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SURVIVAL WEAPONS AND TACTICS



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JUNE 2016

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PRE-EMPTIVE SELF-DEFENSE

Indicators of Aggressive Escalation

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Bravo Company Mfg Recce-14 KMR-LW

Recce rifles were originally developed for the U.S. Navy SEALs, who needed a lightweight modular carbine with enhanced ballistic performance and utility. Now you can own one too.

BY DENNY HANSEN

Cover photo by Straight 8 Photography



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I like guns. From antique muzzle loaders to the latest XYZ Super Blaster, I appreciate the materials and craftsmanship that go into building them.

I have the tough job of shooting many of the newest and best firearms on the market (that's sarcasm, by the way). I probably put 5,000 rounds or more downrange each year just over the screens of my PACT chronograph and for accuracy testing.

For example, while evaluating the Bravo Company Mfg Recce 14 for this issue, I fired 440 rounds establishing the velocity and accuracy of 22 different loads.

This is actually slow and tedious "work." With the chronograph, the info from each load is logged before proceeding to the next. For accuracy, slow firing each load also takes time. When testing a pistol, I follow the same basic routine and actually do little or no work from the holster.

This is not how defensive firearms are employed in the real world, so after the velocity and accuracy testing, I engage in some drills that combine speed, manipulations, movement, transitions, and drawstrokes to get a better sense of the firearm's overall handling and reliability.

But the firearms I test do not have the same manual of arms, sights, trigger pulls, etc of those I rely on every day, so I end each session with drills with my personal defensive firearms. With pistols, work from the holster is usually with one of my 1911s or a SIG P229 Legion.

My "go-to" carbines are either a BCM/CMMG AR build or a ROBAR PolymAR-15. Give or take a few ounces, both have almost identical trigger pulls and are equipped with the same Aimpoint T-2 Micro red dot sights and Blue Force Gear Vickers slings.

The action release and safeties on shotguns are located in different places depending on the manufacturer. For consistency I have settled on a Mossberg 590A1 mostly because of the superb location of the safety on the top of the receiver. A Magpul SGA stock allows it to fit me perfectly.

So load up and go to the range, turn a lot of cartridges into empty cases, and have a blast (no pun intended). But at the end of the day, I recommend some practice of a serious nature with the firearms you depend on to protect hearth and home.

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

Denny Hansen

SWAT

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ANY BAN IS INFRINGEMENT

As a responsible gun owner, I am concerned about the argument that Kurt Hofmann makes in his article *Any Ban Is Infringement* (ENEMY AT THE GATE, February 2016 S.W.A.T.).

Mr. Hofmann argues that the Can Cannon should be available on an unrestricted basis (i.e., not even a background check) because it could conceivably be used by militias to launch explosives or incendiary devices in defense of freedom. By that logic, grenades, Claymore mines and (if taken to an extreme) nuclear weapons should be available to private citizens as well. In my mind, these weapons have a much greater chance of killing or wounding indiscriminately and blatantly violate Col. Cooper's second rule of weapons handling.

While I appreciate Mr. Hofmann's effort to push the envelope, I believe that arguments unchallenged by common sense paint gun owners as extreme and hurt us in our fight to keep firearms

available to law-abiding citizens.

H. Kaspar, Florida

Thank you for contacting us and providing feedback. I have received letters both applauding and criticizing that column. As always, the column does indeed push the envelope and, more than anything, is designed to get people to "think outside the box" and stimulate conversation.

WE'RE IN IT TOGETHER

Regarding Brent Wheat's *Street Smarts* column in the February issue of S.W.A.T. on cop-citizen conflicts: it all needed to be said.

I have been driving since I was 16 and am now in my mid-60s. I can count on one hand the number of times I have been pulled over, and I have a lifetime total of two tickets, both of which I had coming. One as a cocky 24-year-old fresh out of the military, the second 40 years later at 64 for not paying enough attention and causing a minor accident.

In both cases, the officers were professional gentlemen, and I returned that courtesy. To hear some tell it, being pulled over is a regular activity, and I suspect failing the "attitude test" is a big part of most of those contacts. As they say, "it ain't rocket surgery"—if you screw up, man up.

Cops and citizens alike have enough to worry about with the various dirtbags and malcontents roving the planet. We don't need to become each other's enemies. We're all in this together.

D. Jiles, Colorado

We appreciate you contacting us and sharing your sentiments.

We try hard to make S.W.A.T. for both the "cop on the beat" and the "man on the street." Among our main missions here at S.W.A.T. are to rebuild the bridge that has traditionally existed between law enforcement and private citizens, and to try to dispel the "us against them" attitude that is all too prevalent on both sides.



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FIRECLEAN FUROR

I have been buying S.W.A.T. Magazine from the start and will continue. I have also told everyone your reviews were the God's honest truth, but that has stopped as of the March issue.

I was all excited after reading the FireClean lube review (*FIRECLEAN: Next Generation Lubrication*, March 2016 S.W.A.T.). Normally I don't question S.W.A.T. as I would a magazine like *Guns & Ammo*. But I did a Google search on FireClean and found FireClean to be nothing more than repackaged canola oil. People spent money to test it and found zero additives, just

canola oil. I think I even read their patent application to repackage canola oil.

Quite a lot of shooters like how the lube performs and that's great, but \$10 an ounce is a little high for canola oil.

I don't read your magazine and look for a reason to complain. The FireClean review forced me to comment. Your magazine is great, and I can't wait for next month's issue.

D. Meurer, Idaho

Thanks for taking the time to contact me. Despite what some have said on the Internet (Errornet?), FireClean is not "just canola oil," and the "science" FireClean's

detractors have used to substantiate that claim is far from scientific. FireClean is about to release the results of a comprehensive independent third-party test that should conclusively show what the lubricant is made of.

I discussed this with Ethan Johns, and he said he might run rounds through an upper with Crisco (aka canola oil), to see if it continues to run or gums up and seizes soon after starting. Incidentally, Johns advised me that the upper he used in the test still looked good as it hit the six-month mark.

I'm not sure why you think S.W.A.T. has lost credibility because of this article. Ethan Johns' review was about how well FireClean works, not what it is made of. Considering his decades of running guns during his military career, if he says it works great, I believe him, and that's why we published the article. What FireClean is made of, whether it's canola oil or unicorn tears, is beside the point.

However, we should have referenced the "just canola oil" allegations within the article to make it clear we are aware of the controversy. From now on, we'll keep the readership apprised of any new developments. Thanks again for your loyal support of S.W.A.T.!

Denny Hansen

MAGAZINE MAYHEM

I never cease to be amazed at how your magazine can take a topic that appears very mundane and turn it into an article with really useful information.

An excellent example is Jeff Gurwitch's feature on selecting good AR-15 magazines (*AR MAGAZINES: Separating the Good From the Bad*, April 2016 S.W.A.T.). I initially thought it was going to be a boring read, but was surprised how much I didn't know on the subject.

I noticed at the end of the article that Mr. Gurwitch has 25 years of military experience, many of them in Special Forces. It is this kind of experience that puts your magazine head and shoulders above the professional "gun writers" who appear in other publications.

R. Benteene, South Carolina

We're happy to hear you enjoyed the article. We're very proud of our authors' breadth of knowledge and experience. A very well-known instructor once remarked, "Some magazines have writers who occasionally shoot. S.W.A.T. has shooters who occasionally write." We couldn't have said it better ourselves. ☺



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First Tactical Specialist Half-Day Backpack

A person only needs to look around the world today to see the need to be prepared. The specific level of preparedness is different for each individual.

Many people have their homes stocked with food, first aid, water, and whatever else they believe they may need. I have friends with complete trailers or motorhomes set up for the

“zombie apocalypse” where they have everything including the kitchen sink (literally). But when they go to town or travel only a short distance from their “survival vehicle,” they have nothing.

If you leave your vehicle, it’s wise to carry a bag with the necessities for traveling home. You may have to travel some miles or across rough country to reach your destination, so having a

good quality pack is important.

But one problem with a pack is that people tend to overload it. Just because it may have some space left doesn’t mean that space needs to be filled.

I have been testing a pack from First Tactical called the Specialist Half-Day Backpack. It meets my needs for a “go” bag to keep in my vehicle. Construction is 1000D water-resistant nylon. YKK® zippers are used throughout. Zipper pulls are either a locking plastic design or paracord.

At the top of the pack is a fleece-lined eyeglass pocket with zipper closure. A large compartment that runs the length of the pack opens with zippers at the top and bottom. First Tactical calls this their Hook and Hang Thru™ System, and it’s designed to be used in conjunction with a rifle case.

The main compartment measures 11 inches long x 17 high x 6.5 deep and it zips completely open on three sides. Inside are two interior drop pockets that can be cinched up with hook & loop fasteners, and a zippered mesh pocket.

Attached to the front of this compartment is an admin pocket that measures 9.75 inches L x 12.5 H x 2 D. Inside the admin compartment is a thin zippered pocket that would be suitable for maps or other documents. Other pockets inside this compartment are slots for pens or lightsticks and open pockets suitable for a smartphone, GPS, personal locator beacon, a couple of AR mags, or similar sized items. A clip for keys is sewn to the pack. Like the main compartment, the admin pouch zips completely open on three sides.

Sewn to the front of the admin pocket is what First Tactical calls a Top Front Catch Pocket measuring 8.5 inches L x 4 H x 1 D. This pocket would be good for miscellaneous gear you need to access quickly, like a flashlight, fire starter, or basic first aid items. This pocket has three rows of MOLLE webbing for attaching other pouches.

The back of the pack has three pads



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Shoulder straps and back of pack are padded with dual-density foam for comfort.



Two drag handles—one over the main compartment and one over the opening to the Hook and Hang Thru System—are useful features.



First Tactical designed the T-Mod buckle, which uses a “T” bar that latches into a matching keyway. It’s a very secure system.

made of dual-density foam for comfort and with a mesh covering to help wick away moisture.

The shoulder straps are also padded with dual-density foam and fully adjustable. Each strap has three rows of MOLLE webbing with two slots each. Five rows of MOLLE webbing run down each side of the pack. Two drag handles are at the top of the pack: one over the main compartment and one over the opening to the Hook and Hang Thru System.

The Specialist Half-Day Backpack has two removable straps that hook to the MOLLE webbing on the side and to the MOLLE webbing on the front of the Top Front Catch Pocket. These compression straps allow the profile of the pack to be narrowed or “blown out” for a full load. Each strap has a standard QD buckle on one end, but the other end has a buckle designed by First Tactical that they refer to as a T-Mod buckle system. This buckle uses a “T” bar that latches into a matching keyway. It is very secure. This same buckle system is used on the adjustable and repositionable sternum strap.

Many people overestimate their needs, resulting in a pack so heavy it gets left in the car. The First Tactical Specialist Half-Day Backpack is perfect for everyday carry, with just enough room for the items you need to keep with you. The Specialist Half-Day Backpack is available in Black, Coyote, and OD Green. Suggested retail price is \$89.99. ©

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Whether you end up having all the money in your pocket vacuumed out at the rodent-centric "Happiest Place on Earth," lie on the beach, hike in the mountains, or simply visit Aunt Matilda in Poughkeepsie, you and tens of millions of your neighbors will be heading out for fun and adventure in our great country.

Along the way, you'll see spectacular sights, eat unique food, meet interesting people—and have fantastic opportunities to experience both crime and personal danger!

For criminals, tourists make great victims because they usually have expensive toys, they don't know anyone locally nor understand the crime problems, and will find it difficult to return

for court cases if the suspect is caught. Thus, while on vacation, you have a target on your back, and local dirtbags will go to great lengths to exploit your apparent weaknesses.

Don't help them by making the natural mental mistake of assuming criminals are likewise on vacation simply because you're living a carefree existence for seven days.

First, follow all the standard advice: don't leave valuables in your vehicles (especially boats), try to avoid parking in dimly lit or hidden areas, make sure all doors and windows at your accommodations remain locked, and keep an eye out for shiftless people who don't seem to have a real reason for being in the immediate area. Simple stuff, but often disregarded while under the influence of swaying-palm pleasures.

Vacations are also interesting because they are that one or two weeks

out of the year when normally prudent people do all sorts of dumb things regarding their health and well-being. On the plus side, tourists keep cops, courts, ambulance services, hospital emergency departments, and the local coroner all gainfully employed so that we can save enough money to go on vacation ourselves.

This highlights the single most important rule of vacation safety: don't be stupid. Our definition of vacation "stupid" comes in several flavors, the most noteworthy being that of the chemically enhanced variety (including alcohol). Though we have personally killed many of our own brain cells during weeks at the beach, experience both as a cop and a tourist has shown that the level of intoxication among vacationers is stunning.

It would seem that a prudent person wouldn't allow themselves to get soused

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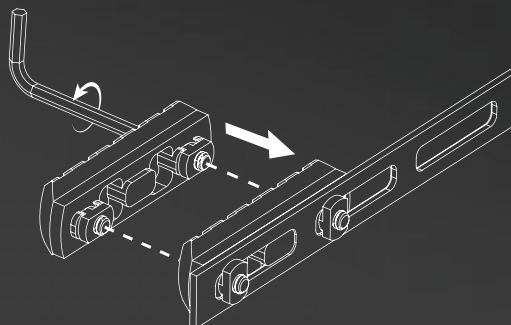


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while participating in a pina colada drinking contest and then operate a motor vehicle (including boats and personal watercraft) or participate in activities where good judgment and coordination are important to staying safe (think swimming or parasailing). However, vacationers do it regularly in spite of all common sense. Don't be "that" guy.

Another good way to get into vacation trouble is by being at the wrong place at any time. This is a hard rule to quantify. The "wrong place" is very subjective because it is based on your race, gender, age, or some other readily apparent factor by which people tend to group other people. Such a statement is the antithesis of political correctness, but is absolutely true when you're dealing with real folks. Don't forget that you are "invading" the locals' turf, and they are not required to be tolerant toward outsiders. If they are amiable, great! If not, go elsewhere.

We personally love checking out local juke joints for beer, authentic food and colorful people, but good sense dictates that you should be circumspect in your choice of establishments.

For example, we once ended up purchasing bait and beer from a small crossroads store/bar/restaurant during a fishing trip to the deepest backwoods of South Carolina. But upon entering, it was immediately apparent that the place was a hangout for a motorcycle club—and I don't mean the Christian Bikers Association.

We quickly concluded business but as we left, another group of obvious tourists was coming in the door and looked equally out of place. Odds are that no one bothered them, but if there was trouble, the four people would only have themselves to blame.

It doesn't have to be something obvious, like a dozen patch-wearing bikers sitting at the bar, to signal danger. This is where your well-honed sixth sense comes into play, at least if it isn't numbed by too many boat drinks.

If you don't feel welcome, if there are hard stares in your direction, if your manner of dress or speech is obviously a point of irritation or excessive interest, or one of a million other possibilities, it would be time to consider leaving before ordering any jalapeño poppers.

On the other hand, if things turn out fine, don't get too chummy with the locals, at least not at first. There are untold instances where an impromptu excursion hatched out at the bar with a local resident was actually a ruse to commit theft, robbery, assault, or murder.

Politely turn down all offers of going out to "get more beer/girls/weed," visit a "secret" fishing hole, continue the party at another bar or "down at cousin Billy's house."

Vacations are a great way to get away from all those cares that are putting creases in your formerly youthful face, but safety and personal security are two cares that should never be forgotten.

Even when visiting the Magic Kingdom, because experience has shown that they'll get your wallet one way or the other! ☺

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



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Quick Buck Saw

HOW is a saw a survival tool? Most of us associate a saw with yard work or maybe some old replica we've seen hanging on the wall of a country- or mountain-themed restaurant.

But these days, carrying a large saw into the outdoors is easier than it has ever been. In the world of outdoors and survival tools, it seems like big knives and machetes have had their day, as well as axes. They continue to hold their place as "must have" survival tools, but there is another option.

The Bob Dustrude Quick Buck Saw is entirely made in the USA of high-tensile extruded aluminum and hardwood for a lifetime of heavy use. This is no ordinary buck saw.

The 21-inch model is light at about 15 ounces, yet hard use and bush ready. It has a very comfortable rounded wood handle, only two assembly parts, no wing nuts or bolts to lose, and can be assembled with one hand, if need be. Keeping things practical, the Bob Dustrude Quick Buck Saw accepts any standard 21-inch bow saw blade. These are only some of the features that make Bob's saw one of the best saws available today.

THE BUCK SAW

In an outdoors setting, the buck saw is not nearly as versatile as an axe or chopping tool. It will never split wood, shave feather sticks for a fire, pound stakes in the ground, or chop through ice in the winter.

But the buck saw is safer and easier to master than most chopping tools. When working on projects or wood processing for a fire after dark, chopping tools are very dangerous. I try to stick to this rule myself and emphasize to students: once



Above: Heavy-duty folding buck saws designed and handcrafted by Bob Dustrude in northern Minnesota. The 21-inch saw weighs only 15 ounces.



Left: Easy-to-see instructions are printed directly on the wood handle. This handle is more comfortable to use bare-handed in colder weather because wood doesn't conduct cold as much as metal does.

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the sun goes down, all chopping tools should be put away. But the saw is easier to use safely, even for a blind person.

There are no minor injuries from a bad swing with axes, hatchets, big chopping knives, tomahawks, or machetes once they make contact with a body part. Using any chopping tools requires weeks to months of constant-use attention to safety to become proficient. Yet a saw can be used safely and

efficiently in a matter of hours.

In general, buck saws are good for efficiently cutting things down to a specific size. In a survival scenario, grab dry wood and throw it in a pile. You don't need perfectly straight-cut ends. But most of us are not out there surviving with a buck saw. We're usually just camping or working on a project.

A buck saw is excellent for cutting firewood to the size needed for wood-

burning camp stoves. When you have a lot of work to do bucking up logs, especially in winter, nothing beats a large buck saw!

USING A BUCK SAW

When using a saw, a lot of tension is put on the tool, the wood and the body. A saw frame should be heavy duty enough to keep the saw blade straight under a significant amount of tension. Many believe it is rare to find a collapsible saw that meets this criteria. Using the Bob Dustrude saw, you can feel confident it's the right tool for the job.

When cutting with a buck saw, reach inside the bow section and grasp the wood being cut. This supports the wood and is an added measure of safety should the saw skip and land on top of the hand and fingers. Once the saw blade is visually inside the wood, it is safe to put the support hand back in a more natural place and continue cutting.

The length of any saw blade is an indicator of how fast it will cut. A longer blade has a longer stroke and will cut through wood faster. The saw I tried out was the 21-inch blade version; naturally the 30-inch blade would cut faster. Use the weight of the saw first and gradually put downward force with the wrist of the hand holding the saw.

Bushcraft/survival instructor Mors Kochanski wrote a great book called *Bushcraft: Outdoor Skills and Wilderness Survival*, with a very in-depth section on saw craft. He stated, "Fast cutting is a judicious combination of the



Above: Proper way to use a buck saw is to reach in the bow to start the cut. When the saw blade is deep in the wood, the position can be changed.

Right: Bob Dustrude Quick Buck Saw along with a Mora sheath knife and 14-inch Tramountina Bolo Machete. Trios such as this have been used by woodsmen for years: one tool to cut large diameter wood, one tool to split it, and one tool for carving.

Photo: Jay Velasco





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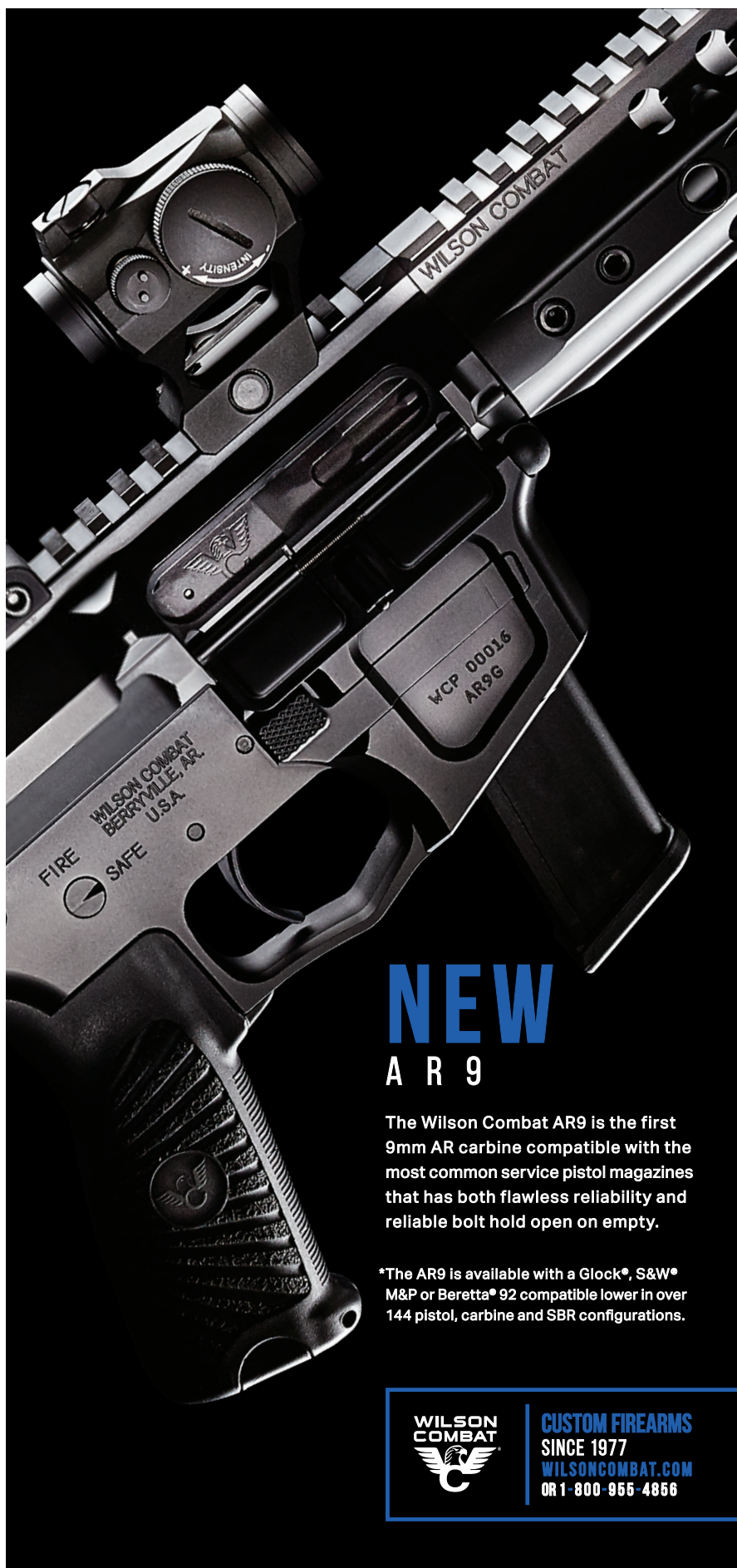
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speed with which the saw moves back and forth and the downward force on the blade. If too much force is used, you will tire quickly. A full-length stroke is worth three short ones that take twice the effort."

BIG SAW, SMALL AXE

Using a larger saw in conjunction with a smaller axe, hatchet or tomahawk is very practical. Larger diameter hardwood is easier to cut to size with a saw than an axe. Not only is it faster and safer, but it also makes less noise. The quieter we are in the forest, the more wildlife we may see and the less attention we call to ourselves.

I like the seclusion of the woods, especially on a solo trip. I'd rather not have people meddling around my camp looking for the giant woodpecker making those chopping sounds. For someone in an escape-and-evasion scenario, silence is the difference between life and death. However, most of us are just out camping, not hiding from ninjas.

I camp with a friend who first turned me on to the Bob Dustrude Quick Buck Saw. He uses it as part of his "woods trio of tools" with a small sheath knife and lightweight chopper (usually a tomahawk or machete). I saw how these three work for him and the benefits of having a tool that can cut large-diameter wood with less effort, and then using a smaller chopper to split and craft.

The buck saw and axe/hatchet are complementary. But the saw has some great attributes that the axe does not. The saw can reach into dense brush and cut effectively, while an axe needs room to swing. Although it is not advisable to do so, a buck saw can cut above the head, whereas cutting above the head with any chopping tool should never be done!

SUMMARY

The Bob Dustrude Quick Buck Saw is perfect for canoeing, camping, horse packing, trail maintenance, backpacking, permanent camps, and any wilderness travel. Handmade in the USA, the Quick Buck Saw is the most efficient portable buck saw on the market. Prices range from \$54 to \$58 depending on length. ©

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PRE-EMPTIVE SELF-DEFENSE

Indicators of Aggressive Escalation

BY JOSHUA SWANAGON | PHOTOS BY TANNER SWANAGON

Everybody has some form of “tell” when they have something up their sleeve. Being able to read their tell during an aggressive encounter could be vital to successful defensive measures.

Whether you are a firearms professional or just want to protect your family, always be aware and alert to what the aggressor is telling you, even

when he isn’t aware that he is. You may see or experience many of the cues (discussed below) simultaneously. There is no set structure to how the aggressor will behave, so be aware of all given cues. While some of this may seem elementary, constant study makes for increased and rapid utility.



AUDITORY CUES

Some auditory cues may be a little harder to key in on than others, while some may be misleading. But it is still important to listen for them and understand them, because with some aggressors they may be the only cues you get.

Rapid Breathing

Due to the effects of an adrenaline dump, the heart rate quickens, requiring more oxygen. At this time, the person begins to breathe more rapidly to compensate. Although a little more difficult to spot, if the aggressor is breathing rapidly, it is possible he is experiencing a surge of adrenaline in preparation for attack.

Shaky Vocal Patterns During Speech

During an adrenaline dump, the body experiences a rush brought on by the surge of glucose into the bloodstream, which can cause uncontrollable shaking and affect the vocal and speech patterns. If an aggressor is speaking in a shaky voice, it may not be an indication of fear, but a sign that his body is preparing for an impending attack.

Deepened or Louder Speech

Used as an attempt to intimidate his victim, an aggressor often deepens his voice to sound more ominous or authoritative. The aggressor may also yell to place the victim in a passive state or trigger a fear response.

Threatening Speech

Along with the deepened or louder speech, the aggressor may often use threatening speech to try to intimidate you. Often the more outrageous the statement, the more nervous he is, causing him to overcompensate and build himself up more. He may say things like, "I'm going to rip your head off and shove it up your ass!"

Self-Approving Speech

An aggressor often uses dialogue that distances him from guilt as a way of disassociating himself from blame and placing it on the victim, such as, "What's your problem?! What are you looking at?! Don't make me kick your ass."

FACIAL CUES

Not everybody is adept at reading another person's face for emotional cues, but often an aggressor tells you vol-

umes about his plans with a series of subtle facial cues.

Thousand-Yard Stare

During the thousand-yard stare, the blink rate slows to two to four blinks per minute, and the aggressor appears as though he is looking right through you. He may have a glazed or empty stare and his expression becomes flat and emotionless. He is removing all emotional and moral implications of the coming attack.

Target Acquisition

If their eyes are scanning your body while they speak to you, they may be attempting to acquire a target for maximum impact during their initial strike. Pay attention, as this will not only allow you to be aware of the imminent attack, but also alert you to where the first strike might occur.

Avoiding Eye Contact

This could mean a variety of things. One, he may be showing you he lacks respect for you. In some parts of the country and in some cultures, eye contact is a sign of respect. Two, it is possible he may be intimidated by you

and is avoiding eye contact while he builds himself up for the attack. Three, he may want to avoid letting you see his plans by preventing you from looking into his eyes.

Intense or Focused Glare or Attention

The opposite of avoiding eye contact: if he is staring directly into your eyes with an intense or focused glare, he is trying to get into your head and psych you out while psyching himself up.

Rapid Blinking

The typical blink rate in most individuals is roughly 20 blinks per minute. But stress often causes rapid blinking, which indicates the aggressor may be lying about his intentions or working up to an event.

Jaws Clench and Unclench

This is a sign of pent-up energy, usually resulting from an adrenaline dump. The

act of clenching the jaws is also used by fighters to decrease the likelihood of being knocked out, losing teeth or biting their tongue in the event of physical contact.

Flared Nostrils

Due to the need for more oxygen during an adrenaline dump, the aggressor's nostrils may flare to allow for deeper breaths through the nose. This is especially true when he is clenching his jaws.

Lowered Eyebrows

Lowering the eyebrows indicates aggression and ferocity. When an aggressor does this, he is either attempting to intimidate you or psych himself up.

Red Face

During an adrenaline dump, your body's vascular system expands (vasodilation) to deliver epinephrine to all parts of the body. During this time, some people experience a reddening of the face.

PHYSICAL CUES

Although an aggressor can suddenly strike without showing any physical cues, if he is exhibiting physical cues, he is most likely preparing to attack in short order. With some of these cues, he is also testing you to check your awareness and your ability or willingness to respond.

Fidgeting

Fidgeting is often a sign of stress, which may be a result of his intentions. Watch for fidgety hands, such as putting them in and out of his pockets. Also watch for his feet being fidgety, such as kicking small rocks or trash on the ground. He may even be trembling slightly due to the increased adrenaline in his system.

Fists Clench and Unclench

This is also a sign of high energy and can be intended to intimidate you. He may also be testing your awareness



Aggressor tries to intimidate by clenching his fists and yelling.



Adopting a focused and intense glare is often employed to psych out the victim.



Circling to look for a weak spot or in an attempt to flank is often accompanied by adopting an aggressive stance.



Bad guy holds his hands high in preparation to strike and scans the area for witnesses or backup.

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and trying to desensitize you to his fists clenching, so you won't realize it when they finally clench for business.

Jumpy or Bobbing

Acting jumpy or bobbing around is a sign of high energy, most likely caused by an adrenaline rush. It can also be a way to loosen himself up or desensitize you to exaggerated movement, making you unprepared for the actual attack.

Adopting an Aggressive Stance

If he adopts an aggressive or fighting stance, this is a sure sign he is getting ready to launch an offensive. Be ready.

Circling

If he is circling you, he is looking for a weak opening to attack or attempting to flank you. This will often be in conjunction with adopting an aggressive stance or jumping/bobbing around.

Feigning Punches or Kicks

When an aggressor feigns punches or kicks, he is often testing your awareness of the situation and your reaction and response to aggressive behavior.

Scanning

Before an attack, many aggressors start looking around (scanning the area) to see if there are any witnesses or if either of you have backup close at hand.

Holding a Hand Behind His Back

If he is holding a hand behind his back or straight down his side with his hand hidden behind his leg, this is a sign he may have a weapon. Keep a careful eye on that hand and stay clear, outside his arc of deployment.

Removing Articles of Clothing

When preparing for an aggressive conflict, guys may take off articles of clothing, such as jackets, hats, glasses, and shirts. I have even seen guys take off their shoes. There are varying reasons for this behavior. It could be to free up their movement, or possibly more posturing, and in some cases it is to prevent that article of clothing from being used to grab or tie him up.

Maintaining Raised Hands

If he is talking with his hands a lot or holding them in a higher posture, possibly even touching his face or hair, he may be getting ready to strike. This is a way to keep the hands at optimal strik-



If someone is holding his hand to his side and slightly behind his thigh, assume he has a weapon. Move outside his arc of deployment and maintain a strict reactionary gap.

ing level without projecting.

CONCLUSION

Whether you are military, law enforcement, security or private citizen, when you see any of these cues, make sure to maintain a strict reactionary gap. Pre-assault cues often happen on a subconscious level and give indications of a person's intent toward violent action.

Maintaining a heightened level of awareness of not only your surroundings but also the aggressor's actions and conscious and unconscious cues will give you an edge in the possible impending confrontation.

Your awareness may put him off guard or back him down completely. Assailants prefer easy victims. Keep it real and stay safe. ☺

Joshua Swanagon has studied survival in both urban and wilderness environments in Colorado and Michigan for most of his life, while also adding experience in harsher terrains abroad. He utilizes his experience and years of diverse martial arts and combatives training and real world application in the fields of knives, survival, self-defense and tactical subject matters.

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Fewer Guns To Fight Terrorism

In response to several recent high-profile attacks by Islamic terrorists in France, the French government has announced plans to dramatically increase both the number of police officers in service and the amount of firepower available to each officer.

Interior Minister Bernard Cazeneuve stated that officers will now carry select-fire Heckler & Koch G36 rifles. Chambered for the 5.56x45mm NATO round, when fired in fully automatic mode, the rifles have a cyclic rate of fire of 750 rounds per minute from standard-issue 30-round magazines or 100-round drums.

Here in the U.S., gun-ban zealots would refer to even a strictly semi-automatic version of such a rifle as a “weapon of war” with “no place on our streets.” They want such rifles banned, they want the magazines banned, and

many even describe the ammunition (which, at .223 caliber, is considered fairly marginal for deer hunting) as being “too powerful” for use by private citizens.

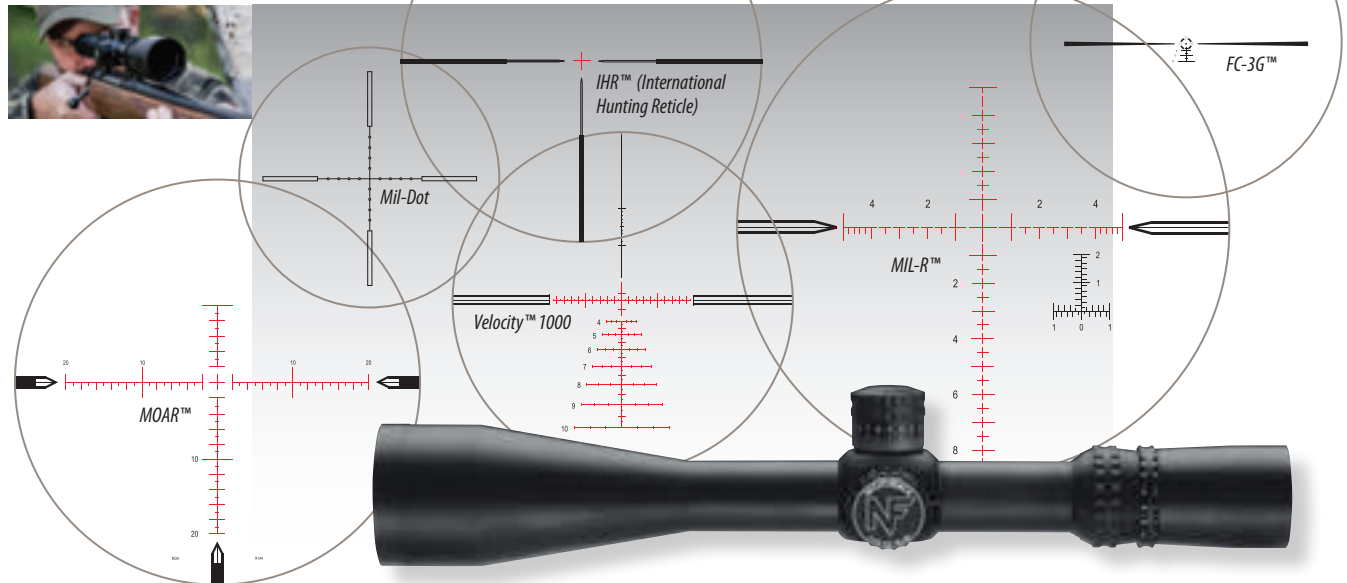
The California state legislature is now considering a bill that would ban private ownership of *all* semi-automatic, detachable magazine-fed rifles. Supporters of such measures are directly contradicting the earlier argument (in some cases made by the very people now contradicting it) that it's the “assault features” (adjustable or folding stocks, flash suppressors, bayonet mounts, barrel shrouds) that make so-called “assault weapons” too dangerous for ownership by private citizens.

The now-expired federal “assault weapon” ban outlawed newly manufactured or imported semiautomatic,

detachable magazine-fed rifles with two or more such features. Gun prohibitionists soon found this to be unacceptably generous, and demanded a law banning such rifles with only *one* “assault feature.” In 2000, California passed such a law, which anti-gunners praised as a model for the rest of the country. But now those features apparently mean nothing—exactly what we have been arguing all along—and even rifles without *any* of those features are to be banned.

A very similar bill passed in 2013, but Governor Jerry Brown, as enthusiastically in favor of forcible citizen disarmament as he is, vetoed it as going too far. After the December 2015 Islamic terrorist attack in San Bernardino, in which AR-15 rifles were used, anti-gunners now have high hopes that Brown's veto pen will stay in the Gover-

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nor's office desk drawer this time, and that is probably a quite plausible hope on their part.

In France, where the up-gunning of the police is underway, there's enough of a history of militarized police that the public seems relatively unconcerned. In fact, France has long had the *Gendarmerie*, an army unit that does police work. If the people tolerate the "policification" of the military, why should they object to the militarization of the police?

What? You mean the danger isn't in the weapons themselves, but what the people who possess them do with them? What a novel concept!

By the way, the French police will be upgrading their defense as well. They are to be outfitted with thicker body armor, ballistic shields, and "bulletproof" helmets. One could be forgiven for assuming that such equipment would be utterly uncontroversial, but here in the States, it would not be—not for private citizens, anyway.

The "thicker body armor" to be issued to French cops sounds much like the "enhanced" body armor (with "enhanced" defined as armor offering pro-

tection equivalent to what the National Institute of Justice calls "Type III" body armor, which can generally be counted on to stop most rifle rounds). U.S. Representative Mike Honda (D-CA) wants private citizens to be denied the right to buy such armor, and has repeatedly introduced legislation to impose such a ban. From his press release:

"There is no reason this type of armor, which is designed for warfare, should be available in our communities except for those who need it, like law enforcement," Congressman Honda said. "There's nothing more dangerous than what a well-armored, unstoppable active shooter can do. This bill is common-sense and long overdue."

And actually, Honda doesn't take it as far as some, who want *all* body armor (whether "enhanced" or not) banned for the lowly private citizen. The *U.S. News and World Report* has gone so far as to describe private citizens' ability to legally buy body armor as "the other loophole." Yep. There are people, including lawmakers and those who purport to deliver "news" to the American people, who believe that private citizens have a duty to be penetrat-

ed by any bullet that comes their way.

The term "terrorism" is an apt one, because the intent of those who engage in it is to terrorize the people. Terrorists are generally unequal to the task of defeating government forces in open battle. If they could do that, they wouldn't need to find soft targets and butcher the innocent in order to advance their agenda.

There is nothing wrong with strengthening the government's means of fighting terrorism, but the government is generally only an indirect target. It's the lowly private citizen who bears the brunt of the terrorist's malignancy. And anyone who wishes to reduce the people's ability to effectively fight back is fighting on the wrong side of the "War on Terror." ©

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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Close-Quarters Shooting

THE dangerous national trends of de-policing and officers hesitating to employ deadly force trace their origins to Ferguson, Missouri—and Ferguson begins with close-quarters shooting (CQS).

While many have opined on the Ferguson shooting from multiple viewpoints intertwining politics, racism and media hype, few if any have focused on the essence of the matter: the Ferguson fight incorporated an extreme CQS sequence in confined space. The ramifications of this have been largely overlooked or glossed over. But they are profound.

Stripping away the “Hands Up, Don’t Shoot” narrative, as well as outright lies, the investigative facts revealed this: An armed uniformed police officer in a marked unit en route to an emergency medical call encountered a robber with a history of violence less than 30 minutes after the crime. The robber aggressively attacked the LEO in his vehicle, trying to grab his gun.

THE LESS TIME AND DISTANCE, THE HIGHER THE THREAT

First, the lack of distance compressed Officer Darren Wilson’s decision-making sequence. His choices: freeze, flee or fight. Others add more to this survival tree, but let’s keep it simple. Next, the interior of Officer Wilson’s vehicle compacted his bodily options. No room for a lateral step or blade-off in there.

Third, both the disparity of force and grievous bodily injury justifications for employment of lethal force came into play, via age and body-weight disparity, and because Officer Wilson was unsure if he would retain consciousness if struck in the head again.



CQS originates in the Old West via Sheriff Flatau’s Bridgeport Rig.

Employment of deadly force via his handgun was clearly warranted. Why then was Officer Wilson’s reputation destroyed and career ended?

To be clear, I am not armchair quarterbacking Officer Wilson’s actions. I am offering an alternative to the next officer put in his predicament. That is, after all, a firearm instructor’s ultimate job.

The potential for misinterpretation and the probabilities of racial allegations and political problems come later in the fight, with the shots fired outside the vehicle at more conventional distances. Ergo more efficient CQS could end the next fight sooner and with less controversy.

In 2015, I was honored to be the guest speaker at the International Association of Law Enforcement Firearms Instructors (IALEFI) Annual Training Conference. Having had the opportunity to address for an entire day law enforcement firearms instructors from all over the country and as far away as Hong Kong allows me to say with some surety that while Ferguson’s deadly force incident has redefined American policing, few law enforcement firearms instructors have reacted accordingly.

DEFINITION AND HISTORY

CQS techniques are not part of qualifications, are still only occasionally taught and rarely applied in a lessons-learned format. And yet CQS scenarios are rapidly increasing, not decreasing.

Whether due to bureaucratic inertia, lack of imagination, or fear of accidental range shootings, this must change. But before moving forward, let’s review historical CQS and define it.

Simply put, CQS is a deadly force conflict wherein the shooter’s gun contacts not just his hands but also his body upon firing. Correspondingly, the threat should probably be within arms’ reach of the shooter.

CQS has a long history, beginning in the Old West. Lieutenant John Bourke, fighting Apaches and stationed during the 1870s in my hometown of Tucson, describes in his book *On the Border with Crook* how Tucsonians disdained drawing and preferred to simply shoot through their pockets!

By the 1880s, the Bridgeport Rig suspended one’s six-gun on a screw between metal brackets on the belt, so for fast close shooting, the weapon simply pivoted up in place from the vertical to the horizontal.

FROM THE OLD WEST TO THE MODERN STREET

Skipping lots of historical interludes, we see modern CQS techniques emerge from frontier gun belts. Early modern CQS involved blading off the body by withdrawing the weapon side and resting the butt of the gun on the hip while the non-firing arm was bent at the elbow and the hand touched the firing-side shoulder. The resemblance to the firing position demanded by Sheriff Flatau’s Bridgeport Rig is striking.

This firing position morphed over the years into a more practical version. Instructors found they were inhibiting the



Improved CQS technique now in use.

natural draw of the handgun, which would occur by requiring that the gun butt rest on the hip.

Letting the full draw occur at real-time speed, the firing elbow bent completely and the gun came to nestle just forward of the armpit alongside the pectoral's major muscle. The support hand was moved to cushion the left side of the head from attack, and the left forearm to protect the vital heart and lungs. This was done not to avoid a blow from fist, bat or machete, but to absorb the kinetic energy that might otherwise render the shooter unconscious or dead.

With both of these firing stances, the wrist was meant to be kept straight. There were two imperatives for this. First, a straight wrist reduced possible slide malfunction due to weak-wristing a semi-auto.

Second, the straight wrist allowed a natural pointing upward toward the target's central nervous system, the idea being that the threat would be so close and so imminent that an immediate one-shot stop was required. It also reduces the risk of shooting through the bad guy and into nearby innocents.

Both these variants were originally meant to cant the gun out at a 20- to 22-degree angle. Because this angle was difficult to achieve, many simply allowed the weapon to turn out at a 45-degree angle. But this angle misses the central nervous system and sometimes even the assailant's body completely.

Because maintaining the straight wrist when the handgun is tucked against the pectoral is also difficult, some started shooting down into the hip carriage. While safe for nearby innocents, there is no one-shot stop, and the forward momentum of the attacker will carry him into and over the shooter. An ISIS machete wielder would still chop one's head off.

The technique was further watered down by speed rocking backwards, as first performed by fast-draw six-gunner competitors. Action shooters followed suit. The result? The attacker's mass and momentum bowl over the shooter, who finds himself fighting on his back—a less-than-ideal situation, to say the least.

TECHNIQUES, TACTICS, AND PRACTICES

I have never trained action shooters or fast-draw competitors. But I have trained law enforcement, military, and intelligence gun operators by the thousands, usually in five-day courses.

For CQS to be effective, that is to shoot the bad guy while not presenting the gun to him for an obvious gun grab, the gun must be tucked securely at the position earlier described. Blading off the body with the non-firing side negates the gun grab.

Done correctly, this leaves the muzzle just uprange of the shooter's torso. And I mean just! If he's had too many doughnuts, the entire position falls apart.

And herein lies the ultimate problem. The non-physically fit and the non-advanced shooter are uncomfortable with firing so close to their vitals. They invariably shove the gun in front of them, thus presenting the gun for an all-too-easy grab by the bad guy.

PRATHER FOREARM

Year after year, student after student, I've seen the same thing happen: Shooters extend the gun in front of them to a comfortable distance. So I developed a new way. I humbly call it the Prather Forearm.

The body blades off as before to facilitate an LE interview stance and vital organ protection. The support arm hand hugs the off side as before to ward off grievous bodily harm injury. The handgun is jerked up to the pectoral major position as before. But instead of staying there, the middle, ring, and little fingers of the firing hand are jammed into the non-firing forearm. The handgun slide is snug against the forearm as well. This position achieves the ideal 22-degree upward cant that drills directly into the central nervous system, resulting in the highest probability of an immediate one-shot stop before the ISIS machete wielder can act.

Sights are not used. This is stance-directed fire. Protection is maximized, as is weapon retention. This becomes a very difficult gun grab. The operator need only turn to the right to break the bad guy's tenuous grab.

An added bonus is that it is an easy transition to a high-ready two-handed isosceles lock. The reverse is also true. From the forearm hold, it's simple to pull back to a collapsed low ready (safety circle) or high ready. Most importantly, shooters who are less fit and familiar are comfortable and able to perform CQS from this position.

Police pistol practice must become more protean, especially in regard to CQS. Anything less is a failure to train our finest to their best. ☺

Major Jeff Prather (USA, Ret) graduated from the U.S. Army Special Operations Tactics Course, the DEA Firearms Instructor Course, and multiple NRA LE Pistol, Shotgun and Rifle Instructor courses, among others. He has trained tens of thousands of military, police, and intelligence personnel in the U.S. and other countries. He can be contacted through www.warriorschool.com.

The Golden Age of the .22 Rifle



SIG522 is an excellent rifle for fun and training. Side-folding stock deploys in the same manner as SIG 550 series rifles, which allows training on vehicle exit and counter-ambush drills. Rifle is shown with SIG Sauer red dot that came with it, but Thompson now uses Trijicon ACOG, as that is the optic he uses on some SIG centerfire rifles. Inset: Thompson shoots SIG Sauer 522.



I admit I'm not really sure which golden age I'm talking about. In one way, I think of my youth as the golden age, as most boys I knew had a .22 rifle. On the other hand, as I'll explain, today is in many ways the new golden age of the .22 rifle.

As with many reading this, my first rifle was a single-shot bolt-action .22. I wish I could remember the brand, but I can't. That's partially because I inherited a .22 Colt Woodsman—the 2nd Model, which is still my favorite—in my teens and did most of my plinking with it.

I did acquire one of the inexpensive but very accurate bolt-action Remington .22 rifles as a freshman in college and shot it a lot. Those were the days, as some of you remember, when we'd save pennies and nickels to buy a box or two of .22 Long Rifle ammo, then go shoot it up at a makeshift range in the woods.

In those days, there were two .22 rifles I longed for. I wanted one of the Marlin 39 lever actions and/or one of the Browning .22 Automatic Rifles. At the time, I was spending my money on silly things like girls and keeping my 1957 Ford running. Many years later, I did get one of the Browning .22 Auto Rifles, which I still shoot occasionally. But I never got one of the Marlin 39s.

For a while during my senior year in college, the only .22 rifle I owned was one of the Savage .22/20-gauge Model 24 combo guns. After I graduated, I attended summer school

before leaving for the service and kept it next to my bed loaded with a .22 LR hollow point in the top barrel and a 20-gauge buckshot load in the bottom barrel.

I lived in an apartment in a rather seedy neighborhood near the Mississippi River, and one night a drunk tried to break down my door. The Model 24 never seemed intimidating to me, but it must have been to him, as he went running down the stairs when I answered the door while clutching it.

For many years after that, I did a lot of shooting with centerfire and rimfire handguns and centerfire rifles, but I did not shoot the .22 rifle that much. I had a Ruger 10/22 for most of that time, but that was the only one and I rarely shot it. I often considered buying one of the USGI .22 Long Rifle training bolt actions. That's still on my to-buy list.

But over the last few years, I've started shooting .22 rifles again quite a bit. Two things have contributed to that. First, the introduction of the S&W M&P15-22 and the SIG Sauer 522 has given me .22 rifles that are fun to shoot and let me train with rifles that handle similarly to the AR-15 and SIG

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Above: Smith & Wesson M&P15-22 rifle field-stripped with bolt removed for cleaning.

Below: Winchester M-22 ammunition is designed for use in current semi-auto .22 rifles.

550 series rifles I shoot a lot.

Second, surplus 5.56x45mm and 7.62x51mm, and even 7.62x39mm and 5.45x39mm ammunition, became much more expensive. That made shooting .22 rifles still more appealing, until the supply of .22 Long Rifle ammunition virtually dried up. Luckily, I had purchased 10,000 rounds of .22 LR right before it became scarce, so by rationing myself to 100 rounds per shooting session, I've kept my .22s running. Fortunately, ammo is becoming available again.

I alternate shooting my M&P15-22 and SIG522. Both are accurate, reliable, and have rails that let me mount a Trijicon ACOG similar to those I use on my centerfire versions of the same rifles. Not only do these rifles let me practice transitions, shooting while advancing or otherwise moving, double taps/hammers, and other tactical applications, but they also let me do it without feeling like there's a chute that loads money from my bank account directly into the rifle's magazine.

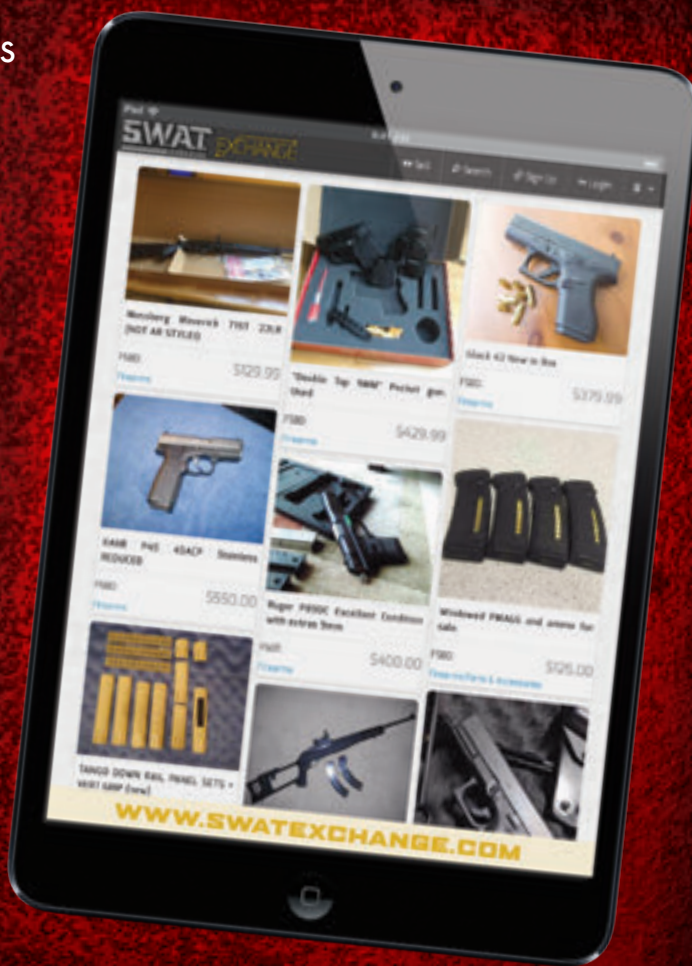
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some ranges, including some indoor ones, it is acceptable to shoot .22 rifles but it would not be to shoot centerfire rifles—both because of noise and penetration/ricochet dangers.

Some other replicas of modern rifles are made in Germany and employ a chamber that can be placed into the look-alikes for various rifles. These are clever and look “tactical,” but my experience is that the chamber gets dirty quickly and is hard to clean. As a result, the rifles are not especially reliable.

One thing that does help with reliability of the M&P15-22 and SIG522 is that some manufacturers now produce .22 Long Rifle ammunition specifically designed to function well in self-loading military-style .22 rifles. I have had good results with Winchester’s M-22, which has proven reliable and accurate. It shoots fairly cleanly as well—I can shoot hundreds of rounds without the rifle showing excessive fouling.

As the AR-15 has become such a popular rifle, having a .22 version that can be used for training and/or just plinking is advantageous. A .22 Long Rifle AR replica that shoots well would make an excellent rifle for a boy or girl who has received proper safety and handling training for a semi-auto.

While thinking about a current rifle for a young man or woman, I consulted a 1965 *Shooter’s Bible* to check some prices. A Remington 511X bolt-action, box-magazine .22 rifle of the type I had in my teens sold for \$38.95. That equates to a little under \$300 in 2016 dollars. But a Marlin 39A lever-action of the type I coveted back then sold for \$79.95, which would be about \$608 today.

Since MSRP on many M&P15-22 models is in the \$450 to \$500 range, their choice as a beginner’s rifle does not, on bal-



Group of three shots at five yards with M&P15-22.

ance, seem an excessive expense.

Today is a good time for the .22 rifle. In addition to quality military-style rifles such as the M&P15-22 and the SIG522, there are other choices, some very reasonable. For example, a couple of years ago, I acquired a Ruger 10/22 Takedown model, which is a dandy backpack rifle.

My conclusion is that the .22 rifles of my youth evoke a nostalgic golden age, but the rifles currently available for practice and fun make this a golden age for .22 rifle shooting and training as well. ☉

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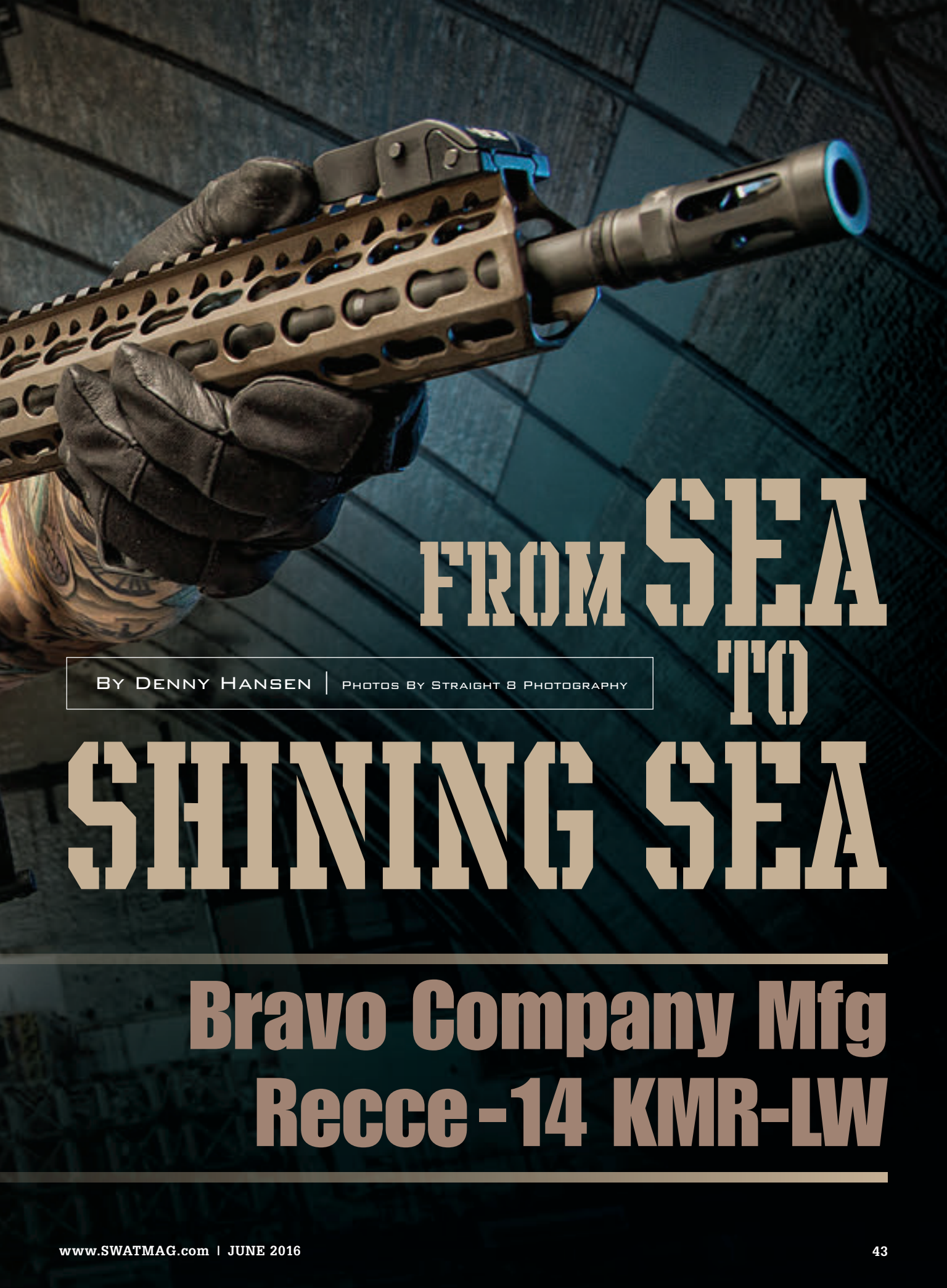
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FROM SEA TO

BY DENNY HANSEN | PHOTOS BY STRAIGHT 8 PHOTOGRAPHY

SHINING SEA

**Bravo Company Mfg
Recce-14 KMR-LW**

BCM RECCE-14 KMR-LW

Manufacturers of America's Rifle—the AR-15—continue to proliferate, literally running the gamut from A to Z. Some of these rifles are quality through and through. Some would better be used as a boat anchor while fishing for lake trout. The majority probably fall somewhere in the middle.

One manufacturer that has made—and continues to make—top-shelf rifles is Bravo Company Mfg (BCM). I have never heard a single complaint from anyone who has bought a BCM rifle.

OK, I take that back. At a basic carbine class (never can have too much of the basics), a fellow student remarked that his new BCM rifle kept having malfunctions with one magazine. I saw the problem right away. The feed lips on this aluminum magazine were spread so far apart I was surprised they would even insert in the mag well or retain a round, and the front welds were coming apart.

He said he was “saving my good mags for a rainy day.” I have heard this expression many times over the years in regard to magazines. But I believe it's wise to try magazines before a storm comes, as I've seen new-in-the-wrapper mags fail. Regardless, I “fixed” his magazine by stomping on it, throwing it onto the berm where it became a target of opportunity, and replacing it with a PMAG. No more problems.

As an aside, folks, don't fall in love with your magazines. They are expendable items, and running a \$2 mag in a \$1,500 gun (or any gun, for that matter) is just plain dumb.

I have just finished evaluating a BCM carbine—the Recce-14 KMR-LW (Recce-14). Spoiler alert: the carbine is accurate and ran flawlessly.

BCM RECCE-14 KMR-LW

Recce rifles were originally developed by U.S. Navy SEAL Team Armorers to provide SEALs with a lightweight modular carbine that had enhanced ballistic performance and utility over an issue M4.

Matching the size of an issue SOPMOD, Recce rifles use a mid-length gas system that runs more smoothly and allows more agile weapon control thanks to its extended handguard, which also increases sight radius for better accuracy if engaging with iron sights.

Overall length with stock collapsed is 31.5 inches, and 34.5 inches extended. Approximate weight is 6.3 pounds. The test carbine came with a Bronze Cerakote™ finish, though other colors are available.

Upper Receiver

The upper receiver is machined from 7075-T6 forgings and hard-coat anodized to milspec. The barrel is 14.5 inches long with a BCMGUNFIGHTER™ Mod1 compensator permanently pinned to bring it to a legal 16-inch

length. It is independently certified milspec 11595E Barrel Steel, with a manganese phosphate barrel finish on the entire barrel. The barrel has a 1:7 twist with an M4 feed ramp barrel extension and is free floated inside the KeyMod handguard. For the utmost reliability in chambering and extraction, chamber and bore are chrome lined, which also results in less fouling and corrosion.

All BCM barrels undergo an M197 HPT (High-Pressure Test), commonly referred to as a proof load, rating each barrel for 70,000 psi. This is followed by an MPI (Magnetic Particle Inspection) to detect any flaws in the barrel's surface, both circular and longitudinally.

A Picatinny rail runs the entire length of the upper receiver and handguard. The KeyMod handguard allows mounting accessories at three, six, and nine o'clock.


Some manufacturers cut corners on the bolt group. BCM is not one of them. The hardened bolt carrier is of the full-auto profile and is chrome lined. On top of it, the gas key is properly staked with milspec fasteners. The bolt itself is shot peened and machined from milspec Carpenter No. 158® steel and undergoes HPT/MPI testing.



Full-length Picatinny rail on mid-length gas system allows longer sight radius for accuracy when using iron sights.

The extractor is made from tool steel with a BCM extractor spring. I have removed many extractors. Usually it can be easily pinched back into the bolt and the retaining pin reinstalled. With the heavy-duty BCM extractor spring, it's very hard to accomplish without the use of a slave pin.

Front and rear fold-down BUIS sights made by Diamondhead USA for BCM are included. The rear sight has dual same-plane short- and long-range apertures and allows .5 MOA windage adjustments. The front sight's design incorporates the traditional M4-style upper housing on a Diamondhead premium sight base.



Meopta R2 in Burris P.E.P.R. QD mount is suitable for close-quarter situations with red dot and true 1X, and precise long shots using crosshair and 6X power.

The trigger on the test carbine was smooth, breaking consistently at 5.9 pounds.

Combination Bronze Cerakote finish and black parts make for a rifle that is not only ready for duty but attractive as well.

Lower Receiver

Like the upper, the lower receiver is machined from 7075-T6 aluminum forgings and milspec hard-coat anodized. Attached to the lower is a BCM milspec 7075-T6 receiver extension (buffer tube) with a UGI "H" buffer. An M4 lock nut is properly staked in place, securing the receiver extension. Fire controls are marked "Safe" and "Semi" on both sides of the receiver.

BCM upgrades included with the Recce-14 KMR-LW consist of:

- BCMGUNFIGHTER Mod 4 (medium) Charging Handle
- BCMGUNFIGHTER Mod 1 Compensator
- BCMGUNFIGHTER Mod 3 Pistol Grip
- BCMGUNFIGHTER QD End Plate
- BCMGUNFIGHTER Mod 0 Buttstock
- BCMGUNFIGHTER Trigger Guard
- BCMGUNFIGHTER PNT™ Trigger

The BCMGUNFIGHTER Charging Handle has become the standard in the industry. It allows easy one-handed manipulation and is not prone to breakage as are many of the extended latch charging handles.

The BCMGUNFIGHTER Mod 1 Compensator does a

great job of keeping the muzzle level, and is not as loud as many comps, making it more user friendly on a firing line.

All pistol grips are not created equal, and the BCMGUNFIGHTER Pistol Grips are excellent examples. The grips have a reduced angle for improved ergonomics and trigger control. They have a hinged trap door offering storage inside the grip with a water-resistant rubber gasket. An extended forward tang covers the annoying gap between the trigger guard and pistol grip and has a high-rise beavertail back strap that positions the hand high on the grip. The Mod 3 included with this carbine is about .25 inch wider than other BCMGUNFIGHTER grips.

The BCMGUNFIGHTER QD End Plate allows attaching a sling to the rear of the receiver. In my opinion it's better than attaching it farther to the rear.

I have added BCMGUNFIGHTER Buttstocks to several of my carbines that have a milspec receiver extension (buffer tube). The six-position stocks are rattle free and do not have any unnecessary protuberances to catch on gear. Stud-type QD sling attachment points are at the rear on both sides of the stock.

The BCMGUNFIGHTER Trigger Guard, like the Pistol Grip, covers the gap between the trigger guard and the pistol grip, and is enlarged to allow the use of gloves.

The BCMGUNFIGHTER PNT Trigger is 100% compatible with milspec lower receivers and built to surpass milspec standards. Each PNT Trigger and Hammer are heat treated in a three-step process and hardened for optimal grain

BCM RECCE-14 KMR-LW

structure alignment, surpassing commercial equivalents in both durability and performance.

To create perfect alignment and smooth trigger pull, the BCM PNT Trigger and Hammer are honed smooth. The impact-resistant trigger and hammer pins are centerless ground to a fine finish to very tight tolerances. The trigger on the test carbine was smooth, breaking consistently at 5.9 pounds.

The test carbine also came with a BCMGUNFIGHTER KAG (Kinesthetic Angled Grip) and BCMGUNFIGHTER™ KMSM (KeyMod Quick Detachable Sling Mount). The KAG is a collaboration between BCM and Travis Haley of Haley Strategic Partners. Designed to complement the “C” clamp grip, the KAG uses a forward rake for positive retention and joint relief to the wrist, elbow, and shoulder, permitting smooth weapon manipulation without substantial increase to the girth of the weapon system.

MEOPTA R2

For an optic, I chose the new Meopta MeoStar R2 1-6x24 RD, the first in their new R2 line. The one-piece aircraft-grade aluminum 30mm main tube is ELOX hard anodized for a durable, scratch-resistant, non-reflective matte black finish.

The reticle in the R2 has heavy posts at three, six, and nine o'clock, ending in a fine precision-etched crosshair. The R2 also has a red dot at the center of the crosshairs, with eight levels of intensity. The red dot is turned off between each level, saving power on the CR2354 battery.

Offering a true 1X with a wide field of view and using the

red dot with both eyes open, the Meopta R2 is suitable for close-quarter situations and precise long shots using the crosshair and 6X power. Windage and elevation adjustments are in ½ MOA increments, with positive clicks that can be heard and felt.

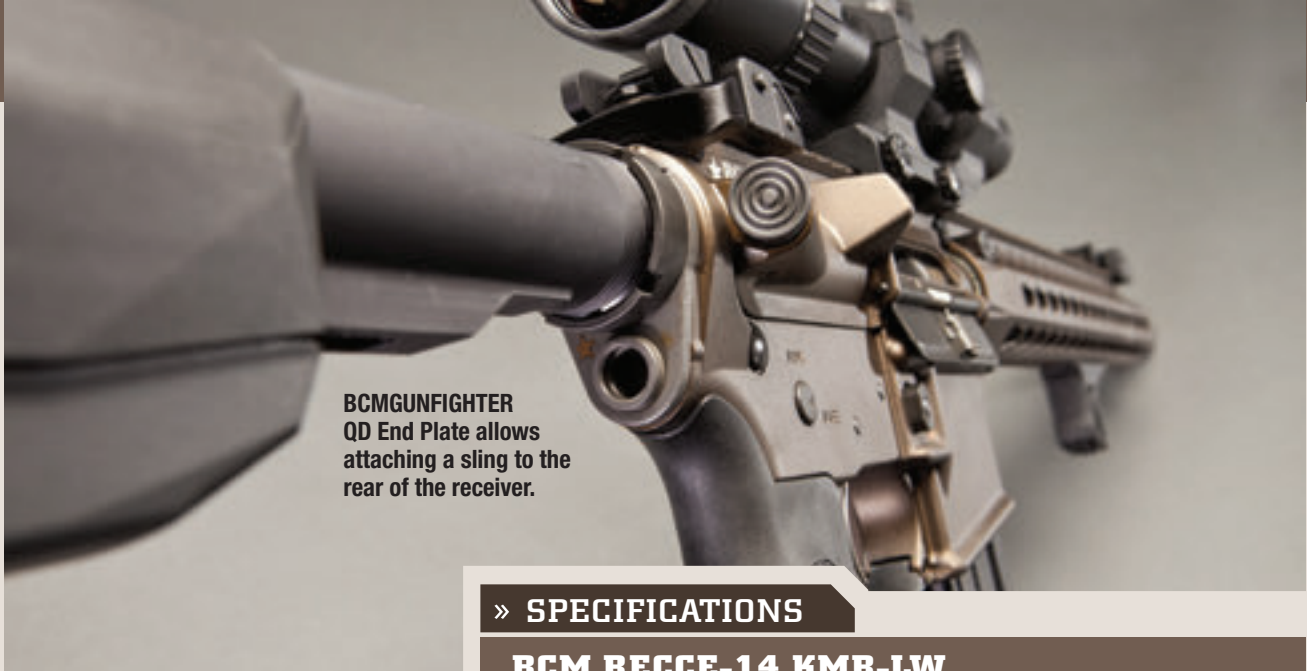
I mounted the Meopta R2 in a Burris AR-P.E.P.R. quick-detach mount. The P.E.P.R. combines rings and the mounting base in one sturdy unit, and offers great eye relief for a full field of view through the scope.



BCMGUNFIGHTER
Pistol Grips have a
reduced angle for
improved ergonomics
and trigger control.



BCMGUNFIGHTER Charging Handle
has become the industry standard.



BCMGUNFIGHTER QD End Plate allows attaching a sling to the rear of the receiver.

» SPECIFICATIONS

BCM RECCE-14 KMR-LW

MANUFACTURER	Bravo Company Manufacturing
MODEL	Recce-14 KMR-LW
TYPE	Gas-operated semiautomatic
CALIBER	5.56mm NATO
OVERALL LENGTH (stock collapsed)	31.5 inches
WEIGHT	6.3 pounds
UPPER AND LOWER RECEIVERS	Machined 7075-T6 aluminum, hard-coat anodized
BARREL	Chrome-lined 14.5 inches, 1:7 twist
GAS SYSTEM	Mid-length
HANDGUARD	Free-float KeyMod
BOLT CARRIER	Chrome lined, full-auto profile
BOLT	Milspec Carpenter No. 158 Steel, HPT/MPI tested
TRIGGER	BCMGUNFIGHTER PNT
CHARGING HANDLE	BCMGUNFIGHTER Mod 4
COMPENSATOR	BCMGUNFIGHTER Mod 1
PISTOL GRIP	BCMGUNFIGHTER Mod 3
BUTTSTOCK	Six-position BCMGUNFIGHTER Mod 0
END PLATE	BCMGUNFIGHTER QD
FINISH (test carbine)	Bronze Cerakote
SUGGESTED RETAIL PRICE	\$1,589.00

RANGE EVALUATION

The Recce-14 comes with one BCM magazine. To see how it would work with other magazines, I assembled an assortment from C Products Defense, Fusil, Bravo Company (D&H Industries), Lancer, Gen 2 and 3 Magpul PMAGs and the PMAG® D-60 drum magazine, TangoDown, SureFire (60 round), and reconditioned USGI (new springs, anti-tilt followers).

Since all brands of ammunition are not available in all areas, I tested 23 commercial loads and one handload. To establish a baseline on velocities, I began by firing ten-round strings using my PACT Inc Professional chronograph. In order to give each load a fair shake, I allowed the barrel to cool and ran an Otis bore snake through it just enough to remove any fouling from the velocity trials before I started shooting for accuracy.

After a quick zero, I fired two, five-round groups from each load to obtain an average for accuracy. Distance was 50 yards, prone using the magazine as a monopod, with two mph wind from six o'clock under an unbelievably blue sky. Talk about a perfect day to be on the range.

All loads shot right at one inch, give or take a decimal point or two, with the Recce-14 seeming to have a preference for heavier loads. The one exception was the Black Hills offering using the Barnes 50-grain TSX bullet. Screaming out of the muzzle at 3,231.1 feet-per-second, it printed two five-round groups that could be covered by a dime and give a couple cents change. I'm sure heavier bullets would buck a crosswind better, but on this day, it was the clear winner in both velocity and accuracy.

I finished up with some moving and shooting drills from 35 to five yards, ending



BCMGUNFIGHTER KAG is designed to complement "C" clamp grip with forward rake for positive retention.

BCM RECCE-14 KMR-LW



Permanently pinned to the 14.5-inch barrel, BCMGUNFIGHTER Mod 1 Compensator reduces muzzle rise.



BCMGUNFIGHTER Buttstock is a rattle-free, snag-proof upgrade.

» 5.56/.223 AMMUNITION PERFORMANCE

BRAND	LOAD	AVERAGE VELOCITY (fps)
Aguila*	62-gr. HMJBT	2,897.2
Australian Outback	55-gr. Sierra BlitzKing	2,868.1
Australian Outback	69-gr. Sierra BlitzKing Match	2,584.3
Black Hills*	50-gr. Barnes TSX	3,231.1
Black Hills	55-gr. FMJ	2,930.6
Black Hills	60-gr. V-MAX	2,754.2
Black Hills	62-gr. TSX	2,918.7
Black Hills	68-gr. BTHP Match	2,517.4
Black Hills	75-gr. Match	2,511.1
Black Hills	77-gr. Match	2,535.8
Black Hills*	77-gr. Tipped Match King	2,729.0
Black Hills*	77-gr. Mk262	2,700.4
Double Tap	55-gr. Barnes TSX	2,853.8
Double Tap	55-gr. Nosler Ballistic Tip	2,964.8
Hornady	55-gr. FMJ	2,781.6
Hornady*	55-gr. GMX	3,074.7
Hornady	55-gr. TAP FPD	2,927.9
Hornady	60-gr. TAP Urban	2,861.0
Hornady	68-gr. BTHP	2,676.7
Hornady*	75-gr. BTHP Match	2,661.8
Hornady	75-gr. TAP FPD	2,509.3
Summit*	55-gr. Match	2,866.0
Summit*	77-gr. Match	2,712.6
Handload	60-gr. Swaged OT	2,593.2

Top performer in velocity and accuracy

* Denotes 5.56x45mm load

Velocities obtained with PACT Professional chronograph, ten-round strings with first screen ten feet from muzzle. Elevation 4,843 feet, 75 degrees, 14% humidity.

with a five- to eight-round NSR, left and right lateral movement, and engaging multiple targets.

Between the mid-length barrel and the BCMGUNFIGHTER Mod 1 Compensator, the carbine simply did not seem to rise off target, and switching from one target to another was child's play. By the end of the evaluation, the Recce-14 had digested just under 600 rounds without a single hiccup.

SUMMARY

I can't count the number of times I've heard something to the effect of, "My brother [uncle, cousin, beer-drinking buddy] put a rifle together on his kitchen table and it's just as good as those expensive ARs." Or "Wally World has a black rifle that only costs \$400 out the door and it will do anything a rifle costing a lot more will do."

To the former I say, "No, it's not." To the latter I say, "No, it won't."

Not everyone needs a true Tier One carbine. But if you have the need, the "also rans" just won't do. ©

SOURCES

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OVERSIGHT



IWI US TAVOR SAR

Battle proven by the IDF and winner of multiple awards, the Tavor® SAR has changed the landscape for modern combat-style rifles.

The winner of the June Sweepstakes will receive an IWI US Tavor SAR flattop bullpup rifle. Chambered in 5.56x45mm NATO, it features a 16.5-inch 1:8 twist barrel with a compact overall length of 26 1/8 inches. It comes standard with BUIS embedded and spring loaded in the top full-length MIL-STD Picatinny rail. The front post contains a Tritium insert and is on a standard AR thread, fully adjustable for windage and elevation (sight adjustment tool provided).

The 5.56 Tavor uses standard AR-15/M16/STAN-AG magazines. Unlike some bullpup rifles, reliable magazines are readily available.

Among its many features, the Tavor features integral ambidextrous front and rear quick-detachable sling swivel receptacles. Push-button ball-bearing swivels are included.



TRIJICON MRO

In the way of optics, this Sweepstakes includes a Trijicon MRO™ (Miniature Rifle Optic), a sealed miniature reflex sight intended for use on rifles, carbines and shotguns to provide fast target acquisition. The large aperture and tapered light path maximize the viewing area and allow for better situational awareness and fast target engagement, especially from non-standard shooting positions. Combine all this



with ambidextrous brightness controls; sub-flush adjusters; advanced lens coatings; and fully sealed, waterproof, hard-anodized forged 7075-T6 housing, and you have today's ultimate mini reflex sight.

Also included is a Trijicon AC32069 mount, which positions the MRO in lower 1/3 co-witness, as preferred by many experts.

HORNADY SUPERFORMANCE

The winner receives 200 rounds of Hornady .223 55-grain GMX Superformance Ammunition.

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MAGPUL GEN M3 PMAGs

To keep the Tavor running smoothly, the winner of this Sweepstakes also receives six next-generation PMAG 30 GEN M3 30-round magazines from Magpul Industries. While the GEN M3 is optimized for Colt-spec AR-15/M4 platforms, modified internal and external geometry also permits operation with a range of other weapons.

Similar to the MOE PMAG, the GEN M3 features a long-life USGI-spec stainless steel spring, four-way anti-tilt follower and constant-curve internal geometry for reliable feeding, and simple tool-less disassembly to ease cleaning. In addition, a redesigned bolt-catch notch in the rear of the magazine provides increased bolt-catch clearance, while an over-travel stop on the spine helps ensure the magazine will not over-insert.



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Author fires Seekins Precision rifle over hay bales. Target is more than 600 meters away.

SCOPE IT OUT!

Follow Through Consulting Scoped Carbine Class

BY DAVID BAHDE

Working with various instructors allows me to weed out the training that is more marketing than substance. The training market is flooded with “experts” who attended one class at a major academy or watched a bunch of videos on the Internet and hung out a shingle.

Masterful websites and a contrived or mostly fictitious military or police background sell a ton of classes. Some are pretty good, others are not bad, a few are downright deadly. Even fewer are stellar. By attending training I can speak and write from a first-person perspective. It also keeps me current rather than drawing on decades-old experience.

Training provides a good test of firearms and equipment. On several occasions, firearms that worked during preliminary testing did not make it through Day Two of a

five-day school. I have had weapons no one would expect to work perform flawlessly and “wonder weapons” take a dump as soon as they were pushed hard.

Scopes, sights, holsters, and other accessories that get tested in the field prove their value and durability. Training is generally a mix of practical application and true tests of shooter and equipment. Occasionally that all comes together at a single class.

THE EARTH DOES NOT ALWAYS SHAKE!

The need to market and maintain relevance in the industry spawns many schools that are contrived and impractical. Marketing leaves the impression there will be some life-changing epiphany at every class. In a world where the attention span is measured in milliseconds, schools must do

Below: Some barricades are spaced as much as 100 meters apart to increase student's heart rate and stress.



Above: Buck Doyle calling shots, reading the wind, and keeping everyone on target at long range.

Below: This was the closest thing to a square range the class experienced during the Scoped Rifle course.





Ryan Wilcock runs BCM rifle off Eberlestock pack.



Seekins Precision rifle with Nightforce scope. Author used his Wiebad Tac Pac as a rear bag to support the rifle.



Gathering data for BCM Recce-16 and Black Hills 77-grain TMK.

something to grab attention.

Competing in a sea of instructors, each has to provide some reason for buyers to pick them. The result is lots of fluff, moderate substance, and a celebrity culture with more in common with Hollywood than the mean streets.

Truth is, shooting guns is not rocket science—it never has been. Often the best techniques and tactics have been around for decades. They are simple, proven, and require repetition, not glamour. It's all about applying fundamentals using proven equipment.

Many new products make using firearms easier, more practical, and hold up under hard use. Others are solutions in search of problems. Determining the difference is the trick, and a good class helps you do that.

FOLLOW THROUGH CONSULTING

Twenty plus years as a Marine, much of it in Force Recon, followed by years as a contractor have given Buck Doyle a resume with more “been there, done that” than most. Multiple deployments, significant time as a trainer, surviving battle wounds ... he is the real deal.

Buck is friendly, professional and personable. He neither wears his experience on his sleeve nor throws it in your face. It's just there. It personifies his doctrine, one seldom seen these days. No classroom populated by endless war stories. In fact, you are hard pressed to get him to talk about himself. Buck formed Follow Through Consulting to pass on his wealth of knowledge to others. Attend a basic class and you get proven basics.

Buck teaches what he learned from hardened combat veterans surviving the crucible of war, tempered by his own experience in the same fields of battle. Techniques are simple and practical, void of mind-numbing drills. Nothing new, they are characterized as shoot, move, and communicate. With a few subtle differences, they permeate Buck's entire curriculum.

REPEAT ATTENDER

Attending the same class repeatedly is not the norm for me—this class is an exception. Scoped Carbine is long on application and short on dogma, making it repeatedly useful. Concepts are simple and easy to pick up. Once you have them down, return visits are all about honing

your skills, testing your equipment, and picking up on the details.

This was my fourth Scoped Carbine class but the first one using a Tremor 3 reticle. Buck bases this class on the use of the reticle for ranging, aiming, and holding for elevation and wind using Applied Ballistics concepts as a base.

The class is best taken using a scope with either Tremor 2 or 3 reticle. Buck will provide a scope if needed, and I recommend taking him up on that.

Having attended with other reticles, I know that using the Tremors allows you to better grasp his basic philosophy quickly and employ it on the range. Once you understand the process, you can apply it to just about any modern combat-oriented reticle.

THE RIFLES

Bringing a friend to this class let me test two different rifles and scopes. My rifle was a Seekins Precision SP223 that started life as a pinned 14-inch model a few years ago. It has served as a base platform for several tests with various barrel lengths. The lower is registered, so it has seen barrels from 13 inches to the LaRue 18-inch OBR barrel presently in it. It is an older barrel with 1:8 twist polygonal rifling. It was configured specifically for Buck's class based on prior experience.

It was equipped with an M-Lok SP3R V3 15-inch rail. Barricades are the norm at Buck's class, making the flat bottom incredibly useful. A Midwest Industries M-Lok barricade stop locked it in solidly.

JP Enterprises provided a lightweight BCG and captured return spring. Patriot Ordnance Firearms Dictator adjustable gas block allowed me to precisely tune it for the Black Hills 77-grain TMK ammunition.

Nightforce's ATACR 4-16X scope using a Tremor 3 reticle was mounted in a Nightforce mount. A Shield CQS Red Dot was mounted at 1:00 using a Trijicon mount for close range. Magpul's Pro Offset sights were added in case the electronics failed. This class uses lots of positions, so a Magpul UBR collapsible stock was installed.

My friend Ryan Wilcock used a Bravo Company Mfg (BCM) Recce-16 KMR13 Mk2 coated in FDE Cerakote. This rifle uses the new KMR-A rail. The barrel is a 1:7 twist government profile

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with chromed bore and chamber.

A Geissele combat enhanced trigger was installed, along with an AXTS safety and Raptor charging handle. Dueck Defense Rapid Transition Sights handled the close work, while a Leupold Mark 6 using Tremor 2 reticle was the primary optic. Ryan also used Black Hills 77-grain TMK ammunition for the class.

CLASS STRUCTURE

Buck's philosophy is 100% application. While you can certainly attend with little or no AR experience, you will get more out of the class if you have already attended a basic carbine class.

There is no real square-range time, nor do you spend hours drilling reloads and honing split times on equally spaced targets ten meters distant. It's all about using your scoped carbine at ranges from 50 to 700 meters from prone and unconventional positions.

Buck starts with a short classroom portion to acquaint students with his philosophy and the basic operation of the Tremor reticles. The rest of the class occurs on various ranges.

Range time begins at 100 meters to confirm zero, followed by 12-inch steel targets in the 300-meter range. Buck's real-life experience revolved around using what you have—a scoped carbine. Things like a rangefinder, weather meter, or other aids may be around, but accessing them without getting shot may be problematic. With the Tremor reticles, you can quickly and easily range 12-inch targets and hold using the reticle to get hits. You only use the knobs at very long range. Everything else is about holding for elevation and wind using the reticle.

The rest of TD1 is spent using your Tremor 2 or 3 to range, read the wind, and hold for elevation. Both Tremor reticles use dots that represent roughly three mph winds depending on your caliber and cartridge. Determine wind direction and velocity, add up the dots, hold either at the top or bottom of the target, and press.

Whether you hold on top or bottom depends on how flat your rifle shoots. Both the BCM and Seekins were flat shooting with the Black Hills ammo. Ryan and I both held low on the target to get center hits. In both cases, the 77-grain TMK ammunition was impressive, with holds often 10 to 20% less than the 14.5-inch guns. The BCM was excellent, and the purpose-built Seekins was a flat-out laser out to 700 meters with this ammunition.

The next two days you move through the property shooting from barricades, haystacks, or other improvised positions from 100 to 500 meters. Each session better acquaints you with your rifle and scope.

Very quickly, by the end of TD1, Buck has you running between barricades to increase your heart rate and stress. Once you arrive at a station, you set up behind cover. Buck tells you where your target is and how many times to shoot it.

After checking your environment, you step up, get on target and engage, then stop back behind cover. Buck tells you where to go next, you check your area, and move out. These are slow and purposeful exercises—no time clocks, beepers, buzzers, or speed reloads.

Buck is all about deliberate action. Nothing is done



Now that's a backstop! Shooters finish the day as sun sets on red cliffs of Capitol Reef National Park.

based on an arbitrary time clock. You move at your pace—slow and methodical for me. A few tried to keep up with Buck to no avail, but you can run as hard as you want.

Targets are set up in the beautiful red rocks at the entrance to Capitol Reef National Park in south-central Utah. They are either 12-inch round or “man gongs” with a 12-inch top target and IPSC-sized lower portion.

Ranges are never “even” or similar. They are all somewhere in the middle, forcing you to estimate on the fly. You can certainly range them with a laser if needed, but you will get the most out of it using your reticle.

By the end of the class, you're getting hits on small targets at 500 meters with nothing more than a scoped rifle, under stress, with consistency. It is one of the most practical carbine training classes you will attend.

EQUIPMENT CONCLUSIONS

The Nightforce ATACR 4-16X scope is excellent. Clear, crisp, and strong, it remains compact. It has a zero lock and return to zero feature if you use the knobs. The reticle subtended dead on out to 700 meters. Having used both the T2 and T3 reticles, the T3 is my preference.

If you have never used either, the T2 is a bit easier. This was my first time with the Shield RDS. The dot was easy to see, always there, and allowed for fast work up close. Having the ability to use available light for the dot worked well, saving battery life.

Black Hills 77-grain TMK won the event for sheer flat shooting accuracy. Both the 18-inch Seekins and 16-inch BCM consistently excelled, holding lower than any of the other rifles. The ammo functioned superbly, and held the wind well out to at least 700 meters.

Both rifles were flawless in operation. The environment includes lots of red dust that gets into everything. Other than some light lubrication prior to the start of each day, neither rifle needed any attention over about 500 rounds. They held accuracy throughout and maintained solid con-

sistency. My Seekins build was so impressive that it will stay as configured for this class.

FINAL THOUGHTS

Follow Through Consulting Scoped Carbine course remains one of my favorites. Buck Doyle is professional, low key, knowledgeable, and imminently qualified. The backdrop is unparalleled. Shooting among the red cliffs of Capitol Reef is not only a challenge but also a great pleasure.

Wind is always present, with infinite ability to test positions and skills. Buck will test your limits and push you as hard as you want, or allow you to progress at your own pace, making it a pleasant experience all around. It is a training environment most will never see anywhere else.

If you're looking for the latest Gucci-style training, this isn't it. Nothing earth shattering is covered. Basics are simple and direct, with practical application of a scoped carbine.

Your split times will not go down, nor will your reload times decrease. There is no incessant malfunction training or recreation of the latest video game or zombie attack. It's all about using your scoped carbine to its limits under stress without the use of computers.

This may not help you win the next competition, but it just may save your life—and that is what Buck Doyle is all about. ☺

SOURCES

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SIG P220 Elite 10mm is a large, good-looking pistol. It features Rosewood grips, is SAO with bilateral safeties, adjustable SIGLITE sights, and two eight-round single-stack magazines. Gun has excellent ergonomics and points well.

BY BOB PILGRIM

SIG Sauer P220 Elite Stainless

THE 10mm Auto (10x25mm), which I have carried on duty and used in competition, has become one of my favorite self-defense and pistol hunting calibers. Loaded to the max, it's quite powerful and was designed to deliver .41 Magnum ballistics in a semiauto handgun. But the .41 Magnum revolver round remains energy boss at a maximum of 1,135 foot-pounds of muzzle energy (me), while the ten has made it to 1,015 foot-pounds with lighter projectiles at 2,420 feet-per-second (fps).

Its case has inspired the creation of wildcats, such as the sizzling 9x25mm Dillon and Super Auto G. When the FBI adopted the round, manufacturers scrambled to offer handguns that could launch it.

The Bureau's new pistol was specified to have SIG Sauer controls, because of agent familiarity with the P226/P228. When the pistol displayed erratic reliability, the FBI, after much hate and discontent, abandoned this sidearm and caliber by phasing it out through attrition, and quickly returned to the 9x19mm.

10MM RESURGENCE

During the market flood of 10mm pistols, SIG Arms ignored the trend, which did not last very long.

When the 10 was effectively buried by the .40 S&W, only a few arms makers continued to offer a firearm in that caliber. It has remained that way until recently.

Tangfolio offered some interesting service and competition pistols in that caliber for some time, but suddenly 1911s coming out of the Philippines included 10mm versions in their mostly .45 ACP lineups. Custom gunsmith and trainer Bruce Gray of Grayguns proposed a SIG P220 conversion to 10mm a few years ago. Bruce is a SIG proponent and has achieved national competitive status with his products.

THE 10MM, FBI HRT, AND ME

When the S&W 1076 arrived with the downloaded Federal 180-grain load, I had Mike Plaxco customize a Colt Delta Elite 1911 10mm for me. Later I had others constructed both in limited and unlimited configurations. The modified Federal round just made the major power factor.

At the time, the FBI's Hostage Rescue Team (HRT) was looking to replace their beloved FN Browning Hi-Powers and change calibers to 10mm or .45 ACP. Vendors submitted high-dollar 1911s, initially in 10mm. But this dalliance was limited in duration and, when problems began to surface with the 1076, the .45 got the nod.

A high-capacity custom 1911 was pushed and adopted by the team after testing. When the wide bodies failed to perform

as required and after much effort to correct, HRT let them attrite and ended up with extensively evaluated single-stack 1911s that are still the team's official sidearm today, though Glocks are an option. The only 10mm firearm they retained was the HK MP5 submachine gun, firing a 190-grain JHP.

SIG Sauer Academy Director Adam Painchaud advised the company was "motivated to build this hog leg by demand alone. For the past ten years, every SHOT Show saw a plethora of enthusiasts ask when we were going to make the P220 in 10mm?" It's a small market, but enough to drive sales for it, and it created an entirely new line of all-steel pistols.

PORK OUT OF THE BOX

Chamber pressure for the ten is 37,500 psi. The .45 ACP is a mild 21,000 psi to 23,000 psi for +P. This pressure difference prompted SIG to build all stainless steel 10s at 44.2 ounces with empty magazines. Fully loaded, its Go To Hunt Weight (GTHW) with nine 180-grain loads comes to 49 ounces.

Essentially, it looks like the P220 that debuted in 1976, but it is 13.6 ounces heavier with magazine than its alloy predecessor and has a .63-inch longer barrel.

The P220 was never a small handgun, but the P220 Elite Stainless 10mm qualifies as a "horse pistol." While ideal for a shoulder rig, it might also be at home holstered on a saddle's pommel, handy for a fleeting game shot. It would make



SIG Sauer makes four versions of the 10mm P220. With the Stainless Steel Elite (left) is its SAO sibling, the 10mm Nitron with Hogue G10 Piranha grips.



Above: *Top Shot: All-Stars* finalist William Bethards launches hot 10mm downrange. Muzzle flip is substantial, but pistol is still comfortable to shoot.

Below: Rosewood grips are wraparound and act as back strap. Hammer's stirrup is enclosed by coil hammer spring. Slide rides on full-length rails.



a great pig-hunting pistol, and its camouflaged Hunt Ready model with fiber-optic front blade or a red dot sight will give you pork right out of the box.

CHOICES, CHOICES, AND MORE CHOICES

SIG Sauer has gone the extra manufacturing mile and produced several models of the 10mm P220 in an effort to appeal to shooters who function in different environments. Four versions of the 10mm P220 are being offered as follows:

- Match Elite Two Tone. This is a double/single-action (DA/SA) pistol with Black G10 Piranha grips.
- P220 Elite Stainless and P220 Elite Stainless Nitron. Both single-action only (SAO) pistols have SIGLITE night sights. The Elite Stainless has a natural stainless steel finish and Rosewood grips, while the Nitron has a durable dark Nitron finish and Black G10 Piranha grips.
- Hunt Ready P220. Another SAO pistol, it is ready for medium-sized game with its Kryptek Highlander camo pattern finish, installed SIG Sauer Romeo mini red dot optic, and G10 grips. Front sight is fiber optic.

Primarily a sport firearm, the 10mm P220 can also serve as a very effective self-defense handgun. Unless you are a large man, the pistol will find itself in the role of a house or car gun. Personally, I would prefer a higher round count like some of its competitors have, but size and weight would grow to impractical levels for most pistol packers.

The stainless steel SAO Elite is a very rich-looking and impressive pistol. Its handsome and sharply checkered Rose-

wood grips do much to create that image. Its slide and receiver are composed of very attractive non-reflective natural stainless steel. Controls, sights, barrels, and hammers are in contrasting black.

The Elite Stainless' dovetailed sights are a combination of competition (rear) and combat (front). The fully adjustable rear sight is perhaps the largest and most rugged on the market, but its rear sight blade edges are pointed and sharp, giving it the competition look. I would much prefer to have those points rounded and relieved to foster immediate action clearances without lacerating the hands while in the presence of a 300-pound tusker.

The front post is enhanced with SIGLITE night sights. Sight radius is 6.8 inches. Depending on what I fed it, the ten was close to right on out of the box at 25 yards, with almost every weight projectile fired. Fore and aft serrations help manually cycle the slide and conduct press checks.

CLOSE TOLERANCES

Barrel and slide lockup are snug, with the linkless barrel locking up at the breech. Full-length frame rails give the slide excellent fore and aft support. Internal finish imitates its flawless exterior.

Minus the decocker, it features familiar P220 controls except for moderately oversized bilateral thumb safeties. I personally would like larger "gas pedals," but with its slide stop/lock next door, it leaves limited room for the larger paddles. The levers are positively locked in battery but read-

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ily disengage with downward pressure.

Since this is an "Elite" model, this 10mm features an up-swept beavertail that permits a higher grip, eliminates hammer bite, distributes recoil, and assists in recoil control.

The fully supported cold-hammer-forged barrel has a 1:16 right-hand twist rifling and massive camming lug that mates with an equally augmented locking block in the frame. At 23 pounds, its captive braided recoil spring requires some strength to remove. The spring's guide rod is also steel.

SINGLE-ACTION TRIGGER

The wide-faced SAO trigger on my sample came in at between five and six pounds depending where I placed the instrument's hook. The lever exhibits quite a bit of take-up before it hits the sear's wall. Continued pressure results in a crisp break followed by a reasonably short reset.

With its dramatic muzzle rise, shooters have plenty of time to prep the trigger for the next shot. The trigger guard is hooked and large enough for gloved hands. The guard is undercut where it joins the front strap, permitting a higher grip. Aft of the trigger is an enlarged magazine release that can be transferred to the gun's starboard side.

The front strap is nicely machine checkered, while the back strap consists of the wood grips. Magazines are single-stack eight-round tubes with witness holes and base pads. The magazine well is enlarged and beveled for more efficient reloads.

Moving forward, the familiar takedown lever resides on the frame's left side, and its squared dust cover features a generously sized Picatinny rail for aftermarket accessories. With a Streamlight TLR-2 light/laser attached, overall weight jumps to 57 ounces.

When I looked over the enhanced P220 and examined its beautiful Rosewood grips, I felt the pistol is almost too attractive to shoot. If I were going to shoot the ten a lot and carry it in all kinds of weather, I would remove the wood grips and replace them with Black G10 Piranha panels.



Takedown is traditional SIG Sauer—simple with few parts. Decocker is gone and replaced by SAO bilateral thumb safety. Size of safety's paddles was restricted by limited space. White dot indicates safety is engaged. Magazine release is enlarged and Elite series has beavertail. Slotted screws holding Rosewood grips do not shoot loose.

But its exotic wood grips not only enhance ergonomics, so pointing is natural for most shooters, but they also spread out the recoil from stout loads and, with its notable weight, make this P220 comfortable to shoot.

HIGH VELOCITIES AND GOOD ACCURACY

For evaluation purposes, I selected 15 different loads ranging in weight from 46 to 220 grains. I am not a fan of light bullets because they usually have shallow penetration in tissue and/

» SPECIFICATIONS

SIG SAUER P220 ELITE STAINLESS

MANUFACTURER	SIG Sauer
MODEL	P220 Elite Stainless
CALIBER	10mm Auto
CAPACITY	8+1
ACTION	Single-action-only
BARREL	Five inches, 1:16 twist
WEIGHT (empty)	39 ounces
OVERALL HEIGHT	5.5 inches
OVERALL LENGTH	8.9 inches
OVERALL WIDTH	1.5 inches
SIGHT RADIUS	6.8 inches
FRAME AND SLIDE FINISH	Stainless steel
STOCKS	Rosewood
SUGGESTED RETAIL	\$1,422.00



Elite Stainless ships with spare magazine in sturdy case and is accompanied by cable lock, lubrication, documents, and manual (not shown).



Bethards fired this cold-bore 3.80-inch, nine-round group standing one-handed at 25 yards.

» AMMUNITION PERFORMANCE

AMMUNITION	LOAD	AVERAGE VELOCITY (fps)	AVERAGE GROUP (inches)
Buffalo Bore	180-gr. JHC	1,325	0.97
Buffalo Bore	220-gr. HCL	1,139	1.46
Double Tap	165-gr. JHP	1,281	3.09
Double Tap	230-gr. HCL	1,036	1.49
Federal	180-gr. JSP	1,275	1.82
Federal	190-gr. JHP	1,011	1.71
Freedom Munitions	180-gr. RNFP	1,089	1.81
Hornady	200-gr. XTP	1,103	1.96
Liberty	60-gr. JHP	2,240	1.45
Mag Safe	46-gr. SWAT	2,371	1.92
Mag Safe	96-gr. Defender	1,891	1.93
CorBon	135-gr. Pow'r Ball	1,383	1.15
SIG Sauer	180-gr. JHP	1,197	2.95
Winchester	175-gr. JHP	1,103	1.34

Five-round groups from handheld rest at 25 yards. Average five-round velocities were obtained from a CED M2 chronograph, 15 feet from the muzzle. Temperature: 70 degrees.

or they fragment, but the 60-grain Liberty Civil Defense HP had exceptional performance. Average velocity was 2,329 fps with a 1.45-inch five-round group from a handheld rest at 25 yards. From a five-inch barrel, Liberty's velocities approach those emanating from the increasingly popular 10.9-inch barreled special-purpose rifles employed by Tier One teams.

High individual velocity went to Mag Safe's 46-grain SWAT pill at 2,401 fps with decent accuracy. Buffalo Bore's 180-grain Jacketed Hollow Cavity (JHC) was the only round that went under an inch, at 0.973 inch. Reliability was 100% and overall accuracy with all loads was quite good.

TOP SHOT APPROVAL

Top Shot: All-Stars finalist William Bethards liked the P220 Elite Stainless, but liked it even more when cold bore, he fired a 3.80-inch, nine-round group standing one-handed at 25 yards. For a mass-produced pistol, the P220 Elite Stainless is match-grade accurate. Besides "hunting and just bragging rights," Bethards thought it would do well in long-range Handgun Metallic Silhouette competition.

For our recoil analysis, we compared the FBI's Federal 190-grain JHP (1,011 fps) with the hot Federal 180-grain (1,275 fps) soft point. Bethards said the FBI cartridge had 75% less felt recoil and muzzle flip than the soft point.

With the hotter load, ejection was high and right out to 25 feet. The softer-shooting FBI rounds kept showering me while I photographed Bethards from the side. Bethards thought the pistol was well balanced and had good weight. He also liked the grips and its overall ergonomics, which make it a naturally pointing piece.

Interestingly, we had our first and only failure to feed during Bethards' ses-

sion. He took responsibility and chalked it up to his not gripping the gun aggressively enough. He stated that 1911 lovers will like this pistol, but achieving fast splits with accuracy will take a lot of practice and strong hands. A built-in compensator would help, but at the cost of some lost velocity. Nevertheless, heavy recoil took its toll, and the substantial adjustable rear sight shot loose.

CONCLUSIONS

If Dirty Harry transitioned to pistols, the P220 Elite Stainless 10mm would appeal to him. Big, bright and intimidating, with the ability to back up all superlatives, it would certainly gain a miscreant's attention.

A bit large and with limited capacity for its size, it is not my choice for sub-rosa personal defense. As a hunting instrument for medium game within 50 yards, it will bring home the bacon, even though its trigger could stand some improvement.

This SIG Sauer contribution to the shooting world is superbly made, good looking, and a very accurate and powerful handgun.

Would I buy one? With three other 10mms in the safe, one of them is in danger of being sold. ☺

Bob Pilgrim holds an MS degree, was a Marine Infantry officer during the Vietnam conflict, and retired from the FBI as a special agent, where he was the field SWAT program manager. His Special Operations and Research Unit created and

trained the FBI's Hostage Rescue Team. After retirement, he was an adjunct instructor at the Smith & Wesson and SIG Sauer Academies and a subject-matter expert for the USDOS's Anti Terrorism Assistance Program.

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.22 Long Rifle is slowly becoming more available, allowing shooters to try some tailored drills to get the most out of subcaliber training.

DOUBLE-DEUCE DRILLS

RIMFIRE ammo is slowly reappearing on shelves after several years of famine. I'm not sure it will come back to truly regular availability for bulk packs anytime soon, but with a little shopping, you can find the rimfire stuff—well, at least for a few minutes before it gets purchased.

I have used subcaliber training to very good effect over the years. However, my approach was best summed up as using the reduced cost of .22 Long Rifle to allow a blunt-force smashing of maximum reps of key skills.

When the drought set in, I went into conservation mode, finding it more advantageous to train limited numbers of reps with real-deal weapons and ammo.

Real-Deal Rimfire Training



BY ETHAN JOHNS



As I lucked out and scored some rimfire ammunition, I became much more conscious of how I was spending it.

Over the past year, I have worked up a number of drills that focus on the key attributes rimfire shooting brings to the table, allowing a surgical approach to squeezing maximum good out of fewer rounds, because when you shoot 100 rounds, it may require some time and effort to replace them!

PRECISION

The .22 pistol brings more precision to the table than anything else in your safe. It is rare for a dedicated pistol or conversion to not shoot rings around a service pistol, and it will likely still hold an edge against a match-barreled model. Besides the potential precision, it is tempting to use a definitive term like “everyone” in describing the percentage of shooters who actually shoot the rimfire to a higher standard. It makes a lot of sense to take advantage of this



Relative lack of blast and recoil, combined with rimfire accuracy, enable shooters to bump their precision up a notch by gaining better trigger break and follow through.



Subcal Timed and Rapid Fire Drill (Tuf/Ruf) is identical to the 25-yard service pistol drill, with five shots each in 20 and 10 seconds. As shooters get tight, as with this Wilson Combat 1911 conversion, the gains tend to pull centerfire scores up as well.



Dave from FireClean runs drill with M&P 15-22 with Leupold VX-R, a serious training tool.

and use it expressly to gain some elevation on the climb to mastery.

My most-used accuracy drill is the Tuf/Ruf (*TRAINING WITH A CLASSIC: B8 Target Drills*, July 2015 *S.W.A.T.*), where a shooter shoots a B8 25-yard target center with five shots in 20 seconds (timed fire) and then again with five shots in ten seconds (rapid fire). Some shooters may immediately question why not use the .22 for slow-fire precision. That is a good and entirely fair question.

Accuracy without time pressure doesn't have much of a place in my world. I find it to be a lot like communism: looks good on paper but doesn't play out well in application. Watch any number of shooters move from slow-fire attempts to timed drills and you see their stance "firm up" and lean in, their focus tighten, and their visage reflect pressure—either aggression to master the task or fear/stress over the constraint. This happens with rimfire too.

This "aggressive accuracy" is what we are looking for, and the rimfire lets

the shooter focus more on the fundamentals of firing the shot and less on recovery from recoil or resistance to flinching. The goal is to get a hard focus on perfect sight alignment, feel the shot release cleanly, *and* see the front sight lift/pistol cycle. Seeing the sight lift is

the key component of follow through and the building block of speeding up follow-on shots.

Seeing the action cycle and tracking sight movement are easier by a country mile with a rimfire. When the shooter begins to truly *see* this, the temptation



Bill on the Move Drill has shooter firing six shots at max speed closing on target in three- to four-yard increments. Steel hanger was shot from 13 to 10 yards. Paper can be safely engaged nearer, with times approaching standard Bill Drill times.

Seeing the action cycle and tracking sight movement are easier by a country mile with a rimfire.



to power slap the trigger diminishes and then the shooter can get a harder focus on the front sight, perfect alignment, and press a clean break through the trigger.

Most shooters struggle to get ten in the black shooting the Tuf/Ruf using a centerfire pistol. When those same shooters see more in the black, then all, then more in the ten ring with the .22, their brains register the capability in the self-image “I can do this” box. This tends to drag performance toward that image when the real gun comes back out, as long as the shooter transfers the better execution of technique they learned on the double deuce.

BUNGEE JUMP

With precision coming along, the next drill shifts hard to accommodate speed. The Bungee Jump has the shooter “jump off” with two to three shots to a simple target at seven yards and immediately “snap back” to either an eight-inch steel plate at 25 yards or a two-inch circle on the same target backer, to immediately shift from speed to accuracy.

The shooter starts from the ready and gets the pistol pressed out as quickly as possible to fire a pair into the larger target and then immediately nudges the sights onto the smaller target for a smooth press in a time limit of 2.5 seconds.

Here some may begin to puff up and ready a lecture on recoil control and how a rimfire doesn’t translate to “real” control of the service pistol. Indeed. The object is to acclimate the shooter to breaking shots faster and keeping visual track of the sights at max speed, accepting pretty coarse or downright minimal sight alignment. The shooter must force himself to

Bungee Jump drill has shooter pushing to ragged edge of speed at 15 yards for two to three shots on the large target (seven yards for pistol), then snapping to the two-inch for a precise shot in 2.5 seconds.



move at a very aggressive pace while keeping track of the front sight's travel to make the par time.

This usually requires the shooter to learn to give up a little of the ideal trigger press to gain time. The relative lack of recoil allows the shooter to better sense what is going on with the support hand's pressure to counteract the additional force of the trigger finger getting busy. The less violent movement of the slide in recoil allows the shooter to see and correlate the effects of rapid trigger technique.

But it doesn't stop there. The shooter must immediately transition to the more difficult shot and reacquire very solid sight alignment and picture while cleanly pressing a good break. Good skill transfer here is about focusing on the right things.

Shooters who already have good centerfire recoil control skills will get the most benefit out of shooting for a five-inch "easy" target at seven and pushing hard to get three hits before sliding the pistol onto the two-inch target in the 2.5 seconds. This translates very well to the level of control needed to replicate that level of performance

with the service gun on an eight-inch circle at speed.

For less experienced shooters who are getting "outgunned" by the drill, I would ease the distance nearer a foot or so at a time until the shooter can make the par time for at least a pair to the larger target and a hit to the smaller 80% of the time. The object is to let the par time force more speed out of the shooter and shove them out of their comfort zone. The shooter who can reliably center-punch the small target with time to spare is ready to add a third shot onto the larger target.

The Bungee Jump very quickly reveals a shooter's flaws and room for improvement. Are they a good shooter who needs to apply what they know faster? Are they struggling to immediately transition from rat-a-tat to front sight-press? Are there inefficiencies in presentation or control of the handgun that eat up the clock? All of these show up pretty clearly.

The Bungee Jump works very well in a single lane, indoor range format and is an equally good rimfire carbine drill shot the same as described but at 15 yards.

STEPPING OUT

When the shooter has climbed a performance rung or two from the previous drills, the next step is to apply that skill in a more challenging format.

The Bill on the Move is a favored drill that takes the same training emphasis from the larger bungee target and combines it with movement.

The Bill Drill is the classic practice drill named for Bill Wilson of Wilson Combat. It measures the time for a shooter to draw and fire six shots at max speed onto an IPSC target, with 2.5 seconds often laid down as the marker.

The Bill on the Move takes that approach, but adds movement into the drill. Shooters can choose their movement bracket, but most will be best served initially at seven yards closing to four while firing six shots on the move as quickly as possible.

Many, possibly most, qual courses and competitions that incorporate shooting on the move require a pair. This often leads to shooters adopting truly unnatural gaits and techniques to time shots to certain footfalls. The Bill on the Move forces the shooter to break that, allowing the diminished recoil of the



Classic .22 autos such as this High Standard HD-Military can be used if a shooter doesn't have a conversion. Training benefit is decreased slightly from a dedicated service pistol conversion unit, but the objectives laid out in each drill can still be accomplished and boost the shooter's skills.

rimfire to force the shooter to keep the weapon firing as they close on the target.

Shooters quickly get over the tendency to overthink the movement and snatch the trigger, both common movement issues, when they are forced to disconnect the movement from the upper platform, which must keep the shots coming. I've observed that shooters tend to more closely match the aggressive firing cadence with quicker natural movement rather than the stilted slo-mo stuff you see in many closing attempts for pairs.

In short order, the shooter can hold an eight-inch circle in very near their static time. The combination of shooting and moving helps most shooters find another gear, as the mental "brakes" on both from overthinking have to be released for the shooter to multitask. More experienced shooters can substitute a five-inch target for even better skills transfer back onto the duty gun.

The Bill on the Move is another great drill for the carbine conversion or 15-22 trainer. For the carbine, most shooters will find max benefit from the 10- to 7-yard bracket initially and can work back to the 15- to 10-yard line as the drill translates to skill.

LIVE-FIRE VISUALIZATION

High-level athletes have long understood and taken advantage of the power of visualization, the basic idea being that the brain can't really distinguish between perfect repetitions visualized and those actually performed and in the memory bank. The positive visualization then leads to increased performance on game day.

Subcaliber shooting can have a similar effect. When a shooter is able to shoot more precisely or faster when seriously training with a rimfire, the "personal best" tends to pull overall performance in a better direction.

Give these drills a try and see if they don't pull you up a notch or two—it's worth breaking into those precious reserves of Long Rifle that are being hoarded! ☺

Ethan Johns is a military professional with worldwide experience in specialized units. He has taught and been responsible for numerous advanced skills and weapons courses within multiple organizations. He shares his experience with drills that shooters of all skill levels can use.

LONG RANGE

Another application for the rimfire is long-range handgunning. More aligned with field applications than the other drills, the .22 Winchester Magnum Rimfire (WMR) is a great tool for the handgunner.

Over the past year or so, I have done quite a bit of experimenting with long-range handgun work. While doing that shooting, I ran across a pristine S&W Model 48 and put it into the mix. The .22 WMR is a near twin to the trajectory of most big-bore magnums. In fact, the Hornady 225-grain FTX .44 Magnum and 30-grain V-MAX .22 have only a fraction of an inch of difference in trajectory out to 100 yards.

The 40-grain Magnum rimfires, such as the Winchester FMJs, match pretty well with traditional 240-grain .44 loads. The .22 Mag can still be very hard to find and pricey, but in long-range precision work, a box or two goes a long way, and the WMRs are a bargain compared to .44s.

The big-bore shooter has two things to contend with: blast and recoil. The WMR gives you all of the blast and none of the recoil, which I have found somewhat helpful. It seems to offer a counterpoint to my subconscious that blast doesn't necessarily equal heavy recoil. I can focus on a clean break at long range with the exact same hold and sight picture, and concentrate through the .22's blast with no recoil. Then once I am "on," I pick up the .44.



The .22 WMR is a near twin to the trajectory of most big-bore magnums. A shooter can focus on a clean break at long range with the exact same hold and sight picture, and concentrate through the .22's blast with no recoil, and then move on to the Magnum.



MERCENARY FIREPOWER

Guns of the Wild Geese

BY WILL DABBS, M.D.

PHOTOS BY SARAH DABBS



patch via <http://gmic.co.uk>



Mercenary soldiers in the movie *The Wild Geese* were armed predominantly with FN FAL rifles and Uzi submachineguns, both of which were commonly encountered in the 1960s in hotspots worldwide.



efore Blackwater, before *The Expendables*, before modern military security contractors of all flavors and stripes, there was Major “Mad Mike” Hoare and 5 Commando. Soldiers for hire, fighting for money rather than country, are nothing new and have been around since the very beginnings of armed human conflict.

The “Ten Thousand” was a legendary band of Greek soldiers of fortune that fought the battle of Cunaxa in the service of Cyrus the Younger around 400 BC against the Persian king Artaxerxes. German Hessians fought en masse for King George during the American Revolution. The French Foreign Legion and British Gurkhas are legendary mercenary warriors.

Major “Mad Mike” Hoare commanded a mercenary unit called 5 Commando operating in the African Congo. The unit, nicknamed the Wild Geese after their upper arm badge, was comprised of 300 predominantly South African soldiers for hire who fought in the Simba

Rebellion. In one of the more bizarre episodes in modern military history, Hoare’s men fought alongside Belgian paratroopers and American soldiers and airmen during Operation Dragon Rouge in 1964. Their mostly successful efforts led to the rescue of some 1,600 Europeans and Americans from African Communist rebels.

Mad Mike’s two cardinal rules were no drinking before a combat operation and that his men had to remain clean-shaven at all times.

In 1978 Andrew McLaglen directed a classic war movie called *The Wild Geese*, based loosely on the adventures of 5 Commando. The mercenary unit in the movie was armed in the manner of most well-funded African militaries of the day not aligned with the Soviet bloc.

While there was a Madsen M50 as well as a single British Sterling in the mercenaries’ movie armory, most of the hired soldiers in the film carried either the FN FAL or Israeli Uzi as did the real members of 5 Commando. Most of the actors in the movie were them-





Above: Right-handed operators can readily access safety selector on FN FAL.

Right: FAL's gas system is adjustable for fouling and dirty ammunition.

Below: Non-reciprocating charging handle is easy to reach on the left side. Handle on this version of the FAL folds flush with the rifle, but some variants do not fold.



selves military veterans, but one of them, Ian Yule, had actually served under Mad Mike in the Congo. If you have a copy of the movie handy, Yule is the character with the bushy mustache who carries the stubby FAL with telescopic sight and extended magazine.

ART AND LIFE—THE FN FAL

The FN FAL has been called the “Free World’s Right Arm” and, but for a bit of political subterfuge, might have actually replaced the M1 Garand in the U.S. Army instead of the M14. Powerful, reliable, and sporting remarkably advanced ergonomics, the FAL is the archetypal battle rifle.

The *Fusil Automatique Leger* (“Light Automatic Rifle”) was the product of the Belgian company Fabrique Nationale d’Herstal. During the Cold War, most every country in NATO with the exception of the United States adopted the rifle for general issue.

In its heyday, the FAL was the primary Infantry arm of 90 different nations. The first prototype FAL

was produced in 1946 and chambered for the German 7.92x33mm intermediate cartridge. After some well-documented political maneuvering, the U.S. had the 7.62x51mm cartridge standardized across NATO and the conventional version of the FAL pushing these rounds became the production model.

The FAL operates via a spring-loaded short-stroke piston system oriented above the barrel, and it locks by means of a tilting breechblock. The rifle feeds from standard 20-round box magazines, though 30-round L4A1 Bren magazines will lock and feed in some rifles as well. The gas system is easily adjustable for varying degrees of fouling, and the recoil spring is housed in the buttstock.

In folding-stock versions, the redesigned recoil spring rests underneath the top cover. Though originally a select-fire weapon, many militaries opted for semi-automatic-only versions given the gun’s light weight and prodigious recoil impulse. FAL rifles were widely exported around the world, particularly in Africa and South America.



Uzi is arguably the most effective pistol-caliber sub-machinegun ever made. Compact and controllable, Uzi is a formidable close-range tactical tool.

ISRAELI INFLUENCES—THE UZI

In the years immediately following The War of Independence in 1948, the burgeoning state of Israel was desperately short of weapons. Major Uziel Gal produced a 9mm open-bolt submachinegun that drew from the earlier Czech ZK 476 design and was easy to produce in quantity on industrial steel presses.

At about nine pounds, the Uzi was a bit portly, but it remained compact and imminently controllable. Clearance spaces pressed into the inside of the receiver made the gun resistant to fouling and dirt. The fact that the magazine fed through the pistol grip made the gun easy to run in the dark using the hand-finds-hand principle.

The Uzi was produced with both wooden and folding steel stocks, and fire selection is determined via a simple sliding thumb switch. The top cover contains a clever ratchet device that locks the bolt in place if it has not been fully retracted.

This feature prevents the gun from firing unintentionally if the charging handle is jostled. A grip safety that is mechanically akin to that of the 1911 pistol prevents the gun from firing if dropped.

The Uzi went on to be widely exported around the globe and gained a reputation as arguably the most effective submachinegun ever made. The Germans used Uzis designated the MP2 for their armored vehicle crews, and the U.S. Secret Service famously carried

them during Presidential protection details before they were supplanted by HK MP5s and FN P90s.

The image of the Secret Service agent brandishing an Uzi during the Reagan assassination attempt has become iconic. Uzis can be found most anywhere large groups of people shoot at each other.

COMRADE KALASHNIKOV'S CARBINE AND THE SIMBAS

The Soviet Union and its associated puppet states provided Kalashnikov rifles to most anybody who claimed the banner of communism in the 1960s. As a result, rebel forces like the Congolese Simbas were predominantly armed with AK rifles, though in the movie they carried FN FALs.

More than 100 million Kalashnikov rifles have been produced in the past 65 years, and one-fifth of all the weapons in the world bear that name.

The Simbas were typically uneducated Marxists who were unduly influenced by religious shamans. In many cases they went into battle believing themselves impervious to bullets based upon religious blessings or the inclusion of holy trinkets in their personal gear.

These poorly trained irregulars committed a great many atrocities and were themselves slaughtered wholesale on several occasions as a result of their primitive beliefs.

TRIGGER TIME

The FN FAL is a lithe and elegant rifle. Though a bit long and ungainly in tight spaces, the ergonomics of the platform were trend-setting.

Recoil is modest despite its heavy chambering, and the trigger is markedly more precise than those of most mass-produced Infantry rifles. The safety selector is perfectly oriented for easy access by the right thumb, and the simple rear sight is readily adjustable for elevation.

Below: Uzi's fire selector is a simple sliding switch easily accessed by the right thumb. Rear position is safe, middle is semi auto, and forward position is full auto.



Above: Uzi's grip safety is similar in form and function to that of 1911 pistol, as it must be depressed to retract the bolt or fire the weapon.





tion. The rear sight on my version flips down and out of the way for transport.

Magazines rock in place in the manner of the Kalashnikov, and the left-sided non-reciprocating charging handle is easily accessed by right-handed operators. The weapon strips readily without tools and delivers precision fire out to the limits of the cartridge.

In African service, the gun would require some regular maintenance to keep the entrails free from dust and grime, but it is overall a sweet-shooting and effective battle rifle.

The Uzi runs at a fairly sedate 600 rounds-per-minute on full auto and is a remarkably effective close-range combat tool. The rear peep sight is flip adjustable for 100 and 200 meters, but I find it easiest to run the gun at close ranges by simply sighting grossly through the sight ears. Short bursts are easily managed, and the gun's weight makes it imminently controllable.

Magazine changes are fast and intuitive and, for targets bereft of body armor, a cloud of 9mm rounds is hard to beat. The gun is indeed remarkably robust and effective in action. For airborne operations or operations within and around vehicles, the Uzi remains a superb combat tool.

The AK rifle in its original 7.62x39mm chambering is just a bit light to be truly comfortable. The round is indisputably effective and the gun is legendarily reliable, but accuracy can be spotty at long ranges and the gun bounces rather badly on full auto. However, the Kalashnikov system will run most anywhere with trivial maintenance.

Magazines must be rocked into position, but this feature does allow mags to be seated easily when topped off fully. The much-maligned right-sided ranch gate safety is indeed inefficient, loud, and awkward, but it works just fine. The charging handle reciprocates with the bolt and can be kicked or beaten as needed to move the bolt if it gets sticky.

Basic Kalashnikov rifle is a ubiquitous tool of international chaos. Simba Marxists were armed with AKs such as this during Mad Mike's operations in the Congo. Hoare's mercs also used folding-stock Kalashnikov rifles on his ill-fated effort to overthrow the government of the Seychelles in 1981.

I can drop rounds on a man-sized target comfortably out to 200 meters or so, and the gun is a powerful room-clearing tool on full auto. The round fired from a standard AK barrel drops a full ten feet at 500 meters, so long-range engagements are typically more a function of luck than skill. Operating an AK is so easy a child could do it—and many have.

EPILOGUE

Mad Mike Hoare was eventually arrested trying to foment a coup in the Seychelles in 1981 and spent a fair amount of time in an African jail as a result. His unit stashed folding-stock AKs in the false bottoms of their luggage, but blew their cover when a customs official spotted one of the rifles underneath a load of toys purported to be for local orphans.

Hoare and his men commandeered an Air India airliner to make their escape, but 42 of the 43 men involved were subsequently convicted of hijacking. Four of Hoare's men were left behind in the Seychelles and convicted of treason.

Mike Hoare was a larger-than-life figure whose military career began fighting with the British Army in North Africa and Italy in World War II and extended across several decades and multiple continents. He served as technical advisor on the film *The Wild Geese* and maintained a dedicated worldwide following even while incarcerated for insurrection and hijacking.

In an era when revolution was profitable and victory could be purchased by the highest bidder, Mike Hoare was the archetypal modern-day soldier of fortune. ©

Mike Detty engages 300-yard target on Military Crest with his AR SBR.



TWO GUNS

IN THE DESERT

Being in a survival situation means different things to different people. To a hunter it might be stranded in a blizzard or a vehicle broken down in the desert. For folks on the West Coast, it may be lack of power and services due to an earthquake, and on the East Coast it may be from a hurricane.

Some foresee the proverbial zombie apocalypse, and for some a survival situation might be when your wife answers the door and your pregnant girlfriend is standing there.

Last December Dick Williams, affectionately known in the industry as “Uncle Dick,” contacted me with an intriguing idea: assemble a select group of six writers and ask them to choose one handgun and one rifle for the survival situation they envision, and bring them to train with at Gunsite.

Choosing Survival Firearms | BY DENNY HANSEN

TRAINING DAY 1

The Guns

On the first morning, each participant told the group what he brought and the reasoning behind it. In the way of rifles, there was one Springfield M1A and one Ruger Mini-14. These two attendees were from California and advised that neither of the rifles is likely to be added to that state's banned list.

One participant had an AR short-barreled rifle (SBR) with a suppressor chambered for .300 Blackout. His reasoning was that it could take big game without alerting anyone to his presence.

The last three were a scoped AR-15 with 20-inch stainless match barrel with optic, an AR SBR with red dot sight, and a standard 16-inch barreled AR with red dot sight.

For pistols, there were two 1911s, one Magnum revolver, and three Glockes. Except for me, the participants

made their picks mostly because they had used these platforms and felt comfortable with them.

My Picks: Carbine

For the purposes of this event, I envisioned the zombie apocalypse/societal breakdown scenario. For a carbine, I took my ROBAR PolymAR-15. It's light enough to pack a fair distance without becoming fatigued, and spare parts, magazines and ammo can be found anywhere in the United States.

It was equipped with the recently released Aimpoint H-2 Micro red dot sight, Elzetta weaponlight, and Blue Force Gear Vickers sling.

In a survival situation, premium factory ammo may not be available, so I used my home-brewed .223 rounds with bullets made from fired .22 Long Rifle cases using Corbin swaging dies and fed from Gen M3 PMAGs.

Pistol

I believe this was the first time since Gunsite opened that I did not carry a 1911. I chose a Glock 19 for the simple reasons that it is easier to maintain long term and, like the AR, spare parts, magazines and 9mm ammo are plentiful.

Going once again on the premise that quality ammo may not be available, I installed a Lone Wolf Distributors Alpha Wolf barrel, which allowed me to shoot lead reloads. Made from 417 stainless steel, button rifled, three-stage honed bore with SBN premium coating and flutes that allow a path for heat and debris to escape, this barrel makes the reliable Glock design even more reliable.

Let's be honest: the plastic OEM Glock sights are less than optimal, so I replaced them with a set of Meprolight night sights.

I carried the Glock in a Raven Con-



Top: Author plans to patrol the post-apocalyptic wasteland with his ROBAR PolymAR-15 with Aimpoint H-2 Micro red dot sight, Elzetta weaponlight, and Blue Force Gear Vickers sling. Extra carbine mag carried in Raven Concealment Systems pouch. Inset: Recently released Aimpoint Micro H-2 was used exclusively by author at this event.



Left: Author carried Glock 19 and extra mags in Raven Concealment Systems Phantom Modular holster and double mag pouch.



Vince Sullivan rolls out around concealment to engage target in outdoor simulator.

cealment Systems Phantom Modular holster (*LAWFUL CARRY: Raven Concealment Gear*, March 2016 *S.W.A.T.*) with Raven double pistol and single AR magazine pouches. I used 15-round Magpul GL9 PMAGs. I used my own 124-grain round-nose lead reloads, again because factory ammo may not be available.

CLASS TIME

After the obligatory safety briefing (always a good thing), the participants met on a square range with Gunsite instructors Mike Moore and Gary Smith. The class progressed along the lines of a basic pistol class, but with just three days, only one of which was dedicated to handguns, drills were compressed into a shorter time frame.

Starting at the five-yard line, we fired single shots concentrating on accuracy and follow through, and then progressed to dedicated pairs, hammers and failure drills. Outside the purview of a basic class, we also fired while moving forward and backing up.

After lunch, we worked on non-standard responses (NSRs) in which



Event organizer Dick Williams takes aim on first stage of the Scrambler. Photo: Mike Detty

Inset: Hansen's first five-round group from 50 yards was roughly one inch, perfectly centered but slightly low. Photo: Mike Detty



Going on the premise that premium factory ammo may not be available after a societal collapse, author used his homemade .223 rounds with bullets made from fired .22 Long Rifle cases and 9mm reloads with lead bullets.



Lone Wolf Distributors Alpha Wolf barrel allows shooting lead bullets through a Glock—a practice not suggested with the OEM Glock barrel.

more than the usual two shots were fired. Facing turning targets, time limits for firing NSRs were condensed. Sometimes only one shot could be fired, and sometimes three or four could be fired before the target turned away.

TRAINING DAY 2

The second day began on the York Range, which can go back as far as 200 yards. The class zeroed their long guns and then confirmed zeros at 100.

For most, their groups should have been about an inch high at 100, resulting in the preferred 50/200-yard zero. My first five-round group from 50 yards was roughly one inch, perfectly centered but slightly low. Some quick corrections had all rounds into the center

and 1.5 inches high at 100 yards.

Mike Moore and Gary Smith covered bore-line/sight-line offset and correct loading procedures. Most shooting was done from three to 25 yards and included shooting on the move, forwards and backwards.

After lunch, the group split, with half going to Woodfill Range for long-range rifle shooting and the other half going to the Scrambler. I had never pushed my home-brewed .223 loads past 200 yards and wanted to see how they performed at 300. At 200 yards, my groups measured about three inches. At 300, with the two MOA dot from my Aimpoint covering six inches and using only the magazine as a monopod, they opened up to about eight inches. Still

“minute of bad guy,” so I was satisfied.

Hint: although the size of the dot does not actually change, decreasing the intensity gives the illusion of a smaller dot and permits more precise aiming.

My group then went down to the Scrambler, a seven-position course approximately 150 yards long that requires shooting from different positions as you move. Targets range from 80 to 200 yards. It is shot for score/time.

Full disclosure: I have lost some weight, and with a pistol, two 15-round mags and a 30-round PMAG on my belt, I apparently did not have my belt cinched tight enough. As I started to run from the second position, my trou-

» *Continued on page 89*

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TRICK PONIES

Colt Modular Carbin

Finished Colt 901 with Cerakote finish from Mad Custom Coating—attractive, durable, and deadly. Leupold scope with LaRue Tactical mount is a great combination.

BY JEFF HALL



Like many writers, I make an annual pilgrimage to the SHOT Show in Las Vegas. SHOT showcases new products to the media and the shooting industry—lots of new guns and gear are on display. One of my first stops is Colt. I have a deep affinity for Colt, having used Colts over my careers. The last SHOT Show was no exception.

I had already tested the dual-caliber Colt 901—a .308 AR lower that would also accept a 5.56 upper, with slight mods to the lower. It was a great gun, did well in testing, but was expensive to build. Additionally, the forend felt like a 4x4 post. As it turned out, demand for the combo was far less than anticipated, partially due to the cost—the complete package of the .308 with the 5.56 upper pushed \$3,500.

In response, Colt simplified the 901. The ambi fire controls were deleted, a slimmer free-float upper was used, and the weight was reduced. The new 901 is leaner, meaner, lighter, just as reliable and just as accurate.

RATTLE BATTLE

My normal testing regimen is to fieldstrip, clean, lubricate, and inspect the gun. Everything was typical Colt—well made. The trigger was a standard milspec GI trigger, not the best for consistent accuracy. I replaced it with a LaRue Tactical MBT (Meticulously Built Trigger). Like every LaRue product I've used, this trigger is outstanding—clean and crisp, with a consistent break at three pounds. It made the whole testing process much more productive.

I intended to replace the bolt carrier group with the new Gemtech suppressor bolt group that allows suppressed and unsuppressed fire without changes to the gas block by simply rotating a screw on the bolt carrier. Unfortunately, the 901 bolt group is about half an inch shorter than a standard AR-10 group, so the Gemtech does not fit in the 901.

I mounted a Leupold VX-R Patrol 1.25-4x20mm Firedot scope in a LaRue QD mount and added Troy Industries BUIS. I moved one of the three short rail sections from the top of the handguard to the bottom to accept a bipod.

Since the charging handle is designed to handle both 5.56 and 7.62 rounds, the BCM Gunfighter won't fit—the stock charging handle is longer than 5.56 and shorter than a standard 7.62. I managed to cannibalize parts from other charging handles in my “stuff” boxes to make one that worked better for me.

Ammo for the .308 is still a little expensive, but I had 40 rounds of Winchester 147-grain ball and 60 rounds of Serbian ball—100 rounds was it for a reliability test. I fired 20 rounds of Serbian first, just to break it in a little, and had no problems, but the accuracy was just under three MOA. The Winchester ball was very good, with no malfunc-

tions and groups right at 1.5 MOA. The last 20 rounds of the Serbian ball shot as poorly as the first, and one casing failed when the extractor ripped the rim—performance I've experienced in the past with this ammo.

I fired for accuracy off a bench, the rifle sandbagged fore and aft and using a rest. I was shooting Winchester 168-grain Match and fired four groups of three rounds at 100 yards. The rifle and ammo were consistent: three groups were just under one MOA, at about 7/8 inch, and the fourth had a flyer that added a quarter inch to the group. Other than the one extraction problem, I had no malfunctions with the gun.

I used both the supplied PMAG and two Brownells 20-round metal magazines. I mounted a LaRue two-point sling and took the rifle for a walk on USFS land. My route includes lots of areas that permit rifle fire, and I was able to swing the rifle up to fire at targets of opportunity. It handled great, showed good combat accuracy, and was not a pain to carry. At around \$1,500 MSRP (without my modifications or glass), it's all anyone would need in a .308 battle rifle.

Although I like the Parkerized finish,

I thought a new paint job would be fun. I've had no experience with Cerakote, but guys I respect speak highly of it. I'd met the guys from Mad Custom Coating at a class, so I decided to give it a whirl.

I'm a basic woodland pattern kinda guy, and I live in a wooded area, so I opted for one of Mad Custom's proprietary patterns in OD/FDE/Tan/Black. The small parts were all Black. I don't have enough time on the finish to give an opinion, but it should last for years. As Clint Smith says, “I treat my guns like I treat my testicles—I don't drop them from heights, drive Humvees over them, or freeze them in blocks of ice,” so we'll see how it holds up.

THE NAKED TRUTH

The next two rifles offered were a stroke of genius: “naked” 6920s. Colt customer surveys found that a lot of Colt customers strip off the factory furniture and replace it with items they like better—Magpul, BCM, VLTOR, etc. I was able to obtain both a standard model and one with a low-profile gas block for testing.

The guns come without stock, forend, trigger guard, or magazine. I was happy to see the bolt carrier was a standard milspec. The spring and buffer were standard, as was the trigger.



Colt OEM models as they came from the factory, without stock, forend, trigger guard, or magazine.

Gun One (LE6920-OEM1) was the standard model, so what do you put on a naked, standard gas block Colt AR? I started with a BCM medium GUN-FIGHTER charging handle and BCM Mod 1 pistol grip.

I intended to use this gun with both a scope and an Aimpoint, so I added Troy BUIS. I like the VLTOR buttstock for the excellent cheek weld it provides. I also installed a Diamondhead VRS-DI seven-inch drop-in handguard, with two short sections of rail to mount a SureFire light.

I had a couple of Geissele SSA triggers in my “stuff” box, so out with the two stage and in with a better trigger (a local AR builder had gone under and I’d bought a *bunch* of parts at fire-sale prices). I ordered enhanced trigger guards from Brownells.

Gun Two (LE6920-OEM2), the low-profile gas block model, was set up almost identically but used a 13.5-inch VRS T-556-KeyMod free-float forend,



A few of the new parts used in the build. Consumer has the option of adding less expensive, or top-of-the-line parts.



Gun One, nearly complete. By adding the trigger guard and perhaps a rail section or two this carbine will be ready for duty.

again from Diamondhead.

I like the Diamondhead forend because it's slender, has good finger positions, capable of adding rail sections, and has no sharp edges—I'm getting delicate in my dotage. I also like it because it's so simple to mount even I can do it! I skipped the BUIS on this gun, seeing it as a full-time scoped carbine, assuming it shot well. MSRP on each gun is \$799.

RANGE TESTING

Off to the range. Through each gun, I ran 120 rounds of ball from Black Hills, Winchester, Federal, MHS reloads, Remington, and a can of unknown ancestry. Not surprising: not one malfunction. For magazines, I used Colt, Brownells, and PMAGs. All worked flawlessly.

The optic was an Aimpoint Micro T-1 in a LaRue Tactical QD mount, and both guns showed good combat accuracy.

For accuracy testing, back to the bench with a rest and sandbags. I was waiting for parts for the low-profile model, so Gun One went first. I zero my carbines at 50 yards, which gives me a point-blank shot out to 250 yards.

I used a Leupold 1.5-5X in LaRue QD mounts. I'm not really an accuracy geek, but any fighting rifle should hold at least two MOA, which should solve any problem out to 250 yards or so; less is better. I didn't shoot ball but focused on the best ammo I had in the stash: Black Hills 69-grain Match.

It was November 10. I'd just sent a happy birthday e-mail to all my USMC



Gun One fired a one MOA group with Winchester 55-grain ball.

friends, and the Great Gunny took pity on me.

I fired a couple of three-round groups to make adjustments to zero the heavier bullet. The gun and I were doing pretty well. The first target had two touching and one a little out. The second target had three touching, in one ragged hole that measured slightly over ¼ inch—a sub-MOA group from a standard M4 carbine! In my world that's outstanding, and that gun is a keeper.

I took the second gun out on Nov-

ember 19, when it was a little cooler. I used different glass, a Nikon P-223 in a factory mount. I used the same protocol as before and got a ½-inch group with Winchester 55-grain ball. The Black Hills Match did its job, and the second group (bottom photo) was 3/8 inch—another sub-MOA performance from a stock Colt M4. Another keeper.

SUMMARY

I was very impressed with all three guns. I think few of us, myself included, can shoot to the potential of most factory guns (given good ammo, glass, and triggers). When you can get reliability, portability, and outstanding accuracy from one of the world's foremost companies, it's tough to pass up.

We each have things we like and things we don't. I've tested all manner of gear from all manner of manufacturers, and each comes with factory components. If we don't like them, we replace them, then take the surplus to a gun show and sell them for pennies. The 901 will do anything a .308 AR needs to do, and the OEM models let the end user dress them as he wants, which makes a lot of sense to me. If it does to you too, look at Colt. ☺

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WINCHESTER AMMUNITION

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Gun Two fired this sub-minute group with Black Hills 69-grain Match.

HOME RUN OR STRIKE OUT?



Right side of Arsenal Strike One pistol. Ergonomics are quite good, and barrel sits low in the frame with straight feed into the chamber. Recoil control is excellent. Notable features include beavertail, rear fixed sight and back plate combo, aggressive slide and under-barrel rail serrations, and eclectic checkering on grip.

Arsenal Strike One Pistol

BY BOB PILGRIM

Glocks entered service 33 years ago and created a firearms revolution. It took a while to overcome obstacles and gain acceptance in the martial fields of self-defense, police and military. The butt of jokes and dismissed by many metal gun traditionalists, Glock's "ugly duckling" acquired converts over time by demonstrating its many practical assets that made it a perfect institutional duty firearm.

In the ensuing years, every gun manufacturer jumped on the proverbial plastic gun bandwagon and, to my knowledge, today every gun house offers a selection of polymer/steel pieces along with their all-metal handguns.

Initially considered wanting in appearance, today's marriage of polymer and steel has evolved and current examples have combined reliability, accuracy, fire sustainability, ruggedness, simplicity and light weight with darn good looks. Among the latest hybrid beauty queens that have combined all these desirable features is the Arsenal Firearms Strike One full-sized pistol, which entered the market in 2012.

U.S. IMPORTER

Darren Wilson is the U.S. Operations Manager of Tony Mussatto's Oklahoma City-based International Firearm Corporation, the importer and distributor of all things Arsenal. Along with their overseas partners, these men are "dedicated to offering the shooting world the finest high-capacity pistol ever conceived."

The polymer S1 is currently available in 9x19mm and .40 S&W. In the near future, .357 SIG will make its debut. Also in the future, the Ergal—an aluminum-framed version with a several ounce increase in weight—will hit the scene. Consumer choice is further enhanced by five different frame and slide finishes that will more specifically complement your mission or taste. They are:

- Black with black slide
- Black with stainless slide
- Desert earth with black slide
- Olive drab green with black slide
- Grey with stainless slide

Most gun manufacturers want to sell entire firearms and are not interested in offering interchangeable components that give the consumer a multi-caliber capability. In stark contrast to this business practice, AI offers 9x19mm and .40 S&W kits that can convert the S1 to either caliber. They definitely look at the market from the client's perspective.

TARGET END USERS

The Strike One is a full-sized pistol that is primarily aimed at police and military service but could be the open-carry choice of many citizens who prefer to do so. Large-framed men could conceal it with the proper rig.

Like the Springfield Armory XD^M and Glock 34/35, it could easily be groomed for competition with the addition of a fiber-optic front sight and trigger job, although its stock four-pound trigger is pretty good as is. Like the Springfield Armory XD series, AI characterized its S1 trigger as being single-action. This relegates the S1 to competing against the 1911—the traditional choice of competitors in that configuration.

In its advertising, many superlatives are attached to the S1. The factory basically claims this is the finest pistol of its genre ever made. Of course, these attributes are in the eyes of the beholder and the purpose of this article is to determine the validity of such claims.

.40-CALIBER DEBUT

I was fortunate to receive one of the first American S1s in .40 S&W caliber, and AI iced the cake with a 9x19mm conversion kit that consists of a replacement barrel and magazines. The same Glock-like flat recoil spring serves both calibers.

Its stainless steel slide is fully CNC machined from a solid billet of "36 steel," a proprietary stainless steel alloy. That and its barrel, locking block, and operating pin receive a 75 Hrc Nitrite treatment, which increases surface hardness of the barrel's interior and exterior, produces less friction, increases lubricity, and offers greater slide corrosion resistance. This results in better overall function of the firearm.

The solid, almost eight-inch flat-top slide is steeped toward the muzzle and enjoys a maximum sight radius. By itself it weighs 12.4 ounces, but the

pistol does not feel overly top-heavy in the hand. Deep-cut fore and aft serrations provide a slip-free purchase on the slide's non-reflective surface.

Thankfully, the slide is free of engraved safety instructions and other gaudy embellishments and is very clean externally and internally. The steel sights are highlighted with the usual three white dots. The front blade is dovetailed into the slide and can be drifted laterally or easily replaced.



Arsenal kit is Spartan for price point. Two magazines are on board with compact tool kit and bilateral thumb safety. Manuals and documents included.

The rear aperture is unique in that the rear sight is part of the back plate and fixed. It is relatively small, which lets the shooter see around it without obscuring a target at extended ranges. Unfortunately, it is sloped rearward and its rakishness will not support one-handed emergency hooking and handling. A more vertical sight with rounded edges would be better for a fighting pistol.

The ejection port is enlarged and relieved where its external extractor resides. A striker status indicator protrudes through the back plate when a round is chambered.

Its ergonomic receiver is manufactured from

proprietary “Super Polymer,” a mix of polymers augmented with fiberglass, carbon fibers, and elastomers that give it great strength and protection from adverse environmental conditions. They are expensive to manufacture but much stronger than similar polymer frames on the market today.

The frame is further reinforced with Metal Injection Molding 42CrMo4 steel inserts that provide the lengthy metal rails that fully support the slide axially for total torque control of all components.

In the future, a heavier aluminum 7075-T6 framed S1 dubbed the ERGAL-55 will be offered to shooters who like a heavier pistol for competition.

Lengthy under-barrel rails containing the S1’s serial number are present to accommodate fighting accessories. An extended beavertail helps to control muzzle rise, spreads out recoil, and prevents slide gouging.

Grip enhancements consist of a little bit of everything. A grip’s surface should resist gun torque or twisting in the hand. Vertical serrations, sharp 20-30 line checkering, rubber tubing, or skateboard tape are best for this job. Palm swells can help too.



Four-pound two-stage trigger is relatively smooth with a crisp break. Reset is rather vague. Note stainless trigger safety behind trigger. Pin below slide is takedown pin.



Back plate with rear sight aperture indicates striker is cocked.

The S1’s front strap’s horizontal ladder grip surface should be replaced by vertical serrations.

The trigger guard is rounded but has needless horizontal grasping cuts out front. The guard should be slightly larger for gloved use. The base of the front strap is cut away so recalcitrant magazines can be forcibly removed. A minor feature that indicates potential military service is the lanyard loop hole at the grip’s butt.

Competition style, the magazine release is enlarged, can be switched to the starboard side and can be made bilateral with supplied parts. The magazine well is flared and referred to as a “mini skirt.” Magazine insertion and departure are smooth and rapid.

RADICAL TRIGGER

Principal Nicola Bandini has invented a radical new trigger that he refers to as a “rotating-sliding trigger.” The steel match-style trigger is curved and serrated for flat finger contact. It is a two-stage lever, in that its transfer bar is divided into two parts.

Part one consists of a machined hard-chromed and polished pivot designed to eliminate any roughness in the trigger pull. It disengages an internal safety and the trigger stop and engages the second part of the trigger bar, which releases the striker and visible loaded chamber indicator.

Described as operating on a horizontal plane, the pivoting four-pound trigger releases the compressed striker in a very short and crisp arc of travel and with

only a modicum of initial take-up. Reset is a little longer and a bit vaguer than I prefer, but does not handicap speed shooting.

Some shooters have described the trigger as being “spongy” when on the precipice of release, and attribute it to the presence of the trigger safety that is released in the first stage of the two-stage trigger. AI has alleged that advanced pistoleros have been able to match the cyclic rate.

BARRELS, MAGS AND AMMO

Barrels are cold hammer forged from bars of 36-NCD4 stainless steel, and the .40 features a 1:16 left-hand twist. It is designed to stabilize the heavier bullets, but Arsenal claims the S1 is quite accurate with lighter and flatter shooting bullets as well. The 9mm has a 1:10 left-hand twist.

Steel 12-round (.40 S&W) and 17-round (9mm) magazines are staggered column with witness holes on the left panel. Polymer followers position and feed rounds straight into the chamber, and generously sized polymer base pads assist in positive seating of these excellently made tubes. Magazine springs are quite strong and require a breaking-in period, but ensure positive feeding.

No recommendations regarding ammunition usage are contained in the S1’s manual. Considering the types of steel employed and the superior enhancing treatments the steel has undergone, coupled with a breechblock that has four locking lugs, the pistol should be able to handle +P+ loads.

AI sent me a variety of in-house holsters. They



Strike One with Streamlight TLR-2 white light and laser combination.

are not waiting for the holster industry to catch up. A belt slide, LI and LII duty scabbards, and a leg-drop tactical rig were included. The S1 ships with two magazines.

FUNCTIONING AND UNIQUE LOCKING BLOCK

After “bang,” the barrel moves horizontally without the usual tilt. Then the heart of the system, its unique locking block, unlocks the barrel after a few millimeters of rearward movement and pushes the barrel back up into battery.

The next round feeds directly into the chamber and is not parked in the usual location just below the chamber’s ramp, which should enhance recoil con-



Author fires 9mm Strike One one-handed to judge recoil control. It was controllable and did not aggravate his chronic tendonitis. Cycling was very fast.

trol and facilitate faster shot-to-shot delivery. Straight feeding without a feed ramp to negotiate eliminates potential bullet deformation or pressure increase by deeper seating of the projectile in the case.

INDOOR METRIC RANGE

Top Shot: All-Stars finalist William Bethards and I conducted the accuracy phase of the testing at an indoor 25-meter range. We tested six .40 S&W rounds and nine 9x19mm rounds.

While dry firing, Bethards remarked that he liked how the S1 felt in hand—its ergonomics are that good. Some will opine it is too large for general police work and at most should be relegated to

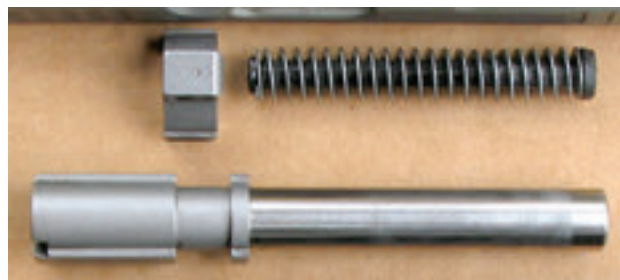
Top Shot William Bethards fires Strike One in accuracy phase of evaluation.



» SPECIFICATIONS

ARSENAL INTERNATIONAL STRIKE ONE

IMPORTER	Arsenal International
MODEL	Strike One
TYPE	Semiautomatic striker-fired pistol
ACTION	Short recoil, in-line barrel
CALIBERS	9mm Luger, .40 S&W, .357 SIG
BARREL LENGTH	5.0 inches
OVERALL LENGTH	8.25 inches
OVERALL HEIGHT	5.62 inches
WEIGHT	28.9 ounces (polymer)
CAPACITY	9mm: 18, .40 S&W: 13
TRIGGER	Single-action
SAFETIES	Trigger and firing-pin safety
FRAME	Reinforced polymer
SUGGESTED RETAIL	\$800.00



Cold-hammer-forged stainless steel barrel with recoil spring and unique locking block.

SWAT teams. As far as length is concerned, it is no longer than the venerated 1911, and a number of high-speed, low-drag and totally Kevlar teams use the latter for concealed carry assignments as well as hostage rescue. It just looks bigger.

The S1 was shot from a handheld rest at 25 meters at black bullseyes. Disappointingly, the .40 version did not live up to its hype. Groups were inconsistent and generally dispersed. William thought the .40 was not consistently locking up but could not identify a specific problem. The 9mm was fine.

STANDING OFFHAND VERSUS BENCH REST

We actually obtained tighter groups standing with one or two hands. Subsequently, William turned in a 3.085-inch group, one-handed standing with SIG Sauer 165-grain JHP, and I managed a 4.16-inch group with Hornady 180-grain HAP steel-cased ammunition, two-handed standing. I also drilled five rounds of Winchester 180-grain Type T JHP into the small 4x6-inch "Q" Target scoring box, with two going through the same hole.

Top .40 velocity of 1,298 feet-per-second (fps) was delivered by 105-grain HPR OTF fodder. Slowest at 996 fps was garnered from Hornady 180-grain HAP steel-cased rounds.

The 9mm hot rod was Liberty's 50-grain pill at 2,078 fps. Muzzle blast was so severe with it that my chronograph refused to record subsequent shots



Strike One fieldstripped. Takedown is different but simple. At center is unique locking block that is not attached to frame.

even when I retreated several paces. I did not have a blast shield for the sky screens, but I shielded the chrono. Still it refused to clock the bullet's velocities. Several feet to the rear, muzzle blast was strong enough to slap empty ammo boxes off the gun table.

As expected, 147-grain loads brought up the rear, but the S1's long barrel boosted Speer's GDHP up to 1,012 fps.

NOT A MATCH GUN

Bethards remarked, "It's not a match gun, but could be." He further volunteered that recoil was very manageable and that "the average shooter won't notice the difference between 9mm and .40 S&W." Here I disagree with my distinguished colleague.

I found the forty to have much harsher recoil than the nine. But although there was distinct muzzle rise, it felt like a straight push-back through my arms. I have chronic tendonitis and my right elbow is scheduled for surgery, but neither the nine nor the forty bothered it. Bethards advised that he found the pronounced ridge under the beavertail irritating.

CONCLUSIONS

In spite of inconsistent accuracy in .40 S&W, the S1 is an impressive pistol with much potential. Perhaps the offender regarding accuracy was our neglecting to shoot half a case through it before we got down to business. A 500-round break-in ritual is a costly matter for the average shooter and exceeds what many will expend during the ownership of the firearm. Once discovered, some potential owners may instead opt for the out-of-the-box performance that handguns costing much less offer.

The S1's unique engineering and design attract me, but for its price I would expect interchangeable backstraps, palm swell grips, holster and magazine pouch or other extra goodies. However, once debugged, the Strike One will be a prime candidate for SWAT employment.

But for my current lifestyle, I require a more compact version of this interesting piece and am looking forward to the aluminum version. ☺

SOURCE

**ARSENAL FIREARMS
INTERNATIONAL FIREARM CORP.**

(844) 432-4867

www.internationalfirearmcorporation.com

Two Guns in the Desert

Continued from page 79

sers fell down almost to my knees.

My fellow attendees seemed to get a kick out of it. More importantly, however, I defaulted to my training and did not muzzle anyone—including myself—and finished the course.

TRAINING DAY 3

The final day of the event was pretty laid back, with participants taking photos they needed for their respective articles, and a few runs on indoor and outdoor simulators.

We also shot the course known as the Military Crest, which is approximately 300 yards long and requires some unusual shooting positions over varying terrain to engage targets from 200 to 400 yards distant.

SUMMARY

I would like to give special thanks to the sponsors of this event (in alphabetical order):

- Elzetta Design: C333 lights
- Kleen Bore/Safariland: Tactical Gun Maintenance Systems
- Magpul Industries Corp: 30 AR/M4 GEN M3 PMAGs
- Maxpedition: Wolf Gray Ordnance™ Range Backpacks and American flag patches
- Propper: Foul Weather Parkas
- Revision Military Ltd: StingerHawk eye protection
- Spyderco: Street Bowie and Native 5 Folder
- Sturm, Ruger & Co, Inc: range box that included their ARX ammo and signature series folding knife
- Walker's Game Ear, Inc: Ultimate Power Muff Quads

Many events like this have swag bags that may or may not be truly useful. This was all top-quality gear that served a purpose.

Overall this was an interesting experiment, and I'm looking forward to a follow-up event that Uncle Dick is planning. Whether or not you are able to do the type of shooting we did during this event, you can and should consider (and then practice with) which pistol and rifle you would arm yourself with in different possible survival situations. What are the most plausible survival scenarios for your individual circumstances, depending on where you live and travel? And which firearms would be most appropriate for those scenarios? ☺

Training and Tactics

Continued from page 98

hand, I read with puzzlement an article written by a male contributor to a women's firearms publication, in which he flatly stated that women shouldn't shoot a shotgun bigger than a .410 "because of excessive weight and recoil." When's the last time *you* gave birth to triplets, Ace?

Apart from some base physical differences that can affect fighting performance, as far as weapons training goes, the two genders are pretty much the same if we cut out the politically correct and etiquette aspects. Granted, it would probably be insanity to shove any female into an Unlimited cage fight with a male opponent, but I don't know that I would have cared to go up against Boadicea and her sword, either.

Just like the boys, the girls have two eyes, so they can focus on a front sight to shoot. We know they have better auditory and olfactory senses than males, because they'll hear anything you hope they don't, can smell when you're lying about a gun purchase, and can sniff out where you hid your mad money. Their oral capabilities are more efficient than that of a man, because you can never win a verbal confrontation with a woman.

Their mental capability is sharper than that of men, because they'll never forget anything you ever did wrong, and—like a mama bear protecting her cubs—once fired up, they are probably more vicious psychologically than males. And last but not least, women genetically have more lower body strength, allowing good balance and generally smoother footwork than men.

On a training range, ignore their physical attributes, conduct yourself with etiquette, and run everything else the same as you would with males. You may be pleasantly surprised with the results. Train women differently than anybody else, and they will perform differently than anybody else—and it won't be for the better. And never, ever forget:

"Heaven has no rage like love to hatred turned, Nor hell a fury like a woman scorned."—Congreve

"Especially when she's armed and competently trained."—Me ☺

[This column first appeared in the June 2007 issue of S.W.A.T.]

Spartan Blades Velos EDC Lapel Dagger/Tool

Spartan Blades, LLC, was founded by two retired U.S. Army Special Forces NCOs with the singular mission to “manufacture finely crafted tactical and field knives.” Curtis V. Iovito and Mark Carey, co-founders of Spartan Blades, bring a combined 43 years of infantry and military special operations experience to their innovative and functional knives. Spartan Blades are now in use with SOF operators around the globe.

Spartan Blades utilizes only the highest-quality U.S. origin materials, precision handwork, latest CNC technology and CAD/CAM software, state-of-the-art heat and double cryogenic/temper treatment, along with protective PVD coating technology and multiple quality-control checks to create knives that meet the standards of the

most discerning professionals.

The Spartan Blades Velos (pronounced vee-los) EDC Lapel Dagger/Tool was inspired by the British Special Operations Executive (SOE) lapel dagger that was issued to agents of the SOE and the American Office of Strategic Services (OSS) during World War II. Velos is a Greek word meaning “arrow” or “arrowhead.”

A variety of edged weapons were manufactured specifically for the SOE and OSS during the war. Lapel daggers were issued to agents operating behind enemy lines as part of their Escape & Evasion kit. They were designed as covert weapons that could be secreted and stitched behind the jacket lapels or anywhere about the clothing for maximum concealment and ease of access. The

small dagger blade was quick to bring into action and effective for striking strategic anatomical targets at close range.

The SOE set up an international network of top-secret training schools during the war to instruct prospective agents in the black arts of “ungentlemanly warfare.”

For a fascinating glimpse at SOE tradecraft, I recommend *How To Become a Spy: The World War II SOE Training Manual* by British Special Operations Executive. Available from Skyhorse Publishing, Inc, it reproduces one of the most comprehensive training syllabi used at SOE’s Special Training Schools to instruct its agents. It’s a must read for anyone interested in the clandestine community’s activities during WWII.



Spartan Blades Velos Lapel Dagger/Tool is a small, easily concealed and lightweight knife-tool inspired by SOE and OSS lapel daggers of WWII.



Form-fitted sheath by Okuden Custom Kydex holds Velos securely and has a stainless steel breakaway neck chain.



Velos' handle has a flat-tip screwdriver and hex tool cutout that can be used when sheathed. Hex tool cutout can also attach a lanyard.

The Velos EDC Lapel Dagger/Tool was designed by Curtis Iovito and is a modernized and improved version of the original WWII-era lapel daggers. The 4-7/16-inch long knife is made from CPM 20CV stainless steel and has a 2-1/8-inch long, double-edged 3/16-inch thick dagger-style blade.

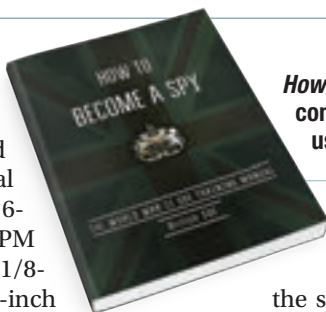
Spartan Blades uses only Crucible Particle Metals® (CPM®) stainless steels for its knives. The CPM method of manufacturing increases the uniform distribution of carbides, nearly doubling the toughness over conventional steels of the same composition.

CPM 20CV (previously known as DuraTech 20CV) has extremely good corrosion resistance due to its 20% chromium and 1% vanadium. It holds an edge well, takes an incredibly fine edge, and is easy to sharpen.

Performance of the steel is improved further by a minus 325-350°F deep cryogenic process after vacuum heat treatment and again after initial temper. This process creates a significantly denser molecular structure that offers greater wear resistance and durability. Conventional deep-freeze methods only reach minus 120°F. The blade hardness on the Velos is 59-60 HRC.

The handle features finger cutouts as well as jimping in all the right places. Combined with light machining in the middle of the blade, this provides a positive grip and precise control when performing detailed tasks.

The handle has a flat-tip screwdriver and a hex tool cutout that can



***How To Become a Spy: The World War II SOE Training Manual* is a compendium of formerly top-secret tradecraft training documents used to conduct special operations against the Axis powers.**

be used when sheathed (with the sheath acting as a handle). The hex tool cutout can also be used as a lanyard hole to tie a lanyard loop.

The primary technique taught to SOE and OSS agents was to surreptitiously access the blade, loop the lanyard cord around the index finger, and grip the weapon between thumb and index finger.

Velos is a fitting name for this dagger and tool. The resemblance to an arrowhead is more than skin deep. The Velos has been designed with lashing points to facilitate lashing it to a branch or stick for use as a spear in a survival situation.

The Velos is available with either a SpartaCoat™ PVD Tungsten DLC (Black) or Plain Bead Blasted finish. Spartan Blades uses Ionbond™ PVD coatings to protect and harden the surface of its knives.

PVD stands for Physical Vapor Deposition. The Ionbond PVD process produces metal-based hard coatings on a substrate by generating partially ionized metal vapor. Ionbond PVD coatings are harder and more corrosion resistant than coatings produced by the electroplating process. PVD coatings offer good impact strength, excellent abrasion resistance, and are exceptionally durable.

The Velos comes with a black custom-molded, form-fitted Kydex® sheath made for Spartan Blades by Okuden Custom Kydex. It can be worn suspended from the neck or carried in a pocket. A stainless steel breakaway neck chain is included. The sheath's grommet pattern is Blade-Tech® hardware compatible.

The Velos' compact size and light weight make it an outstanding choice for everyday carry. It weighs only an ounce and is small enough to hide practically anywhere. It's the perfect backup blade. Fit and finish on the sample Velos were second to none. The knife was razor sharp right out of the box.

The Spartan Blades Velos EDC Lapel Dagger/Tool has a suggested retail price of \$95.00. All Spartan Blades products come with a lifetime warranty to the original owner on materials, finish, and craftsmanship. ©

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www.spartanblades.com

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MTM Tactical Magazine Cans



TMC1911 holds 16 1911 magazines. Each TMC includes "O" ring seal and tabs for padlocks.



TMC15 has spaces for 15 AR-15/M4 mags. Assuming 30-round magazines, this means you can fire 450 rounds before you have to reload your mags.



TMCHG holds ten double-stack pistol magazines and is great for taking preloaded magazines to a pistol course.

WHEN I plan a trip to the range, I preload magazines to make the most of my time while there. I follow the same procedure when attending a course, as it allows me to spend time hydrating or maybe jump back on the line if there's an empty slot on a relay.

More often than not, I place the loaded magazines in a range bag with other gear. This is not ideal because feed lips may be damaged or debris may get into the mags.

A BETTER OPTION

When it comes to shooting and reloading accessories, one of my favorite companies is MTM Molded Products Company. From ammo boxes to ammo cans and assorted re-



loading accessories, they make more products of this type than anyone.

Last year I covered MTM's Ammo Can Combos, which come complete with individual boxes that accommodate 1,000 9mm rounds and 700 rounds of .45 ACP (*IT'S IN THE CAN: Long Term Ammo Storage*, February 2015 S.W.A.T.).

This year MTM added to their product line several ammo cans that are equally at home for a casual day at the range, attending a training course, or carrying spare ammo for an unexpected situation.

The Tactical Magazine Cans (TMC) are made of high-impact plastic, are air and water tight thanks to a rubber "O" ring seal, have heavy-duty latches, and can be locked with a padlock. Each can has an insert made

of rigid foam padding with factory cutouts to hold specific magazines.

MTM makes five such cans, and each is a great way to haul your guns' food supply.

TMC1911 MAGAZINE CAN

The TMC1911 is the most compact of the TMC line, measuring 5 inches wide, 7.2 inches high, and 11.3 inches long. It has four rows with four cutouts per row, for a total capacity of 16 1911 magazines.

TMCHG

The TMCHG has the same exterior dimensions as the 1911 can but holds ten double-stack pistol magazines. Either the TMC1911 or the TMCHG would be great to take to a pistol course, so the student can concentrate on the subject matter rather than constantly "jamming mags."

TMC15

Moving up in size, the TMC15 measures 9.3 inches wide, 9.0 inches high, and 15.3 inches long. With spaces for 15 AR-15/M4 mags, you'll be able to shoot 450 rounds—assuming 30-round magazines—before you have to reload. That's more than most people fire in a day of practice, and meets or exceeds what is put down-range in all but the most intensive carbine courses.

TMCLE MULTI MAG

The TMCLE is the same size as the TMC15 but combines cutouts in the foam for ten double-stack pistol magazines and ten AR-15 magazines. This is a good piece of kit for a peace officer to keep extra ammunition available for an emergency, and should also serve a competitor well.

TMCAK

Although not as popular as the AR-15 platform, Kalashnikov (AK) rifles continue to enjoy a faithful following among shooters. MTM has not forgotten them, as there is a Tactical Magazine Can specifically designed for the AK. The TMCAK measures 9.3 inches long, 15.3 inches wide and 9 inches high, and holds nine AK magazines.

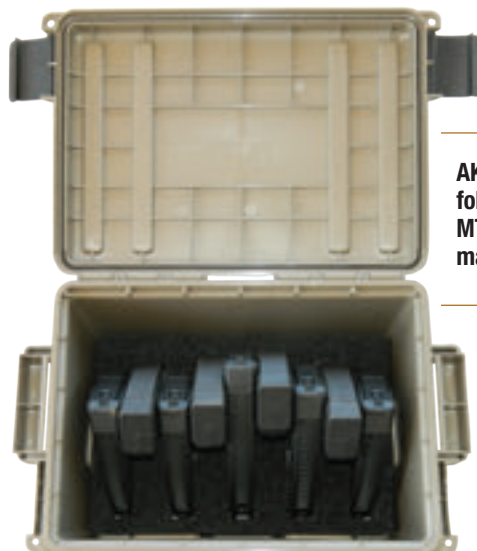
AT THE RANGE

I recently attended a two-day combination pistol/carbine course. I loaded the TMCLE with ten pre-loaded 30-round AR mags and ten double-stack pistol mags. I packed extra .223 in stripper clips and 9mm ammunition in MTM pistol ammo boxes, and then placed all the ammo in an MTM Ammo Crate (ACR4-18).

This was a low-intensity, low-round-count class and, besides topping off—because I wanted to, not because I had to—I only had to fully reload four of the 9mm mags. Having multiple loaded magazines allowed me to keep shooting while other students were reloading mags. And I think we're all agreed that more shooting is always a good thing.

If you don't already have a good system for carrying and protecting extra magazines for practice, a course, competition, or any other situation, check out the MTM Tactical Magazine Cans. ☺

Author used TMCLE Multi Mag Can at a low-round-count combination pistol/carbine course. Preloaded magazines were enough to see him through the class with a minimum of jamming mags.



AK rifles have a faithful following among shooters. MTM TMCAK holds nine AK mags for a trip to the range.



Author also used an MTM Ammo Crate to take extra ammunition with him to a course.

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NEW PRODUCTS & ACCESSORIES

Hoppe's Gun Medic: 911 for Your Guns



Hoppe's, the best-known name in gun-care products, releases a new state-of-the-art formula called Gun Medic to help shooters of all disciplines clean and lubricate dirty firearms. Developed for quick use when a deep clean isn't in the cards, Hoppe's Gun Medic Cleaner & Lube is a fast-acting, all-in-one product that cleans and lubricates a firearm in one application to get the gun back in action quickly.

The revolutionary formula combines a bio-based lubricant developed for jet turbines with an amazing cleaning agent that scrubs away powder residue and then evaporates in 60 seconds, leaving only the thin coat of the high-performance lube. The lubricant tolerance is an astounding -65°F to 500°F. This cleaner and lubricant combination is loaded into a new high-pressure bottle to blast out dirt and crud. It comes in four- and 10-ounce sizes.

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Spyderco Para Military 2

Spyderco's Para Military™ 2 has long been one of the most in-demand folding knives on the market. The latest version raises the bar even higher, combining all its proven features with the extreme cutting performance and edge retention of premium Crucible CPM® S110V® blade steel, a powder metallurgy steel enriched with high amounts of vanadium and niobium. These alloys give it exceptional wear resistance and high corrosion resistance. In the Para Military 2's full-flat-ground blade, this translates to outstanding cutting performance and edge retention. The blade features Spyderco's trademark Round Hole™ for quick, reliable one-handed opening with either hand.

Like other versions of the Para Military 2, this knife features nested skeletonized stainless steel liners and Spyderco's patented Compression Lock™ mechanism. Precision-machined textured G-10 scales boast the deep blue color reserved for Spyderco's elite family of CPM S110V knives. The handle features a four-position hourglass clip that supports left- or right-side, tip-up or tip-down carry. MSRP is \$249.95.



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Improved Magazine Selector for Kel-Tec KSG

The FTSS, Innovative Solutions' magazine selector switch for the Kel-Tec KSG, enables a user to seamlessly transition from one magazine tube to the next and back again as the situation dictates. This lets the operator keep his eyes scanning and his hands where they belong while engaged with his task/target/adversary.

The FTSS removes any need to break cheek weld or otherwise pause in trying to locate the selector, especially during a stressful situation. Until now, positive indexing has been a common aggravation for civilians as well as LE officers using the KSG shotgun. A breakthrough design, it will improve how you train with the KSG.

For any model of Kel-Tec KSG shotgun, the FTSS dramatically improves function over the factory selector switch and current variants. MSRP is \$96.50.



INNOVATIVE SOLUTIONS LLC
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SIG Sauer Updates SIGM400



SIG Sauer, Inc has introduced a redesigned SIGM400 Predator hunting rifle. Based off the direct-impingement SIGM400® action, the new Predator offers enhanced features optimized for hunters in the field.

At the heart of the SIGM400 Predator is a two-stage match trigger. The hammer-forged stainless steel barrel comes in an

18-inch length in 5.56mm and 16-inch length in .300 BLK. Barrels come threaded for the addition of muzzle devices or suppressors.

Optics can be mounted on the top Picatinny rail, and the ALG aluminum free-floating handguard features M-LOK attachment points for lights, lasers, and bipods.

The SIGM400 Predator comes with a five-round detachable box magazine, making it compliant with most state hunting regulations. It also accepts any STANAG AR-pattern magazine. MSRP is \$1,329.00.

SIG SAUER INC. | (603) 772-2302 | www.sigsauer.com

IMR 4955 Added to Enduron Series

IMR® Legendary Powders announces IMR 4955, the latest addition to the Enduron® series of smokeless powders. IMR 4955 lands between IMR 4451 and IMR 7977 on the burn rate chart. It is an ideal choice for many popular calibers, such as .270 Winchester, .25-06 Remington and .300 Winchester Magnum. With Enduron® Technology, accuracy can be maintained over longer shooting sessions.

Ballistic variations based on climate conditions are a thing of the past with IMR 4955. From extreme heat to extreme cold, shooters will see uniform velocities. IMR 4955 has a small grain size, making it extremely accurate and easy to flow through a powder measure.

With the addition of IMR 4955 to the series of Enduron® Technology powders, reloaders can find a technically advanced powder for reloading anything from .223 Remington all the way up to the .500 Nitro Express.

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CrossBreed Bellyband Holster



CrossBreed® Holsters has released a redesigned bellyband that includes an extended band offering extra support and capacity to carry heavier firearms.

In addition to the extension, which lets customers wear the bellyband with sweatpants and shorts without sacrificing support and security, the new modular bellyband includes a back pocket for an extra magazine and an enlarged pocket with Velcro closure to secure keys or a cell phone.

The modular bellyband can be purchased in three different sizes: small for 29- to 36-inch waist sizes, medium for 36 to 42 inches, and large for 42- to 52-inch waists. The band works with modular holster accessories, such as the Bedside Backup, Purse Defender, Pac Mat, and RAM Mounts.

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“I’m Going To Kill You”

The quiet of a house in Norman, Oklahoma was shattered late on a Saturday night when several masked figures kicked in a door and entered the house with drawn guns. While his wife called 911, the homeowner armed himself and confronted the intruders. Gunfire erupted, with neighbors reporting as many as a dozen shots fired.

Local law enforcement responded in ten minutes to find one of the home invaders lying dead on the ground outside the house and the rest having fled the scene. Neighbors told reporters that one of the masked intruders had announced, “I’m going to kill you” to the homeowner as they barged into his home.

SOURCE: KWTU, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, 2/16/16

Turning the Tables

Police in Lockland, Ohio received a 911 call in the middle of a Tuesday afternoon. The caller reported that four men had forced their way into his home, one of them brandishing a knife and threatening to cut his throat if he interfered with their robbery. Instead of meekly complying, the victim produced a handgun and fired once, hitting the knife-wielding intruder, who dropped to the floor.

Police arrived to find the other three men still there and took them into custody for questioning. The suspect with the knife was pronounced dead at the scene. A fifth suspect had fled in the getaway car. Police say the intended victim and the captured suspects were cooperating with the investigation. “He’s a defender, you know, he defends his community. He defends himself, quite naturally,” said a neighbor when interviewed by local media.

SOURCE: WLWT, Cincinnati, Ohio, 2/17/16

No Means No

A Memphis, Tennessee woman reported that her ex-boyfriend had been harassing her in her home all day, banging on the windows and pounding on the doors, demanding to be let inside. Frightened, she called her neighbor in the same duplex to ask if he’d come over to lend her some moral support. He agreed and came over to her side of the duplex.

When the neighbor entered through the front door, the ex-boyfriend tried to force his way through behind him but was unsuccessful. He escalated the beating and kicking on the front and back doors, then broke out a window and reached through to unlock it. At this point, the woman, fearing for her life, fired at him with her 9mm pistol. He fled and was later apprehended by police and charged with burglary.

SOURCE: WHBQ-TV, Memphis, Tennessee, 2/16/16

Carjacker Stopped

A couple were sitting in their Honda Civic at the traffic light on the corner of Northeast 159th Street and 16th Avenue in North Miami Beach, Florida late on a February night when they were approached by four shadowy figures. As one of them approached the driver’s side door in the unfolding carjacking attempt, the driver yelled to her boyfriend in the passenger seat, “He’s got a gun!”

The man in the passenger seat pulled a handgun of his own and fired twice, hitting the assailant. The other three scattered before police arrived to take the wounded would-be carjacker to the hospital, where he awaits felony charges after being released. The suspect is 13 years old.

SOURCE: WSVN, Miami, Florida, 2/23/16 ©



Used decisively and with determination, even a small pistol can make the difference between being a survivor or a statistic.

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CUSTOMIZING A CLASSIC

Nighthawk Custom Hi-Power



JULY ISSUE ON SALE JUNE 7th

Weapons, Tactics, and Gender for the Real World

ASK a man what color the sky is, and he'll tell you it's blue.

Ask a woman, and before answering she'll inquire as to whether it's day or night, if there's a blinding snowstorm occurring, if you're outdoors or ensconced in a cave, if it's during a solar eclipse, or if it's aurora borealis season. But while it is generally agreed that men and women process information differently, is there a valid basis—as some people assert—for weapons and tactics training to be conducted differently based solely on trainee gender?

Methinks not.

Admittedly, there are physical discrepancies between the two, such as a shorter torso and generally smaller hands prevalent in the fairer sex, but these should—in this author's opinion—govern only the

tion, ammunition—if need be—can be shared among combatants.

The fallacy of this line of thinking is yes, the armorer and the accountant are happy—but at the potential risk of peoples' lives. And morally and ethically, that is despicable. Because irrespective of physical and mental training, if, for whatever reason, you are physically incapable of handling a firearm, you shouldn't be—or allowed to be—carrying the weapon. You're a liability unto everybody but the enemy, because you're not going to hit anything. And being the jerk that I am, if you want my spare ammo because you've run out, there'd better be a pile of deceased enemies in front of you or you're not getting mine.

But suffice it to say that the huge predominance of pistol-packers are not law enforcement officers or sol-

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mechanical equipment selection used by the operator. It should have nothing to do with the user's ability because, after all, there are many males who have smaller-than-average hand size as well.

For example, if someone's hands—male or female—are too small to securely grip a pistol, you have an uphill battle and will never be a competent gunfighter without physical manual compensatory techniques. And this is not a good idea, irrespective of gender, because if you're going to swim upstream like a salmon, the bear has all the advantage.

Unfortunately, as the old saying goes, sometimes you have to make cake out of feces. This often occurs in law enforcement circles, where somebody in administration sits behind an oak desk and decides what equipment and techniques the front-line officers will use—often without having a clue what said officers encounter and/or do on shift. The most common of these “bean counter” examples is the issue of one-size-fits-all sidearms.

Since logistics and finances are always considerations, the concept is based on the assumptions that if the trainee undergoes decent firearms training, he will automatically be Robocop, the department armorer will have to work on only a couple of weapons systems, costs can be curtailed, and in the event of confronta-

diers, and therefore have the leeway to choose a handgun specifically relative to fit, function, and personal strategic requirements.

So it's back to the whys and wherefores of the reasoning behind different weapons and tactics training based on gender. First, for one glorious Utopian moment, let's climb off the political correctness bandwagon, because in law enforcement, fire and military circles, if you can't cut the job, you shouldn't be hired—male *or* female. Good people are dying while PC non-combatants find loopholes in the law of the land.

Why, assuming physical fit of the weapon isn't a problem, are women generally trained differently than their male counterparts? It's partially societal and partially chauvinism, that's why. The societal norm has generally run on the hunter/gatherer system: Man hunts, dog fetches, woman cooks, man eats. Partially based on physical strength and partially on etiquette—which are both understandable and admirable attributes. The flip side is based on the Good Old Boys Club syndrome: “We don't want a *girl* playing in our sandbox.”

If there's a viable reason, such as qualification requirements for upper body strength, that's one thing—and it has all the validity in the world. On the other

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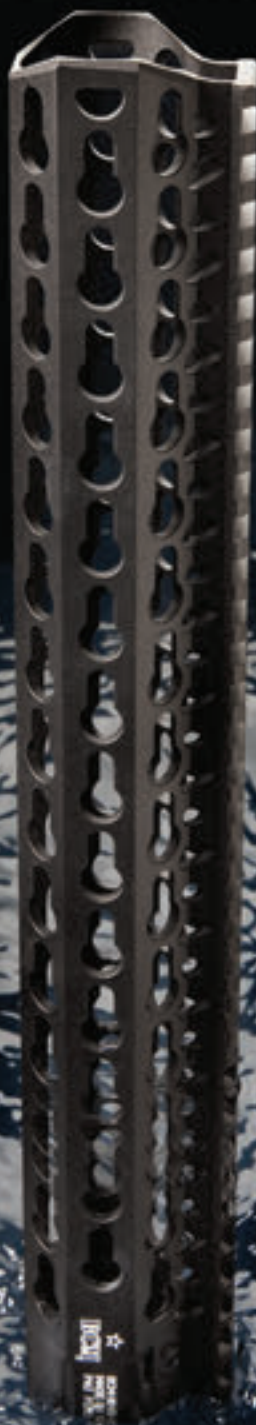




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