting carbine will certainly appreciate the Galil ACE. The functionality of a .30-caliber rifle utilizing 30-round AK-47 magazines and incorporating a proven gas-piston operating system is hard to deny.

No matter the situation, whether a rural setting with longer distances encountered or an urban setting requiring CQB tactics, the IWI US Galil ACE can fulfill the mission. ©



High Speed Gear patrol belt and TACO pouches assisted in T&E of IWI US Galil ACE.

SOURCES

IWI US, INC.

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www.iwi.us

ECHO VALLEY TRAINING CENTER

(540) 450-7998
www.echovalleytrainingcenter.com

HIGH SPEED GEAR INC.

(877) 301-2116
www.highspeedgearinc.com

HORNADY MFG. CO.

(800) 338-3220
www.hornady.com

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CRISIS CUISINE

Long-Term Food Storage

By Richard Duarte

Disasters are always short-term—until they're not.

Because of this inconvenient reality, long-term food security should always be a major priority in every survival plan, though many people plan only for the short-term, if they plan at all.

Many people have somehow convinced themselves that, regardless of the severity of the situation, help will inevitably arrive and everything will be just fine. These unrealistic expectations are commonly based on misguided no-

tions of how the real world works, especially in the aftermath of a crisis.

Having access to long-term food stores can definitely increase your chances for survival in even the most serious crisis situations. But storing that much food is not without its complications, and can also become very expensive. Figuring out what to store and how to store it can often be the most difficult part of the entire process.

Let's take a look at the basics of long-term food security, with specific emphasis on tips, ideas, and suggestions to help you start making your preparations, while also saving some serious money.

FOOD TRUTHS

We've all seen the people on reality TV shows who survive for many weeks with little or no food. Some of these folks make it look relatively easy, others not so much. Going for long periods of time without sufficient calories is a bit more complicated than what you might see on a TV show.

The amount of time a person can survive with minimal caloric intake often depends on the circumstances, including environmental factors, weather conditions, and the overall physical health of the individual(s) involved. In general, after just a few days without sufficient calories, a person's physical and mental performance usually starts to decline.

Reduced to its most fundamental function, food is fuel for the body, and that includes the brain. Fail to consume sufficient calories over an extended period of time and you can expect serious weight loss, depression, decreased ability to think clearly, and eventually organ failure and a miserable death. For this and many other reasons, long-term planning is well worth your time and effort.

LONG VS. SHORT

Food planning for the short term (30 days or less) is really important and will normally be your first line of defense. For this initial period, you'll most likely maintain an inventory of store-bought pre-packaged foods that you routinely eat. Rotate these food stores as you consume them—using the oldest first and positioning the newer products for later use.

Do this, and you'll be far ahead of most of your unprepared



All five-gallon buckets should be labeled before being sealed. Label should clearly show what's in the bucket and the date it was sealed.

It's estimated that 97% of the American public is unprepared and maintains no emergency supplies of food or water.



Food-safe five-gallon buckets and heavy-duty lids are the most common way to store long-term food supplies.



Rubber mallets provide an excellent way to close buckets without damaging lids.



Two-part Gamma Lids offer sensible alternative to fully sealed lid. Lid is pounded onto the bucket, while lid's screw-on, screw-off design provides airtight seal. Different lid colors help identify contents at a glance.



ABOVE: Mylar bags sealed with oxygen absorber inside the bag help protect food from mold, oxidation, and bugs. It's recommended to use one 2000cc oxygen absorber in each 20x30-inch Mylar bag. Quality oxygen absorbers come in vacuum-sealed bag to ensure freshness.



RIGHT: Standard electric hair straightener heat-seals Mylar bags. Look for a model with adjustable temperature control and experiment with different settings. Too high a temperature may damage Mylar bags and produce a faulty seal. Recommended sealing temperature is approximately 400 degrees.

neighbors. (It's estimated that 97% of the American public is unprepared and maintains no emergency supplies of food or water.)

Planning for the short term is a good thing, but if that's all you do, you're placing yourself at a serious disadvantage. It's one thing to prepare for a passing storm or a minor power outage. It's quite another to plan for a major disaster that could disrupt even a portion of the supply chain, the electrical grid, or the multitude of other vital services we all rely on.

But regardless of the cause, if things take an ugly turn and the cavalry arrives later than expected—or fails to arrive at all—you'll likely find yourself in a whole lot of pain if you failed to plan how to feed yourself and your family during a crisis that may extend from weeks to months.

WHERE TO START

Getting ready for an extended crisis is not as difficult as you might imagine. Once your goals are clear, you can develop a detailed action plan and break it down into small, manageable steps. Here are some suggestions to get you moving in the right direction:

- Figure on no less than 2,000 calories per person, per day. This estimate can always be adjusted according to the anticipated conditions and circumstances.
- Carefully select foods that contain a large amount of calories for their relative portion size. For survival purposes, the higher the food's caloric content, the better.



Honey and oats are two staples that can be put on the shelf for more than 20 years if stored properly. Honey is also a natural antibacterial agent.

- Focus on shelf-stable foods that are high in quality nutrition. This is the body's fuel, and your survival may depend on it.
- Avoid junk foods. You may be tempted to opt for familiar, highly processed foods. Although many of these products have an extended shelf life, they contain limited nutrition and offer few tangible benefits.

A promotional graphic for K9s4Cops. It features a police officer in uniform standing next to a German Shepherd dog. The background is a city skyline at night. On the left is a shield logo with a dog silhouette and the text 'K9s 4 COPS'. In the center, large text lists statistics: '139 K9s', '32 States', '\$125,000,000.00 in contraband seized'. Below this is the text 'Your donations help keep our streets safe' and the website 'www.k9s4cops.org'. In the top right corner, it says 'TAKE THE K\$9 CHALLENGE' and 'HELP KEEP STREETS SAFE!'. A small text box in the bottom left corner explains the organization's mission.

139 K9s
32 States
\$125,000,000.00
in contraband seized

K9s 4 COPS

Your donations help keep our streets safe
www.k9s4cops.org

TAKE THE K\$9 CHALLENGE
HELP KEEP STREETS SAFE!

K9s4COPS is a nonprofit foundation whose mission is to build a safer future by placing K9 officers in communities and schools.

other than filling your stomach.

- Look for foods you can buy in bulk to package yourself. Think white rice, beans, oats, grains, freeze-dried fruits/vegetables, some pastas, and dried fruit. Many other options exist, so research different types of food and see what works best for you and your family.
- Test and experiment. Before you commit, sample the food options to ensure they work for your needs.
- Add variety. Rice and beans store very well, and when combined make an excellent source of high-quality protein that will keep you alive, but eating the same thing every day can get tedious. Adding variety lets you combine different ingredients, tastes, and textures to help avoid food fatigue.
- Take it one step at a time. You don't have to establish your entire long-term food stores in one week. Get started and keep building on your efforts.
- Label your inventory. Get into the habit of clearly labeling all containers. Include dates of storage and any other relevant information.

PACKING YOUR FOOD

One of the easiest and most cost-effective ways to store long-term food is to use five-gallon plastic buckets with Mylar bags. Follow these steps:

- Start with a new five-gallon food-grade, BPA-free bucket, or one that you know has not been used to store anything other than food. If you are filling more than one at a time, immediately apply a label (contents and date) to your bucket to avoid confusion.
- Open a 20x30-inch Mylar liner and, being careful not to damage the Mylar bag, begin to open it inside the bucket, flattening out the bottom of the bag along the bottom of the bucket.
- Fill the Mylar liner with your dried goods (rice, beans, etc) and let the material settle.
- When the Mylar bag is filled, start to seal the bag along the top seam, but leave about a three-inch opening on one side to let air out. Throw in your oxygen absorber and begin compressing the bag. To take out even more air, use an electric air pump to pull out the remaining air. At this point, seal the opening. (Oxygen absorbers come in sealed packages for a reason. Before opening these packages, have all your other materials ready to go.)
- Confirm the integrity of your seal and set the bucket aside for 24 hours. The next day, your Mylar bag should be airtight and hard to the touch.

The last step is to secure the plastic lid with your rubber mallet. Store your buckets in a cool, dry place away from light, heat, humidity, pests, and other environmental factors. Check your inventory of stored foods periodically to ensure none of the buckets have been compromised.



GripWorks Ergonomic bucket handles provide a durable snap-over grip for five-gallon buckets and a comfortable alternative to standard bucket handles.

While commercially available emergency food options are an easy and convenient way to build up your long-term food supply, these pre-packed kits can be expensive and may not offer the options you want. For example, you may be forced to accept predetermined meal choices and serving sizes. Do your research and consider the benefits and costs before committing your hard-earned dollars to any particular option.

SHELF-STABLE FOODS FOR THE LONG HAUL

Some foods are natural choices for long-term storage, especially if you can buy them in bulk and store them yourself. This not only saves you money, but also provides you with the flexibility to make your own food and portion choices. Here is a basic list of some calorie-dense, shelf-stable foods:

- White rice: When stored properly, white rice will maintain its nutrient content and flavor longer than other types of rice.
- Dried beans: There's a wide selection to choose from—black, navy, red, pinto, and kidney. Buy a little of each and test them in your kitchen to make sure you and your family like them before you buy them in large quantities. Also make sure they agree with your digestive system. Few things are worse than a closet full of a food you can't eat. Rice and beans can easily be the most important part of your long-term emergency food stores.
- Sugar: This important nutrient should be sealed in airtight containers to minimize moisture.
- Honey: Properly sealed honey will store indefinitely.
- Dried herbs, salt and spices: No matter what foods you store, some basic seasonings will make a big difference.
- Oats: Provide a concentrated source of fiber and nutrients, and will last for several years if stored properly.
- Dried pasta: Provides necessary carbohydrates and can be stored for up to two years.

In addition to these basics, consider adding canned



Use bucket openers for quick and easy removal of all sizes of bucket lids. Slowly work your way around the bucket with the opener until the lid starts to pop off.

meat; tuna; peanut butter; powdered, sweetened, condensed and evaporated milk; and freeze-dried fruit and vegetables. Canned goods do not have the extended shelf-life of rice and beans, but they still have a place, and add value to your food stores.

LONG-TERM STORAGE SUPPLIES

As with everything else, having the right supplies makes the job at hand far easier. Here's a list of useful supplies.

- Five-gallon buckets. Look for heavy-duty, food-grade, BPA-free plastic. Avoid used buckets unless you are 100% certain they are safe to use for food storage.
- Removable air-tight sealed lids for your buckets.
- Heavy-duty Mylar bags in different sizes.
- Oxygen absorbers (2000cc for 20x30-inch bags).
- Rubber mallets in different sizes.
- Bucket openers. These are inexpensive and easy to obtain.
- Electric iron or hair straightener for sealing Mylar bags.
- Manual or electric pump to vacuum as much air as possible out of the Mylar bags before sealing them.
- Ergonomic bucket handles, which make carrying heavy buckets more comfortable on your hands.

WRAP-UP

Long-term food security is a big deal. While storing food for an extended crisis can be challenging, the payoff can be well worth the effort. With a bit of planning and some basic preparations, you can prepare for yourself and your family while saving money and learning new skills. Stay safe and be prepared. ☺

Richard Duarte is an urban survival consultant, writer, and firearms enthusiast. He's the author of Surviving Doomsday: A Guide for Surviving an Urban Disaster, and the Quick-Start Guide for urban preparedness. For the latest news and updates, connect with Richard on www.quickstartsurvival.com.

LONG-TERM FOOD OPTIONS AT A GLANCE

Packing Your Own Long-Term Food

PROS

- **Cost:** You can save hundreds, if not thousands, of dollars by packing bulk food items yourself.
- **Selection:** Packing your own food choices gives you flexibility and lets you focus on foods you actually like. You won't be stuck with someone else's choices.
- **Flexibility:** Work at your own pace and build up your food supply over time as you can afford to do so.
- **Portions:** When you pack it yourself, you can control the portion sizes. Mylar bags and oxygen absorbers come in several convenient sizes. Choose the portion sizes that work best for you.

CONS

- **Spoilage and waste:** Food can easily spoil if you don't pack and seal it correctly.
- **Time and effort:** A considerable investment of time and effort is required to shop for your food and supplies and to package the food.

BUYING PRE-PACKAGED FOOD SUPPLIES

PROS

- **Turnkey:** Bring it home, put it away, and you're done.
- **Very long shelf life:** Commercially packed emergency food can have a shelf-life of five to 30 years depending on the products and storage conditions.
- **Variety:** Although many choices will already have been made for you, most of these kits contain a varied supply of foods.
- **Meals ready to eat:** Kits containing prepacked meals may in some instances help you avoid the inconvenience of cooking.

CONS

- **Costs:** These kits can be very expensive.
- **Not cost effective for short-term emergencies.**
- **Bulk packed items must be used once opened.**

AMERICA'S RIFLE

Dirty Barrel Accuracy Testing

By Justin Dyal

Have you ever wondered how well a rifle will shoot with a dirty barrel? We did, so we tested one that hadn't been cleaned in over 6,000 rounds.

THE shooting world is wallpapered with time-honored conventional wisdom that many accept without question. One of these is that dirty barrels lose accuracy. Meeting someone who has actually tested that theorem is finding-Bigfoot tough, though. They may be out there; you just never seem to be able to find them.

As luck would have it, there I was one recent afternoon going back through my data book on a Bravo Company Mfg mid-length upper that has been in long-term endurance testing with FireClean lubricant.

The AR was at a carefully logged and tracked 6,210 rounds fired with nary a care given to the bore over the last 18 months. The bore looks, well, dirty. Not like "you missed a spot" dirty, more like "give a drill instructor a heart attack" dirty.

I knew from the types of drills I shoot that it seemed to be shooting well and thought I might check it. Then I realized I've never grouped a rifle that dirty and didn't know anyone else who had either.





Test upper was a BCM mid-length 16-inch standard government profile barrel in a KMR A rail. Optic used was Leupold Mid Range Tactical 2.5-8X.

The idea that it might be interesting settled in, so I gathered some loads and set out to do it right.

The rifle is built around a BCM standard government profile 16-inch barrel with a lightweight KMR A aluminum KeyMod rail handguard. The lower is a Noveske with a Geissele Super V trigger. For the test, I mounted a Leupold MR/T 2.5-8X optic. The rifle was secured up front in a Shadow Tech PIG Saddle and with a Badger Ordnance “Badger Bone” support bag under the buttstock.

The shooting was done on a glorious day with perfect weather in the low 70s. The rifle was allowed to cool every six shots for a couple of minutes while I recorded hits, but each group was fired with a slightly warm barrel. I had two loads each from Federal, Hornady, and Black Hills chosen to give a cross section of .223/5.56 loads without any knowledge of how they might group in this particular rifle.

THE BACKSTORY

But I’m getting ahead of myself. This is probably as good a time as any to consider how we came to accept that rifle barrels must be spotless to do good work.

In the olden days, when black powder was poured down the muzzle end to make the rifle go boom, each shot left a considerable amount of fouling in the bore. These deposits accumulated quickly with successive shots and did no favors to accuracy. The fouling was also corrosive and, even if only a single shot were fired, the rifleman needed to clean the bore soon after to keep the barrel from getting eaten slowly from the inside by the rust monster.

A couple hundred years of this, from Plymouth Rock to about 1900, cemented the need to clean in the collective consciousness. The arrival of non-corrosive smokeless powders didn’t change this overnight, because for generations the rifle cartridges were ignited with primers that used a cor-

rosive compound, spewing flame and potential rust demons down the tube with each shot. Judicious cleaning was still necessary to keep the bores clean and sparkly.

Soon after the U.S. military adopted non-corrosive primers, wholesale, fielding the fiasco of the “self-cleaning” M16 rifle. GIs neither taught to clean their new rifles nor equipped with the necessary cleaning equipment had some urgent problems in the jungles of Vietnam.

This pretty well locked in the conventional wisdom that had served well since the Kentucky Rifle: *clean the rifle!*

As a service rifle competitor, cleaning interval was a matter of hot debate among the old salts with their chests full of medals. Opinions ranged from after every practice or match (approximately 60 rounds) to once a week to two or three times a season.



Six loads were chosen at random to represent match, duty, and varmint ammo in the dirty barrel.



Four of six varmint rounds cut the one-inch square. Not what you'd expect from a filthy rifle.



That a rifle with 6,000+ rounds of fouling in the bore can still punch a playing card on demand at 100 yards says a lot about America's Rifle.



This sub-minute group was the best five-shot group of the test, fired with Hornady American Gunner hollow points.

I don't recall any having empirically proved their claim. It was, like so many passionate beliefs in the shooting world, intuition based on experience.

GOING HOT

Thus I settled in behind this particular dirty rifle with a great deal of curiosity. Six thousand plus rounds are a lot of ammo, likely more than double what the average owner will ever fire through any one rifle.

For example, if the typical shooter fired two boxes of ammo on a monthly trip to the range, it would take about 13 years to reach that level of fouling.

I took my time and fired groups of three shots. I fired one group, plotted it in my data book, and fired another group of three over it. I would then switch to another target and repeat the process.

The five-shot groups are the "best five" of the six rounds comprising two successive three-shot groups. This five-shot methodology is similar to at least one testing facility I am familiar with. Doing the groups this way let me look at the data to compare three- and five-shot results.

The whole three- vs five- vs ten-round groups is another exhausting debate in the rifle world. The data is displayed to be able to look at the results multiple ways. It may take a little study to sift through the tables. For those with table phobia, the plain language points are below.

INTERPRETATION OF RESULTS

The filthy barrel still piled up half a dozen legitimate sub minute-of-angle (MOA) three-shot groups and a single sub MOA five rounder. Yeah, crazy, isn't it?

The average of the best three loads—Federal Varmint, Federal Gold Medal Match, and Hornady American Gunner—individual best three-round groups was an impressive .79 inch. That number doubled to 1.6 inches for all tested loads' best three rounder.

For reference, when I am testing a new rifle, I tend to be happy if it cuts an MOA for three shots with any load and am generally fine with a rifle that does 1.5 inches consistently with good ammo. Getting that 6K in? I'll take it.

Going to the worst-case average: The extreme spread averaged across *all* five-shot groups from each load was 2.85 inches. Throwing out the bottom three loads brings the overall average for five-shot groups down to 1.8 inches across

TABLE 1: THREE-SHOT PERFORMANCE

LOAD	BEST 3-SHOT GROUP (inches)	WORST 3-SHOT GROUP (inches)	AVERAGE (inches)
Black Hills 62-gr. TSX	2.30	4.40	3.46
Black Hills 77-gr. TMK	3.00	7.00	5.62
Federal Varmint 50-gr. HP	0.95*	3.30	1.82
Federal Gold Medal Match 69-gr. BTHP	0.84*	3.00	1.90
Hornady American Gunner 55-gr. HP	0.58*	2.25	1.15
Hornady TAP 70-gr. GMX	1.75	3.65	3.01
AVERAGE	1.57	3.93	2.82

Three-shot groups fired at 100 yards from a rest. * = sub MOA

the top three. This would have been very respectable performance for a mid price point hunting rifle a generation ago.

I was interested to find that the most common spread of three-shot groups tended to closely align with the best of the five-shot groups for each load. In some loads, this was a very close alignment. I will continue to look for this trend in other rifles.

There was a greater extreme spread between best and worst groups in a given load than I am used to. This may be the one area where the barrel's dirtiness had an effect. It is equally possible that the variation is at least partly a result of the number of groups fired in one day and human error.

Either way, this threw the average slightly off, as most loads were a series of relatively similar groups with one "outlier" worst group that skewed the average. For example, dropping the outlier three-shot group from the Federal Varmints cuts the average down by half an inch to 1.3, which is more representative of what I would expect, but the full average and worst groups are reported in each case.

It is best to resist extrapolating these results to broad conclusions. Yes, *this* particular and very dirty rifle shot rather well, better in fact than many new rifles. What that says

about your rifle? Dunno. But a couple of conclusions are fairly safe.

TEST CONCLUSIONS

One is the importance of actually grouping loads to verify their performance in a particular rifle. This is one we all tend to violate. If load X shoots great in rifle A, we slap it in rifle B and expect the same.

Coming into this, I chose Black Hills Tipped MatchKings because they tend to be magic. My confidence in them borders on faith. That they grouped poorly in this rifle confirms the importance of checking compatibility with each load and rifle.

A related point is conferring the best grouping onto the rifle as a general capability. This barrel stacked American Gunner hollow points into one nearly half-inch group. But the more duty-oriented TSX and GMX loads were about three MOA. The rifle's capability is defined by the rounds that are currently in it rather than what a different pet load shot. This is a somewhat obvious point, but borne out by this example.

For those who are concerned to max out the rifle's

» Continued on page 89

TABLE 2: FIVE-SHOT PERFORMANCE

LOAD	BEST 5-SHOT GROUP (inches)	WORST 5-SHOT GROUP (inches)	AVERAGE (inches)
Black Hills 62-gr. TSX	2.65	4.14	3.39
Black Hills 77-gr. TMK	3.45	7.00	5.22
Federal Varmint 50-gr. HP	1.07	3.20	2.13
Federal Gold Medal Match 69-gr. BTHP	1.05	3.47	2.26
Hornady American Gunner 55-gr. HP	0.95*	1.35	1.15
Hornady TAP 70-gr. GMX	2.90	3.00	2.95
AVERAGE	2.01	3.69	2.85

Five-shot groups fired at 100 yards from a rest. * = sub MOA

CARRYING A HANDGUN

Separate Facts From Fallacies

By Patrick A. Rogers

Carrying a handgun, concealed or otherwise, is permitted by law in many states. Several states have no restrictions on carry, and a number of others have “shall issue” laws. And of course a few states severely restrict not only the carrying of a weapon by honest citizens, but also prohibit the mere possession of a firearm.

I have been carrying a handgun daily for 36 years, and I don’t profess to know everything that everybody needs to know about daily carry. But I have learned a thing or two over the years, generally as the result of being caught short. So read on, but understand that each community may have a particular standard that must be met before you can legally carry a handgun.

A GUN IS NOT THE ANSWER TO EVERY PROBLEM

Far from it: it may instead be a liability. Used properly, the gun can solve the ultimate problem—when someone is about to use Deadly Physical Force (in some locations, force that equates to serious physical injury) against you or a third person. But it may be contraindicated under other circumstances.

Without training in both the applicable legal statutes concerning the use of Deadly Physical Force (DPF) and operation of that firearm, and combined with an improper mindset, a handgun may be no more than a gross liability.

Being armed is more than just the possession of the firearm. The gun is only a tool. The mind is the true weapon. If you think otherwise, you may not understand the reality of the situation.

Be honest as to the reason you want to carry a gun. If you think the fact that you are carrying a gun will cure male pattern baldness, give you six-pack abs, or make you irresistible to the opposite sex, you are flat stupid. You are equally stupid if you believe you will impress anyone with your iron/plastic/whatever bullet launcher. In fact, the opposite may be true.

The gun is for your protection, and generally speaking, to prevent someone from using DPF against you or a third person. That’s it.

UNDERSTAND THE CAPABILITIES AND LIMITATIONS

The firearm on your hip is not a death ray. Neither is it a device with which you can threaten or bluff someone. But it can deliver a wound that may or may not result in the immediate incapacitation of an opponent. The courts, and society as a whole, take that very seriously. Carrying a firearm represents a paradigm shift for most people.



Milt Sparks Summer Special was Rogers’ all-time favorite holster, and arguably the best IWB holster ever. He used it for decades, carrying 1911s and Browning Hi-Powers in it. S&W 642 is an excellent back-up gun.

Belly bag is an option, but use caution. It can be a target indicator in some places, but in others it is transparent. It offers the advantage of having a one-stop shop—pistol, spare magazines, flashlight, cell phone, and cash can all be carried. It is especially useful when in a motor vehicle. Like everything else, it requires training in order to safely and efficiently present the pistol.



Carrying your favorite handgun is not as simple as it sounds. It requires a gross shift in your attitude, demeanor, habits, and choice of clothing. Habits may include changes in acquaintances. You will find that some whom you once considered friends may feel uncomfortable around you because you have made a decision they were unable or unwilling to make. Others will have an unnatural fear of being in the presence of a loaded firearm.

If you have kids, you will have to make adjustments in your lifestyle. Some parents may not allow their kids into your house, which can be a bone of contention. Some of these societal issues may be common sense, while others carry the weight of law.

You may also come to understand that certain locations must be crossed off your list of places to visit. This should include bars, especially those rowdy joints where fights are common occurrences. Booze and guns are always contraindicated, and even if you are not directly involved, you may in fact be violating a legal statute just by being present.

MAKE A COMMITMENT

If you carry a gun, you need to carry all the time, and every place that you legally can. Too often I hear people say they only carry when they feel a threat. Those may be among the stupidest words to ever come out of their mouths. If I knew I was going to get in a gunfight on the way home from getting my hair cut, I would just skip the tonsorial ministrations and stay home.

HARDWARE

The gun you carry is going to be a compromise. Someplace along the line, you will realize that the gun you want to carry and the gun you will have to carry may be two different animals.

Larger guns in calibers that are generally considered more capable may also be more difficult to conceal. Also

understand that concealment is usually more a matter of holster design than gun size.

HOLSTERS

Useful holsters can be divided into two main types: inside the waistband (IWB) and outside the waistband (OWB).

IWB holsters are significantly more concealable, but also may be less comfortable, especially if you are sporting a food blister. On the other hand, they are easier to don and doff, making life less complicated for those who have that particular need. They may also require a trouser and belt size adjustment to compensate for the added bulk.

The OWB is significantly more comfortable, but also significantly more difficult to conceal. You have several com-



Rogers carried this Ruger Speed Six and S&W M36 while a cop in NYPD. This was in the six-shooter days, and he never felt under-armed with these guns. The Speed Six was a larger gun, equivalent to a K-Frame. It shot very well and gave him good service. M36 was a gift when he came on The Job, and was a great back-up gun.

peting priorities working simultaneously. You can make your carry very concealable, but at the cost of a much slower drawstroke. Or you can have a faster drawstroke, but with less concealability, meaning you give up a major tactical advantage.

Other holsters are also available: The fanny pack is an alternative under certain circumstances. It is common, readily available, and can carry your pistol, spare magazines, light, and other essentials very handily. Because it is so common, it may or may not be an apparent gun carrier, depending on where you are at any given time.

I strongly caution against ankle holsters except for carrying a back-up gun (BUG) or when no other options exist.

The shoulder holster so loved by the film industry has limited usefulness for everyday carry.

The late, great Jeff Cooper often stated, "You cannot make an appointment for an emergency."

GUNS

Nothing you can hold in your hand can be guaranteed to stop anyone with one or more shots. Eliminate the terms "stopping power," "knock-down power," and "hydrostatic shock" from your internal dictionary. They do not apply to what you are carrying. However, calibers that fall in between .356 (that is, .38 Special/ 9x19mm) and .45 are usually considered to be useful.

While I have seen a lot of people turned into canoes at the city morgue as the direct result of ingesting projectiles in .22 Long Rifle, .25 ACP, .32 and 9x17mm (.380), I have also seen failures to stop from .357 Magnum, .45, and 7.62x51mm.

Shot placement is paramount. A solid hit with a .22 is much better than a near miss with a Whiz Bang 2000 loaded with Uncle Cheech's Garlic-Soaked Heat Seekers.

All the factors that play into success or failure in a gunfight—type of gun, brand of ammunition, caliber, projectile weight, and muzzle velocity—are distant thirds to technique and mindset.

REVOLVER OR SEMI-AUTO?

The correct answer here is "Yes." Both types are viable for anti-personnel use.

Revolver: Pros

- Simple manual of arms
- Usually reliable

Revolver: Cons

- Generally bulkier than semi-auto pistols
- Malfunctions can be showstoppers
- Trigger pull can be moderate to difficult
- Reduced ammunition capacity
- Reloading can be slow

Semi-auto pistols can be broken down into two categories:

Single-Action (SA) and Double-Action (DA). Striker-fired guns like the S&W M&P and Glock are similar to the SA guns in trigger press, and will be grouped there.

On the SA gun, the hammer is cocked by manipulation of the slide while loading or as the pistol is being fired. The trigger press is less (in distance traveled) and in weight.

On the DA gun, the hammer is cocked by the trigger (for conventional DA) on the first shot only. Successive shots are SA only. On a Double-Action-Only (DAO) gun, the trigger cocks the gun for every shot. This results in a long and heavy trigger press.

As many have stated before me, the DA pistol is the perfect solution to a non-existent problem. The first trigger press requires one type of grip. The second and additional shots are SA and require a different trigger press and grip. Some law enforcement agencies and departments mandate DA guns because they neither trust nor provide appropriate training for their people.

Some shooters can make the DA gun work well. It is generally a more difficult trigger to master, and while trigger control is not the only technique necessary, it is the single most important mechanical skill to be mastered. If you have a choice, avoid the DA pistol like the plague.

The SA pistol/striker-fired pistol has a single trigger press/grip for each shot, making it easier to shoot.

Semi-Auto Pistol: Pros

- Generally less bulky (depending on model) than revolvers
- Usually very reliable
- Higher ammunition capacity
- Malfunctions are generally easier to clear

Semi-Auto Pistol: Cons

- Manual of arms may be more complicated
- May be ammunition sensitive

CONTINUE THE COMMITMENT

You cannot do this with a 50% attitude. If you think you only have to carry when you feel an elevated threat level, you are a fool. Consider instead a quick job change. Or perhaps you could go to Vegas and make a killing there. But you will never be able to predict when you might need to protect yourself or your family from an immediate threat.

Likewise, if you are the type who is not comfortable carrying a loaded gun (that is, in Condition 1, round chambered), but instead delude yourself into thinking that Condition 3 carry (empty chamber) is just as good, you are wrong. You may think you can successfully draw the pistol, rack the slide, and dispatch the bad guy or three into a parallel dimension, but I wouldn't bet on it.

Another factor against Condition 3 carry is the possibility you may not have the use of your support-side hand due to injury or being otherwise occupied for any number of reasons.

If you choose to deliberately handicap yourself and carry in a significantly less efficient manner, maybe you should question your ability to use Deadly Physical Force against another human being. Most people have never been in a for-real fight, and may actually believe they happen just like they do on TV. But they don't happen that way.

Violent encounters occur at what might be the speed of light. Mr. and Mrs. Average American are generally floundering around in a state of perpetual White and may never know that the encounter in fact occurred, and by then it may be way too late to influence the outcome....

In a pistol class on Long Island several years ago, I had a student who was a high-end jeweler and the father of a NYC Detective. He owned a Walther PPK/S and wanted to use it in the class.

While normally it is a very good idea to shoot the gun you carry, the PPK/S was insufficient for a 750-round class. The jeweler accepted an offered G19 and did well. He asked to try his gun at the end of the class, but when he attempted to fire, the trigger would not move. The gun was locked up solid. This man had carried this gun in a high-risk business for 14 years and had never fired it or performed any maintenance on it.

The late, great Jeff Cooper often stated, "You cannot make an appointment for an emergency." Those words should be etched on your bathroom mirror. And when you look in that mirror, understand that the person you see may be the only one who can positively influence the event. ©

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ABOVE: Some of author's carry guns. Realistically, caliber and bullet configuration are not as important as shot placement. Clockwise from 12 o'clock: Colt Commander, Colt CGP, S&W Model 36, S&W Model 38, Ruger Speed Six, Colt Cobra, and S&W M&P .45.

BELOW: In cooler weather or when a specific type of clothing was mandated or desired, Rogers carried in Raven Concealment OWB holster and used their mag pouches for a number of reasons. He always carried two spare magazines, no matter which pistol he was using.



RIGHT GUN AT THE WRONG TIME

Swedish K Submachine Gun

By Will Dabbs, M.D.

Produced in the aftermath of World War II, when surplus submachine guns were plentiful, Swedish K went on to arm American Special Forces soldiers in Vietnam.

Swedish K feeds from superb double-stack 36-round box magazine.





On 30 January 1968, the Viet Cong, with massive North Vietnamese Army support, launched the largest offensive yet undertaken during the Vietnam War. Ultimately 80,000 communist troops struck more than 100 South Vietnamese towns and cities. The attack included 36 of 44 provincial capitals, 72 of 245 district towns, and five of six autonomous cities as well as the southern capital of Saigon. As this attack coincided with the Vietnamese New Year, it became known as the Tet Offensive.

While chaos briefly reigned in the aftermath of this remarkably successful coordinated surprise attack, South Vietnamese and U.S. forces quickly regrouped and beat back the communists. Intense fighting went on in many places for more than a month, and the North Vietnamese forces suffered enormous casualties. But on the battlefield that mattered the most—the American living room—enthusiasm for the war began to falter.

Beginning with the Tet Offensive, quiet voices opposing the war in Southeast Asia grew steadily louder, until the U.S. ultimately pulled out and allowed the communists to overrun the country.

WAR STORY

On 31 January 1968, the day after the launch of the Tet Offensive, two battalions of Viet Cong successfully seized the South Vietnamese provincial capital of Chau Phu. This offensive fragmented South Vietnamese defenses, cutting off friendly units as well as allied civilian personnel throughout the city.

Staff Sergeant Drew Dix was assigned nearby as a Special Forces advisor. When SSG Dix learned that several friendlies, including an American nurse, were trapped in a house in the city center, he stuffed his pockets with spare magazines and headed off with his Swedish K submachine gun leading a relief force.

Two days later, SSG Dix had killed between 14 and 25 Viet Cong, captured another 40, and rescued 24 civilians. For this he earned the nation's highest award for valor, the Medal of Honor.

The presentation of this award at the White House by President Lyndon Johnson on 19 January 1969 was one of this controversial President's last official acts as Commander in Chief. SSG Dix was the first enlisted Special Forces soldier to earn the Medal of Honor. The awkward-looking subma-

The Swedish K is full-auto only and has no safety beyond a slot in which to lock the bolt to the rear.



One of the most remarkable aspects of the K's design is its removable magazine well. By disengaging a heavy wire clip, mag well can be removed, allowing for either 50-round coffin-shaped magazines or 71-round drums.



Author's Swedish K suppressor incorporates ported barrel that drops standard-velocity 9mm rounds to subsonic ranges.

Swedish K's sole safety is cutout notch that can be used to lock bolt to the rear.



chine gun SSG Dix used to successfully undertake this remarkable feat of arms followed an unusual path from Sweden to the sweltering jungles of Vietnam.

THE SWEDISH K

The Swedish K was officially known as the *Kulsprutepistol m/45* and was the right gun at the wrong time. Developed in the aftermath of World War II and introduced in 1945, the Swedish K entered a world already awash in surplus submachine guns. The Swedish K was alternately known as the Carl Gustav M/45. American users frequently called it the K rifle.

The Swedish K was a simple enough gun originally designed by Gunnar Johnsson and produced at the Carl Gustafs Stads Gevärsfaktori in Eskilstuna, Sweden. The Swedish K served as the standard Swedish submachine gun from 1945 to 1965. The Swedish Home Guard did not retire the weapon until 2007.

The Swedish K represented the pinnacle of second-generation SMG design. Built around a pressed steel receiver and incorporating a minimum number of machined parts, the Swedish K was cheap to build. Drawing on production techniques pioneered in the German MP40 and British Sten, as well as the Russian PPS-43 and PPSH-41, the Swedish K was a robust and reliable combat weapon.

FOREIGN USERS

The Egyptians produced the Swedish K under license, calling it the Port Said. It is essentially identical to the Swedish gun. A later, simplified version called the Akaba had a shorter barrel, simple sliding wire stock, and no barrel shroud.

In an odd turn of events, the United States found itself in need of a pistol-caliber 9mm submachine gun as it ramped up for operations in Southeast Asia in the early 1960s. Navy SEALs in particular appreciated the gun's over-the-beach capabilities.

The Swedish K had such loose tolerances that it could be expected to operate reliably immediately after emerging from protracted immersion in salt water. The American CIA and Special Forces also made extensive use of the weapon.

Swedish objections to American

involvement in the Vietnam War resulted in suspension of contracts to supply the gun to American users in 1966. A subsequent request on behalf of the SEALs to American industry for a replacement resulted in the relatively short-lived Smith & Wesson M76. However, the SEALs lost interest in the submachine gun in favor of compact rifle-caliber weapons, and the M76 died a natural death.

Some of the early Swedish K guns could be found without any identifying markings at all, intended for covert clandestine use.

PERTINENT PARTICULARS

Despite its conventional design, the Swedish K did have some unusual features. The gun fires from an open bolt via advanced primer ignition, and sports an unusually slow rate of fire. This rate is published in open sources to be around 600 rounds per minute, but my gun cycles a bit slower with standard-velocity ammunition.

The gun feeds from a splendid double-stack 36-round box magazine. About 300,000 weapons were made during its production run. The heavy pressed-steel stock locks positively in both the open and closed positions, and it is more effective than most as a result. Both the front and rear sights are heavily fenced.

One of the most unusual features of the Swedish K is its magazine well. By removing a heavy wire retainer clip, the magazine well may be separated from the gun to allow use of wide 50-round coffin magazines or even 71-round drums. While the appeal of 71 rounds onboard is undeniable, the resulting gun is awkward to maneuver and unduly heavy. Most later guns had the magazine well permanently riveted in place.

The Swedish K is full-auto only and has no safety beyond a slot in which to lock the bolt to the rear. The guns were finished in a characteristic grey-green lacquer finish. The barrel and barrel sleeve are easily removable, and a suppressor unit can be installed in moments without tools. American Special Operations soldiers serving in Vietnam particularly prized the sound-suppressed version.

HOW DOES SHE RUN?

The pistol grip, like that of the American M3 Grease Gun, was apparently designed for some Scandinavian ice giant. I have big hands, and the grip still seems too large. Uninspired wooden grip panels give the gun a crude appearance. The release mechanism for the folding stock demands that a catch be pressed while the stock is simultaneously disengaged and rotated closed. This maneuver seems like it requires three hands until you have practiced it a bit. The stock opens freely with a tug.

To fire the weapon, simply pull the bolt to the rear until it engages the sear and inserts a loaded magazine. The rest is just aim and squeeze. The slow rate of fire, combined with the gun's prodigious weight, make it remarkably controllable. When fired from either the shoulder or the hip, the Swedish K is a steady and effective platform.

A good friend suggested I give this a whirl: The Swedish K actually shoots faster when pointed downward than



Swedish government curtailed shipment of Swedish K submachine guns to the United States in 1966 in protest of America's involvement in the Vietnam War. Smith & Wesson subsequently designed S&W M76 as a replacement. But American Special Operations forces became enamored with rifle-caliber carbines, and the M76 died a natural death.



Swedish K's folding stock opens with a tug. Folding this appendage requires a bit of body English, but becomes intuitive with practice.



Grip panels on Swedish K are large and simplistic.

Sound-suppressed version of Swedish K was a particularly prized trophy in Vietnam.



when elevated! This is intuitive, I suppose. Physics dictates that the force of gravity would assist the action in a nose-low attitude and retard it when the muzzle is lifted upward.

The effect can be surprisingly pronounced at sharp angles. There is likely no tactical application to this, but it is interesting. Everything in life can be expressed in terms of physics.

Swedish troops who grew weary of the sedate rate of fire found that they could insert a flashlight battery into the rear portion of the gun behind the bolt and substantially speed up the weapon. I personally feel that slower is better when it comes to submachine guns, so I don't see much point in that myself. I have owned my beat-up Swedish K for about seven years and have put a couple thousand rounds through the gun without a failure. I plan to clean it someday, but haven't gotten around to it just yet.

Though my custom sound suppressor for the Swedish K incorporates a ported barrel that drops the typically supersonic rounds down below the speed of sound, it is still tough to suppress the zippy little 9mm. I tried a decent burst without muffs and regretted it for several days.

When I'm sitting off in the corner of the nursing home someday with no friends because I can't hear well enough to carry on a conversation, we'll all know where it started.

MUSINGS

The Swedish K was a robust and effective submachine gun that came along just as submachine guns were passing their prime. The K earned some combat credibility in Vietnam, not so much because it was a phenomenal weapon, but rather because it was reliable and available. But in the hands of a determined operator like Drew Dix, it was obviously a formidable tactical tool.

Nowadays, rifle-caliber carbines have all but displaced pistol-caliber submachine guns in the armories of most military forces. The Swedish K still shows up from time to time in Africa and the Middle East, but its day in the sun has passed.

But with generous tolerances and a superb 36-round magazine, the argument could be made that the Swedish K represented the state of the art in its era. Running the old girl on the range reminds me of why everybody in Vietnam wanted one. ☺

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

PISTOL FOR THE FUTURE?

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[Editor's Note: Several companies have used the Colt brand in the past. The ammo tested here was manufactured years ago and should not be confused with the Colt branded ammo currently being manufactured by Double Tap.]

Next, I fired ten-round strings for accuracy from a rest at 15 yards. Top honors in velocity went to the Super Vel 90-grain load, which also tied for first in accuracy with the Black Hills and Hornady 115-grain JHPs. Complete results are in the table on page 57.

While I enjoy shooting, this part of the evaluation is always somewhat tedious and methodical, and in this instance took the better part of a day.

Obviously I had not run the M2.0 very hard yet, with the shooting being slow-fire, aimed shots. On a second trip to my range, it was time to get in meaningful practice—and some fun.

Starting at 25 yards, I did some shooting on the move, firing two to three rounds, pausing and starting again every five yards. By the time I reached the ten-yard line, I was firing hammers and, closing from five yards to near point of contact, I shot NSRs (non-standard responses) of four to six rounds.

Movement drills continued, with stepping off the line of attack while moving laterally, and backward while engaging the target from the holster.

For headshots, I put several “no shoot” targets to the sides and behind the target to be engaged, simulating a crowded area. While still moving, this forced me to apply Rule 4 (be aware of your target and what’s behind it).

In this drill, I also placed a small balloon on the “shoot” target’s head, because while a headshot on a static piece of paper is pretty easy, one that bobs and weaves is harder and more realistic.

On the second day, I purposely started late in the day to get in some low-light shooting with the SureFire X400 Ultra. Between the bright light and the laser, hits were fast and positive.

The M2.0 allows a high, close-to-bore axis grip for faster shot-to-shot times. Trigger reset is positive and can be heard and felt. Comparing the trigger to my personal M&P with a Lyman electronic trigger gauge, both broke cleanly and consistently at 5.1 pounds.

I shoot and carry my 1911s a lot and, since the M&P has the same approximate 18-degree grip angle, it came up

on target and pointed naturally for me. In contrast, the grip angle of the Glock is about 22 degrees, and for me it always points high. While subjective, I personally think Browning (and Smith & Wesson) got it right.

By the end of the evaluation, I had put just under 1,000 rounds through the M2.0, with no malfunctions except as noted above.

Stay tuned for other new product additions and line extensions from Smith & Wesson this year. They will establish a new family based on this platform. If they’re anything like the new M2.0, the shooting community has a lot to look forward to. ☺

SOURCES

SMITH & WESSON

(800) 331-0852
www.smith-wesson.com

AGUILA AMMUNITION

(888) 452-4019
www.aguilammo.com

ATOMIC AMMUNITION

(623) 580-8888
www.atomicammunition.com

BLACK HILLS AMMUNITION

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

DOUBLE TAP AMMUNITION

(866) 357-10MM
www.doubletapammo.com

GBW CARTRIDGE

(844) 907-2932
www.gbwcarridge.com

HORNADY MFG. CO.

(800) 338-3220
www.hornady.com

HPR AMMUNITION

(888) 966-8477
www.hprammo.com

PACT INC.

(800) 722-8462
www.pact.com

SIG SAUER

(603) 610-3000
www.sigammo.com

STURM, RUGER & CO., INC.

(203) 259-7843
www.ruger.com

SUPER VEL AMMUNITION

(702) 232-4527
www.supervellammunition.com

SUREFIRE, LLC

(800) 828-8809
www.surefire.com

TANGODOWN INC.

(520) 888-3376
www.tangodown.com

WINCHESTER AMMUNITION

(615) 258-3340
www.winchester.com

AMERICA'S RIFLE

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potential but still have a high-performance projectile, some experimentation is probably required with several different brands, bullet weights, or projectiles.

In this rifle, there was very little zero shift among the six loads, despite a wide range of weights and velocities. All but one shot fired fell within the head box of a typical silhouette, and the great majority fell within the same approximately three-inch circle. The shift would likely not be a factor inside of 200 yards. This is consistent with what I’ve seen elsewhere.

This shoot reinforced my continued appreciation for America’s Rifle. To have a mixed-parts gun that has been ridden like the proverbial town bicycle shoot group after group into a half-dollar-sized cluster with a variety of loads was impressive.

Every BCM upper or rifle I’ve ever driven has shot well, and this one may have taken that to a new level of achievement.

To be clear, I don’t think this experiment settles the debate on dirty barrels. In fact, it will probably just flare up opinions and possibly introspection across the spectrum, which is healthy.

I think the results of accuracy testing such as this and cleaning/lubrication endurance tests do point to just how well our current rifles work. ☺

Justin Dyal retired from the U.S. Marines as a Lt. Colonel with worldwide experience in specialized units. He has taught and been responsible for numerous advanced skills and weapons courses with in multiple organizations.

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Spyderco Advocate

Two is one, and one is none.

Sage advice whether you're talking about personal-defense handguns, spare magazines, or knives.

I normally carry three knives as part of my everyday carry (EDC): two folders and the third is the blade on my SOG Powerlock multi-tool, which I use for mundane chores such as cutting paracord and opening boxes.

The two folders—one carried on my right side and one on my left—are kept razor sharp and carried in case I have to resort to them for self-defense. I do not use them for any other purpose.

One of the folders I carry is whatever happens to be handy. But for several years, the second that has accompanied me daily has been a Spyderco Schempp Bowie, designed

by renowned custom knifemaker Ed Schempp.

I like the classic Bowie clip point and appreciate its traditional style combined with state-of-the-art manufacturing and materials. It has brass bolsters on one end and its scales (handles) are made from carbon fiber/G10 laminate. Spyderco's Trade-mark Round Hole™ affords fast and positive one-handed opening with either hand.

At the 2017 SHOT Show, Spyderco's Joyce Laituri—one of my favorite people in the industry—presented me with a new Spyderco knife: a C214TIP Advocate™. It's a production version of custom knifemaker Gayle Bradley's first flipper-style folder design.

The Advocate's full-flat ground,

3.49-inch blade is made from CPM M4—a tool steel famous for its edge-holding capability. The blade includes the usual hole and a prominent flipper that is easily manipulated with the index finger. The top rear of the blade has jimping.

To ensure a high-speed, low-drag action, the blade also pivots between friction-reducing ball-bearing washers.

It's fast. When a classmate at a recent firearms course asked me what kind of blade was in the knife I was carrying, I demonstrated the flipper, whereupon he asked me if automatic knives are legal in Arizona. (Actually, they are.)

The handles are made of two 3-D machined scales of solid titanium and have what Spyderco refers to as an



Spyderco Advocate shown open and closed from both sides. Photo: Spyderco



Spyderco Advocate features secure R.I.L. frame lock.

orange-peel texture. They are aesthetically pleasing and provide a good grip. A reversible clip offers handy left- or right-side tip-up carry. The handle opposite the clip side is slightly dished out to make opening the knife with the hole easier.

The Advocate features a Reeve Integral Lock (R.I.L.) mechanism with stainless steel interface, which ensures a secure lock-up and long service life,

and serves double duty as an overtravel stop to maintain proper spring tension of the lock bar.

The handle has an open-backed construction. This minimizes weight and, for those who like to take their knives apart to clean them, this construction makes it simple. Personally, I just swish a knife in hot water with a dash of Dawn dish soap and blow out the interior with compressed air.

In addition to the Schempp Bowie, my second EDC knife is no longer whatever strikes my fancy. It is the Spyderco Advocate. I trust it that much. ©

SOURCE

SPYDERCO
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» SPECIFICATIONS

SPYDERCO ADVOCATE

MANUFACTURER	Spyderco
MODEL	C214TIP Advocate
OVERALL LENGTH	8.04 inches
CLOSED LENGTH	4.55 inches
BLADE LENGTH	3.49 inches
BLADE THICKNESS	0.118 inch
WEIGHT	3.9 ounces
STEEL	CPM M4
HANDLE	Titanium
CLIP POSITION	Reversible left/right
CARRY POSITION	Tip up
GRIND	Full-flat
LOCK TYPE	R.I.L.



Prominent flipper is easy and quick to use. Handle is slightly dished out to make using the hole to open the knife easier.



Advocate (top) supplements Spyderco Schempp Bowie as part of author's EDC load-out.

The Breechtool

Those of us who were around at the time remember that the M16 was introduced by the military as a “rifle that does not need cleaning.” It was not true, and a lot of good men died in Vietnam before cleaning gear was issued.

When in garrison in those days, troops used 55-gallon drums cut in half lengthways and filled with gasoline for cleaning guns. Garrison troops also had “white glove” weapons inspections, where a single smudge on the gloves meant cancelled passes. Out in the field, eventually they had simple tools to do the task (and a total lack of white gloves).

Today, some people like to boast about how many rounds their AR has fired without being cleaned. But I have noticed few of these folks work on the two-way range, where a malfunctioning gun means more than lost points in a competition. My friends who have served in the various ongoing conflicts always talk about cleaning their guns before they clean themselves—and the

guns get cleaned multiple times a day.

The tools used have changed over time too, as the military went from cotton-rope “pull-throughs” to multi-piece rods to cables (modern pull-throughs) and, in the Marine Corps at least, back to solid rods.

Patches, shirttails, small sticks, and fingers have been used since firearms were invented to try to get into the nooks and crannies. For some of us, this is not an option, being “blessed” with large-size meat hooks that are unwieldy—thus my mothers’ terminal frustration at trying to teach me to play the piano!

This is an international problem, and some Brits have come up with a solution for a common problem faced by those of us who think guns should be clean: How do I clean the area of the locking lugs in the barrel extension, and the small area forward of that on an AR?

The Breechtool from NHMD Ltd. is the answer. (NHMD stands for No Half Measures Design.) I learned about the

tool from a retired Armourer in the Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers (REME). Developed with input from all branches and all ranks of Her Majesty’s Forces, this is a small folding tool with three “arms.”

One is a pin (pick) for scraping gunk out of tight spaces. Another is an arm that takes replaceable small brush heads. The third is the main tool, shaped like a very small bent finger. The tool is 100% stainless steel other than the brush heads. This is no quick-fix idea, as NHMD has been working on this tool since 2009.

The pin is very sharp, so you should store it alongside the main tool to avoid needless holes in your skin. The brush heads are just the right size to clean really small areas. Being naturally thrifty, NHMD made the brush heads so they can be cleaned with soapy water and trimmed back when they lose their shape. Replacement brush heads come in packs of ten, good for cleaning a *lot* of guns.

The main tool is used to clean



The tool also works well on ARs, the AUG, AR-180, MP5, M1918A2 BAR, and my belt-fed 1919A4.

Breechtool with packet of spare brushes.

the area forward of the locking lugs, by spraying some cleaner (or CLP) in the area and putting several patches ("flannelette" in the Mother Tongue) in the breech, then using the tool to move them around the chamber area.

Does it work?

You darn betchya! With my fat, clumsy fingers, this is an area I have never really cleaned on my ARs. I was surprised at the amount of black goop that came out on patches on the brush head.

Originally developed for troops issued the L86 (SA80A2), a British bullpup that makes cleaning more of a chore, but now a lot easier with the Breechtool, the tool also works well on ARs, the AUG, AR-180, MP5, M1918A2 BAR, and my belt-fed 1919A4. It has even found use on some of my exotic semiautos, which are a bear to disassemble and get back together right.

My French M49/56, Johnson M1941, and even some of the bolt guns in the collection now have locking lug spaces, other crevices and tiny spots cleaner than ever—and with no dirty words said during the process.

Do these parts need to be cleaned? The basic question is really, "How much is your life worth?"

If you are a plinker, casual shooter, or occasional match shooter, your needs differ from police officers, soldiers, home defenders, and hardcore 3-gun/multi-gun/rifle competitors who never want to be second best.

While I have allowed my ARs to go a while between cleanings, I was taught that *every* gun gets cleaned *every* time it is shot, no matter how many or how few rounds were fired. At least we are long past the time when every gun had to be cleaned for three consecutive days due to the use of corrosive primers.

As the saying goes, "You can work hard or you can work smart!" Using the Breechtool from NHMD is working smart! ©

Seth Nadel retired after serving 27 years as a Senior Special Agent with U.S. Customs. He was a firearms instructor for 25 years, including nine years as the lead firearms instructor at the Tucson Customs Academy.

SOURCE

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Second Amendment in Action

Another Good Samaritan

An Indiana Conservation Officer responded to a suspicious person call on a state highway in the hilly, rural southeastern corner of the state near the town of Rising Sun, just across the river from Kentucky. He soon found himself in a fight for his life with the suspect there on the roadside. Things looked grim for the officer until help arrived from an unexpected direction.

A woman in a nearby house witnessed the struggle and came running to provide assistance to the Conservation Officer. When the struggle continued despite her shouts, she produced a legally carried handgun and fired at the attacker, who was overpowering the officer in the fight. Hit once in the torso, the assailant was transported to a nearby hospital, where he died. The officer was also transported to the hospital and treated for what were described as non-life threatening injuries.

SOURCE: *The Courier-Journal*, Louisville, Kentucky, 2/21/17

Early Warning System

The first clue the owner of the In and Out Mini Mart in Yakima, Washington had that this wasn't going to be an ordinary night was when he glanced at the monitor of the outside surveillance cameras and saw two men in the parking lot tying bandanas over their faces. Moments later, the two burst into the store brandishing handguns and demanding money.

But the owner had prepared himself for this eventuality and produced a pistol of his own, a .40-caliber Smith & Wesson. Two quick shots fired in the direction of the intruders sent them scurrying back out the door and away from the gunfire. "I would do whatever it takes to protect my business, my family, and my customers," the owner later told reporters.

SOURCE: *Yakima Herald-Republic*, Yakima, Washington, 2/21/17

Counter Jumper

The normal business of a Tuesday evening was shattered in a DeKalb County, Georgia liquor store when a masked man wearing a hoodie and brandishing a handgun vaulted the counter. As the robber fired once, the clerk pulled his own concealed handgun, and gunfire was exchanged.

The robber fired several more shots before scrambling back over the counter and heading toward the door. None of the five rounds fired by the gunman hit the clerk, but the clerk's return fire struck the robber three times, causing him to collapse after fleeing about 50 yards across the parking lot. The masked intruder was pronounced dead of his injuries.

SOURCE: WAGA-TV, Atlanta, Georgia, 2/15/17

No Love Lost

Around lunchtime on Valentine's Day in a Baton Rouge, Louisiana subdivision, an intruder forced his way into a home and held the man, woman, and child who lived there at gunpoint, demanding money and valuables. But when the home invader was momentarily inattentive, the homeowner retrieved his own firearm.

The homeowner fired several shots, striking the intruder and sending him fleeing. The would-be robber made it a short distance out of the house before collapsing and dying from his wounds. Police identified the deceased intruder as a 19-year-old with previous convictions, including one for armed robbery. He'd been out of jail 11 days when he was shot.

SOURCE: WAFB, Baton Rouge, Louisiana, 2/14/17



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The Bear Facts

ONE of the few truly unchallenged predators on this planet is the polar bear. With little in the way of natural enemies, he is fast, large, has the disposition of a vindictive IRS agent—and lunch break consists of standing upstream waiting for half-witted fish to use his open mouth for target practice. In short, nothing but a well-placed bullet is going to drop a polar bear.

But his schizophrenic cousin—the bipolar bear—is a different kettle of fish. Potentially dangerous, his split-personality disorder often leads to his downfall, caused by his sometime inability to make a decision, or resorting to indecisiveness when the chips are down. Waiting for spawning salmon to fly into your mouth will result in a full belly. But when you stand at the crest of a waterfall with your rear end facing downstream, you can't expect fish to go airborne, make a mid-air U-turn, and suicidally find your mouth like a sailing vessel's bull's-eye.

Firearms ownership—and the attendant operation thereof—often suffers from the same bipolar malady. It starts with the initial proposed acquisition of the firearm. You've decided you have to have the gun for self-defense purposes, for target practice, because it fills a "niche" in your already overstuffed collection, or merely because of Igottahavit disease. Financially you can afford it, there's one last open space in your gun safe that drastically needs filling, and you've found a reason—however idiotic—to buy the thing.

Then bipolar bear syndrome takes over: Do I really need it? What if it isn't accurate? Will they still be manufacturing 9mm ammo next week? What if I can't find the perfect holster to fit the pistol? And last but not least—what if Mommy finds the invoice?

Finally, you decide the hell with it—I'm buying it. I can always get another wife. And later, as you lovingly admire your new purchase, you figure the lousy food and two black eyes were well worth it.

Now you have the gun. And it's de-

cision time again: Now that you own the weapon, you don't know what to do with it. So you consult cousin Polar and he comes up with a sagacious suggestion: "Why don't you take it to the range and shoot it?" Brilliant.

It's off to the gun glacier, and to your chagrin you find that your relative was correct—again. The pistol fits your paw like a glove, the length of pull is perfect for your trigger claw, and the hits are all in the center of the ice blocks.

Shuffling off back to your ice cave, you hunt through your gun freezer and find the various accoutrements required for the daily care and feeding of your new pistol—matching salmon-skin belt, holster, spare ammo pouches, and flashlight for those murky nights when snowfall obscures the target.

Life is good, and the only other considerations are strategy and tactics. Since furtive, undetected movement is essential for outwitting a fish, and since your white arctic camo outfit hasn't yet been delivered from Cabearlas, you decide to concentrate on tactics.

Setting up a mock-up ice cave and snowmen for simulated igloo assault training, you notice cousin Polar's big shaggy head wagging from side to side in disbelief. "What?" you ask. "You never know when you'll have to surreptitiously enter an igloo to grab those idiots who keep coming here to test their latest, greatest gun oil in sub-zero temperatures. And besides, I'm never sure whether to do a slow entry from the left side of the door, the right side of the door, or to throw in a fish-bang and go dynamic."

So the keep-it-simple Polar explains that no arctic bear—polar or bipolar—is going to fit through an igloo door. Entering left-side, right-side, or dynamic is irrelevant. "And besides," he says, "those SWAT boots look ridiculous. Go bearfoot, stop trying to be something you're not, and stop overthinking every single problem. You're big and strong. Destroy the icehouse from the outside, eat the hamburgered meat you find in the ruins, and use their gun barrels for toothpicks."

Pretty sharp, old cousin Polar.

Some people call it overthinking. Some call it schizophrenia, and some of it can be caused by a bipolar disorder. Students of the martial arts know the cure as Iaido. Whichever way you look at it, overthinking and indecision result in nothing but second place in a two-man race.

Short story from my misspent youth. Time: Many years ago. Location: Plettenberg Bay, South Africa. Grapevine basement bar, Beacon Isle Hotel. Scenario: Yours truly—drunk as a skunk—challenges state darts champion to a game of 501 Killer.

The upshot was the ungracious loser passed a comment regarding my parentage, to which I responded in kind. One thing led to another, the Grapevine was closed for four days after being trashed in a simulation of a Wild West bar fight, and everyone but I was arrested and jailed for the night.

Moral: Obviously, don't drink alcohol if you can't handle it, and ignore unwarranted comments before they lead to disproportionate escalation. In fact, never argue with an idiot in public—it may lead to confusion.

But specifically relevant to this article was the darts game itself. The only way I can hit a specific area on a dart board is with a firearm—when I'm sober. (And yes, I went teetotal shortly after the incident in question.) Apparently, when inebriated—and hurling the darts like a Zulu Assegai—I can land the missiles with the precision of a NASA space probe. Which means if you rely on instinct and a combination of your God-given and learned attributes, and don't get into a protracted argument with your alter ego, you will probably win. (Bruce Lee's Way of No Way.)

If you launch into a never-ending "What if" diatribe, whether it's firearms choice, techniques or tactics, you can become the bear, but not the polar bear. And then you're just another big, furry idiot standing in a river with fish impaled in your posterior. ☺

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

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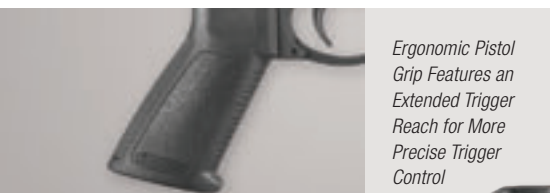


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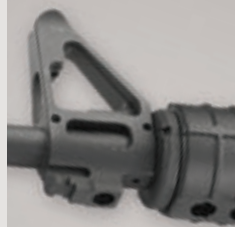
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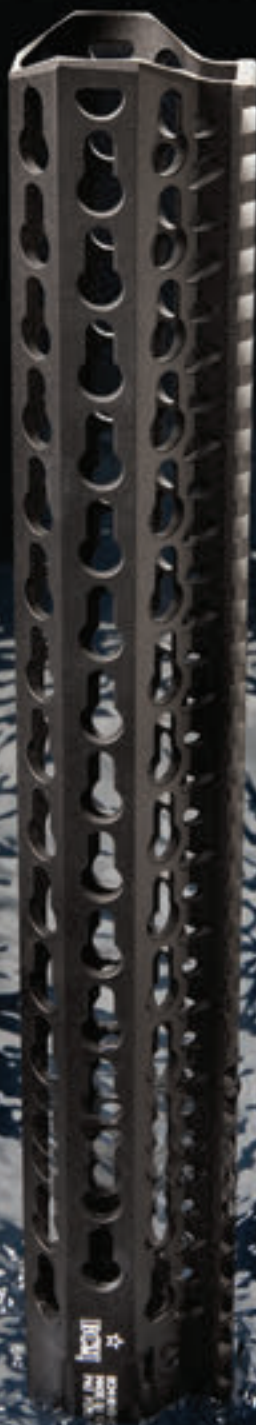




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