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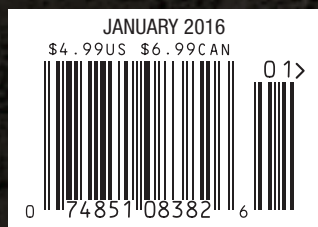
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# I Had a Dream

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*Dateline Washington, DC, 2028*— During his second term in office, President Rubio—in anticipation of armed invasions from both Mexico and Canada—had signed the Armed and Prepared American Act of 2022. The act provided any American over 18 years old \$1,000 to buy the AR-15-type rifle of his choice and \$500 for ancillary gear such as magazines and cleaning kits. Additionally, the act gave each individual 1,000 rounds of government-issued ammunition to be kept in his home in readiness, and 200 rounds a month for practice.

Thousands of well-qualified instructors donated their time to teach carbine courses, and many well-known shooting schools made their facilities available without charge.

Within months of going into effect, murder rates across the country plummeted to a 200-year-old low, and home invasions became a thing of the past. Even previously staunch anti-gun legislators jumped on board. Former U.S. Senator Charles Schumer was seen being pushed in his wheelchair to the firing line.

Laws restricting magazine capacity, whether for handguns or long guns, were overturned, as were laws concerning cosmetic features of rifles such as pistol grips and flash hiders.

With an AR in almost every home and ammunition for practice, one problem arose: enough ranges to accommodate all the shooters.

Now in 2028, her first year in office, President Carly Fiorina turned large portions of golf courses across the country into rifle ranges. Most met with hearty approval and donations of land from the owners of the golf courses, with Eminent Domain having to be used in only two instances.

With the high demand for parts and accessories, aftermarket manufacturers turned out their products at a rate never believed possible. A side effect was a huge uptick in the economy, as unemployment fell to 1%.

And then I woke up....

While the cost of ammunition has come down considerably from a few years ago, it still remains very costly for rifle practice. What if you could test many rifle skill sets, from 25 to 100 yards, with only one 20-round box of ammunition?

That may sound too good to be true, but it is possible with the One Box Rifle Workout. Read all about it in the feature that begins on page 74.

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

*Denny Hansen*

**SWAT**

**EDITORIAL  
INFORMATION**

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press releases or questions,  
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[denny@swatmag.com](mailto:denny@swatmag.com)

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### OUR BAD

Just wanted to comment on Will Dabbs' article in the November 2015 issue (*FORGED VERSUS STAMPED GUNS: Does It Really Matter?*). He explains what a wire EDM machine is and states that, "This is how the magazine well was probably cut on your AR-15 lower receiver."

As a machinist, I can assure you that were this the case, AR-15 ownership and manufacture would be cost prohibitive and the gun itself would be rare, if produced at all. You can cut a magazine well with an EDM, but it will take a *long* time and be expensive.

Magazine wells for the AR-15 rifle usually have the mag well pocket rough machined out of the initial aluminum forging on a CNC milling machine, and then are taken to their finished size with a large broach, although I have seen cases where the whole thing was done on a milling machine (not a pretty sight).

I really like everything I have read

in your magazine from this author, so please don't take this as negative criticism. Just wanted to explain.

M. Larson, email

*We don't get our feelings hurt easily, and if we make a mistake, we want our readers to call us out on it. Thanks for taking the time to do so.*

### CARBINE UPGRADE

I wanted to thank S.W.A.T. for yet another superb issue. In regard to Denny Hansen's *Gear Update* in his *Briefing Room* column (November 2015), I recently upgraded my carry light to a SureFire E1D LED Defender and also acquired a new Colt LE6920 M4 carbine that I topped with an Aimpoint PRO red dot.

Running NATO spec 62-grain M855 green tip through it brings back fond memories of when I was first issued a Colt M4 in the 82nd Airborne 15 years ago. I might add that I qualified Expert with the detachable "carry handle" iron sights.

Concerning Louis Awerbuck's reprinted *Motel Hell* and his statement, "And motel security being what it is," I'd like to share an incident that happened to me that may be of benefit to your readership.

On one occasion late at night, when I was still on active duty and traveling interstate to visit family, I decided to play it safe, or so I thought, and get off the highway and into a bed.

After registration with the motel's front desk clerk, who did not inspire my full confidence in his competence, I retired to the room for a shower and shut-eye. Soon after drifting off, I heard what I thought was the electronic key card system unlocking. Sure enough it was, followed by the irate shaking of the door by the person outside who couldn't figure out why it wouldn't open.

It turns out that an hour after I checked in, the bozo at the front desk issued my room to another guest and even programmed two electronic key cards for the door. Had I not secured the



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deadbolt lock, that person could have walked right in, even 30 minutes earlier when I was still in the shower, giving all the more credence to Louis' suggestion that a "pull type firecracker taped to the door and door jamb will give you some audible warning."

Keep up the good work.

J. Thompson, email

*Thanks for the kind words and sharing your experience with us.*

#### **PUMP VERSUS AUTO**

I have only recently gotten involved in firearms, specifically for personal and home protection. Browsing the Internet and the magazines at my local supermarket shows I have a lot to learn. A friend who has been shooting all his life recommended your magazine to me.

With that said, I really appreciated the article discussing the pros and cons of pump and semiautomatic shotguns in the November 2015 issue. (*LONG GUNS: Pump Versus Self-Loading Combat Shotguns*) The article pointed out things that I probably would not have thought of, such as working the action

of a pump shotgun from behind cover or while in the prone position.

The article on police trade-in weapons was also great, as it might give a new shooter like me a less expensive alternative for getting started.

K. Emersen, Minnesota

*Welcome to the community. Please thank your friend for us for his support.*

#### **METAL OR PLASTIC?**

I've read every copy of *S.W.A.T.* that I've received cover to cover. I have noticed that several of the IWB holsters featured appear to have plastic clips on them. I am not averse to those clips, but being in law enforcement, I have tried several holsters and the clips have broken when drawing during a simulated struggle. I highly recommend a metal clip over a plastic material.

I enjoy the magazine and the articles are very thought provoking.

R. LaDuke

*Thanks for taking the time to share your experiences and the kind words. My encounters with broken clips or straps have most often been related to the quality of*

*the holster, e.g., a manufacturer who uses recyclable plastic vice glass-filled nylon. The old adage "you get what you pay for" is true with almost all products.*

Denny Hansen

#### **QUALITY ALTERNATIVES**

Have you ever heard of or reviewed the Wyoming Arms WY-15? Are there any other small but reliable AR producers that you could do a short article on? There isn't much information available for those of us who don't want or can't afford to buy into the ABCs of ARs (or the other big companies), but still want reliable parts and performance.

J. Taylor, email

*Thanks for contacting us. We have not heard of Wyoming Arms, but we'll look into them. We have several articles that will be appearing soon on companies that are not presently well known, but comprehensive evaluations of their products have shown positive results.*

*While many magazines only cover companies that have a huge advertising budget, *S.W.A.T.* has helped several companies get off the ground and become household names. ©*



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## Hornady RApiD Safe

**AS** a certified NRA instructor, I am supposed to tell you to lock up your weapons and store ammo and magazines separately. This is good advice for most of your firearms, but not good for a gun used to protect your home. Still, a lock box that can be accessed quickly is a good idea.

As a responsible, law-abiding gun owner, you have locked up your weapon so it does not fall into the hands of children or unauthorized individuals and to prevent it from being stolen. But now it's 0330 hours and storming very badly. Even in a city where response time is normally only a few minutes, it's half an hour due to the storm. You are awakened by the sound of shattering glass. Someone is breaking into your house!

Things are bad, but get worse when you remember that your lock box keys are in your wife's purse, which she left on the kitchen table. Now there is an in-



Hornady RApiD Safe can be opened by using keypad on top of the unit, or with keys or included RFID devices.



RApiD Safe can accommodate most full-size handguns.

truder between you and your keys—and your children, who are on the other side of the house.

This could all be avoided with a little planning. In the academy, we tell recruits to play the “what if” game, always have several backup plans, and be ready to change them quickly if needed.

Recently I obtained a product from the new Hornady Security® division—the Hornady RApiD® Safe. It is one of the most interesting handgun lock boxes I have encountered to date.

The RApiD Safe gives you several different ways to access your handgun.

First are the cylinder keys, which can always be used as a backup but are needed to open the safe initially. After installing the batteries,

you can set your own key code. The keypad is backlit when

you hit it in the dark, so you can unlock your weapon even if the power is out.

In addition to the cylinder keys, the RApiD Safe





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## Once set up, usage of the keypad and RFID devices is intuitive and takes very little practice to become adept at.

uses Radio Frequency IDentification (RFID) technology for touch-free entry. The safe comes with three RFID bracelets in sizes medium, large, and extra large. Also included are an RFID card and RFID key fob. You can program any two of the touch-free devices while also having the option of using keypad and cylinder keys to open the RAPID Safe.

The safe comes with an AC wall power supply and includes a 220-volt adapter for European usage and a 39-inch, 1,500-pound rated cable to secure the safe to an immobile object. The owner's manual, warranty card, and a Hornady magnetic decal complete the package.

The safe is constructed of 16-gauge steel with ¼-inch steel dual-lug locking system. It weighs 15.65 pounds with exterior measurements of 15.5x9x3.5. Interior measurements are 11x8x3. It is not too heavy to move and doesn't take up a lot of space, but it's not so light or small that someone can easily run off with it. If you use the security cable, which I strongly advocate, it's not going to be easily made off with.

When the RFID touch-free or keypad is activated, the safe lid springs up, allowing access to your weapon. The handgun is held in place by a sleeve that accommodates most five-inch pistols and four-inch barreled revolvers. The sleeve is made of two pieces of heavy foam to hold your weapon in place, as well as protect it while it is in the safe. Removing the RAPID sleeve allows more space for larger handguns.



RAPiD Safe being opened with touch-free RFID bracelet.



RAPiD Safe springs open when RFID card is swiped across its surface.

The Hornady RAPID Safe is not what people may think of when they think "safe." It offers little protection from fire, and it could be cut through or broken into with a lot of force.

However, it exceeds ASTM International child-resistant safety standards for lock strength, drop/pick/saw tests and prying attack with the added feature of being easily accessible to the owner with the patent-pending RFID technology.

Once set up, usage of the keypad and RFID devices is intuitive and takes very little practice to become adept at.

The tragic deaths of young children who have gained access to firearms are preventable. The peace of mind that comes with using the RAPID Safe is truly priceless. ☺

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# Tactical Sleep

I remember one time when I utterly knew fear: spitless, wide-eyed, so-afraid-you-can't-pee-your-pants terror. I was not only scared, but confused, upset, embarrassed, and a whole range of other stomach-acid-producing emotions.

That's what happens when you wake up not knowing how long you've been asleep. Actually, being asleep wasn't really the problem. It was the location: at a stop sign, in a marked patrol car, in the middle of the street.

While on midnight patrol, I had surrendered to the sweet arms of Morpheus while stopped at an intersection in a residential area. As you can imagine, this isn't an optimal state of affairs for anyone, let alone a cop.

Looking around for possible witnesses, I eased off the brake and slithered slowly off into the night to find a better spot for a catnap, wondering ex-

actly how long I had been comatose.

Now, very few cops are permitted to sleep while on duty, but I defy anyone who has worked a night shift (in any career) to say they haven't grabbed a couple of winks when overwhelmingly, achingly, profoundly tired. It happens.

But it also puts you at great risk, which is why—aside from possible disciplinary actions and the general shakiness that comes from being jolted awake—I was so upset at falling asleep in the middle of the street. On the whole, the best time to spindle, fold or mutilate someone is when they are in the midst of a major siesta.

Protecting yourself while snoozing requires a multi-pronged approach. The goal is to build a protective wall around yourself, with several layers of defenses that give you a fighting chance to wake up and have a fighting chance.

Of course, one possibility is to



avoid sleep altogether. There are literally hundreds of ways to stay awake, but the physiological fact is that to remain sharp, you need rest. My personal best is working 40 hours straight, but in hindsight it's obvious that my reasoning skills, memory, focus, and driving ability utterly sucked after 24 hours or so.

A smart person or organization builds mandatory rest periods into any operation, including traveling.

In that regard, driving while fatigued is slightly less dangerous than driving a gasoline tanker with bad brakes down a steep mountain road. Build ample rest

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periods into your schedule and always get off the road and get some shuteye if you start assaulting the white lines with your tires.

If you need sleep, the first and perhaps most important consideration is where to nap. Do your best to catch those 40 winks someplace with limited access to those with hostile intent or more likely, someplace so public and populated with witnesses that common troublemakers will think twice before plying their trade.

For instance, if I need to take a quick catnap while traveling, I choose a busy, well-lit parking lot rather than some dark pull-off. I don't like either option, but if you must catch some shuteye, choose a place so open and busy that the only problem would be a hassle from the cops rather than a carjacker.

Once parked at your nappy-time spot, march inside and ask the cashier or attendant if you are allowed to sleep in the parking lot. If they say "yes," odds are good they'll keep an eye on you, while if they say "no," there's a good chance they'll call the police once they think you're asleep. Either way, you've triaged the situation beforehand and

can plan accordingly.

Of course, having a trusted partner who stays awake to guard your snoozing body is a wonderful thing, and standard operating procedure during tactical operations. The key to success is keeping the "trade-off" interval at an hour or so. This minimal amount of sleep will keep you running somewhat effectively for long periods of time, yet is conducive to your partner staying alert during their watch. You also will probably not fall into a deep, "hard" sleep, which makes it tough to awaken and respond to problems.

If you sleep in a vehicle, make sure you don't kill yourself with carbon monoxide. If you must run the engine, never park with the exhaust pipe facing upwind, and always leave the windows cracked enough that fresh air can offset any fumes that might accumulate in the passenger area.

Alarms are a great thing. Both my home and yard have electronic monitoring systems. I also have several different types of portable alarms for use while traveling, to guard hotel doors or campsites. One word of advice: remove the battery before placing an alarm in

your bag, as any loud beeping from stowed luggage causes great consternation among the authorities.

When traveling, I always place a chair or other piece of furniture against the door before turning in for the night. Having worked as off-duty hotel security, I can say with certainty that the number of master keys floating around any hotel is alarming. Using chains or any other hotel-provided security devices is helpful, but all are easily and quietly defeated (hotel security does this all the time). At least with a chair or a few aluminum cans, you'll have some warning of intruders.

This is where I normally try to end the column with something witty, wry or ironic. But so far, I'm drawing a blank.

Perhaps I need more sleep. ☺

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

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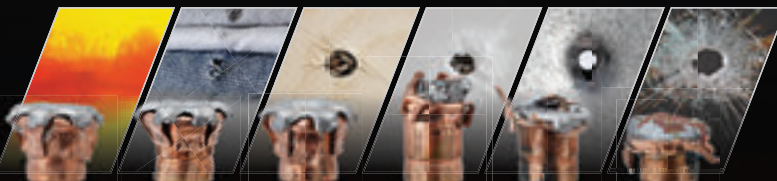
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# Weaponize Your World

**EVER** since the Bourne movies, a lot of people who don't understand aggressive conflict have been fascinated with the idea that Jason Bourne could use a pen to fight off an attacker. Although the fight scenes in these movies are mostly overblown Hollywood claptrap intended purely as entertainment, the premise is sound.

Using various objects for combat has been in practice for centuries. Many of the martial arts weapons we know today began as simple farming tools that were turned into weapons when an unarmed populace was forced to defend itself against an overwhelming force.

To most people, ordinary everyday objects are completely innocuous. People cannot see an item as a weapon unless it is clearly designed as one. But by weaponizing the world around you, you can greatly increase your and your family's chances of survival in a chips-down scenario.

## **WHAT IS AN IMPROVISED WEAPON?**

Simply put, an improvised weapon is any object that was designed for a given purpose, usually innocent or inconspic-

uous in nature, which can be altered in preparation for, or weaponized during, a combative scenario to give the user an advantage.

## **WEAPONS OF OPPORTUNITY**

While the idea of improvised weapons seems very intriguing and exotic, the truth is that they are weapons of opportunity: from the rolling pin wielded by an angry housewife to the beer bottle used by a bar fighter first as an impact weapon and then as an edged weapon after the bottle breaks. If you have ever considered using a chair or heavy ashtray in defense of yourself or your family, you have contemplated improvised weapons.

Not all improvised weapons are simply weapons of opportunity. Some are constructed with clear intent or were selected for everyday carry because of their potential as a weapon.

For example, in every prison in the world, stringent measures are taken to ensure that inmates do not have access to weapons of any kind. But shivs are regularly constructed



Just a small sample of potential improvised weapons, from credit cards and combs to cell phones and keys.








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from very simple objects like toothbrushes, which are available to all inmates.

Many people carry pens like the Zebra Stainless Steel barreled ballpoint pen due to its strong barrel, for use as a kubotan or penetrating weapon, while still being just a pen. And for the truly industrious, let's not forget the zip gun.

Science might not be the correct term, but it's as close as I can figure when thinking about weaponizing ordinary objects. In the items around you, you'll begin to notice certain things that you can key in on and determine the best use of that object for self-defense.

One of the key principles in making any weapon effective, improvised or not, is proper targeting. While a weapon will work anywhere on the body, the right target makes a weapon more effective. Simple key principles are: hard objects for hard targets, edged and pointy objects for soft targets, and soft or liquid objects in the face for distraction.

When choosing an improvised weapon, structural integrity is important. Attempting to use as a weapon an object that has a structural flaw in it somewhere may cause it to fail at a critical moment. For example, if you attempt to use a shirt or jacket as a makeshift sarong and the sleeve rips off during use, your technique will fail, possibly placing you in a compromising position. Beware potential structural flaws.

#### IDENTIFYING THE MOST EFFECTIVE PART OF AN OBJECT

We already know that any weight focused on a small area will equate to a larger pound-force per square inch—and the heavier the weight and smaller the area, the more pound-force. So when considering an object for use as an improvised weapon, look at the overall structure and determine which part will deliver the most pound-force with the greatest accessibility.

For example, if you use a chair, the end of one of the legs



**When hammer striking with the butt of a folded magazine, focus the pound-force per square inch to maximize blunt-force trauma.**

will deliver the most pound-force per square inch. But it will be very awkward to try to hit somebody with the end of the leg, so you will probably achieve greater success using the chair more like a bat.

If you were using a cell phone, it would not be awkward or uncomfortable to use a corner of the phone and maximize the impact.



**When properly holding a key or .223 round, you can generate enough force to put it a quarter inch into a phone book. Very effective.**



**Great example of a constructed improvised weapon. The fork alone is a great weapon, but this form gives it many more options.**



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Likewise, a magazine is a great weapon when rolled up, but if you try to use it as a club, you won't get much impact because there isn't much weight behind it. If you use the end in a hammer-fist manner, you'll deliver an effective payload. As a side note, don't discount using the magazine like a club as a distraction to set up a more effective strike.

Small items can be devastating when used correctly. We've all seen the instructions on using keys for self-defense, placing the keys between your fingers, below the knuckle and punching the attacker. But this grip does not have a structure sufficient to prevent the key from collapsing onto your finger and causing as much or more damage to you.

Using items like keys or a .223 round as a weapon *can* be achieved with the proper grip. Pinching the key or .223 round tightly between your index finger and thumb, while placing it firmly against the pad of your index finger for a base, you can do very serious damage. This kind of tight grip works with many small items, from credit cards to combs.

#### EXERCISE IN CRITICAL THINKING

I had considered doing a section on different examples of improvised weapons, but considering there can be any number of options, I instead challenge you to look around you and think about ways to use the objects at your disposal to defend yourself. You're surrounded by options.

Some items may not have a damaging effect in themselves, but can be used as a distraction, giving you time to launch an unobstructed offensive. Throwing a drink in an attacker's face gives you a chance to strike while he's dealing with the liquid in his eyes (or the burning if it was a hot drink).

#### CONCLUSION

Improvised weapons are not as exotic as they sound at first. They're more of an instinctual reaction to a life-threatening situation. People have been using improvised weapons since there were rocks—it's only recently that they were given a cool name and viewed as a mystery known only to spies.

With a basic understanding of combatives, the will to survive and the ability to see the potential in any object, you can turn the everyday items around you into effective weapons.

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# FROM COVERT TO OVERT

## Disruptive Environments Chest Rig

BY EUGENE NIELSEN



D3CR is an outstanding chest rig—exceptionally comfortable, easily adjustable, and truly multi-mission capable.





**D3CR was built to be worn as a stand-alone system with detachable H-harness or clipped into an armor platform equipped with quick-release system.**

**THE** Disruptive Environments Chest Rig (D3CR) was developed by Haley Strategic Partners to meet a specific end user requirement for a low-profile chest rig that can be donned or removed in seconds from a fighting platform without the need to remove radios, cuffs, or medical pouches.

While originally designed for a low-visibility special operations role, the D3CR has utility beyond its specific customer's needs, including as an active shooter rig, a light assault/patrol placard, or in conjunction with HAZMAT suits, where armor is worn on the inside and fighting equipment on the outside.

#### **HALEY STRATEGIC PARTNERS**

HSP was founded by Travis Haley, founder of Magpul's training division, Magpul Dynamics (now Magpul Core). Today, Haley Strategic Partners offers a gamut of training programs for military, law enforcement, and responsible armed citizens in the form of their Disruptive Science and Disruptive Environments programs.

Travis Haley's experience spans over 20 years,

starting with his career as a Force Reconnaissance Marine and continuing through multiple rotations as a special operations and security contractor, including numerous PSDs for high-profile government officials, military leaders, and foreign diplomats. Today he works as a deputy sheriff with the Maricopa County (Arizona) Sheriff's Office in addition to his work as CEO of Haley Strategic Partners.

The D3CR was purpose-built around end-user needs, where the capability to shift from covert/low visibility to overt/low signature (and vice versa) has become a must for certain special operations units. Over the two-year design process, the D3CR was refined and tuned based on direct feedback received from operations being conducted in Iraq and Afghanistan.

When run as a standalone system with the H-harness and waist straps, the D3CR may be worn fully loaded under a loose-fitting jacket or tear-away shirt without noticeable printing. When used in conjunction with personal protection equipment (PPE), it can be clipped in via a quick-release system such as the Velocity Systems Swift-Clips™. The D3CR also interfaces with a number of packs, so it can be worn as a system.

**Right: Optional D3X Double Magazine Wedge Velcros directly onto back panel of D3CR, giving user two additional M4 magazines on the centerline.**

**Below: Optional D3X Holster Wedge provides envelope for user to insert a holster that sits centerline between rig and body armor.**



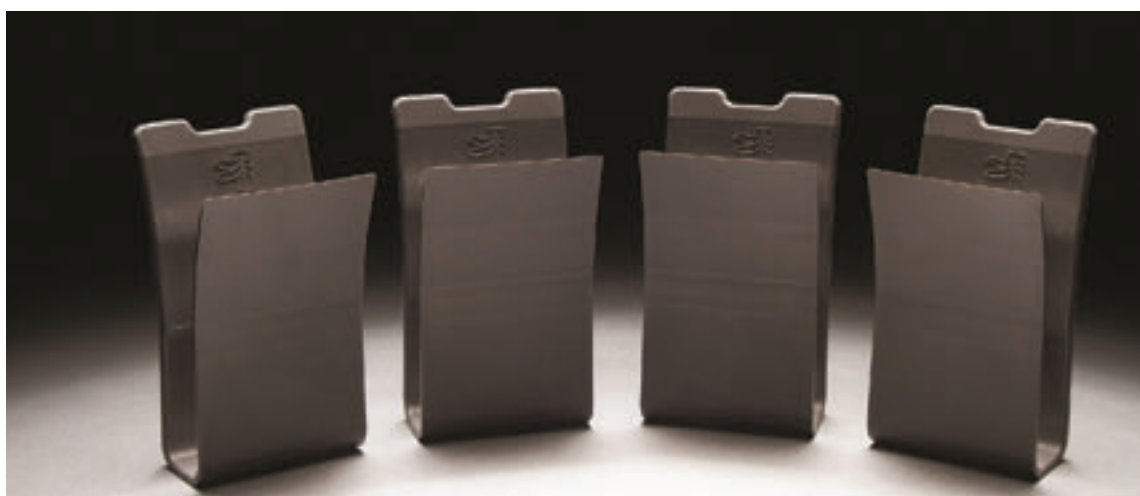
### D3CR SPECS

Constructed of 500D Cordura® nylon, the D3CR includes four rifle magazine pouches, two multi-mission pouches, two flapped General Purpose (GP) pouches, and a STUFFIT™ expandable pouch. The shoulder straps on the H-harness have three PALS loops to secure additional items (such as a tourniquet) or route comms cables.

HSP opted for 500D Cordura to provide a lighter load carriage without sacrificing fabric performance. It offers exceptional breaking strength, tear and water resistance, and dimensional stability without the unnecessary weight penalty of 1000D nylon, which is overkill for the intended application.

The magazine and multi-mission pouches feature shock-cord retention with Hypalon® tabs for easy removal. Hypalon is a synthetic rubber noted for its resistance to chemicals, temperature extremes, and ultraviolet light.

**MP2 inserts work with variety of industry-leading nylon magazine carriers.**





**Overall, the D3CR is an outstanding chest rig. It is exceptionally comfortable, easily adjustable, and truly multi-mission capable.**

The Hypalon tabs on the D3CR are thick with a tacky surface that makes them easy to grasp, even with thick gloves.

The rifle magazine pouches are designed to fit M4 and AK magazines. Haley Strategic has also developed a D3CR "Heavy" designed for 7.62mm NATO magazines. The multi-mission pouches utilize a rare earth magnet to help retain both single- and double-stack handgun magazines. The pouches are also sized to hold multi-tools, folding knives, and handheld lights.

The GP pouches feature Velcro® flap closures and will fit a variety of strobes, tools, small med kits (such as the ITS Tactical EDC Trauma Kit), and batteries. Loop material on the front of the pouches allows for the attachment of ID or morale patches.

Developed by Extreme Gear Labs for Haley Strategic Partners, the STUFFIT pouch is a user-defined expandable, vertically oriented pouch that holds additional magazines, flash bangs, smoke grenades, frag grenades, and a variety of electronics. If not needed, the STUFFIT pouch compresses nearly flat by cinching down shock cords threaded on either side of the pouch.

By design, the D3CR intentionally excludes a dedicated radio or full-size med pouch. This was directly driven by operational feedback. Tethering comms and med kits to rigs meant that, to transition from a low- to high-visibility posture, end users were forced to carry additional equipment to retain these vital systems. Additionally, relocating items from one pouch to another added time on the clock when seconds matter.

It's an outstanding "grab and go" rig. Although developed to meet the specific needs of special operations forces, the D3CR is an ideal active shooter response rig for law enforcement officers who are not out on patrol in full kit. Kept fully loaded, it can be stored next to the patrol rifle, Velcroed to the front of a vehicle seat, or stored in the door map compartment and quickly donned by the officer if the need arises.

#### **D3X EXPANSION SYSTEM**

Haley Strategic Partners also offers an expansion system for the D3CR referred to as the D3X. Currently consisting of three components: the Holster Wedge, Multi-Mission Hanger, and Double Magazine Wedge, the D3X extends the utility of the D3CR and allows an end

user to further tailor the rig to his needs.

The Holster Wedge is an envelope of Velcro-covered Cordura panels in which an end user can place a holster. Although optimized for use with the HSP INCOG holster, manufactured by G-Code, it will work with any holster surfaced in hook material.

The Multi-Mission Hanger is a multi-purpose drop-down pouch to store other vital pieces of equipment, such as NVGs, breaching items, cameras, and extended med kits. The Hanger is lined with loop material to secure additional organizers and has loop material on the front of the pouch.



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The Double Magazine Wedge offers two additional rifle magazine pouches if the user needs to carry more ammunition.

All the D3X wedges mate to the hook panel on the back of the D3CR and do not significantly impact the thickness of the rig. The components can be used individually or pancaked together and work on both the stand-alone rig, as well as when clipped into a plate carrier.

#### MP2 MAGAZINE POUCH INSERTS

Recently HSP added injection-molded polymer MP2 magazine pouch inserts that allow 30-round 5.56, 5.45, 7.62, and .308 rifle magazines to be run in open-top nylon pockets without bungees and with no loss of retention. Forks on each MP2 hook under PALS webbing, provide additional stability and retention, and deliver a smooth draw of a fresh magazine without impacting the ability to quickly retain partial magazines in the case of a tactical reload.

Although built specifically for the D3CR™ and D3CR-H™, the MP2 works with a variety of industry-leading nylon magazine carriers. They are available exclusively in Disruptive Grey™. A single MP2 insert runs \$12, and a four-pack is \$40.

Overall, the D3CR is an outstanding chest rig. It is exceptionally comfortable, easily adjustable, and truly multi-mission capable.

The D3CR is available in Black, Coyote, Ranger Green, MultiCam®, Kryptek® Highlander™, Mandrake™, and Typhon™. The D3CR retails for \$179.00. Camo patterns are \$183.00.

The D3X Expansion System components are available in Black and Coyote. The Multi-Mission Hanger is also available in MultiCam. The Holster Wedge retails for \$29.00, Double Magazine Pouch for \$35.00, and Multi-Mission Hanger for \$45.00. ©

*Eugene Nielsen's background includes protective intelligence/investigations and threat management, as well as red teaming/security consulting. He is a Licensed Private Investigator in both California and Arizona. He has written almost 1,000 articles.*

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## Gun Control by Another Name Smells Just as Foul

Former Congresswoman Gabrielle Giffords (D-AZ) and her husband, retired astronaut Mark Kelly, claim not to be “gun control” advocates, despite their aggressive lobbying for most of the gun control movement’s favorite infringements on that which *shall not* be infringed.

From banning 11-round and larger magazines, to outlawing gun commerce over the Internet, to outlawing private sales of firearms—none of those are “gun control,” they tell us. Instead, they say, they advocate “gun responsibility.”

The Super PAC that Giffords and Kelly started, in fact, has neither the words “gun” nor “control” in its name, calling itself “Americans for Respon-

sible Solutions.” When interviewed by the *West Orange Chronicle* last August, Kelly stated that, “Nobody likes to be controlled” (a perhaps dubious assertion, judging from the way many people vote), and that the many gun owners who are responsible do not need to be regulated by the government.

Well, great—but none of the legislation he and Giffords are pushing contains exemptions for the “responsible” gun owners. Kelly, in other words, has just admitted that he and his ideological allies are advocating the government regulation of people who need no such regulation.

Kelly and Giffords are, of course, far from the first to try to rebrand “gun control” as “responsibility.” Mike



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## The gun-ban zealots have long known the value of changing their terminology to better fall in line with changing public attitudes and perceptions.

Beard, president of the very proudly rabid forcible citizen disarmament advocacy group Coalition to Stop Gun Violence (CSGV), once wrote a piece titled "Freedom vs. Responsibility," in which he equated "responsibility" with restrictions on gun ownership and use.

He also characterized freedom and responsibility as opposites, saying that we as a nation "must maintain a very delicate balance between these two poles." This is without even getting into how overwhelmingly his idea of a "very delicate balance" is weighted toward his definition of "responsibility."

And there lies the heart of the fiction these people are hoping to pass as reality. Beard—and apparently Giffords and Kelly—would have us believe that freedom and responsibility are competing

interests, and that the strengthening of one must come at the cost of the weakening of the other.

This, of course, is utterly false.

Responsibility cannot exist without freedom. One cannot be responsible for one's actions if those actions are dictated from above. Without the freedom to make choices, and to reap the rewards of those choices that are good (responsible), and to suffer the consequences of those that are bad (irresponsible), people are robbed of both freedom *and* responsibility.

And this is exactly how those who favor governments over people like it. They refuse to trust their fellow man with either freedom *or* responsibility, and would instead harness the power of an unchecked government as a *substitute* for personal responsibility. New

restrictions on gun ownership would do nothing to increase anyone's responsibility. In fact, they would do exactly the opposite, as people are forced to surrender the most effective means of meeting their responsibility to defend their lives, families, and liberty.

Americans are now to abdicate that responsibility and leave it in the hands of the government—except that as the courts have ruled over and over again, the police cannot be held responsible for failing to protect anyone's life.

The gun-ban zealots have long known the value of changing their terminology to better fall in line with changing public attitudes and perceptions. The Brady Campaign to Prevent Gun Violence once called itself Handgun Control, Inc. (and at the time made no secret of their eventual agen-

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da of an outright ban of private ownership of handguns).

The Coalition to Stop Gun Violence at one time proudly bore the name National Coalition to Ban Handguns. Mike Beard, by the way, was the group's president then as well. Are we to believe that banning handguns is not still at the top of the group's most sacred wish list?

But as their perversion of the word "responsibility" shows, changing the terminology is no longer enough for them. Now they insist on changing the very meaning of words as it suits their agenda. This is because their problem is not one of "messaging."

Gun rights advocates don't resist their efforts because of the wording used by the gun-ban groups, but because what they are trying to do, no matter what they call it, is a threat to Americans' ability to fulfill their *responsibility* as that which is necessary to the security of a free state.

Ironically, even the now falling-out-of-favor term "gun control" has always been a less-than-honest sugarcoating of the reality of what these groups want. Their goal is, and always has been, forcible citizen disarmament. If "gun control" is no longer an easy sell, though, the more honest version has *never* been tolerable except to those who desire, like CSGV, a government monopoly on force.

They can refer to forcible citizen disarmament as "gun control," despite the fact that what they are really demanding is for American citizens to surrender the control over one's own life that comes with being armed against assailants.

When that term falls out of favor, they can switch to "gun safety," despite the fact that defenselessness is anything but safe. They can call it "gun responsibility," despite the fact that responsibility is exactly what they are taking away from the people. But they can do nothing to change the fact that to give in to their demands would be neither safe nor responsible. ☹

*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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## Weak-Hand Tactics

**THIS** column is not about guns, gear, or shooting. It's not about the gunfight. Rather it's about the periphery of the gunfight.

Sound boring? It shouldn't. Ask any cop or professional gun carrier which they've done more of: Operate with their weapon drawn or operate while firing their weapon. Almost every single one will say they have had to operate with their weapon drawn and perhaps covering a suspect or danger area many more times than they have actually had to fire their weapon.

A couple years back, I was at a great IALEFI (International Association of Law Enforcement Firearms Instructors) conference. As we reviewed films of actual and training shooting scenarios, we noticed a recurring phenomenon. Immediately following the gunfight, many were fumbling, bumbling and making flawed, but fortunately not fatal decisions.

As with any group of honest teachers, we took a hard look at ourselves and found the answer. We, the firearms instructors, were the problem. We were training our guys and gals to draw, announce and issue verbal warnings just fine. But we were ending our scenarios right after the shoot. That's not how real life works.

Anyone who has been in or at a shooting will tell you that

the post-shooting situation can be even more grueling than the actual shoot. This brings me to off-hand access and weak-hand tactics.

While you may normally fire your weapon with two hands, much of the time you will only be able to have one hand on your weapon. Your support, or off, hand will be otherwise engaged by your radio, cell phone, flashlight, or whatever your job may require, or even a combination of the above.

The fact that those defending themselves with firearms prefer handguns to shotguns because they can have one hand free to call for help was even acknowledged by Supreme Court Justice Anthony Scalia in his now famous decision that overturned the DC handgun ban.

Post- or non-shoot scenarios should begin and end with off-hand access. That means if you need to call for backup with your radio or cell, they need to be on the opposite side of your body from your weapon.

Don't think this is important? Clear, check, and double-check your weapon. Try covering down in a safe direction. Next, reach over with your support hand and draw your cell phone from the same side your weapon is holstered on. Not so easy, is it? Now think about having to do it under the physiological and psychological stresses of a gunfight.

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If you have to shoot or hold someone at gunpoint, what's the next thing you'll have to do? Call somebody. Conclusion? You always need to put your cell, knife and backup on your off-weapon side.

I know what comes next. Some readers will write that they will simply switch hands. After all, don't many law enforcement courses of fire and qualification actually teach and require switching hands?

Yes, you are right. Any responsible gunfighting school teaches switching hands. But real life is not sound bites. Switching gun hands is taught because the natural phenomenon of tunnel vision, which often occurs in gunfights, results in the shooter's vision focusing and enlarging on the threat, that is the gun barrel of the enemy. Thus shots tend to cluster around the threat of the gun barrel, which means they often strike the gun hand or gun, requiring the shooter to switch from his wounded hand to his good hand to continue the fight. This is why switching firing hands is taught.

"So there," says the armchair gunman, "I'll just switch hands." Actually, you may not be able to do so. Another phenomenon often observed in gunfights is adrenal lock. During a life and death crisis, your hand will not release what is in it, especially if it is the weapon you believe will save your life. But it doesn't have to be a life-saving tool. It could be just a little plastic card.

The cruiser camera of a Texas constable who stopped a carload of drug smugglers tragically recorded the most famous example of this phenomenon, as the lone officer was overwhelmed and murdered by the dopers. Through it all, the constable was never able to draw his sidearm because his

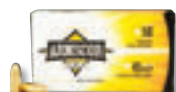


Calling 911 with weak hand.

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hand was locked on the smuggler's driver's license. The last thing the dooper scum did after he murdered the officer with his own weapon was to rip his driver's license from the officer's still-warm hand.

That brings us back to off-hand access. What if you have to execute a PIT or are involved in a road-rage car accident and need to draw your weapon while still controlling the vehicle? How about cutting your way free of a stuck seat belt, rappel line, or fast rope while still controlling your M4?

Next time you're in your vehicle, try reaching across to unlock the seat belt with your weak hand. Difficult at best, isn't it? Try doing it after a crash with weapon drawn. Make it easier by placing your folding blade off side as well, so you can slice your way out of the seat belt.

All these scenarios are ones I have either experienced firsthand or been told directly by cops or soldiers. Add to this the fact that every night, thousands of officers begin interviews on countless car stops with flashlights in their weak hands, and the reality is clear: weak-hand tactics are vital to winning the fight. ☺

*Jeff Prather is a former DEA Special Agent, Firearms Instructor and Snowcap Operator. He also served with 7th Special Forces and the DIA. He founded Warriorschool, a defense contracting company that specializes in tactical training for discreet government agency teams and special DoD units. Contact him at [info@warriorschool.com](mailto:info@warriorschool.com).*



Keep a carry blade on your off-hand side so you can cut yourself free of a seat belt if necessary.



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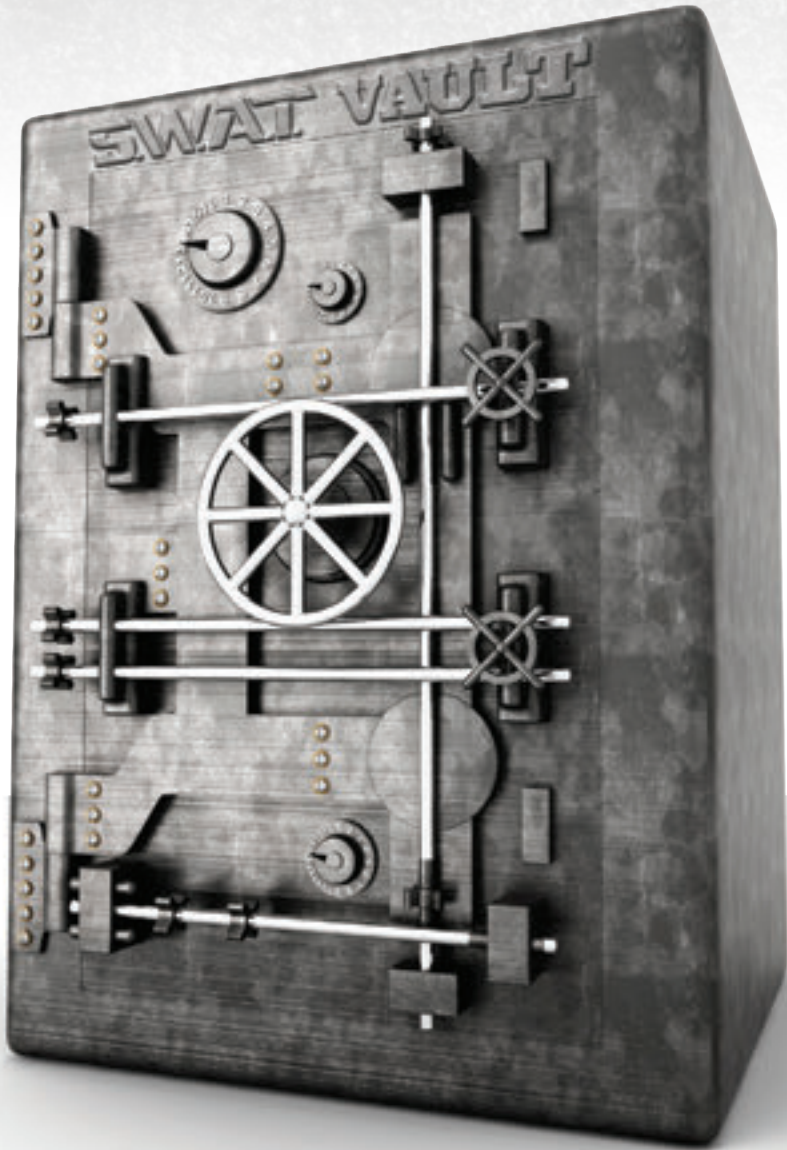
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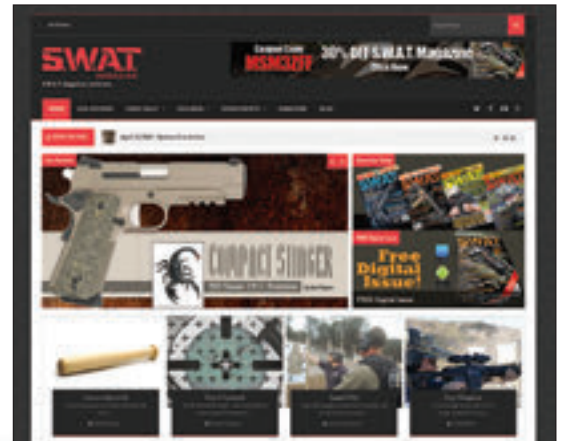
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## IOR Valdada Pitbull 2

Since the introduction of the excellent .308 AR rifles that are available today, I've started choosing optical sights for my rifles to be slightly more mission-specific than in the past. Now I normally pick optics for 7.62x51mm rifles that allow me to reach at least 500 yards while retaining the capability to engage at 50 yards or less.

For 5.56x45mm carbines, I choose optical sights that allow me to use them for CQC at 25 yards or less, but let me reach out effectively to at least 300 yards. In many cases, the optics work well at longer distances, but that is not my primary criterion.

One of my favorite M4 optical sights for the last few years has been the IOR Valdada Pitbull. I've had it on a Colt M4 since I first tested it and have often used that carbine as the one I throw in my truck.

Recently I was looking at IOR's website and noticed there is a new version of the same basic scope designated the Pitbull 2, which is a 1-6X30mm. I liked

the idea of the same type of scope I'd been using, but with more "X" for use at longer ranges.

The Pitbull 2 is not a variable power in the sense that it offers magnifications between 1X and 6X. In normal scenarios, the optic will be set on 1X for CQC. However, should a target at longer range appear, a quick ¼ turn of the magnification lever switches the optic to 6X. I find the system quite satisfactory.

One change that will appeal to some shooters is in the Pitbull 2's tube, which is now 30mm instead of 35mm as with the 1-4 Pitbull, as it is easier to find rings for.

The reticle on my Pitbull 2 is the CQB-PK2, which I find perfect for my needs. The circle/dot allows very fast engagement at closer range. I also find the circle/dot allows fast head shots at 100 yards, as the circle pretty much encompasses the head.

Three thick black bars that lead the eye to the circle/dot are another aid to quick target acquisition. The scope is



Author on the range with compact Pitbull 2.

designed to be zeroed at 100 yards. The post with stadia lines is marked in mils to allow adjustment of point of aim for distances, lead on moving targets, or ranging. Adjustment for elevation may be made with the elevation dial, but I normally just use the stadia lines/cross-bars to 300 yards.

The center dot is 0.1 mil and the circle 2 mils. Adjustments of elevation and windage are in 0.1 mil increments. For ease of making adjustments, I've



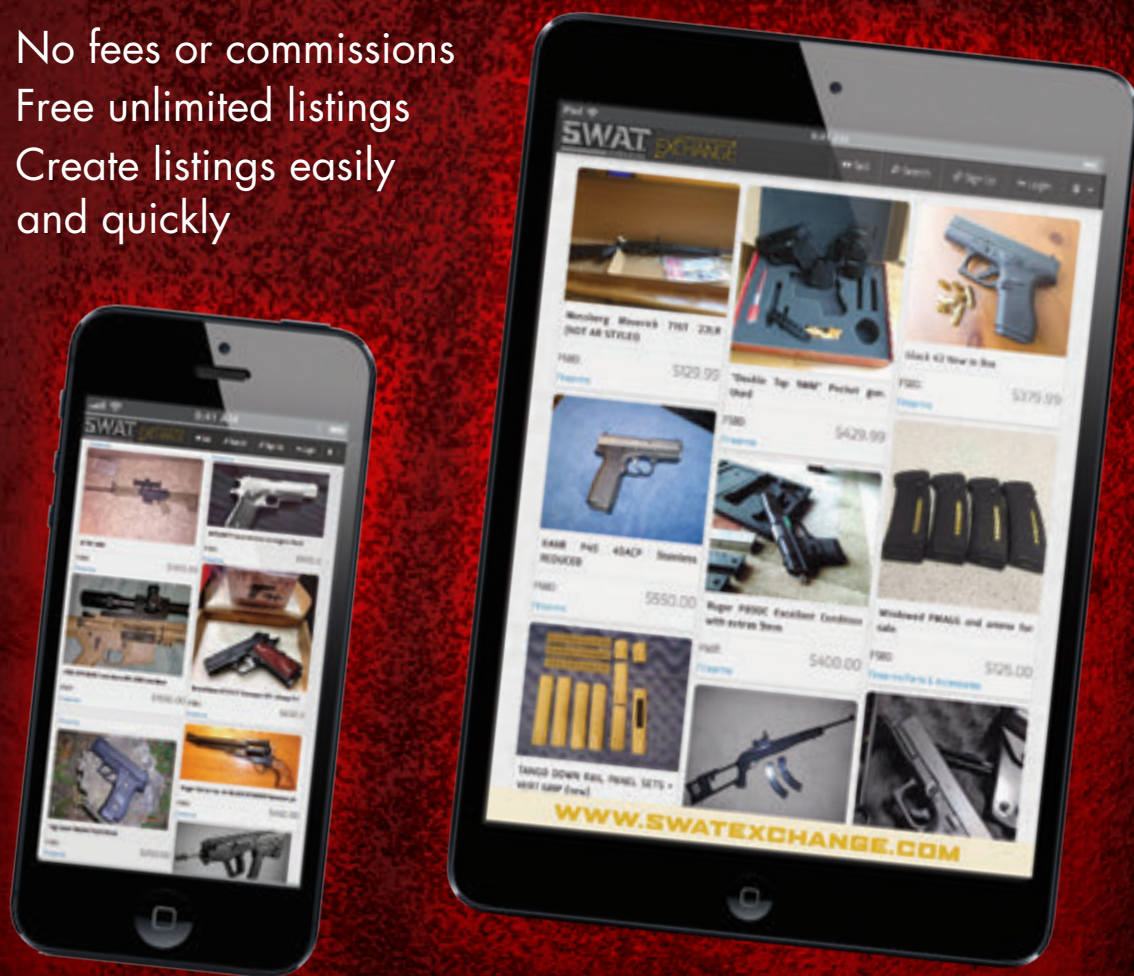
Right side of Pitbull 2 shows its large, quick-operating dials.



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Top of Pitbull 2 with magnification set at 6X with clearly marked adjustments.

learned that 0.1 mil equals about .25 inch. Based on zeroing the Pitbull 2 at 100 yards, adjustments are precise.

IOR also offers the CQB PK-2 reticle, which is less complicated and incorporates a half circle with the dot and fewer stadia lines. Both reticles are illuminated. For patrolling or CQC, I suggest having the red dot turned on and the magnification set on 1X. This allows very fast engagement on targets to 50 yards.

The Pitbull 2 incorporates various features that enhance the quality of

IOR scopes. It is designed to operate in temperatures between -40 and +140 degrees Fahrenheit and resist high humidity and rain. It is sealed to be airtight and filled with nitrogen/argon.

I haven't tested any of my IOR scopes in extreme weather conditions, but I have used them in temperatures between about +20 and +100 F and in very high St. Louis humidity. They performed fine.

The reticles are photo engraved on the glass. On high-quality scopes, the glass coating is very important: IOR

MC-7 Wide Band Multicoat is used on the Pitbull 2 and does a great job eliminating glare and transmitting light.

On 1X setting, the field of view for the Pitbull 2 is 132 feet, and 31 feet on 6X. The scope is well designed. On 1X setting, the user can scan very well when searching for targets.

The scope is also compact, which I consider important on an M4 scope. As mentioned previously, tube diameter is 30mm. Overall length is eight inches, and weight is 20 ounces.

As ammunition has become more



Left side of Pitbull 2. Dial under elevation turret adjusts brightness of red dot.



expensive, I sometimes fire fewer rounds than I did in the past when testing rifles or scopes, but I really wanted to try the Pitbull 2 in various situations from 25 to 200 yards, so I fired 160 rounds. If I remember correctly, 120 were of Federal overrun SS109 and 40 of Lake City overrun M193. As many readers know, military SS109 is not known for accuracy, while military M193 is usually more accurate. That proved to be the case with my testing—the size of any groups fired with SS109 ammo should not reflect on the Pitbull 2.

For example, with Federal SS109 at 100 yards, three-shot groups were usually in the 2.5- to 3.5-inch range. That's what I've found the norm with this ammo in various rifles and carbines. Most three-shot groups with the M193 are normally in the 1.5-inch range.

In all cases, the Pitbull 2 probably tightened the groups because the reticle is so good. The combo of the circle/dot lets me acquire a target very quickly and shoot accurately. For more precise shooting, if the rifle is correctly zeroed, the red dot works well.

The circle/dot was especially good when taking head shots at hostage-taker or silhouette targets at 100 yards. The circle normally surrounded the "head" of the hostage taker, allowing an accurate shot. If I had time, I could move the dot so it was centered on the eye/nose triangle, as I was trained, or on the top lip, as others have probably been trained.

I also tried some drills shooting at a 25-yard plate using the 1X setting, then quickly shifting to 6X to take a 100-yard target. Having the red dot illuminated even in daylight was advantageous.

The weight of the Pitbull 2 is low enough and it mounts low enough that I did not find it adversely affected the balance or handiness of my carbine. The fact that I had been using the 1:4 Pitbull scope, which is only four ounces lighter, meant there was little transitioning for me in the feel of the carbine.

I use a couple of other IOR scopes and like them a lot, but the Pitbull has been my favorite since I first tried it. This is even more the case with the Pitbull 2. ©

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# *A Classic* REDEFINED

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Wilson Combat Tactical Carry was reliable out of the case and never missed a beat.



BY DENNY HANSEN

PHOTOS BY ROBBIE BARRKMAN

*My* experience with John Moses Browning's 1911 spans four decades, and it remains my primary carry pistol(s). I have tried many other designs over the years, but putting a 1911 in my hand is analogous to sleeping in my own bed after a long road trip—it just feels right.

One reason many people like the 1911 so much is the trigger. On a double-action design, the trigger is like pulling a lever. With the 1911, it's more like pushing a button. The 1911 has been chambered in 9mm Luger (9×19mm Parabellum, 9mm NATO), .38 Super, 10mm Auto and others including, of course, the venerable .45 ACP.

I'm not going to get into a caliber debate, as that dead horse doesn't need to be flogged any more. Suffice to say that an increasing number of folks, including some world-class instructors, have come out in favor of the 9mm. The days of quaint sayings like, "They all fall to hardball," "I carry a .45 because they don't make a .46," and "9mms might expand, but .45s never shrink" are all but gone.

With advancements in bullet/cartridge design, the 9mm is now considered by many to be the equal of larger calibers. The 9mm has low recoil, which translates to faster follow-up shots on target. With many of the new bullet designs, the 9mm will not only expand, but also penetrate deeply. Finally, the cost of 9mm is often lower than some cartridges, allowing for more money for practice or training.

Bill Wilson of Wilson Combat contacted me recently and said that after a lot of R&D and thousands of rounds downrange, Wilson Combat was ready to introduce their new Elite Tactical ten-round 9mm magazine for 1911s. Bill asked if I would like a couple to evaluate for S.W.A.T.

I told Bill that, while I would like to, I didn't have a 1911 chambered for 9mm. A few days later, the nice man in the Big Brown Truck delivered a Wilson Tactical Carry, along with four of the new magazines.

The pistol arrived in a very usable nylon briefcase-type bag that doubles as a range bag. It has a zippered main compartment and two smaller zippered pockets on the front. On



the bag are individual pockets for seven magazines with a Velcro® flap closure.

While the pistol was still pristine, I sent it to Robbie Barrkman of The ROBAR Companies for photos. In the interim I began assembling a wide range of 9mm ammo from different manufacturers to evaluate the pistol and magazines.

## WILSON COMBAT TACTICAL CARRY

Wilson Combat has been one of the premier manufacturers and custom shops for years. Considered by some to be the

Holy Grail of 1911s, Wilson pistols have graced the holsters of many top competitors and serious shooters. Even if a different manufacturer's name is on the pistol, odds are good that the internals are Wilson's Bullet Proof® parts.

The Tactical Carry is loaded with features not found on production 1911s and include:

- Full-size carbon steel frame
- 30 lines-per-inch (LPI) high-cut checkered frontstrap
- Bullet Proof round butt magazine well
- Concealment Bullet Proof beavertail grip safety and hammer
- Tactical Bullet Proof thumb safety
- 3½ to 3¾ pound crisp trigger pull with medium-length pad
- Bullet Proof magazine release
- G10 Starburst stocks
- Torx head stock screws
- Countersunk slide stop
- Five-inch carbon steel slide
- Heavy machine chamfer on bottom of slide
- Battlesight with fiber-optic front sight
- Five-inch stainless match-grade barrel and bushing, flush-cut reverse crown
- Fluted chamber
- 30 LPI slide top serrations
- 40 LPI serrated rear of slide
- Carry cuts/ball endmill cuts

Between the G10 Starburst stocks and the 30 LPI checkering on the front and back straps, once a firing grip is obtained, it stays in place. I personally prefer straight slot screws to the Torx head screws that attach the stocks, as a tool to remove or tighten them is always available, but this is a minor gripe.

A small groove on the left-hand stock panel matches up with the Bullet Proof® magazine release, which is slightly extended, but not so much that it can be inadvertently released. Between the groove on the stock panel and the magazine release, the magazine can be released without flipping the pistol in the hand to release it, as is common with many pistols.

On most 1911 pistols, the ledge on the slide lock/slide release slopes downward, and even though serrated, it can sometimes be difficult to release or the shooter's thumb will slip off it. The Bullet Proof slide release is a straight ledge, which translates to more leverage even when wearing gloves. The Battlesight rear sight deserves special mention. The notch is "U" shaped and, for me at least, easy to obtain a fast sight picture with. About midway down the body of the rear sight is a step that allows one-handed manipulation of the slide by hooking it on the holster, a belt, boot heel, etc. The rear sight has 40 LPI serrations that match the serrations on the rear of the slide. My aging eyes really appreciated the fiber optic front sight, as it was easy to pick up in almost all light conditions.

The muzzle of the five-inch stainless match-grade barrel features a flush-cut reverse crown. The barrel bushing was tight against the barrel but did not require a bushing wrench to remove, as it should be on a carry pistol.

The pistol was tightly fit and exhibited no wobble or play in the slide. The seamless fitting of the parts speaks of the



Above: Match-grade barrel and bushing are flush cut with reverse crown.

Below: Rear sight has a "U" shaped notch. Rear of slide and sight feature 40 LPI serrations to reduce glare.







Above: Chamber is fluted to reduce overall weight.

Right: Thirty lines-per-inch checkering on the front strap allows a firm, sure grip. High cut on frame lets shooter get a higher grip to aid in recoil control.

Below: Straight ledge of Bullet Proof slide release is easier to manipulate than those with a downward angle.







Carry package includes complete bevel/dehorn. There were no sharp edges to abrade flesh or clothing.

handwork that went into building it. The Tactical Carry is completely devoid of sharp edges to abrade clothing or flesh.

## BREAK-IN PERIOD

I have one 1911 from a respected, well-known gunsmith who warned me not to carry the pistol until it had fired several hundred rounds to “break it in,” and indeed it was so tight

it would not function until I had fired about 250 rounds through it.

I’ll never forget a conversation I had years ago with Louis Awerbuck when I mentioned that a pistol I was evaluating had worked perfectly out of the box and went about 500 rounds with no break-in.

Unimpressed, Louis said, “They’re supposed to, Hansen.” He continued, “If you bought a new truck and it would only start nine out of ten times, would you accept the dealer’s statement that ‘It needs to break in,’ or would you demand they fix it?”

While I agree with Louis’ wisdom, I still recommend firing at least 200 rounds through a new carry pistol to ensure it will work with *your* defensive load of choice.

## » SPECIFICATIONS

### WILSON COMBAT TACTICAL CARRY

MANUFACTURER	Wilson Combat
MODEL	Tactical Carry
CALIBER	9mm Luger (9×19mm Parabellum, 9mm NATO)
CAPACITY	10 + 1
BARREL LENGTH	5 inches
OVERALL LENGTH	8.7 inches
HEIGHT	5.6 inches
WIDTH	1.3 inches
WEIGHT (empty)	37.8 ounces
FRONT SIGHT	Fiber optic
REAR SIGHT	Battlesight
SPECIAL FEATURES	Numerous, see text
PRICE	\$3,750.00



Elite Tactical ten-round 9mm magazines were flawless in all respects.

## HOME ON THE RANGE

The pistol arrived properly lubricated, and I did not add any additional lube throughout the evaluation. I brought 23 9mm loads from 11 manufacturers plus a handload to my range. Getting a pistol to run with round-nose ammo is normally a piece of cake, so all but seven loads were various hollow points.

First I established the average velocity of ten-round strings of each load using a PACT, Inc Professional XP chronograph.





**Bullet Proof round-butt magazine well is perfectly fitted and reduces “printing” when carried concealed.**



**Fiber-optic front sight is easy to pick up under almost all light conditions. Top of slide features 30 LPI serrations.**

To avoid false readings from muzzle blast, the first screen was set eight feet from the muzzle. While chronographing, I was impressed by the crisp, clean trigger pull that, according to my gauge, broke consistently at 3.4 pounds.

The Tactical Carry easily digested every load with no problems—a tribute to the pistol as well as the new ten-round magazines. The fully loaded magazines locked in place easily without having to “spank” the baseplate with the slide forward, which can’t be said for all magazines and is the cause of some malfunctions.

All loads shot into one to two inches from the bench at 25 yards and a few under an inch (five-shot strings). The top performer was the Double Tap 115-grain Bonded Defense JHP at .89 inch, with the Black Hills 124-grain JHP and HPR 124-grain JHP coming in a close second and third at .93 and .98 respectively.

**» Continued on page 86**



**Bullet Proof magazine release extends slightly more than standard release, but not so much that shooter will accidentally depress it. G-10 grip panel is relieved. Between that and the higher magazine release, magazine can be released without changing the firing grip.**

## » AMMUNITION PERFORMANCE

BRAND	LOAD	VELOCITY (feet-per-second)
Aguila	124-gr. FMJ	1,092.4
ASYM	115-gr. TAC-XP +P	1,261.8
Black Hills	115-gr. FMJ	1,122.0
Black Hills	115-gr. JHP-EXP	1,298.5
Black Hills	115-gr. TAC-XP +P	1,199.5
Black Hills	124-gr. JHP	1,199.9
Black Hills	147-gr. FMJ (subsonic)	1,011.2
Colt	115-gr. SCHP	1,109.8
Double Tap	115-gr. FMJ (Training)	1,213.7
Double Tap	115-gr. Bonded Defense JHP	1,381.7
Double Tap	124-gr. Bonded Defense JHP	1,340.1
Federal	147-gr. Hydra-Shok JHP	981.4
Hornady	115-gr. FTX JHP	1,125.6
Hornady	147-gr. FTX JHP	1,011.8
Hornady	147-gr. TAP FPD JHP	1,024.5
HPR	85-gr. OTF Black Ops	1,308.3
HPR	115-gr. JHP	1,153.5
HPR	115-gr. TMJ	1,117.7
HPR	124-gr. JHP	1,011.6
Liberty	50-gr. JHP	2,119.3
SIG Sauer	115-gr. FMJ	1,294.6
SIG Sauer	115-gr. V-Crown JHP	1,273.1
Winchester	147-gr. FMJ (Training)	986.5
Handload	125-gr. LRN	1,830.8



# SWAT

# SWEEPSTAKES

## WIN THIS!

# WILSON COMBAT RECON SR TACTICAL



The .300 Whisper cartridge—known by its SAAMI designation .300 AAC Blackout or simply .300 BLK—was initially developed as a wildcat cartridge by J.D. Jones. It has become one of the most talked about—and popular—cartridges in years.

**TOTAL  
VALUE  
OVER  
\$3,300!**

## RECON SR TACTICAL

The Recon SR (Suppressor Ready) is the ideal package for a tactical shooter who wants the shortest possible suppressed AR-15 rifle that isn't classified as an NFA registered weapon. Chambered for .300 BLK, the Recon SR has an extra-long 14.0-inch TRIM rail for a seamless mating to the Whisper Suppressor and extra real estate for your preferred rail-mounted accessories.

The Recon SR has a 14.7-inch medium weight barrel that is ideal for a high rate of fire and features a permanently mounted

Rapid Thread attachment that attaches to the Wilson Combat Whisper Suppressor.

A permanently attached Accu-Tac flash hider is available for locales where owning a suppressor is not an option, and a California-compliant version is available. The rifle has a Bravo Company Manufacturing Pistol Grip and BCMGUNFIGHTER Charging Handle (Mod 4), and an Armor-Tuff® finish over a milspec hard-anodized finish on the upper and lower receivers.



## SWFA SS 1-4X24

The new SS 1-4X24 from SWFA uses an Illuminated Mil-Quad DM reticle in the second focal plane. This gives you better target acquisition in CQB scenarios while maintaining the ability to range and provide aiming points at max power.

The new Illuminated Mil-Quad DM Reticle utilizes a mil-based reticle and has the ability to provide the shooter with accurate target distances using the built-in target ranging references. These can range various objects in various sizes, including anything 72, 36, or 24 inches tall, as well as any object 18 inches wide.

The exposed knobs have .1 mil adjustments per click and 5 mils per revolution. The power ring comes threaded for three different size throw levers: 5, 10 and 15mm, which are included and give you the ability to rapidly zoom in and out.



## TAC SHIELD HEAVY DUTY BI-POD

The winner also receives a Military Products/Tac Shield precision-engineered heavy-duty bipod for a steady rest. High-grade aluminum components are matched with a tough and durable matte finish, ensuring a lifetime of shooting performance and protection for serious shooters.

Tac Shield Pivoting Bi-Pods offer side-to-side pivot capabilities for uneven terrain with a quick-adjustment pivot lever. The precision leg locks ensure secure variable-length adjustment for each leg, accommodating terrain or surface variations.



## GEMTECH AMMO

To feed the Recon, this Sweepstakes includes 150 rounds of 187-grain subsonic and 150 rounds of 125-grain supersonic ammunition. The 187-grain ammunition was created to give the quiet shooter an affordable and dependable training round. The polymer-tipped projectile provides excellent stopping power, making it a good predator and pest-control round.

The 125-grain round is designed to crush the toughest, wildest beasts with absolutely awesome stopping power and superb precision. These 125-grain Nosler Ballistic Tip bullets give deep penetration with rapid expansion.



## SOURCES

### WILSON COMBAT

(800) 955-4856  
[www.wilsoncombat.com](http://www.wilsoncombat.com)

### GEMTECH

(208) 939-7222  
[www.gem-tech.com](http://www.gem-tech.com)

### MILITARY PRODUCTS, INC.

(910) 687-4695  
[www.tacshield.com](http://www.tacshield.com)

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# No Longer Just for Kids

## Strengths of the Humble .410

BY WILL DABBS, M.D.  
PHOTOS BY SARAH DABBS

**The** first time I shot one, it literally knocked me onto my butt. The august event was preserved for posterity via the miracle of silent Super 8 film. The gun in question belonged to my dad when he was a kid. It was a basic no-frills single-barrel .410 shotgun with an exposed hammer. It broke down into three pieces for cleaning and in its prime, the ejector would kick an empty shell out with such vigor it might land in the next state.

There's no telling how many poisonous snakes, rabbits, and game birds fell to that old shotgun. My dad, a manly man as ever there was, frequently carried the old .410 on hunting trips for doves and rabbits in lieu of his well-worn Belgium-made Browning Auto 5 12-bore. The small caliber and single-shot action enforced ammunition discipline and precision.

Now in the Information Age, we are awash in firearms purporting to be the optimized tools for

survival, personal defense, and self-sufficiency. Black rifles can carry 100 rounds onboard, shotguns can feed from tubes or drums that carry a dozen shells or more, and plastic handguns sport tritium sights, high-capacity magazines, and ambidextrous everything.

But despite all this newfangled hype, might an argument be made that the humble .410 still has something to offer that these other fancy modern shooters do not?

### CLASSY CHASSIS

There are lots of ways to touch off .410 shotgun shells these days. The Taurus Judge and its imitators can be formidable pieces of iron. But other options still bring some unique capabilities to the table.

Century International Arms imports a Chinese-made side-by-side .410 that is just cute as a button and inexpensive to boot. The gun is substantial enough to mitigate any recoil and comes equipped





**Above:** Once relegated to training neophyte shooters, humble .410 shotgun is now a viable self-defense tool thanks to some high-tech ammo and heightened legal scrutiny of “scary black guns.”

**Right:** Side-by-side .410 shotgun from Century is effective at moderate ranges when stoked with modern defensive loads.



**Below:** Chinese-made scattergun and Bond Arms Defender handgun are both chambered in .410 and launch a wide variety of utility and defensive loads.







Century side-by-side .410 shotgun employs dual exposed rebounding hammers. They will only contact the firing pins when the triggers are pulled, so the gun will not discharge if dropped or struck on the hammers.



Dual extractors on Century side-by-side .410 shotgun lift fired hulls far enough to reach easily with a standard set of fingers. Sliding safety locks both triggers and resets each time action is opened.



with a nice pair of sling swivels.

The shotgun sports twin triggers and exposed rebounding hammers, which are blocked from contacting the firing pins unless the appropriate trigger is pulled. As a result, the gun will not go off accidentally if dropped or struck on the hammers themselves.

The action breaks open via the expected pivoting lever, and the gun comes equipped with extractors rather than ejectors. This means empty shells are lifted far enough to pluck out with your fingers, but are not kicked clear of the action automatically. The steel is beautifully blued and the wood is an aesthetically pleasing Chinese hardwood of some flavor.

I know what you're thinking. Compared to an AR-15 or a Glock, a side-by-side shotgun is hopelessly obsolete. In reality, the side-by-side shotgun remains utterly lethal yet doesn't frighten the natives quite as much as the aforementioned black tactical iron.

No less a firearms luminary than Vice President Joe Biden has recommended just such a firearm for home defense. If you don't know what I'm talking about, Google "Joe Biden self-defense gun recommendation"—and get ready for a chuckle.

The odd reality is that Uncle Joe, in his own sad, weird way, has a point. Americans these days are not as durable as previous generations were, and a side-by-side double doesn't scream

sinister in the eyes of the uninitiated as might something sporting a high-capacity magazine and a HoloSight.

Additionally, Doc Holliday successfully employed a side-by-side (although it was a 10 gauge) during the running gunfight at the OK Corral, and he fared just fine, thank you very much.

#### BOND ARMS DEFENDER

For more portable applications, the Bond Arms Defender sports impeccable quality and more options than Liberate's wardrobe. The Bond Arms gun is a modern rendition of the classic two-shot over-and-under Derringer. It sports 25 different caliber combinations, ranging from .22 Winchester Magnum all the way up to .410. Swapping between barrels requires an Allen wrench and 30 seconds. Carry options include a cool leather cross-draw rig that keeps the gun comfortable for long drives.

After sitting on an uncomfortable handgun for the past three decades, the Bond Arms Defender now insulates me from the world's pervasive human malevolence when I have to spend serious time behind the wheel.

The Bond Arms Defender also features a rebounding hammer for safety combined with a cam system that indexes from one barrel to the other each time the manual hammer is cocked. The single-action trigger is crisp and positive, and the sights are comprised of a fixed blade combined with a cor-



Some amazing things have been done to the classic 12 gauge, like the UTS-15 Tactical Shotgun on the upper step. No matter how you design it, physics dictates that a 12 bore will have snappy recoil and ammo will be heavy. In contrast, humble .410 is lightweight and low recoiling.

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**Payload of Winchester PDX1 Defender load. Available in both 2.5- and 3-inch versions, shorter load carries three copper-plated Defense Disks that fly flat-side forward as well as a cloud of plated BB shot.**

responding sighting groove.

To load or unload the gun, depress a spring-loaded lever and the barrels flip up and over. A manual extractor pushes spent rounds out far enough to remove them. Finishes include classic satin stainless and black crinkle coat, and the buyer has several grip options to choose from.

#### WHAT DO THEY EAT?

Here is where the classic .410 shotgun really earns its keep. Loadings for the .410 span the spectrum from pure sport to unadulterated defense, with a fair amount of overlap in between. Shotshells come in 2.5- and 3-inch lengths, with corresponding levels of authority downrange. Birdshot when launched through either will instantly send an inquisitive water moccasin to that Great Swamp in the Sky with comparable aplomb.

Buckshot packs an impressive wallop at reasonable ranges, and .410 slugs carry muzzle energy that is comparable to many magnum centerfire loadings. When wielded by neophyte hunters of both genders, these shells annually account for an impressive

number of Whitetails down here in the Deep South.

Winchester PDX1 Defender rounds are darkly fascinating. In .410, they are unique both in Winchester's venerable lineup as well as the marketplace in general. These close-range optimized self-defense loads push what the company calls Defense Disks along with a cloud of copper-plated BB shot.

These Defense Disks are designed to fly flat side forward and are intuitively hideous downrange. When launched against fluid-filled targets, the results are destructive. At across-the-room ranges, these variegated projectiles remain tight enough to be devastating even out of the stubby Bond Arms tubes.

#### PURE SHOOTING COMFORT

Anything launched through the Century side-by-side is simply a treat. Recoil is almost hypothetical. One of my favorite pastimes is to throw empty hulls into the air and obliterate them before they hit the ground with subsequent shots. The gun patterns beautifully, and its lightweight, fast-handling characteristics lend the gun to varied applications both indoors and out.

When stoked with birdshot, the Century double barrel will fill your cooking pot or cleanse your favorite fishing hole of venomous serpents. Number 4 shot will take turkeys if you are skilled enough to get that old tom in close. Back in the Dark Ages, my first gobbler fell to just such a combination. Drop in a brace of slugs or buckshot and, if you can narrow the range, that Whitetail buck is on your wall.

Winchester PDX1 loads put the salient benefits of a grenade launcher into your hands without unduly upsetting the neighbors.

The Bond Arms Defender is actually surprisingly comfortable on the range. Recoil forces are a function of the kinetic energy produced by a given load balanced against the surface area of the weapon interfacing with your anatomy. The Bond Arms gun has a nice fat grip that distributes recoil forces splendidly. You even retain the option of dropping a pair of .45 LC rounds into the pistol. Winchester makes some PDX1 defensive loads in this chambering as well.

#### MUSINGS

My personal collection of scary weap-





**Bond Arms Defender breaks open via spring-loaded release lever. Barrels rotate for easy loading or extraction. Defender's quality is self-evident throughout.**

ons is awash in 12-gauge shotguns. Most anything that can be done to the 12 bore has been done, and more than a few times I picked something up just because it looked so darn cool.

However, the dark side is that even the best-designed guns still recoil a lot, and a decent supply of 12-gauge ammunition is heavy no matter how you slice it. By contrast, the .410 is abso-

lutely dreamy from the shoulder and not altogether unpleasant in the Bond Arms pocket pistol. Yes, a transferable full-auto M4 or tricked-out 1911 with rail-mounted tactical light and sound suppressor are more efficient self-defense weapons. But good luck bagging a rabbit on the run with that .45 pistol.

Also, how do you think a grand jury full of soccer moms will react when

an anti-gun prosecutor holds up the "high-capacity assault rifle" you used to repeatedly ventilate the well-intentioned ex-con who was just climbing through a broken window to ask directions to the local Save the Whales charity fundraiser?

The .410 is not the be-all, end-all solution to your firearms needs. To be fair, neither is your tricked-out Tavor or SCAR. But in the right place and in the right hands, a relatively inoffensive .410 shotgun might be the best tool for certain applications, even if you do keep one of those high-tech heaters handy as well.

These two guns are as reliable as a pair of vice grip pliers and versatile to boot. Plus you can get into a pedestrian .410 setup for a fraction of the cost of most other high-end tactical iron. ©



**Bond Arms Defender rides in Bond Arms BAD cross-draw holster rig. Author has never seen a more comfortable carry solution for driving or riding in a car.**

## SOURCES

### BOND ARMS

(817) 573-4445  
www.bondarms.com

### CENTURY INTERNATIONAL ARMS, INC.

(800) 527-1252  
www.centuryarms.com

### WINCHESTER AMMUNITION

(615) 258-3340  
www.winchester.com



# PRACTICAL TACTICAL

## Ruger American Predator .308

BY ETHAN JOHNS



**THE** bolt-action rifle market is slowly shifting around us. Bolt rifles seem to be moving to two opposing ends: loss-leader cheapo guns and high-end, high-dollar beauties. Meanwhile the market remains hot for all things tactical.

Ruger, long known for providing performance at an attractive price point, has moved into the middle with its American rifles and recent .308 Win Predator model aimed at the tactical market.



Predator rifle is a trim 6.25 pounds without glass and still a very handy weight with the capable Leupold VX-6 2-12X on board.



# Ruger Predator is a variation of the American rifle with an 18-inch medium-weight threaded barrel in a special green stock.



Above: Muzzle is threaded 5/8x24 to accept common muzzle devices or suppressors. Cap protects threads in routine use.



Left: Rifle has detachable four-shot rotary magazine that latches in front and fits flush. Reloads are swift compared to many bolt gun designs.

## DETAILS

The 6.25-pound American Predator has a medium-weight 18-inch hammer-forged barrel free floated in a synthetic moss-green stock. The 1:10 twist barrel ends in a set of 5/8x24 threads protected by a thread cap to allow the rifle to accept common suppressors or muzzle devices.

The pistol grip is fairly shallow and capped by a red Sturm, Ruger eagle logo that accents it nicely. The length of pull is a great fit for the tall and long of reach for position use and a good length for folks of average build from prone or a

bench. I suspect it would be a tad long for the regular Joe in practical use.

The Marksman trigger has the now-familiar protruding safety and a comfortable, somewhat wide flat face. Whatever your favorite cliché about perfect triggers is probably applies here. Glass rod, icicle, candy cane—the trigger is noteworthy. This sample broke at just over three pounds with no overtravel and a great feel to it. I was recently behind some hand-built military sniper rifles and this trigger was five horse lengths better.

The Predator shares the short-action

detachable box magazine of the parent American rifle. The magazine itself is a unique rotary set-up not dissimilar to the 10/22 and holds four rounds of .308. There is a generous relief in the stock where the magazine release latch is located, which allows the shooter to easily get to the latch and “flick” the empty mag out.

The mag seats easily and flush with the stock, so the shooter can reload the rifle quickly by starting the mag into the stock and wiping the hand forward down the length of the magazine, clicking it in as the support hand slides





**Safety is tang mounted and well placed. Indicator under bolt shows bolt is cocked and ready.**

down the stock into position.

The safety on the American series is a tang-mounted slider, rearward to safe and forward to fire. It is a fast, ambidextrous arrangement that is preferable to much of the competition.

Another feature of the American series that the Predator benefits from is the bolt. The bolt has a 70-degree throw that easily clears most any scope with room to spare. Cocking is on the upstroke and is further split into two points of travel to reduce the force required. This results in a slightly unfam-



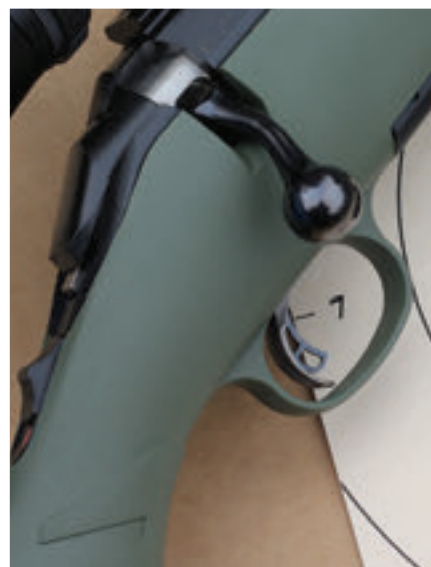
**Even though a light rifle, Predator's heavier barrel helps it settle onto target whether offhand or from a support such as this Shadow Tech PIG Saddle.**

iliar feel at first, but definitely eases the unlocking of the action.

The bolt travels along the short action very smoothly and locks with three lugs that are contoured in such a way that chambering and locking are very smooth. The action is pretty smooth by design and slicked up quickly in dry fire and use to a nice degree. The rear of the bolt has a cocking indicator that protrudes to show the rifle's status.

The Predator differs from the standard American in having a Picatinny-type rail mounted in place of the scope bases. I say type, because there are portions of the rail that have wider cross-sections to accommodate the necessary mounting screws, so QD mounts that are fine on a flat-top AR may not mount onto the Predator without adjustment.

I tried a couple of optics from my



**Marksman trigger on Predator rifle has a safety projecting forward from its wide face and is exceptionally crisp.**

ARs and they were usable but too high to work well. A shooter who likes a high mount could possibly add a lace-on cheek piece to the Ruger stock and swap optics between his ARs and the Predator, but I settled on medium rings.

The finish is a utility-oriented flat black. The overall finish and appear-

**Predator logged numerous groups under one MOA. Two of its preferred loads were Hornady 155-grain Steel Match BTHP (top) and Black Hills Gold 155-grain AMAX.**

## » 100-YARD PERFORMANCE

AMMO	BEST 3-SHOT GROUP (inches)
Black Hills Gold 155-gr. AMAX	.085
Black Hills 168-gr. BTHP	1.0
Hornady Custom Lite 125-gr. SST	1.28
Hornady Steel Match 155-gr. BTHP	1.0
Hornady 155-gr. TAP	1.06
Hornady 168-gr. AMAX	1.76
Winchester 147-gr. FMJ	2.0





**Ruger Predator above Steyr Scout Rifle for size comparison. Predator is a handy rifle that can take on numerous roles appropriate to its caliber.**



ance strike me as a bolt gun for the Glock crowd. The cost savings in the American line are partly attributable to the lack of metal polish, with the flat, weather-resistant finish practical and analogous to what one would normally find on an AR or a polymer service pistol.

But as much as the flat finish and visible mold lines on the stock might offend a pre '64 Winchester fan, I find the overall lines of the Predator attractive in the modern sense. It also has the "pretty is as it performs" factor, with the Predator having form that speaks to function.

This is in contrast to many of the loss-leader models, which seem engineered solely to be cheap to pump out and crudely resemble a useful tool for a rifleman.

#### **BULLET HOLES**

I was tempted to go with a lightweight low-power optic on the Ruger to take advantage of the rifle's trim weigh-in, but decided I wanted a little more versatility and range. I mounted a Leupold VX-6 2-12X optic on the Predator and was pleasantly surprised that the balance remained lively in the hands, with just enough weight out front to steady the rig on offhand shots.

The overall system weight and balance are an effective compromise: good in snap shots from positions as well as from supported on rests and barricades. The sporter profile of the stock isn't necessarily ideal for nestling into a support or sandbag, but it didn't prevent good shooting either.

On the other hand, many shooters who select heavy varmint or sniper-style stocks wind up fighting their equipment in any position other than a textbook prone or seated bench.

Mounted in a Shadow Tech PIG Saddle on a tripod, the Ruger shot well outside its price bracket at 100 yards. Best group honors went to the Black Hills Gold 155-grainers, which launched three shots into a .85-inch cluster. Hornady Steel Match 155-grain boat-tailed hollow points cut an even inch, as did Black Hills classic 168-grain Match load. Hornady law enforcement TAP 155s were close behind at 1.06 inches.

Accuracy was quite good and consistent with these loads, with *all* groups shot with the top four selections averaging 1.13 inches. I have a feeling that

as the barrel breaks in, the rifle will settle in even a little better on best groups and averages.

Recoil was there, but the stock is well laid out and capped with an absorbent pad, so it was in no way unpleasant. I tried the new Hornady Custom Lite 125-grain SST loading, which is meant to cut recoil by up to 40%. Pushing a rapidly expanding bullet at 2,675 feet-per-second, the Custom Lite was a great match to the relatively lightweight Ruger, cutting recoil and recovery significantly.

#### **DRILLS**

I am always interested in how fast a rifle will go in the "right there" bracket. I set up a target at seven yards and put the Predator on the timer. Average time to cycle the bolt and fire an additional round was 1.17 seconds. The action is slick and easily worked from the shoulder with no bobbles.

The attractive teardrop-shaped bolt handle was smallish for me, slightly slowing the otherwise fast action as I tried to get a good purchase at max speed. Whether anyone offers "tactical" bolt handle replacements for the Ruger American rifles will undoubtedly depend on how deeply they penetrate the market.

In shooting the rifle through a variety of drills, I found it easy to hit with. Whether four-inch Red Stitch Tactical steel targets from a barricade at 100 yards or attempting to make the times on 25-yard pairs from carbine quals, the Predator delivered.

The one scab to pick was that single loading the bolt gun was a non-starter. Attempts to drop a round into the open action and close the bolt were generally unsuccessful no matter how the rounds were oriented. The rounds need to be placed all the way in the chamber, which is tricky from the action without the aid of gravity. Luckily, the magazine is exceptionally easy to reload by bolt gun standards, so single loading is probably a poor alternative anyway.

» Continued on page 86

## **LEUPOLD VX-6 2-12X**

Largely overshadowed by the 1-6X and 3-18X tactical models, the 2-12X is the sleeper in the Leupold VX-6 lineup. The two power magnification on the low end is a true 2X, beating most traditional hunting and tactical variables, which tend toward 2.5 to 3X on the low end. The difference gives the shooter an impressive field of view and gentle magnification that lets the scope perform in traditional iron sight/brush gun country. The fire dot illumination speeds the reticle even further and works in conjunction with a generous eye relief to get the rifle on target fast up close.

The high end is powerful at 12X, keeping in mind that 9-10X has been the high end on decades of .308 class hunting and sniper rifles. At 12 power, the VX-6 is well matched to stretching the .30 caliber out to its far end, but the optic remains relatively lightweight at 17.8 ounces. The 2-12X bracket seems to be a really useful magnification range, ideally suited to this class of light bolt rifle. Only slightly heavier than a low-power variable, the shooter gains a lot of "juice" to crank up for observation or a well-supported long shot while keeping a viable low end for snap shots.

The 2-12X is available with the Custom Dial System to allow a shooter to match the turret to a specific load and dial on elevation. The reticle has subtensions on the lower post to use holds out to about 500 yards.



A man in a military-style uniform, including a green long-sleeved shirt, camouflage pants, and a tactical belt, is shown in a Weaver stance. He is holding a handgun with both hands, aiming it forward. He is wearing sunglasses and has a focused expression. The background is a field of tall grass and brush.

Overall view of shooter  
in Weaver stance.

# THE WEAVER STANCE

**Combating the  
Misinformation**

BY BRENT T. WHEAT



**THE** Weaver stance is well-known, acknowledged as revolutionary, and quick to draw sidelong glances from more than a few people on the firing line lately. In fact, a surefire way to start a heated argument is to debate the merits of the Weaver versus the “Isosceles” or other shooting positions. Start such a discussion on an internet forum and you’ll spend the next three weeks listening to unsolicited vitriol from countless anonymous “operators.”

In certain circles, the Weaver stance is considered old-fashioned, impractical, and as desirable as a week-old donut. During the past 50 years, the stance has gone from being hailed as radical and state-of-the-art to the point where it is seen by some as a fading old-school technique embraced primarily by members of the “Southwest Dinosaur League.”

The Weaver stance has become polarizing, but how much of the bad rap is based on fact and real-world experience? Rather than subscribing to internet hype, YouTube commandos, and gun store gossip, shooters might benefit from taking a second and more factual look at the venerable technique.

### **HISTORY OF THE WEAVER**

The Weaver stance was first developed by Los Angeles County Deputy Sheriff Jack Weaver in the late 1950s. A rangemaster and competitive shooter, Weaver used this self-discovered technique to regularly dominate the southern California pistol matches that were the forerunner to IPSC. During these matches, he caught the eye of Lt. Col. Jeff Cooper, who immediately saw the benefits of this revolutionary shooting position and began calling the technique the “Weaver stance” in his writings for *Guns & Ammo Magazine*.

When Cooper developed his own doctrine, known as “The Modern Technique of the Pistol,” the Weaver stance was one of

the four integral components (the others being the Flash Sight Picture, Compressed Surprise Break, and Heavy Duty Pistol). It was soon a foundational part of instruction at the American Pistol Institute, now known as Gunsite Academy, Inc.

The history, practice, and opinion of the Weaver stance are inexorably tied to Lt. Col. Cooper. He was a primary and unapologetic promoter of the “Classic Weaver stance,” as he called it, but unfortunately, over the years people have given the technique a reputation for being many things it isn’t.

### **WHAT IT IS**

The Weaver stance is a two-handed shooting position in which the shooter places the firing-side foot slightly rearward and the non-firing-side foot slightly forward toward the target. The firing-side arm is extended straight or nearly so, while the support arm is bent and the elbow pointed downward. This allows the shooter a stable yet mobile lower-body position while employing a “push-pull” dynamic tension with the arms to better control recoil.

The benefits of the Weaver are many. It is quite stable in all dimensions yet allows quick movement, especially toward the target. Moreover, it requires a bit less upper body strength to hold up the weapon and as stated above, is quite effective for managing recoil in multiple-shot situations.

### **MISCONCEPTIONS**

But the position has been taught in many variations by various instructors, not all of them accurate to the vision of Weaver or Cooper. It is not uncommon to hear that shooters must “lock out the strong-side elbow” or that the support elbow must be “bent 90 degrees.”

Furthermore, some insist that the shooter’s upper body



Shooter’s upper body in Weaver stance.



Proper foot positioning: support-side foot dropped back four to six inches, toes pointed toward target.



be dramatically bladed toward the target, often beyond 45 degrees. Some even claim that to develop a proper Weaver stance, the shooter should visualize himself on a skateboard in front of the target. None of this is true, according to men who still teach the same shooting position at Gunsite, the veritable and venerable “mothership” of The Modern Technique.

Ken Campbell, Chief Operating Officer at Gunsite, believes much of the misinformation starts with people who have never been to “the ranch,” as it’s known. “I think much of that comes from people who have never even been here and are speaking of things they haven’t experienced. Once that starts, it’s like the old campfire game where you tell someone a story and then it gets repeated around the circle until the last person finally says it out loud. The result is usually not even close to the original story,” he pointed out.

Dave Starin, Director of Training at Gunsite, agrees. “It’s so misunderstood,” he said. “I’ve seen a million versions. I’ve seen a lot of instructors with their own interpretations. If you come to Gunsite, we’ll teach you a Weaver stance based on having that [strong-side] leg dropped back a little bit and that push-pull. Otherwise, it’s just a balanced fighting stance. That’s what people don’t understand.”

Campbell agrees, noting, “It’s simply a solid fighting stance that has been used for centuries and works effectively for multiple weapon systems and all body shapes, sizes, and conditions.”

#### HOW GUNSITE TEACHES THE WEAVER TODAY

Anyone spending time at the ranch quickly learns that the reputed inflexible and rigid approach to The Modern Technique is so much hot air. Instructors, while insistent that stu-

dents attempt the principles laid out by Cooper, also understand that a “one size fits all” approach doesn’t work.

“You can have a textbook version of the Weaver in your mind, about how your elbow should be bent, pointing straight down at the ground, but that’s not possible for everybody,” Starin said. “Body type, size, injuries, body armor—all those things come into play. Not everybody’s elbow is going to be in the exact same position. We’re not going to come by [on the firing line] and make it look a certain way. You’re not supposed to be a mirror image of somebody else. It’s supposed to adapt to *your* body type and abilities,” he noted.

The Weaver stance starts from the ground up, according to Starin: “You’ve got both feet pointing toward your target or threat area. Your hips are square, your shoulders are square. We do drop the strong-side leg back. We like it dropped back four to six inches from being on the same line as the lead foot and a little bit wider than your shoulders. That puts you in a good fighting stance. You are balanced. That’s the number one thing—you have to get that.”

Worth noting is Starin’s emphasis on squaring the hips and shoulders. Many detractors claim the Weaver stance angles the upper body so the arm hole of body armor is more exposed to incoming fire, increasing the likelihood of a lethal through-and-through shot laterally through the upper chest. In reality, as taught by Gunsite, the upper body of the shooter is only slightly angled, mainly to facilitate bending the support elbow.

“Most people think it’s a bladed stance, that you turn your gun side back away from the target and stand with your support side forward. That’s not correct,” he said. The bent support elbow is a key to the Weaver, along with a more or less



Students in recent Gunsite Academy 250 Pistol class illustrate variety of body positions while using Weaver stance.





**Above:** Shooter's hands show good push-pull tension that is one important hallmark of Weaver stance.



**Inset:** Shooter's upper body with bent support-side arm and straight strong-side arm.

straight strong-side elbow. But as Starin explained, nothing is black and white.

"That strong-side arm, it has got to be pushed out, but not necessarily locked like some people think," he said. "It's not necessary to lock that elbow to get the push-pull that the Weaver is really about. To get a good *even* push-pull, you need just a little bit of bend [in the strong-side elbow]."

He then addressed the support-side arm: "This is a big thing to watch for, that the support-side elbow doesn't start rising up, something we call chicken wing. If the elbow is out at 90 degrees [parallel to the ground], it tends to pull the gun toward the support side."

This push-pull tension allows the shooter to control the gun during multiple shots. "You try to get that predictable, consistent recoil control and return to target," Starin said. "With the Weaver, we're trying to mitigate recoil and, when you have to get multiple rounds on the target, having that control is more effective."

#### **FIGHTING PLATFORM**

The Weaver stance also allows shooters with less upper-body strength to hold the gun in position for longer periods of time, such as when searching a building.

Beyond the shooting part of the equation, the Weaver stance really shines as a fighting platform, especially compared to the Isosceles shooting position. "The Isosceles is fine, but there are some things that I find work a little bit better with the Weaver. Mostly, having that back foot dropped a little bit allows me to move four ways directionally very well

and sets me up for more than just pressing the trigger. It sets me up to actually fight," Starin noted.

He continued, "It is a balanced fighting stance. That's what people don't understand. You can fight, you can punch, you can move, you can stop. All these things come into play when you have interpersonal violence. That's the biggest thing we give out—it's a *fighting* stance, not a shooting stance."

Campbell agreed, touching on the reputed hard-nosed ways of Cooper, whom Campbell trained under. "He preferred the Weaver stance but was much more focused on teaching you to fight effectively with the weapon. Gunsite continues to explain the advantages and virtues of the Weaver stance, but we don't chain your arms and legs into something you don't want to—or can't—do," he said.

#### **CONCLUSIONS**

In the end, the Weaver stance is more flexible and fluid than its detractors might (knowingly or unknowingly) admit. Properly performed, as taught by the figurative direct descendants of Cooper at Gunsite, it doesn't place the shooter at a dangerous angle to the target, nor does it require a body position that is uncomfortable, unsustainable, or just plain impractical.

It does put the shooter in a position to shoot multiple shots effectively and to move quickly—two key concepts of combat.

As Campbell noted, "Cooper found that the Weaver stance works better for more people, more often. He wanted you to learn how to fight, so that's what he taught." ◎



# CACHE IS KING

## Secret Stash for Hard Times

BY RICHARD DUARTE

**BY** most estimates, the majority of the population is utterly unprepared for even a small-scale crisis. This is obvious every time there's the threat of a natural or man-made disaster.

Once the last-minute panic starts, it's only a few short hours before the shelves of many local grocers, convenience stores, and even big-box retailers are completely stripped of all emergency supplies.

First to disappear are the basics: shelf-stable foods, bottled water, flashlights, batteries, etc. Gas stations fare no better, as panicked motorists wait in long lines desperately trying to fill their tanks. Likewise, if you are expecting to walk up to an ATM to withdraw some

cash quickly, you're in for a shock.

All this unnecessary craziness usually occurs at the last possible moment. The *prepared*, on the other hand, look at these spectacles in disbelief and amazement. Why? Because the prepared have a plan, supplies and usually place a significant emphasis on learning the skills that may one day help keep them alive.

But is that enough? If a crisis struck while you were away from home, or if you were somehow separated from your main supplies, what would you do? After so much careful planning and stockpiling, the unexpected loss of your primary source of supplies could put you at a major disadvantage.

If only you had stored supplies and

gear at alternate locations. Nothing elaborate, just some basic items to give you a fighting chance. Let's look at the many reasons why you should consider having a survival cache, or maybe more than one.

### WHAT'S A SURVIVAL CACHE?

A survival cache is a stock of supplies, gear, and other essential items that are discreetly and securely pre-staged in strategically advantageous locations for future retrieval and use. Consider it a higher level of pre-planning and forward thinking for those times when being prepared really matters.

The rationale goes like this. There are supplies that you may one day desperately need for your survival. Placing



Food storage buckets with lids make excellent inexpensive cache containers. Close off with a standard or easily removable lid.



Gamma Seal Lid fits any 3.5- to seven-gallon plastic bucket and provides an easy spin-on, spin-off way to seal and reseal your stash.





Steel ammo cans are very rugged and a good option for storage in dry conditions. They are usually airtight if seal is still good. Exposure to water and damp conditions may cause corrosion. Inspect seal on inside of lid.



Plastic ammo cans are lightweight, airtight and will not rust. Although not as strong as steel, they are still very useful for your cache plans.

these items in a container and hiding that container in a carefully considered, secure location for future retrieval will provide you with options when and where you need them most.

In essence, a survival cache is a sort of lifeline that you pre-position to give yourself an extra level of assistance when the situation around you goes to hell in a handbasket.

### **WHY YOU NEED A SURVIVAL CACHE**

Those of us who prepare take what we do very seriously. We do a considerable amount of research, calculate the risks, and explore our options. We formulate plans, test those plans, and then fine-tune our preparations as conditions change or when we see an opportunity for improvement.

We understand that knowledge and skills will always be more important than “stuff,” and we’re constantly looking for ways to expand our knowledge base. Finally, we stock up on the supplies we anticipate needing for survival. For many of us, a key part of our planning is the assumption that the majority of our supplies and gear will be available to us when we need them.

But imagine for a moment that all the supplies you have so thoughtfully accumulated were somehow lost or in-

accessible. You still have your knowledge and skills, since no one can take those away from you. But in all honesty, would your survival plan still be viable without those much-needed supplies?

Having a survival cache is one way to make sure you have a fallback position. At a moment of desperation, a well-positioned survival cache will seem like an oasis in the middle of a scorching desert. It’s not difficult to imagine all the reasons you may one day be very grateful to have a survival cache.

### **THE CACHE**

If you were somehow privy to future events and had the opportunity to leave yourself a care-package, what would you place in it, and where would you leave it? Every situation is different, and we should always take the time to carefully analyze our individual needs whenever we make preparations.

Yet there will always be a number of broad overlapping categories dictated by logic and reason. In just about every survival scenario, we need the survival basics: food, water, first aid and medical, security and self-defense, and sanitation and hygiene.

Although having the survival basics is great, thinking beyond the basics is even better. This means including a

reliable mode of transportation, fuel, communications, and shelter. All these items can be included in your planning and can also be cached. The idea is to anticipate your particular needs and pre-stage supplies and gear to address those needs.

### **CACHE CONTAINERS**

Many available options exist for cache containers. In fact, just about any container can be used to cache your supplies, as long as it’s appropriate for the circumstances and environment. If you bury your supplies in a plastic garbage bag in a moist environment, do not expect the contents to remain dry. Ideally, your cache container should be able to withstand moisture, temperature extremes, rodents, insects, and the elements. Here are some suggestions to get you started.

#### **■ PLASTIC FOOD STORAGE BUCKETS:**

These buckets are inexpensive, waterproof, durable, and readily available. If you’re lucky, you can get some for free from a local restaurant or grocer. Regardless of how you’re planning to use them, avoid buckets that previously held dangerous chemicals or toxic materials. Instead look for buckets that were used to store food products. Top off your buckets with airtight lids or a resealable Gamma lid. These practi-



cal two-part lids transform a standard plastic bucket into a resealable, airtight, watertight, heavy-duty storage container that will stand up to tremendous wear and tear. The Gamma lid will set you back about \$9. For an extra layer of protection, use a five-gallon Mylar® bag and heat seal it before closing the bucket. The five-gallon plastic bucket is one of the easiest and least expensive options.

■ **STEEL AMMO CANS:** These cans are extremely strong, airtight, watertight, and lockable. Incredibly robust, all-steel cans are available in different sizes and come fitted with a rubber seal to ensure the contents stay clean, dry and protected from the elements. A .50-caliber M2A1 can measures 12x6.0x7.5 inches and weighs just over 5 pounds. Long exposure in wet conditions may cause corrosion; otherwise they are a great option.

■ **PLASTIC AMMO CASES:** Somewhat similar to steel ammo cans but nowhere near as strong or durable. Plastic ammo cans are lightweight, won't rust, and the lid may have a rubber seal. But they won't stand up to much abuse and will probably not be airtight. Nonetheless, a sturdy plastic ammo case can be used to secure contents that have been sealed in a Mylar bag, since the plastic case just offers the Mylar bag an added layer of protection.

■ **MYLAR BAGS/OXYGEN BARRIER BAGS:** Mylar is a clear material made from polyester resin laminated to aluminum foil, creating a flexible tin can of sorts. The more layers of Mylar and aluminum foil, the stronger the bag. Mylar can be used to store food, important papers and documents, electronics, ammo, money, or just about anything you want to protect from light, moisture, and oxygen. I recommend a bag that is no less than 4.0 mil.

Once you have filled your bag, push out as much air as possible and seal it with a hair straightening iron. To store food, make sure to add an oxygen absorber before sealing the Mylar bag. Although Mylar bags are incredibly strong, they are not puncture proof. It's a good idea to place the sealed Mylar

bag inside a plastic or metal container.

■ **PVC PIPE CONTAINER:** A highly effective and practical survival cache can easily be made using a section of PVC pipe and fittings. Everything you need can be found at your local hardware store for under \$30.

■ **WATERPROOF LOKSAK BAGS:** Ultra durable, lightweight storage dry bags with waterproof closure seal, they come in various sizes and can be used to keep just about anything sealed up tight and protected from the elements. The transparent bags are flexible and puncture resistant. The big advantage with these bags over other sealable options is that they can be opened and resealed over and over again. Consider these bags for storing ammo, important documents, wallets, cell phones, or a small supply of energy food. LOKSAK bags are made in the USA by OPSAK.

### WHERE TO STORE YOUR CACHE

The location where you store your cache is just as important as the type of container used—and for many people, it can be a real challenge. In today's urban environment, there are few truly isolated places to hide anything.

And while a common misconception exists that a cache must be buried, nothing could be further from the truth. A cache must be well concealed, secure, protected from the elements and



Finished PVC container can be painted with a dark-color flat spray paint.

## PVC CACHE CONTAINER PARTS LIST

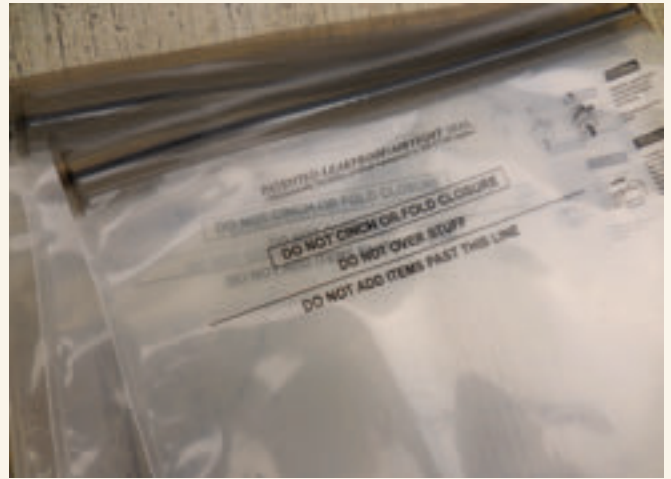
Simple watertight cache container can be easily made from PVC pipe. All individual pieces and parts are available at any home supply or hardware store. Total cost is under \$30.

- Two-foot section of four-inch diameter PVC pipe.
- Four-inch diameter PVC pipe cap.
- Four-inch diameter PVC pipe threaded clean-out plug.
- PVC pipe cleaner and cement.
- Dark color flat spray paint.

Pre-assemble all pieces to make sure they fit as intended. Lightly sand and wipe clean inside of PVC surfaces to be joined. Apply PVC cleaner and allow to dry. Next, apply PVC cement according to manufacturer's instructions and join individual pieces together one at a time. Do *not* apply any cement to the threads of the clean-out plug. Set aside to dry. Paint as desired.







Mylar bags come in different sizes to suit your particular needs, and can store almost anything you want to protect from the elements. When storing food items, don't forget to add an oxygen absorber before sealing the bag.

Made in the USA, LOKSAK waterproof bags offer resealable, reusable, flexible storage for just about anything you need to protect from the elements.

pests, accessible and strategically located, but it doesn't need to be buried to accomplish any of these objectives. Here are some suggestions.

■ **A FRIENDLY LOCATION:** This can be part of a reciprocal agreement to exchange cache containers with a trusted individual. The rationale is that two separate locations are unlikely to be affected by the same crisis at the same time. There is a good possibility that this alternate

location can also serve as a retreat location for you and yours. Make these arrangements well in advance with a reliable person, and update your cache periodically and as conditions change.

■ **IN PLAIN SIGHT:** Sometimes the best place to hide something is out in the open. Your cache can be disguised as something else. This deception allows you to effectively hide your supplies, yet maintains easy access and retrieval.

■ **AN ISOLATED AREA:** Look for areas that are not well traveled but still accessible.

This should give you a general idea of some places to hide your cache. Many possibilities exist; consider which work best for you and your situation. I have purposely avoided specific details so this article does not serve as a roadmap to people who would seek to defeat your hiding place.

Lastly, make sure to keep a detailed inventory of what's in your cache and where you left it. A cache is useless if you can't find it.

## WHAT TO PUT IN YOUR SURVIVAL CACHE

- **Self-Defense and Security:** Firearms, extra magazines, and ammunition.
- **Water:** Bottled water, compact filter, and water disinfection supplies.
- **Shelf-Stable Food:** MREs, dehydrated foods, and canned goods.
- **First Aid Kit:** Portable kit with a supply of the most used items.
- **Prescription Medication and Glasses:** Small supply of medication and a spare pair of prescription glasses.
- **Knife and Small Tools:** Conserve weight and space with multi-purpose items and a compact sharpener.
- **Extra Clothes:** Items suited to the environment and time of year.
- **Cash:** Small bills and some coins.
- **Light:** LED flashlight and extra batteries.
- **Fire:** Lighter, waterproof matches, and kindling.
- **Shelter:** Blankets, plastic tarp, rain poncho, duct tape, and 550 paracord.
- **Navigation:** Compass and map of expected travel area.
- **Communications:** Small hand-crank radio.
- **Important Papers:** Password-protected thumb drive with scanned copies of important legal and financial documents.
- **Fuel:** If possible and practical, a resupply of stabilized fuel for your transportation.

### WRAP UP

A well thought-out survival cache requires planning, time and effort, but the payoff can be huge. Analyze your needs and look for items that address those needs. Be imaginative and consider all available options for placement and retrieval. Stay safe and be prepared. ©

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

### SOURCES

**GAMMA2**  
[www.gamma2.net](http://www.gamma2.net)

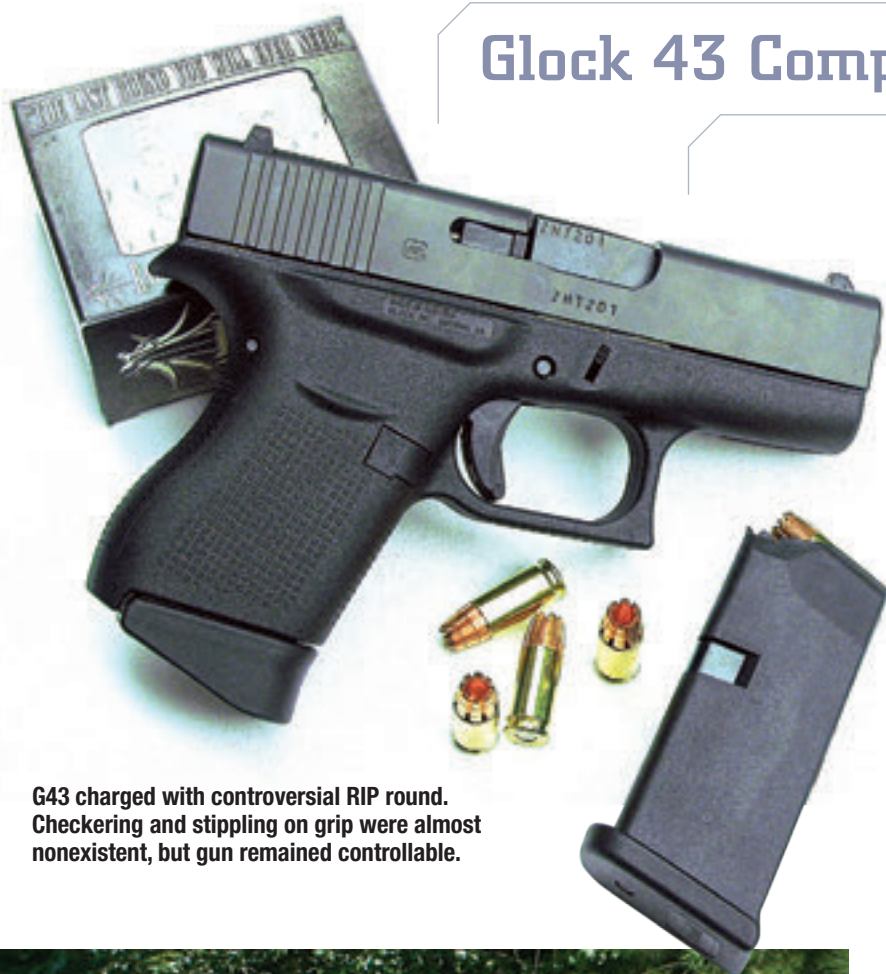
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# SLIMMED-DOWN CARRY PISTOL

## Glock 43 Compact

BY BOB PILGRIM



G43 charged with controversial RIP round. Checkering and stippling on grip were almost nonexistent, but gun remained controllable.

Nowhere else has the public's desire for a highly concealable handgun in a serious caliber been more evident than with the long-awaited 9x19mm Glock 43 (G43) pistol. Even though the Glock 42 filled a gaping hole in the Glock concealed carry inventory, many serious gunners told me they would have preferred it in Parabellum, not in .380 ACP, and waited.

Oddly, Glock released it to the general public before letting the horde of gun scribes get their hands on one. With sales already at stratospheric levels, writers will have little influence on sales volume.

### UNDENIABLY A GLOCK

Currently manufactured in Austria, the G43 is as much a Glock as the new Glock 40 in 10mm, but in a class of its own. Both it and the G42 are in Glock's new "Slimline" class, and the absence of front-strap finger grooves and interchangeable back straps confirm that it is not wholly a Generation Four gun.

Take it apart and everything looks familiar, only a tad bit smaller than most of the company's line-up. Field stripping and operating procedures are the same for the entire line, which makes the smaller Glocks excellent BUGs (Backup Guns) and logical off-duty firearms. In fact, the manual supplied with the little gun is not model specific.

### DETAILS

It arrived in the usual Glock padded polymer lockable case. Accompanying the pistol are two six-round drop-free single-stack magazines (one with a comfortable pinky rest), magazine loading device, cleaning brush, security padlock, manual, spent sample cartridge case, and accompanying papers.

Late to the sub-compact gun market, the G43 is not the smallest Parabellum



With former U.S. Air Marshal coaching, engineering student familiarizes himself with G43. In spite of stout recoil and relatively heavy trigger, he hit where he looked and did not experience post-recoil regripping. Pistol retains Glock's good ergonomics.



available, but its 0.87-inch Tenifer and Parkerized slide width is notable. The usual white highlighted ball and rear polymer fixed sights interrupt the flat steel slide's surface. They are not rakish looking, but totally practical, as is the entire pistol.

Never designed to win beauty contests, the Glock's plain looks are inconsequential due to the brand's extreme reliability. Aft gripping serrations are wide and deep, giving the shooter plenty of purchase when cycling its slide even if wet. Forward serrations are not needed because the gun presents a no-slip surface that is rust resistant.

These features have endeared Glocks to Israeli martial artists, as they facilitate their preferred empty-chamber method of carry. An external extractor also functions as a loaded chamber indicator that can be viewed and felt. Internal fit and finish are smooth and bereft of tool marks.

Its linkless hammer-forged 3.39-inch Hexagonal rifled barrel has a 1:9.84 twist and locks up at the breech. It is rated for +P ammunition.

The dual spring wrapped guide rod provides stored kinetic energy for functioning. The tandem springs are critical to the pistol's reliability but also absorb recoil, increasing comfort and control of the light piece when fired.

My sample pistol's grip surface stippling and checkering appeared to be a little too light and shallow to foster control. I would prefer it to be more prominent. A beavertail and undercut trigger guard permit a higher grip and avoid slide bite. A large no-miss magazine release is reversible but not vulnerable to inadvertent magazine release.

Magazines readily clear the well, which is modestly beveled to facilitate speedy reloads. With only six plus one stored kills, reloading skills may be critical. The trigger guard is large and accommodates driving gloves. One of the first things custom Glockmeisters do is get rid of the trigger guard hook and round it. I think it is good for striking but questionable as a shooting aid.

Glock should survey its fans and ask them if this design should be continued. Upper frame finger grooves are fine, but they are so shallow that they are insignificant.

The gun's serial number is embedded into the frame's underside in the normal manner, and major parts are also serialized.



**G43 and older G26 sibling. G43 has beavertail but no front-strap finger grooves. G26's beefiness relative to single-stack 9mm is apparent.**



**Glock 43 and second six-round magazine, magazine loader, and cleaning gear. FBI Firearms Training Unit Challenge Coin (not included) embellishes kit.**



Like all Glocks, the G43 has three safeties. The point-and-shoot piece features its famous trigger safety, which has been copied by many other manufacturers, a firing pin, and drop safeties.

### NOT THE SMALLEST, BUT BALANCED

Fully loaded with seven rounds of Federal 124-grain Hydra-Shok ammunition, the G43 weighs 21 ounces. In a similar degree of readiness, the G42 is more than six ounces lighter than its bigger sibling. If concealment is paramount, these size and weight differences might cause you to reconsider the smaller gun.

I mention this because retired police Sergeant Doug Belcher, a bruiser of a man, wanted a pocket pistol and determined that the G43 was not a good fit for a front-pocket carry option and instead has defaulted to the G42. That and his belief that 9mm Kurz has also benefited from the current 9mm ballistic improvements give him confidence in the smaller caliber.

But his preference does not mean the G43 cannot slip into one's pockets and be subtly and readily available in an appropriate scabbard. The G42 and G43 are not the smallest sub-compacts on the market, but Glock's balance of size and weight makes both guns very controllable to discharge.

### SHOOTING GLOCKS

My sample's 6.5- to 7.0-pound Safe Action® trigger pull is well over its adver-



**G43 overall size compared to Bersa BP9CC 9mm single-stack pistol.**

tised 5.5-pound weight and requires real deliberation to operate, so it acts as a kind of safety. But its weight is within Glock's acceptable range of resistance. It demonstrates a modicum of 0.837-inch take up, hits the sear wall, and breaks suddenly and crisply without overtravel. Reset is short and positive.

To better control heavy triggers, I recommend that shooters employ the first joint of the index finger and that it be hooked around the pistol's Safe Action trigger. This normally occurs anyway as soon as the first shot is fired. Recoil and gun movement will cause the finger to drift deeper into the trigger, so put it there at the outset. The most important consideration is to learn to pull the trigger straight to the rear and adjust trigger finger placement until it facilitates this action.

If you shoot the larger Glocks, you'll be right at home with this single stack. Amazingly, G43 trigger reach is dimensionally equivalent to its bigger brethren.

The average Glock shooter will often print low and to the right or left of the target when speed shooting. Pivoting trigger guns lend themselves to this error and it is compounded by smaller guns with reduced sight radius and heavy triggers.

Furthermore, it is difficult to isolate all fingers from each other and, almost imperceptibly, the whole hand and fingers contract when the trigger is pulled. This action will also "milk" shots to the left or right of the intended impact area. During practice, focus on the front sight and prevent it from wandering laterally by compressing the trigger straight to the rear.

### FIELD TESTS

Ten different rounds were used to determine the G43's potential accuracy, velocity levels, and reliability. Pocket-sized ordnance is designed to be used in close, where most handgun fights occur.

Former Supervisory Federal Air Marshal Ken Trice attacked a series of bull's eyes from a handheld rest at ten yards. The first "cold bore" shot was dead center, so we continued using a center hold. Because of the trigger's degree of resistance, Ken used a deep trigger finger hold.

Recoil is definitely noticeable but far

## » SPECIFICATIONS

### GLOCK 43

MANUFACTURER	Glock, Inc.
MODEL	G43
CALIBER	9x19mm
BARREL LENGTH	3.39 inches
CAPACITY	6+1
OVERALL LENGTH	6.26 inches
OVERALL HEIGHT	(with magazine) 4.25 inches
OVERALL WIDTH	1.02 inches
WEIGHT (empty)	17.95 ounces
SIGHTS	Fixed polymer
SIGHT RADIUS	5.20 inches
FINISH	Tenifer, Parkerized
SUGGESTED RETAIL	\$580.00



**Fieldstripped G43 showing barrel's dorsal camming surface and linkless profile. Lock-up is very tight and consistent. Dual recoil springs help attenuate recoil and improve positive feeding. Pistol was 100% reliable.**



from uncomfortable, and no one who shot the pistol had to regrip it post recoil. Commercial airline Captain Tom Carty and his engineering student son, both occasional marksmen, had no difficulties with the gun, and reliability was 100%. Frankly, other than the healthy recoil, the G43 is boring to shoot.

Best group and best “feeling” round were a surprise. Trice liked Federal’s +P+ 115-grain jacketed hollow point (JHP), which printed a 0.662-inch cluster. High average velocity of 1,447 feet-per-second (fps) was achieved by Atlantic Marksmen’s ARX MEN Polycase ammunition. The lightweight sintered projectile resembles a turbine and purportedly churns through tissue like a propeller.

### CONCLUSIONS

The G43 does everything that bigger 9x19mm Glocks are expected to do, but with a little more drama. Velocities and a degree of accuracy are sacrificed, but the pistol is more than adequate to fulfill its mission of close protection.

Compared to its smaller .380-caliber G42 sibling, which is one of the most pleasant pocket guns to shoot in that caliber, recoil is harsh but not painful. This dynamic may turn off some women or new shooters looking for a small, concealable and powerful handgun that can be carried in some manner almost anywhere.

It is accurate for its size, totally reliable, and feels good ergonomically. I



Former U.S. Air Marshal Ken Trice gets off fast triple tap with G43. Recoil is harsh but not painful. Except for these dynamics, the pistol is boring to shoot.

wouldn’t recommend it for a first gun, but one that someone could graduate to after sufficient practice and familiarization.

On the downside, it carries a relatively steep price point, and a number of equally excellent sub-compacts that cost far fewer coins are on the market. Some may want to use that difference to buy ammo. ☺

*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.*

### SOURCES

#### GLOCK, INC.

(770) 432-1202  
www.glock.com

#### ATLANTIC MARKSMEN

(228) 669-7253  
www.atlantic-marksmen.com

#### FEDERAL PREMIUM AMMUNITION

(800) 379-1732  
www.federalammunition.com

#### HORNADY MFG. CO.

(800) 338-3220  
www.hornady.com

#### HPR AMMUNITION

(888) 966-8477  
www.hprammo.com

#### O.A.T.H.

(844) 442-6284  
www.oathammo.com

#### SIG SAUER INC.

(603) 772-2302  
www.sigsauer.com

#### SPEER

(800) 627-3640  
www.speer-ammo.com

#### VELOCITY TACTICS

(620) 223-1277  
www.velocitytactics.com

#### WINCHESTER AMMUNITION

(615) 258-3340  
www.winchester.com

### » AMMUNITION PERFORMANCE

BRAND	LOAD	VELOCITY (feet-per-second)	ACCURACY (inches)
Atlantic Marksmen	ARX MEN Polycase	1,447	1.92
Federal	115-gr. JHP +P+	1,204	0.662
Hornady	125-gr. HAP	1,052	1.10
HPR	80-gr. OTF	1,242	1.27
O.A.T.H.	135-gr. Match	1,051	1.27
Speer	115-gr. TMG +P	1,200	2.15
Speer	147-gr. GDHP	901.1	1.10
SIG Sauer	124-gr. JHP	1,125	0.90
Velocity Tactics	80-gr. PFMG	1,276	1.60
Winchester	147-gr. JHP	938	0.89

Five-round groups fired from a handheld rest at ten yards. Average velocities determined by firing five-round strings through a CED M2 chronograph, ten feet from the muzzle. Temperature 85 degrees.





# ECONOMICAL RIFLE PRACTICE

## One Box Rifle Workout

BY ETHAN JOHNS



ONE BOX RIFLE WORKOUT GIVES RIFLEMAN  
A DOWN AND DIRTY WORKOUT WITH ONE 20-ROUND  
BOX OF AMMO AND A SINGLE TARGET.





Rifle shooters often have a problem working on their skills. First, the ammo is prohibitively expensive. Second, the drills and courses of fire that exist are either tilted toward specific competitions such as high-powered rifle or toward rat-a-tat close-range carbine skills. The Mk 1, Mod 0 American Rifleman with his rifle tends to shoot some from the bench at 100 yards, fire off a token shot or five offhand, and then call it a day.

I recently noticed this and wanted for my own use a comparative drill that would incorporate the most common rifle skills in proportion, require a level of proficiency but be usable across all action types and optics, and be easy to conduct at most ranges.

Making it 20 rounds would allow a shooter to occasionally splurge for one box of ammo and dust off that rifle in the corner and “whup” it on. After a few tweaks, it’s working out very well and has been well received by a variety of shooters. It’s called, not ironically, the One Box Rifle Workout (1BRW).

The 1BRW is designed as a general-purpose rifle drill. It attempts to balance out the general utility of a rifle without focusing overly on any one application. It has proven equally useful as a baseline drill and skills check for hunting rifle, tactical carbine, or marksman’s rifle.

To shoot the drill, the rifleman needs a repeating rifle of some sort, 20 rounds, and one B8 5.5-inch 25-yard bullseye pistol target. The 1BRW has three stages, one each at 100, 50, and 25 yards.

Scoring is by the rings on the target

for a total possible of 200 points. Late hits in the timed strings are noted and the shooter loses half the value of the corresponding best hit on paper; e.g., if the shooter has two tens on target and one late hit, one of the tens becomes a five.

#### STAGE 1: LONG RANGE

This is the first stage. I know that 100 yards isn’t particularly long, but it is easily accessible and hassle free for the majority of shooters. It is also still a long way in the majority of both tactical and wooded hunting applications.

A shooter can use just about any cheapo spotting scope or the optic on the rifle to note the hits and adjust, as opposed to the longer yard lines. Food for thought is that a hit in the three-inch ten ring at 100 yards equals about three minutes of angle, a level of on-demand precision that will serve well out to the practical range of the rifle.

The shooter fires three strings of fire at 100 yards and can shoot from any

**Long-range stage allows shooter to incorporate barricade support for some strings.**

position other than seated at a bench. Supported on a barricade, classic sitting, kneeling, or prone are all acceptable with a caveat: Only two of the three strings can use the same position. The shooter must fire one of the strings from a different position.

#### String One: Slow Fire

The shooter has no time limit to fire four well-aimed shots into the target at 100 yards. He can spot as he goes and make any necessary adjustments to the

**Drill is designed to accommodate all action types and sights, such as this commemorative Winchester ‘94 lever-action .30-30.**





sights or optic. There are no additional shots, and all four shots must come from the same position.

#### String Two: Timed Fire

The shooter begins aimed in at the target and ready to fire. Upon the start signal, he has 20 seconds to fire a total of three rounds into the bull.

#### String Three: Rapid Fire

The shooter begins aimed in at the target and ready to fire. Upon the start signal, he has ten seconds to fire a total of three rounds into the bull.

### STAGE 2: SNAP SHOTS

The shooter moves to the 50-yard line. Each of the six shots has a time limit, or par time, of four seconds.

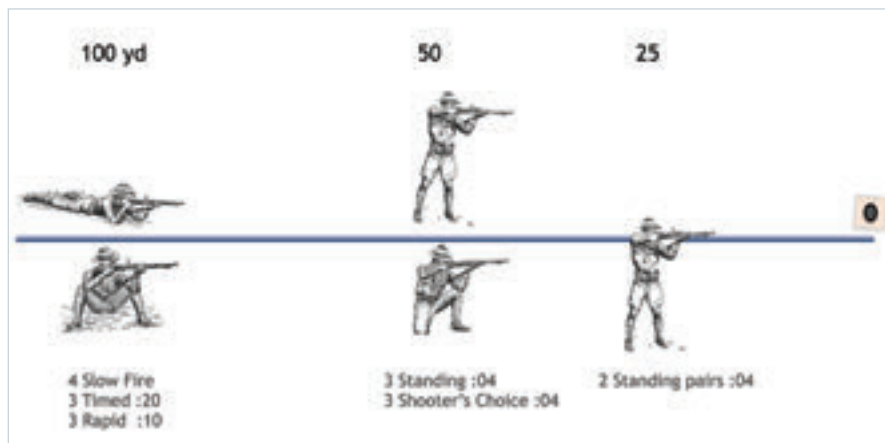
#### String Four: Standing

Shooter begins standing with the muzzle elevated as in a field carry position and upon the signal, mounts the rifle, disengages any safety, and engages the target in a time limit of four seconds. This is repeated twice for a total of three shots from standing.

#### String Five: Hasty Position/ Shooter's Choice

Shooter again begins standing with the muzzle elevated as in a field carry position and upon the signal, assumes a firing position, mounts the rifle, disengages any safety, and engages the target in a time limit of four seconds. The shooter may stand for these shots if he desires. No barricades are allowed at the 50-yard line. The most common hasty positions used on this string are military squat and hasty kneeling. Prone is an option if the shooter can get into the position and fire within the time limit.

This is repeated twice for a total of three shots. Multiple positions may be used for the three shots at the shooter's option.



One Box Rifle Workout distances, round counts, and time limits.

### STAGE 3: PAIRS

The shooter moves to the 25-yard line for the final stage. The target is engaged from the low ready with safety engaged with two shots in a time limit of four seconds from standing. This is repeated once for a total of four shots.

### BRACKETS

The workout translates to several levels of proficiency. At the entry level, where a shooter is still learning a particular rifle or action type, there is keeping all shots on the ten-inch center, which quickly progresses to keeping all hits inside the eight-inch "8" ring. This is where most shooters live.

Next is the bragging rights level of keeping all shots within the 5.5-inch bull. If you find a shooter who can consistently do this, he is a real top hand. With irons or a red dot, I am more focused on that level of achievement than score per se. I take a similar approach with a rack-grade rifle that may not hold the ten-ring.

But whenever the gear allows, I push myself to max the course and get as near to a perfect score as possible. I have not yet seen a shooter score a possible on the drill, but it is eminently do-

able and that barrier will undoubtedly be broken soon.

The 1BRW gets a lot done with one box of ammo. It is an enjoyable drill that has enough difficulty to push the shooter to perform, but is achievable for all skill levels. Shooters will find themselves grabbing long-neglected hunting rifles and seeing what they can do on the drill, comparing scores across their rifle racks.

### RESULTS

I've shot the workout with a pretty diverse selection of rifles, as you can see in the chart below. The drill favors the same factors that slant toward success in real life. Self-loading rifles allow more time and focus to shoot well without having to work the action.

Magnified optics are genuinely helpful, but irons and red dots are perfectly capable and competitive on the drill. In fact, the scores on the '94 Winchester were slightly skewed when I realized after slow fire that I had to offset hold slightly, and the rest of the long-range shots struck the bull.

Trigger quality matters on a rifle. The Ruger Predator bested the SCAR 17S even with the challenge of running

## RESULTS, ONE BOX RIFLE WORKOUT

RIFLE	CALIBER	OPTIC	AMMUNITION	SCORE
Ruger American Predator	.308 Win.	Leupold VX-6 2-12X	Winchester USA 147-gr. FMJ	197 (20-inch bull)
BCM KMR 14.5-inch barrel	5.56mm	Bushnell 1-6.5X	Hornady 55-gr. VMAX	193 (19-inch bull)
FNH SCAR 17S	.308 Win.	Trijicon VCOG 1-6X	Hornady Steel Match 155-gr. BTHP	189 (18-inch bull)
Arsenal SLR 107F	7.62x39mm	Aimpoint T-1	Hornady 123-gr. SST	189 (17-inch bull)
Winchester 1894 Rifle	.30-30 Win.	Irons	Winchester 150-gr. Ballistic Silver Tip	184 (15-inch bull)



SCAR 17S with Trijicon VCOG and target after long-range stage.



Arsenal AK with Aimpoint did well on the drill, challenging popular notions of AK accuracy and shootability.

Below: Ruger American Predator with Leupold VX6 2-12X scored a 197. Once shooter can overcome bolt speed hurdle on multiple-shot strings, the bolt gun can stand its ground.



the bolt on the clock, due largely to the Ruger's exceptional trigger. But this was not the case until I became more proficient at running the bolt on that rifle.

My first attempts with the Ruger came in about ten points lower and behind the SCAR. While talking about the .308s: Recoil matters. It was "easier" to post quality scores with the 5.56mm BCM AR with BCM Gunfighter Compensator than with either of the .308 rifles, since recovery was very quick. But the times are just long enough to get through the .30-caliber recoil with good technique on the multiple-shot strings.

Another point that may surprise some shooters is the balance of time and precision at 50 yards. Some shooters score better and more consistently applying the relatively short time to "dressing up" a well-aimed shot standing rather than

going to a knee or squatting.

A hit on a 5.5-inch bull at 50 yards is no gimme, however, and other shooters will find they need support and have to learn to get it quickly.

The requirement to change positions within the strings at 100 yards can show the shooter useful data. I've seen shooters mix and match a wide variety of positions. There is no one best approach.

One AR shooter may be best off kneeling from a barricade on the slow fire and then shooting prone for the timed and rapid. Another may be faster working the bolt from another position and choose prone for the slow fire. I personally try to see which positions work best with a certain platform, and most of the scores in the chart reflect slightly different approaches.

The workout is not necessarily a "tactical" drill, but it reflects real skills

that translate into the work gun. The drill focuses on the "rifle" part of the long gun as opposed to the more typical pistol-range abilities.

The 1BRW is a pretty solid warm-up or cool-down to a more aggressively oriented training session with the carbine. For unit use, I would expect to have all shooters over 175 points.

I've enjoyed the drill so far. It is simple enough that non-standard attempts dance in my head for future range days: Handgun attempt? Slugs from my Benelli? Vintage service rifles?

Good luck and good shooting. If you max the drill, let us know! ☺

*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.*





CMMG/Colt carbine—  
compact, reliable, compatible.

# PREPAREDNESS FORCE OPTIONS

## Assembling a 9mm Carbine

BY JEFF HALL

*Amateurs discuss tactics; professionals discuss logistics. — Von Clausewitz*

**I**N 1873, Colt and Winchester both introduced firearms chambered in the same pistol cartridge, the .44-40. This round fit the new Colt Peacemaker, or Single-Action Army, which became one of the most popular defensive handguns of all time. It also chambered in the 1873 Winchester lever-action, which was available with barrel lengths from carbine to rifle. These two weapons be-

came the guns that won the West.

One of the primary reasons for the popularity of this combination was logistics. I wasn't around in those days, but I'd imagine that gun stores were few and far between, with cowboys having to ride for miles to re-supply. The idea that a guy could buy one or two boxes of ammunition and they'd fit both of his defensive arms had a lot of appeal.

Additionally, it might have been tough for a store to stock several differ-

ent calibers, so they might have focused on the most common ones. Winchester had the option of chambering the 1873 in lots of calibers, but market forces made the .44-40 a good choice. Those same market forces, plus political forces, may make some sense today.

### PISTOL-CALIBER CARBINES

Few will argue that pistol calibers fired out of a carbine will stop critters—two legged or four. If I want to stop some-

thing aggressive, I'd *prefer* a rifle that starts with .4, or a 12 gauge with Brenneke slugs. The backside of that argument is that if I didn't have access to a more powerful weapon, I'd be willing to use a quality pistol-caliber carbine if I had one. In addition, I may end up with someone, not a gun geek, who can only handle a lighter carbine and pistol.

A few years ago, I was teaching at an Oregon police department. As I passed the unlocked armory, I was sucked in—armories are like black holes for me. The short story is that the department had two Colt 9mm carbines with 10.5-inch barrels that they wanted to swap for .223s. I made the trade, figuring that having a 9mm carbine might come in handy some day. I specifically wanted an AR system, since I train a lot with that platform.

Fate threw a wrench into the works when it turned out that one of the carbines was built on a post-1986 submachine gun receiver, not a rifle receiver. This meant, of course, that the gun had a non-transferable lower receiver. As Short Barreled Rifles (SBRs) were not legal in my state at the time, I stripped out all the parts of the carbine. The SMG lower still languishes in the PD armory.

The box of parts and magazines sat around for a couple more years. When SBRs became legal to own in my state, I decided it was time to put the carbine together.

Federal penitentiary. To avoid reading these words from the inside, do not assemble a short-barreled weapon until *after* it is properly registered. This requires a BATFE Form One to be filled out, submitted and approved, and a \$200 tax stamp issued. Once the stamp



**Birdsong FDE finish with black accents. Color in selector settings is standard.**

is issued, the gun can be assembled and used. Resist the temptation to skip this—ten years in prison and a \$10,000 fine are not worth it!

#### **9MM AR LOWER**

An AR 5.56mm lower is the same as a 9mm lower. A magazine well block is added to accommodate the 9mm magazine. On Colt carbines and SMGs, the block is pinned into the mag well with three roll pins, allowing the carbine mag to lock tightly into place.

I'm not a gunsmith, and aligning the block and drilling the holes would require a template and some precision, so I considered Plan B—a detachable

magazine well block. I grabbed my Brownells catalog. The magazine well block I found there simply slides up into the mag well and is held in place partially by the magazine release. An Allen screw in the bottom of the block is screwed in, forcing two small metal plates to push against the inside of the magazine well, completely locking the block in place. This allows it to be easily replaced if you want to switch calibers back to 5.56.

As I was looking for the parts, I saw a dedicated 9mm AR stripped lower made by CMMG. Instead of installing a block, the mag well is built for Colt-type 9mm magazines. I've never had much contact with CMMG receivers, but a little research indicated a quality gun. I ordered one.

#### **PUTTING IT TOGETHER**

The lower arrived and I set about installing the parts in it, all from the afore-mentioned Colt. Things dropped in nicely and the lower showed good fit and finish. The only two problems I found were the rear trigger guard pin hole (too small) and the bar on the opposite side of the magazine release. Both were too tight, but one pass with a drill bit and a few minutes of stoning allowed a good fit for both.

Once the gun was registered and running, I did a little reliability shoot-



**Primary Arms MD-RBGII—a must for an A1 carry handle.**



ing. I found seven different loads of 9mm in the locker, ranging from ball to hollow points and weights from 115 to 147 grains, including sub-sonic. I zeroed it with ball at 50 yards, then started whacking steel. I shot 350 rounds from ten to 125 yards without a single malfunction and with good hits.

The carbine has standard Colt A1 sights on a fixed carry handle. So it's not a precision rifle—a two-inch group at 50 yards will still do the job.

On the A1 sights, I find it a little hard to focus on the front sight. I considered getting a flat-top upper so I could mount a red dot sight like my other ARs, but didn't. I've been testing a red dot from Primary Arms on my M&P 22 and it works great for a fraction of the cost of name brands. A little research and a phone call got me a Primary Arms MD-RBGII with scope mount for an A1 carry handle at \$168.98 retail.

It took five minutes to mount it and ten minutes to zero it, and my groups were cut in half. But the sight sits very high, so I dug into one of my "stuff" boxes for a Magpul stock with the LaRue RISR, which brings the cheek weld higher. I now have a good red dot, good cheek weld, and better accuracy in shorter times.

Primary Arms is up front as to rug-



**Magpul stock with LaRue RISR allows good cheek weld with a higher sight or optic.**

gedness. This optic is designed for training, home defense and law enforcement, none of which typically require high round counts. If you plan on sustained combat operations in rugged territory, buy an Aimpoint.

#### **FINISHING IT OFF**

It was time for refinishing. The upper and lower didn't match and the gun and mags showed wear. I reached out

to my favorite finish folks, Birdsong's Black-T in Mississippi.

I started using Black-T 20 years ago in Alaska, and I still think it's the best out there. Its lubricity and corrosion resistance beat anything else I've used, from arctic to desert. My Remington 700 hunting rifle has many years of hard use on it, and it still looks like new. I chose to have the gun and magazines coated in Flat Dark Earth (they do numerous

**Compact carbine and Dan Wesson Guardian make a nice combination for newer shooters.**







**Officer Chris Conrath shoots carbine prone with Gemtech GM-45 suppressor attached.**

colors), with black accents on some of the smaller parts. As always, the job was done quickly and perfectly.

The final piece of the project was provided by Gemtech. I have a couple of cases of subsonic 9mm ammo, so I figured I needed a suppressor. I contacted Casey Foster during the SHOT Show, and he showed me a couple of new suppressors. The GM-45 I ordered from Gemtech will work on the 9mm carbine, 9mm pistol, and on my 1911s in .45 ACP. The aperture at the mouth of the suppressor is slightly larger than 9mm, which technically makes it louder when using the smaller caliber, but your ears won't know the difference.

#### **CARBINE COMBO**

I own four 9mm pistols: a Dan Wesson Guardian, Springfield EMP, and two Browning Hi-Powers. Should the need arise, I can carry a handgun and quality carbine—that works exactly like my primary defensive long gun—and use the same ammo in both.

I can store a couple thousand rounds of quality ammo that will run in any of the guns, which simplifies logistics—that might be important one day. The EMP or Guardian would work well with

the carbine for a smaller shooter.

Every gun is a compromise, and this combination might not work for some, but might for others. I won't get into the whole "mouse gun" argument, since any gun that you can shoot well is better than the mythical perfect gun. In performance, 9mm ammo has improved light years, and a compact, reliable carbine is a good choice for some people. For me, it adds another layer of preparation in platforms I know very well.

I don't know what's coming down the road, or where I'll be or with whom when it does. I'd prefer to carry a heavier caliber. But the person next to me might not be up to that, so a lighter caliber combination could be the answer. It would also be the answer for me, if that were what I could get to.

#### **CONCLUSION**

If your budget allows, consider a combination like this one. With less hassle and less money, the same can be done with 16-inch barrels and semi-auto lowers. I just tested a prototype 9mm carbine from Fort Discovery (they've been building a quality AR for several years), and it ran and shot well. It had a Primary Arms red dot and used

Brownells 32-round mags, both of which performed very well. Colt, Rock River, CMMG, Stag Arms and others also build AR-type carbines in 9mm.

The more depth we have in preparation, the more choices we have when we need them. If supplies of one item get thin, it's good to have another option. ©

*Jeff Hall is an Army veteran, retired Alaska State Trooper lieutenant, and NRA staff instructor. He also teaches for several state POST agencies. He is a martial arts grandmaster and founder of Hojutsu-Ryu, the martial art of shooting. He can be reached at [soke@hojutsu.com](mailto:soke@hojutsu.com).*

#### **SOURCES**

##### **W. E. BIRDSONG & ASSOCIATES, INC.**

(601) 939-7448  
[www.black-t.com](http://www.black-t.com)

##### **BROWNELLS INC.**

(800) 741-0015  
[www.brownells.com](http://www.brownells.com)

##### **GEMTECH**

(208) 939-7222  
[www.gemtech.com](http://www.gemtech.com)

##### **PRIMARY ARMS**

(713) 344-9600  
[www.primaryarms.com](http://www.primaryarms.com)



# Let's Hear It for the .**40!**



Over many years of research, I have learned a few things concerning wound ballistics. Among these truths is that only actual damage counts for anything. The wound potential of a cartridge depends upon the level of penetration of a bullet and the expansion, if any, of the projectile. Larger bullets make bigger holes. Coupled with the constant of adequate penetration, a larger caliber always has more potential to do damage, cause blood loss, and shut down the adversary's body.

The only repeatable and verifiable means we have of gauging wound potential is by studying the effects of a bullet in artificial media. So-called stopping power studies involving secret sources and anonymous reports have a validity of zero. The standard of evidence required in traffic court would not allow their admission.

Historical evidence is also compelling when well documented. It is no secret that the .38 Spe-

## The Ideal Caliber

BY R.K. CAMPBELL

cial revolver was replaced due to a lack of wound potential and lack of ammunition reserve. Many of the 9mm pistols issued to replace the .38 were excellent handguns, but others were not. Hit potential actually fell in many agencies. Wound potential and results with the 9mm were often worse, not better, than with the .38. Load development and improved handguns have changed the landscape.

### HANDGUN/CARTRIDGE COMBINATIONS

A great deal of development has gone into police handguns and cartridges during the past

30 years. Among the most successful handgun and cartridge combinations have been the .40 Smith & Wesson cartridge and Glock Model 22 handgun. This handgun has proven reliable in service and the cartridge has proven as effective as a handgun cartridge is likely to be.

Handguns are not very powerful compared to a rifle cartridge, with the “weak .38” and “strong .45” more alike than different when compared to any rifle. Just the same, the .40-caliber handgun has demonstrated good to excellent all-around results. The question of control has come up from time to time, but in my experience it relates primarily to subcompact pistols.

The .40 is much less popular than the 9mm or .45 among civilians compared to the .40 caliber in police issue. My perception is that individuals using the Beretta, Smith & Wesson and Glock service-grade and other service-size platforms in .40 caliber have done well, while those using subcompact pistols have not.

The Glock 27 and compact XD pistols in .40 caliber are often too much pistol for most shooters to handle the recoil in rapid fire. For female shooters, the recoil can be startling. We know the subcompacts are difficult to manage with this high-intensity big-bore cartridge. But what about service-size pistols?

Beginning with the compact Glock 23 size pistols, the .40-caliber Smith & Wesson offers a manageable system. The same might be said of the SIG Sauer P229 .40. I used the Glock 23 .40 and Glock 19 9mm in this report because they are available and widely issued.

The goal of the .40 wasn't to produce a weapon that is as controllable as the 9mm, because we had the 9mm. The goal was to offer superior wound ballistics. The .45 ACP is always an answer, but the size,



**Winchester offered the original .40-caliber load. Current offerings exhibit good performance.**

weight and perhaps more importantly grip width of full-size service-grade .45 ACP pistols were deemed too much.

A Federal-level study some years ago concluded that a service handgun with a weight of over 35 ounces becomes too heavy for constant carry. I agree, and the Glock 22 .40 is an example of an ideal mix of light weight, control, and excellent wound ballistics.

The .40 offers good wound ballistics, as I will illustrate, and also good control, as I can demonstrate. I am not interested in comparing the .40 to any other



**Both service size and compact Glock pistols offer good control and accuracy potential in .40 caliber.**





Author feels comparison to .357 Magnum is valid. Like the .40, the Magnum is at its best in service-size handguns.

cartridge. Larger calibers are more, smaller calibers are less, and the laws of physics apply. But in my opinion, some arguments against the .40 simply do not hold water.

#### POWER FACTOR

Some time ago, a power factor (PF) was developed to compare handgun calibers. It has been used as a rating for Major and Minor rules in competition and also to gauge the suitability of a handgun for personal defense. The weight of the bullet is multiplied by the velocity and then divided by 10,000 to come up with the PF. For example, a 200-grain bullet at 1,000 fps would have a PF of 20. While the PF doesn't consider weapon weight, it is useful to com-



A .40-caliber Hornady bullet after stringent FBI protocol testing.

pare the recoil of various cartridges.

Many shooters feel that a PF of 20 is the upper level at which a shooter can control a handgun well. A PF of 15 to 17 is better for accomplished shooters. The PF figures in the table on page 85 are for loads fired in two Glock handguns and a SIG P220 Carry Elite. The difference in recoil between the 9mm and .40 does not reflect a considerable difference in control with a trained shooter. During the evaluation of the .40-caliber Glock 23 by several interested students, none felt the pistol wasn't controllable when service loads were used. Sometimes recoil and report mean you are firing a powerful cartridge. It must be controlled with proper technique.

Although I regard larger calibers as superior, when you consider the balance of expansion and penetration in the .40 S&W cartridge and the frame size needed to contain the 10mm or .45 ACP cartridge, there is a consensus that perhaps the .40 is the ideal cartridge and the larger calibers may represent a point of diminishing return. Certainly control, magazine capacity, and compactness favor the .40-caliber handgun.

#### TESTING

For wound ballistics info, I relied upon Speer and Federal Cartridge Company for company-generated gelatin results. Next I performed my own testing using water jugs. These jugs are six inches wide, making measurement of dimensions reasonably valid for those of us without access to gelatin and wishing to

test a loading that does not have factory gelatin results.

Perhaps you wish to check if your duty load offers good performance in a compact or sub-compact as well. Although not as precise as gelatin, expansion is often in the same ballpark as factory results. In any case, gelatin isn't a human being, and water is simply a means of comparison.

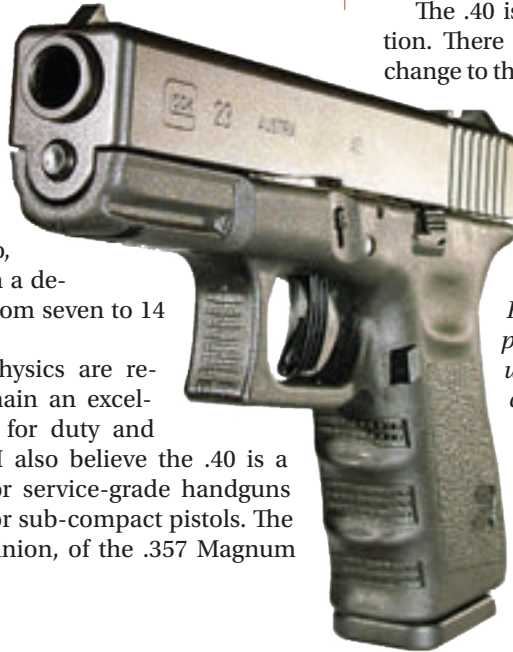
I think that the .40 performs as designed, penetrating to an ideal level while maintaining good expansion. The .40 is also more consistent from load to load as far as results go, while the 9mm may run a deviation in penetration from seven to 14 inches, per my testing.

Until the laws of physics are re-voked, the .40 will remain an excellent all-around choice for duty and personal defense use. I also believe the .40 is a cartridge well suited for service-grade handguns but not as well suited for sub-compact pistols. The same is true, in my opinion, of the .357 Magnum

revolver cartridge—another effective cartridge that isn't at its best in handguns too light for the cartridge.

The .357 Magnum, like the .40 Smith & Wesson, has been criticized for high recoil and excess wear on weapons, but never for a lack of effect on target. Each is controllable in service-grade handguns.

The .40 is a good caliber and handgun combination. There should be a very compelling reason to change to the 9mm or the .45. ©



**Glock Model 23 is among the most well-balanced service pistols, offering a concealable package with service-grade performance.**

*R.K. Campbell writes in the firearms, personal defense and outdoors fields, with several thousand published articles, columns and reviews, and ten books. Bob holds a degree in Criminal Justice and has more than 30 years' police and security experience. He has trained hundreds of shooters, including police and military.*

## POWER FACTORS

CALIBER	LOAD	VELOCITY	POWER FACTOR
9mm	Black Hills 124-gr. JHP +P	1,180 fps	14.6
9mm	CorBon 115-gr. DPX +P	1,235 fps	14.2
9mm	Winchester 147-gr. PDX	940 fps	14.0
.40 S&W	Black Hills 140-gr. JHP	1,150 fps	16.0
.40 S&W	Black Hills 180-gr. JHP	1,110 fps	17.2
.45 ACP	Federal 230-gr. HST	801 fps	18.4
.45 ACP	Black Hills 230-gr. JHP	860 fps	19.8



Author believes .40's performance is more like the .45 than the 9mm. Left to right: 9mm, .40 and .45.



The .40 caliber cartridge offers plenty of power in a relatively compact package.

## SPEER AND FEDERAL PUBLISHED GELATIN RESULTS

CALIBER	LOAD	PENETRATION (inches)	EXPANSION (inches)
9mm	Gold Dot 124-gr. +P JHP	13.4	.68
9mm	Gold Dot 147-gr. JHP	14.8	.57
9mm	147-gr. HST	12.0	.85
.40 S&W	Gold Dot 165-gr. JHP	13.1	.65
.40 S&W	180-gr. HST	12.0	.96
.45 ACP	230-gr. HST	12.0	.96



## A Classic Redefined

**+** Continued from page 49

The wisdom of taking a head shot at 25 yards with a pistol is, to say the least, questionable. Still, it's good to know that in an extreme situation, the Tactical Carry is up to the task.

I had one malfunction and that was with the Liberty 50-grain load. I noticed that the magazines were difficult to fully load with the Liberty ammo, as the noses of the bullets were making contact with the magazine. The first round chambered with no problem, but upon firing, the second round hung up in the magazine.

### EL PRESIDENTE

As mentioned earlier, one of the biggest reasons to go to a 9mm is the ability to put more rounds on target faster. To gauge this, I fired a series of *El Presidente* drills, developed by Jeff Cooper.

For those not familiar with it, the *El Presidente* consists of three targets, ten yards away and one yard apart. The shooter starts with his back to the target and hands clasped at his chest or about shoulder high in the surrender position. At the start signal, the shooter turns, fires two shots on each target, reloads and fires two more shots on each target.

Although not truly a practical/tactical drill, it's useful because it involves turning, presenting the pistol, making solid hits on multiple targets, and reloading. Plus it requires good transitions and follow-through. All these skills are transferable to the real world. Par time is 10 seconds. Penalties are assessed for overtime shots and misses.

I fired a total of ten *El Presidente* drills—five shot with the Tactical Carry with 124-grain JHP loads and five with a Kimber Custom 1911 loaded with 230-grain FMJ loads used as a control gun. Times were established with a PACT Club Timer 3.

I ran the drills with the Tactical Carry out of a Simply Rugged Holsters Cuda holster and double CID magazine pouch. To keep things as equal as possible, I used the Cuda holster with the Kimber, only switching to Simply Rugged's Dual Defender magazine pouch for the larger .45 mags.

I am a little rusty on this drill, and it showed in my times with the Kimber thanks to a bobbled reload. Overall average time with the Kimber was 10.36 seconds with an average split time

between shots of .84 second (splits include the reload). The overall average time with the Tactical Carry was 8.91 seconds with an average split time of .62 second.

### SUMMARY

The Tactical Carry performed superbly, with only one ammo-related malfunction. The speed of follow-up shots was significant, especially when considering how quickly most fights are over.

In short, the Wilson Combat Tactical Carry was perfect out of the box. I can almost hear Louis saying, "Good. It's supposed to, Hansen."

I'm not quite ready to say, "Make mine a nine," but I'm leaning in that direction. ☺

## SOURCES

### WILSON COMBAT

(800) 955-4856  
www.wilsoncombat.com

### ASYM PRECISION AMMUNITION

(970) 385-7900  
www.asym-ammo.com

### BLACK HILLS AMMUNITION

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## Practical Tactical

**+** Continued from page 61

### MULTI ROLE

In Vietnam, the Predator would have undoubtedly been best described as a sniper rifle, and it would have surpassed most of what was available then with some or all of its features. A magazine-fed free-floated weather-resistant sub-MOA .308 rifle that directly mounts a suppressor? Yes, please!

Today, shooters tend toward hyper-specialization, which leaves the Predator in the middle ground between light hunting rifle and light precision rifle. That naturally begs the question: "What is it for?"

After a few months with it, I think it is a great entry in the emerging practical/tactical bolt gun genre that can do any .308-appropriate task reasonably well. I suspect most Preds will be snapped up by veteran AR shooters who want to try a bolt gun for some precision shooting and/or hunting but have no interest in the traditional blue steel and walnut route.

I actually find the Predator to have more in common with the Scout Rifle concept than today's vision of a precision rifle. The comparison photo on page 61 gives an idea of how close the Ruger is in size to a Jeff Cooper Model Steyr Scout. To me, the Predator seems like the love child of a Scout and an M40A1. It is light enough to be no burden to carry and heavy enough to get relatively stable in position. Importantly, it also has enough precision to take advantage of current advances in rangefinders, ballistic calculators, and optics to reach out toward the other end of the .308 curve. ☺

## SOURCES

### STURM, RUGER & CO., INC.

(203) 259-7843  
www.ruger.com

### BLACK HILLS AMMUNITION

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

### HORNADY MFG. CO.

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## Steel Will Onrush

**WHEN** I choose tactical gear, I pay close attention to every detail. I train for the worst, hope for the best, and leave little to chance. Every piece is a carefully weighed compromise.

During more than 30 years of police and industrial security work, I have seen many occasions in which a folding knife was put to use opening boxes, crates, and used in vehicle searches. While a knife makes a poor pry bar, I have on occasion stretched endurance to the limit.

The price needs to be reasonable when compared to other folders. I have strong preferences for blade design. While \$50 is maybe too little and \$1000 buys an art knife, the median point, around \$150, is the start of good quality knives.

Rapid opening is important, as are the ability to deploy the knife quickly and open it one handed. I have no

preference on blade locks, but the lock must be robust and pass a stress test. Liner locks, Axis lock and mid-back locks have proven strong in service.

The handle must offer both abrasion and adhesion when the hands are sweaty and the grip is less than perfect. I suffered a cut that required several stitches from losing my grasp on a very sharp knife during a vehicle search. I was upside down in the front seat, under the steering wheel, and I suppose the excitement of finding a hidden cache had something to do with it. But the slick handles of this gentleman's folder were ill suited to search work in tight quarters.

Control of the knife—either through abrasive handles or the geometry of the knife—is essential. A slasher is great in a defensive situation, but far more likely is the task of cutting rope or a seat belt in a rescue situation. There are many criteria, and I am thankful to be able to look back and consider what has

failed in the past and build on that experience. All the knives that have failed have not been inexpensive knives.

I have used a number of Steel Will knives over the past few months and they have given good results in extensive testing. They are not cheap, throw-away knives, but neither are they so expensive their loss would be a hardship.

I like large folders. A shorter blade may not be as effective as a longer one. And very large folders are sometimes unwieldy when used in pocket carry. The size of the Steel Will Onrush is ideal for most uses.

The Onrush is nine inches long open and 5.3 inches closed. The blade is 3.75 inches long. The knife weighs a solid seven ounces. Blade steel is N690Co steel. Although I am not familiar with this steel, research shows it is made by Bohler in Austria and is used in high-quality European knives. On a comparative scale of edge retention



Author prefers 622 Tanto blade Onrush. Note geometry of scales.

and sharpness, this composition compares to 440c.

The blade is finished in a dull black coating. It is etched on the blade with the company name, Onrush, and country of origin (Italy).

The standard knife is the 612. I prefer the Tanto blade of the 622. The Tanto design is true to the original, reinforced near the tip by design, but not as severe a design as many American Tanto types. The point of the blade, leading edge, and cutting edge are all very sharp. The top of the blade near the opening studs has jimping for good purchase when doing close cutting chores.

Open, the pronounced choil acts as a finger guard to prevent stubbing (when the hand runs forward on the blade). If you are cutting and the blade stops short due to resistance or if the blade has become dull, this guard is important. The back of the guard has serrations. Coupled with the jimping on the back of the blade, this makes for excellent control in close work.



**Above: Steel Will Onrush blade features a modern coating. Grips are specially textured G10 scales. Pocket clip is well designed, and blade lock is rugged.**



**Inset: Glass breaker could be a lifesaver. Knife affords good leverage needed to use this feature.**



**Left: Author felt one of Onrush's best features is its strong pocket clip.**

An opening stud on either side of the blade offers a point for easy opening. The geometry of the design is such that easy opening is possible. Speed is good even without a flick of the wrist.

The balance of the Onrush is handle heavy, which is good for control. Scales are G10 material. The geometry of the handles is also good for control, and the forward section near the pivot pin is serrated for control in close work. A slight bevel in the scales, both top and bottom, makes for a better feel in the hand. The top of the liner lock is serrated and meets the jimping at the rear of the blade, giving a continuous run of serrations for control in close cutting.

The pocket clip is well designed, offering good retention when clipped in the pocket. Some effort is required to

open the clip enough to secure it to the pocket. I like that—the Onrush isn't going anywhere unless you tug the knife out of the pocket.

The liner lock is strong. I test such locks by first locking the blade open and then rapping the back of the blade hard on a wooden desk.

At the end of the liner are a lanyard hole and glass breaker, the latter a necessity for a tactical knife. There are so many instances today of officers rescuing children from hot vehicles that this idiocy seems a daily event.

The Onrush is supplied with a nylon pouch compatible with MOLLE gear. This well-designed pouch is secure and offers a good home for the Onrush for uniform use. However, since I no longer wear a uniform, I carry my per-

sonal Onrush in pocket carry.

After weeks of use, I can affirm that the Steel Will Onrush makes the grade. The Physical Vapor Disposition coating seems durable, the pivot pin is still tight, and the blade is sharp. Having used it in tactical drills and practice, I found the knife well balanced with good retention. Ninety percent of cutting chores with this knife have been mundane, and it does the business well. The Onrush gets a solid recommendation. Suggested retail price is \$199.99. ©

## SOURCE


### STEEL WILL KNIVES

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# SureFire P2X Fury with IntelliBeam Technology



Revolutionary new SureFire P2X Fury with IntelliBeam Technology automatically adjusts light output from 15 to 600 lumens depending on environmental conditions.

**S**ureFire® has once again raised the bar by which tactical flashlights are compared, with its new and revolutionary P2X Fury® with IntelliBeam™ Technology. SureFire refers to the Fury as a “pocket-sized handheld search light.” It is an apt description of this compact, 600-lumen LED powerhouse. The P2X Fury with IntelliBeam Technology is the most revolutionary tactical flashlight ever to hit the market. There is simply no comparison.

SureFire now offers five models of the Fury: the variable-output P2X Fury with IntelliBeam Technology, dual-

output P2X Fury, single-output P2X Fury Tactical, P2X Fury Defender®, and P2XZ Fury CombatLight®.

The P2X Fury Defender has a crenelated Strike Bezel® that can be used as an impact tool or to gain pain compliance for suspect control. The P2XZ Fury CombatLight features SureFire’s familiar CombatGrip™ design that’s optimized for use with handguns.

The P2X Fury with IntelliBeam Technology was provided for testing and evaluation. It has two modes: IntelliBeam Technology mode, which automatically adjusts light output from 15 to

600 lumens depending on environmental conditions, and max-output mode, a single-output 600-lumen mode.

The P2X Fury with IntelliBeam Technology is activated with a click-type tail cap. To select the auto-adjusting IntelliBeam Technology mode, simply press for momentary-on low and press further until it clicks for constant-on low. Turn the light off and press or click again within one second for constant-on high. The flashlight defaults to IntelliBeam Technology mode when it’s off for more than one second.

The P2X Fury with IntelliBeam Tech-

## IntelliBeam Technology always provides the right amount of light for the task at hand.

nology employs cutting-edge proprietary technology with an intelligent sensor and microprocessor that automatically controls the light output. The sensor evaluates the environment before turning on, so that it never activates on high in close quarters.

The microprocessor dials in the optimal light output based on the environmental feedback it receives, helping to preserve dark-adapted night vision and maximizing run time. In open areas, you'll receive all 600 lumens. In close quarters, it could be down to as little as 15 lumens.

IntelliBeam Technology always provides the right amount of light for the task at hand, and allows you to concentrate on the task without having to fiddle with adjusting light output.

The Fury features a virtually indestructible Cree XM-L high-output, high-efficiency LED emitter that is regulated to maximize light output and runtime. It runs on two 123A 3-volt lithium batteries (included).

Tactical runtime is 1.5 hours. SureFire defines tactical runtime as the runtime (at highest setting for multiple-output flashlights) until output drops below 50 lumens. The P2X Fury with IntelliBeam Technology has a runtime of 46 hours at 15-lumen output per ANSI/FL1 standard. These runtimes are on standard disposable 123A batteries. Runtime on rechargeable LFP 123A batteries is approximately 50% less. Maximum output isn't affected.

The Fury has a tempered Borosilicate glass window for resistance to impact and thermal shock, as well as to maximize light transmission.

The Fury has a precision parabolic reflector that creates a smooth, focused beam with no artifacts. The beam has a narrow hotspot with a medium-sized spill. The Fury has excellent throw with enough surround light for peripheral awareness — ideal for both tactical and general

applications. The beam quality is outstanding.

SureFire lights are noted for their ruggedness, and the Fury is no exception. It has a durable milspec Type III hard-anodized 6061-T6 aerospace aluminum body with a matte-textured finish. The body on the Fury with IntelliBeam Technology features checkered texturing to provide a secure, comfortable grip in all environmental conditions. Other Fury models feature a sculpted grip. The Fury is O-ring sealed and weatherproof.

The Fury isn't much bigger than the original 65-lumen SureFire 6P—the flashlight that started it all and a powerhouse in its day. The P2X Fury with IntelliBeam Technology measures only 5.4 inches long and weighs under six ounces with batteries. Bezel diameter is 1.37 inches. Its compact size and light weight make the Fury ideal for everyday belt carry.

Optional accessories include SureFire's patent-pending Combat Rings™, filters, a diffuser, and beam cover.

How well does this new "smart light" actually work? Flawlessly in my testing. And did I say revolutionary? You bet. With the introduction of the P2X Fury with IntelliBeam Technology, SureFire has once again reinvented the tactical flashlight. As I stated before, there is no comparison.

The P2X Fury with IntelliBeam Technology has an MSRP of \$229.00. It's backed by SureFire's No-Hassle Guarantee. You won't find a better all-around tactical flashlight. ☺

*Eugene Nielsen's background includes protective intelligence investigations and threat management, as well as red teaming security consulting. He has a BA degree from the University of California. He currently owns and operates an investigative and security consulting firm and is licensed in both California and Arizona. He has authored close to 1,000 published articles.*



SureFire offers a variety of accessories for the Fury, such as the V85A Polymer Speed Holster, which was developed for anyone who needs to deploy their flashlight rapidly. It features a unique cut-away design that exposes more of the light's body.



Fury is powered by two 123A 3-volt lithium batteries. SureFire lithium batteries are optimized for use in SureFire flashlights.

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P.E.P.R. stands for "Proper Eye Position Ready," but it's more fun to just say "pepper." There are Quick Detach models and standard bolt-in. It's available in 1-inch, 30mm or 34mm. The rings give the option of smooth top or Picatinny rail top—enough options for everyone and every rifle.

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### Jericho® Pistol

IWI US, Inc., a subsidiary of Israel Weapon Industries (IWI) Ltd., announces that the highly anticipated Jericho® brand of pistols for the U.S. market is now shipping to distributors.

The Jericho® 941™ steel-frame, semi-auto, short-recoil model is currently shipping in full-size in 9mm and .40 S&W and semi-compact in 9mm, .40 S&W, and .45 ACP. The pistol features adjustable sights, an integral MIL-STD 1913 rail, and ergonomic pistol grip. It ships with two magazines in a lockable carry case.

Jericho® 941™ pistols are used by civilians and elite forces worldwide, including the Israeli police. Ten-round compliant pistols are available where mandated.



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### Mossberg Patriot with Kryptek Highlander

The Mossberg® Patriot™, available in 11 of the most popular calibers with over 60 models, combines the most-desired features from previous Mossberg centerfire rifles in a re-engineered platform with streamlined bolt handle, redesigned bolt knob, and classic hunting-style stock. Now Mossberg announces five new Patriot bolt-action rifles that feature Kryptek® Highlander™ camo stocks with matte blue metal finishes in .243 Win, .308 Win, .270 Win, .30-06, and .300 Win Mag.



The Kryptek Highlander stock is a camouflage pattern specially designed for hunting in varied terrain and elevation. The classic stock design has textured stippling on the grip and the surface areas of the forend and features a straight comb with rounded edges, raised cheekpiece, and traditional rubber butt pad for greater comfort and reduced recoil. To complement the stock redesign and improve handling, Mossberg has streamlined the bolt handle, providing additional clearance for gloved or larger hands, and added an aggressively checkered bolt knob.

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## Trijicon Miniature Rifle Optic

Trijicon® takes the science of the red dot sight to the next level with the Trijicon Miniature Rifle Optic or MRO™, a red-dot sight tough enough for combat, law enforcement, competition shooting, or hunting in the harshest environments. Light and rugged, the Trijicon MRO mounts easily, zeros quickly, and adapts to almost any shooting scenario.

The MRO features eight brightness settings, including two that are night vision compatible, plus one extremely bright setting for use with lights or in very bright outdoor conditions. And it gets an amazing five years of continuous use on a single 2032 battery.

Half-minute adjustments with 70 MOA total travel allow for zeroing in most any configuration on a variety of platforms. The MRO is parallax free, with infinite eye relief for quick and accurate engagement no matter your position. Suggested retail price is \$579 without mount and \$629 with mount.



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## Colt Defender Ammunition

DKG Trading, Inc. has introduced the Colt Defender series of solid copper hollow-point center-fire pistol ammunition. Colt Defender features an all-copper bullet that provides exceptional penetration and expansion while maintaining nearly 100% bullet weight retention. It's premium ammunition at a most affordable price.

Colt Defender ammunition incorporates specially blended powders matched with highest-quality primers to assure consistent reliability and managed recoil. Only virgin brass cases are used in the loading process to allow trouble-free feeding and extraction. Plus every component used in the manufacturing process for Colt Defender ammunition is made in the USA.

With the introduction of the highest-quality Colt Defender handgun ammunition line, shooters will benefit from an extremely accurate load delivering maximum on-target energy and penetration—so necessary in self-defense situations.

Initial pistol calibers in immediate production are .380 ACP, 9mm Luger, .40 S&W, and .45 ACP.



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## Talon Springfield XD Grips

Talon Grips, Inc. announces the redesign of its Springfield Armory XD grips. All XD platforms are included in the redesign, including Subcompact, Compact, and Full Size models.

The new Talon Grips XD grips provide increased coverage on the handle, encompassing the entirety of the frame from the magazine well to the top of the thumb rest. Advances in laser cutting technology allow Talon Grips to produce more complex and intricate grip designs, making them the most innovative and functional grips on the market. The additional coverage increases the purchase between the user and firearm while maintaining the aesthetics of Springfield's signature XD frame. Cutouts for the XD logo are for visual appeal and ease of installation. The increased interface improves weapon retention and encourages quicker target acquisition and more accurate follow-up shots with better recoil mitigation.



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## Unplanned Withdrawal

A 60-year-old Warren, Michigan man stepped out of the bathroom at his neighborhood bank only to be confronted by a bank robber who pointed a gun at his face and ordered him to march behind the counter and join the employees. When he told the robber he could not comply, the robber grabbed him by the back of the neck and forced him behind the counter.

While his back was to the robber, who was now occupied with retrieving a sack of money, the man surreptitiously drew his concealed Smith & Wesson Shield pistol and chambered a round. He then turned and opened fire on the robber, who fled. The man emptied his pistol, hitting the robber once in each arm and once in the leg. The robber collapsed in the parking lot and was apprehended by responding officers.

SOURCE: *Detroit Free Press*, Detroit, Michigan, 9/22/15

## Family Affair

When a Cincinnati man saw his sister involved in an argument, he walked over to see what the fuss was about. When he did so, the man arguing with his sister pulled a pistol out and fired at him. Licensed to carry a pistol of his own, our protagonist drew it and went to work, firing three shots and hitting his attacker in the leg.

The assailant ran across the street to his own residence and re-emerged with a pistol in each hand, firing at the man and his sister, as well as another man and a one-year-old baby, before being driven back inside by the defender's return fire. Police took the attacker into custody. After being treated for his gunshot wound, the assailant now faces multiple felony charges.

SOURCE: WXIX-TV, Cincinnati, Ohio, 7/27/15

## Leave Her Alone!

A robber forced his way into an Indianapolis, Indiana home in broad daylight one Monday afternoon in September. Encountering one of the residents, an elderly woman, he held his gun to her head. At that time the woman's husband emerged from the back of the house holding a handgun. He opened fire on the intruder.

The robber was critically wounded by the elderly man's salvo and was hospitalized. Not only does he face charges for this incident, but responding officers found he had multiple outstanding warrants in Marion and Johnson counties.

SOURCE: WRTV, Indianapolis, Indiana, 9/21/15

## Backyard Intruders

An 85-year-old El Cerrito, California man was home alone just before lunchtime on a weekday when he noticed what he described as suspicious figures in his backyard. The elderly man armed himself with a firearm. When two men forced their way through his back door, he felt his life was in danger and commenced shooting at them.

His shots had a telling effect, as the pair stumbled back out the door and fled on foot across the lawn before hopping in a getaway car and screeching off. The homeowner called police and waited. Responding officers went in search of the intruders and took one into custody at a nearby BART station. That intruder had been shot in the head. He faces serious charges when he is released from the hospital.

SOURCE: KPIX, San Francisco, California, 9/3/15



**Eight is enough: A diminutive S&W Shield on the person beats a bigger gun left at home or in the car.**

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## Fighting Shotgun Stock Length

**"Beware of the man, not the weapon."**

This adage has held true since time immemorial, and will predominantly decide who will be the victor and who the vanquished in an encounter. This having been said, there is no question that the right equipment for the right job is a huge bonus. Even if you have no "inanimate" weapon such as a blade or firearm, engaging in fisticuffs (or footicuffs, for that matter) may win the contest, but fighting with broken knuckles isn't conducive to power punches and kicks.

Let's face it, if David had been flinging nerf balls instead of a BFR, it's doubtful Goliath would have hit the deck, irrespective of strategy or tactics. Ergo, since it's always beneficial to have efficient weaponry available prior to an envisaged conflict, it would be better to load the dice and have it modified for utility and personal physical "fit" in advance. If you look for a fighting edge with your equipment, then an atlatl is always better than a throwing spear. And if you have the pre-battle opportunity to have the extra power fulcrum standing by for your spear, why not take advantage of it?

Which all leads up to the matter of fighting shotgun stock length. Note that this has no correlation to a shotgun being used for trap shooting, skeet shooting, or whacking that dwatted wabbit in your cawwot patch.

A shotgun used for the same combative reasons as a rifle or carbine has the same prerequisites and results—miss the target and you or a third party dies. And to achieve a desirable result, one of the deciding factors is how well the gun fits your personal frame. As there are very few car manufacturers who actually race their own cars, so are there limited numbers of arms fabricators who personally go to war. Hence the cars that perform immaculately at Nurburgring but go rubber side up on a cobblestone road—and the proliferation of over-length factory shotgun stocks.

Ideally, you need the right tool for the right job, and while some people, for a variety of reasons—usually administrative—can't tailor their weapons to fit, the majority of owners/operators can. "But," you say, "I'm a big guy, and midgets and women should use something else. The factory stock fits me just fine." Yes, Big Fella, that's why you're usually shot as the first visible target, or are hobbling around with bad knees and heart problems by the time you're 50. Cut the narcissism—and your shotgun stock. Very few stocks, including the M16 carbine, are short enough when you're dressed in 21st century full battle gear.

Why does the gun usually need a shorter than standard length stock? For a variety of reasons:

(1) If the stock is too long for you and you use heavy buckshot and slugs during training, you will probably get battered and bruised. And if you think that's no big deal, someone died several years ago from an embolism that was initiated by his bruised arm.

(2) Inability to mount the gun onto target quickly and securely will result in poor marksmanship.

(3) If the stock is over-length, it leads to manipulation problems with the support hand, such as loading and reloading operations—especially with a slide-action-operated shotgun.

Yes, we've all seen trick shooters hitting aerial targets while firing between their legs with a mirror. That's why they're called trick shooters. Very good at what they do, but not a productive technique to use in a gunfight.

Herewith the physical facts: As stated in prior *S.W.A.T.* columns, *all* male adults measure the same from shoulder to beltline (approximately 18 to 19 inches), while all female adults are almost five inches shorter in this area. This is irrespective of overall body height, which is governed by the leg length of the individual.

But an individual's forearm length (from elbow to wrist) is the same as that individual's foot from heel to toe. This is also irrespective of overall body height. Therefore, what primarily affects the desirable length of pull on an individual's shotgun is the length of his/her forearm and neck (some people have longer necks than others, affecting their stock/cheek weld). It has *nothing* to do with whether a male is six-foot-five or five-foot-six.

Obviously the thickness of upper torso garb, such as heavy body armor, will in effect "lengthen" or "shorten" the stock. Though full-length stocks fitted with a pistol grip somewhat alleviate the situation, if the shotgun stock is cut to about a 12-inch length of pull (distance from trigger to back of recoil pad), it will suffice for most adults. An alternative is to buy a "youth" or "student" model.

The easiest rough check for length is to rest the gunbutt in the crook of the elbow. The *second* knuckle of the trigger finger should reach the trigger. (Note: this is a measurement check *only*, not a method to operate the trigger when shooting!) And yes, if you are the department giant, you can still shoot a cut-down, non-pistol-gripped gun, as long as you rest your thumb along the top tang of the stock, approximately where the safety button is located on a Mossberg 590. Failure to do this—with the thumb crossed over the neck of a short stock—usually results in smashing oneself in the snotlocker with the thumb knuckle.

Isn't it strange how the know-nothing idiots who built shotguns over 100 years ago built them with short drop-comb stocks, with the safety/barrel selector button on top of the stock neck—and they all fit anybody who picks them up and shoulders the guns. What amazing luck.

Maybe you do need to "beware of the man, not the weapon," but it doesn't hurt to have a rock in your collection of nerf balls—just in case. ☺

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

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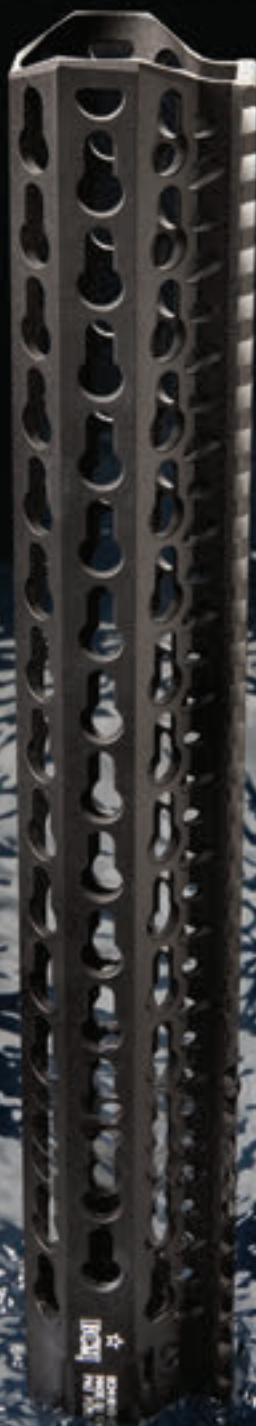




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