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4 COVER STORY

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52 TWO GUNS, ONE BAG Primary Weapons Systems MK1 MOD 2 BY DAVE BAHDE

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BRIEFING ROOM

BY DENNY HANSEN

Do Your Duty

AG this issue hits the newsstands, the General Elections are just over a month away. To my way of thinking, voting is much more than a right—it is your duty.

In almost every election since I became of voting age in 1972, pundits have proclaimed, "This is the most pivotal election in history." That statement has never been truer than this year.

Probably the top reason it's so important is the Supreme Court of the United States (SCOTUS). The next president will likely appoint two and possibly as many as five new justices. Presently there are four conservative justices and four liberal justices sitting, with one vacancy. In the short term, when the vacancy is filled, the court will swing to the right or left.

In the long term, decisions handed down will likely determine if we live in a Democracy or a Republic in the future. Sadly, many folks don't even know the difference.

In *District of Columbia v. Heller*, in a five-four decision, SCOTUS ruled that the Second Amendment protects an individual's right to possess a firearm for self-defense. Hillary Clinton has gone on record saying she believes the court made the wrong decision and will try to overturn the *Heller* case.

Earlier this year, Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg made the unprecedented move of entering into the political arena by saying, "He is a faker," referring to GOP nominee Donald Trump.

Statements like those by Clinton and Ginsburg make me fear a SCOTUS that leans heavily to the left will rule more on emotion and party lines than the Constitution.

And remember, Supreme Court Justices are appointed for life or until they retire. If relatively young justices are appointed, the fate of our nation may be determined for the next 40 or more years. I dread that the nation my grandchildren grow up in will not resemble the one I did.

Another important consideration is the "down ticket" elections of U.S. Senators, Congressmen, state, and even local representatives. In the case of incumbents, don't just listen to their talking points but check their voting records. If you hear something like, "I support the Second Amendment, but …" be very wary. Liberty does not come with a "but."

Do your duty-get out and vote. And pray for the Republic.

NEW, OLD AUTHOR

One of our most followed authors is Justin Dyal. You know him by the name Ethan Johns. A U.S. Marine Corps Special Operations Officer, Justin used the pen name Ethan Johns for OpSec reasons. Now retired from the Corps, he will be using his real name starting with his next article. Only the name has changed—you can expect the same high-quality articles as in the past.

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

Genny Hanson

SMAT EDITORIAL

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LETTERS FROM OUR READERS

HIGH-CAPACITY SHOTGUN

When I was in a small gun shop recently, I noticed a strange-looking shotgun. The owner told me it was an SRM 1216 with a capacity of 16 rounds fed from four, four-round tubular magazines that were in a cylinder shape.

I don't know very much about shotguns and was wondering if this is the same thing as the Striker shotguns that were outlawed in the mid-1990s.

M. Shelton. Tennessee

The SRM Arms SRM 1216 is unique unto itself and totally different than the Striker. The Armsel Striker was invented by a Rhodesian named Hilton Walker, who moved to South Africa and produced his design and sold it under the names Sentinel Arms Co Striker-12, Protecta and Protecta Bulldog. It fires from a 12-round drum and operates much like a double-action revolver. Quality control was hit or miss, especially on the American-produced Street Sweeper,

which is essentially the same firearm.

The SRM 1216 is a semiautomatic shotgun. When a four-round tube has been exhausted, the cylinder is manually rotated to bring up the next tube.

We currently have an SRM 1216 in for evaluation. After thoroughly putting it through its paces, we will have a complete report in the January 2017 issue.

Denny Hansen

TRAINING ARTICLES

I very much enjoyed the article on the training offered by Agoge Corporate Services (FROM THE TUNNELS OF GAZA TO THE DESERTS OF NEVADA: IDF-Style Training for U.S Agencies, August 2016 S.W.A.T.).

One reason I'm a faithful reader is because you often have reviews of training companies that are not well known. I can learn about the "big name" schools and instructors online or by asking friends, but S.W.A.T. informs me about other training that may be near me or

more within my price range. I hope you have similar articles planned.

R. Griffith, New Mexico

We're glad you approve. Yes, we have many other training articles in the works. These include law enforcement/ military only as well as open enrollment courses.

U.S. CARBINE, CALIBER .30 M1

I'd like to say how much I enjoyed your article on the M1 Carbine (DIAMOND ANNIVERSARY: Inland Manufacturing M1 Carbine, September 2016 S.W.A.T.). It's the early idea of the M16 that I used in the Army-short, maneuverable, and reliable.

My M1 fell out of a gun rack in the back of a Jeep while I was trail riding. I bought three new stocks through an ad in the NRA's American Rifleman. I replaced the cracked stock on my rifle and sold the other two stocks for what I paid for all three. Some of my first dol-





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lars earned, and I thought I would grow up to be a gunsmith....

I still like shooting the M1. Mine is made by Singer.

M. Faw, email

Thanks for the feedback. The M1 Carbine remains one of my favorite firearms as well.

Denny Hansen

STOCK OR CUSTOM?

Why do you frequently have articles on custom handguns and rifles? A perfect example of this is the article about the Bowie Tactical Glock (*REFINING PERFECTION: Bowie Tactical Concepts Glock 43*, August 2016 *S.W.A.T.*). I look upon this as a gunwriter flaunting what he has over all of us poor peons. Please confine your articles to production guns.

T. Fulmer, Arkansas

I wanted to let you know how much I like the articles on customizing firearms. I am a tinkerer at heart, and while many of the projects are far above my skill sets, I've picked up quite a few tips on modifications I can make myself. I hope we can see some do-it-yourself articles in future issues.

D. Pikesman, Indiana

We try hard to have something for everyone in each issue, but it's impossible to please everyone all the time. Generally speaking, features on custom firearms and especially DIY articles are very well liked based on feedback we receive. Denny Hansen

STEADILY IMPROVING

I'm a longtime *S.W.A.T.* reader and immensely enjoy every issue. I've never written to you before, but I felt the need to drop you a short note.

In the last 15 years or so, I've watched *S.W.A.T.* steadily improve. Some of these improvements include adding a lot more color, increasing the size from 80 to 100 pages, coming out every month instead of bimonthly, and adding a monthly Sweepstakes (pick me please!).

All I can say about the covers over the last couple of years is "Wow!" I'm sure the gun-only covers get your magazine noticed on the shelves, but I'm glad you haven't completely abandoned your signature "man with a gun" cover. The September issue is a great example: that's one serious-looking dude with an equally serious rifle.

While some magazines have folded due to the economy, you keep forging ahead. Keep up the great work!

B. Baughman, Nevada

Thank you for your support and the kind words.

Publisher Richard Lucibella is a man who does nothing halfway. When he bought S.W.A.T. from the previous publisher, we did not even have a website.

Looking ahead, Rich recognized the potential of digital magazines, and S.W.A.T. was one of the first publications of any type to offer digital subscriptions.

Likewise with social media. S.W.A.T. *currently has 1,700,000 Facebook fans and is growing every day.*

As for our covers, we're lucky to have Straight 8 Photography and contributions from Robbie Barrkman. They are two of the most highly respected names in the industry.

Denny Hansen 🔘



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BY BOB PILGRIM

LAWFUL CARRY

BORAII Holster

M inimalist holsters are in vogue. The BORAII (Bill of Rights Amendment II) Kydex holster is such a holster. Its purpose is to break up the firearm's outline and keep it in one place. The trigger is covered for safety and retention.

Resembling a large credit card, an empty (preferred) pistol's trigger guard is snapped into its trigger-guard recess by pushing the pistol forward and down until the guard is locked and the dust cover rests on the forward channel of the holster. The interior of the holster is polished smooth, so it won't mar a firearm's finish. This makes for a firm but smooth release. When secured in the holster, the gun can be loaded and the magazine topped off. The BORAII is ambidextrous and slips into any standard-size pocket.

The Kydex is 0.78 inch thick and feather light at 0.8 ounce. Its square shape breaks up the firearm's outline, resembling a thick wallet. Just below the holster's trigger-guard recess is a Kydex hook that snags the pocket's lining and remains behind when the pistol is pulled from it. BORAII recommends



Bowie Tactical Custom G43 parked in BORAII pocket holster complemented by SnagMag holding magazine with Glockstore magazine extension.





the holster be carried in a jeans or cargo pants front pocket.

- The draw sequence is as follows:
- Establish a firing grip on the gun in the pocket and pocket holster.
 Depending on hand size, you may have to modify your grip to clear the pocket.
- Point muzzle toward the ground and pull up, applying pressure rearward.
- The hook will snag cloth in the pocket's interior. The gun will separate from the holster.
- Smaller guns present a smaller grip, making it easier to exit the pocket.
- The BORAII deploys the pistol like a folding knife that has a wave/ pocket hook to open it.

For evaluation, I selected my Bowie Tactical customized Glock 43 9mm pis-

William Bethards with pistol concealed in right front pocket with BORAII holster (left). Completing draw sequence with Taurus TCP .380-caliber pistol, holster remains behind in pocket (above).



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LAWFUL CARRY

tol. But because of the nine's overall size, I quickly determined that largehanded individuals will not be able to extract the pistol with a full firing grip. Instead, a very tenuous pinch grip was used to extract the Glock from the holster and a firing grip was subsequently established when clear of the pocket.

Not good, so I switched to a smallerprofile Taurus 738 .380-caliber pistol, and it worked fine. *Top Shot: All Stars'* William Bethards was able to fully grip the Taurus with his index finger flat against the frame. With this set-up, very fast presentations could be made without flagging or brandishing. Shooters with smaller hands may have no problem with a larger-framed handgun.

While practice with a firearm and carry system is always recommended, be advised that numerous repetitions will eventually tear the pocket's fabric. BORAII designers/manufacturers John and Lauren see this holster as an evolving design and are addressing these idiosyncrasies. In fact, I received the .380 holster after evaluating the 9mm rig, and its hook was more rounded and not as sharp as the larger pistol's scabbard. Taurus TCP .380 is firmly held by BORAII minimalist scabbard. Pistol can be charged while holster is attached, mitigating negligent discharges during this sequence.

At this juncture, the BORAII does not accommodate trigger-guard mounted lasers.

KISS is my military and police mantra. I like safety and simplicity. The BORAII embodies both attributes. It breaks up the pistol's profile, mitigates negligent discharges during loading, and keeps the piece in one place. Most importantly, it protects the trigger from snagging on something in the pocket that probably shouldn't be there.

Reasonably priced at \$25, and with even lower pricing sometimes offered on BORAII's website, you can't go wrong. (5)





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STREET SMARTS

BY BRENT T. WHEAT

Put Up Yer Dukes!

"WHAT are you looking at, butthead?!?"

Whenever such a line is uttered at a bar or other gathering, you can rest assured a fight is getting ready to start. Hopefully, the challenge isn't directed toward you, but sometimes, through a bit of imprudent behavior on your part or simple bad luck, fisticuffs are imminent and you have been given a goldengraved invitation.

By "fight," I mean a good old-fashioned, bare-knuckle, ass-whipping brawl. This is opposed to a felonious assault, where the attacker's goal is to take something from you without warning or provocation. In a fight, you see it coming, may have had some part in instigating it and will, against all common sense, continue blithely forward until someone has a fat lip.

Over the years, I've touched on an

endless variety of tips for avoiding and disengaging from interpersonal violence, along with ideas for surviving an assault. On the other hand, we've never really discussed the common "everyday" fistfight, because intelligent people such as me and thee are supposed to avoid such reckless endeavors. However, in a bow to reality and testosterone, we'll examine the particulars when ego or booze overrides good sense.

Contrary to popular television and movies, a real fight isn't two steely eyed gentlemen standing in a circle, glaring and daring the other to take the first swing. If you actually see such a tableau in real life, the fighters are just hoping bystanders will pull them apart before anything happens so both can claim victory without running the risk of a broken nose.

Most real-world fights start with a



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sucker punch or a shove. Some type of hard feelings has developed and the aggressor suddenly, without warning, throws a punch or shove in the direction of their adversary, often from the side or back. It's cowardly, but it happens all the time. In fact, based upon my years of investigation, observation, and occasional participation in fights, I'd say this occurs in the majority of cases.

In nearly every situation, the aggres-





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STREET SMARTS

sor telegraphs their intentions. A hard, steely glare or "fighting words" thrown in your direction is pretty much an announcement to all nearby parties that the fussin' and feudin' is getting ready to commence. This is the moment to make a decision: leave or not? If not, get ready for problems.

The troublemaker will eventually head your way. If he's a sucker-punching kind of guy, he'll shear off, appear to walk past and then strike from the side or rear. If you remain facing him, he might strike, shove, or continue to walk away without contact. If he keeps walking, that would be another good time for you to leave because he's just waiting until your back is turned to start the fracas.

If you choose to stand your ground, the best course of action is to back up against something protective, discreetly blade your body to the threat, and lower your center of gravity. At this point, it isn't prudent to actually double up your fists and raise them like a boxer because this could precipitate the fight or be used to claim intimidation by you.

Instead, tent your hands together as if making a thoughtful gesture and bring them up to mid-chest. Cops use this all the time: it appears non-threat-

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ening but places your hands in a position to quickly parry or deliver blows if necessary.

In most fights, after a few wild roundhouse swings or ineffective jabs, one participant tries to take out the legs of the other fighter or get him in a headlock. This happens in nearly every street fight, so be ready.

The majority of fights end up on the ground as a wrestling match. This is also the worst place to be because you have lost mobility and run the risk of getting kicked by your opponent's associates.

There are many ways to avoid takedown, but the primary goal is to keep your knees and hips away from your opponent's grasp. Having a working knowledge of the basics of ground fighting, as it is known in Mixed Martial Arts circles, is also a good idea.

If someone gets you in a headlock, instantly tuck your chin hard against your neck to prevent choking and then go to work on the lower body of your assailant. Do not flail uselessly, trying to land blows to the upper body, because it doesn't work.

Instead, attack the lower body and perhaps hands with great violence, because attempted choking rises to the level of deadly force. Don't try to bulldog your opponent down because it can have adverse consequences to your neck—such as instant death.

One big problem with brawls is that there typically isn't an "exit strategy." After both fighters are exhausted and scuffed up, things devolve into a slowmotion grappling session until one or both parties agree to cease or bystanders pull the scrum apart.

There's really no good way to end a fight, so you might as well just stand and slink away quickly. There will be taunting, but prudence suggests a quick exit. I then suggest a call to local authorities in order to prevent being cast as the wicked provocateur who fled the scene.

After it's all safely over, go home and hit yourself squarely in the forehead with a hammer, because smart people don't allow themselves to get involved in dumb fights. ()

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

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TEDE

The Hidden Woodsmen

ONE look at the packs and pouches from The Hidden Woodsmen and you'll probably find something familiar, possibly seen in movies, re-enactment events, diagrams in old books, or even museums, but with a modern take.

HISTORIC NEW ENGLAND

The Hidden Woodsmen is a small gear shop based out of Massachusetts and run by Malcolm Coderre, whose goal is to outfit the modern adventurer with 18th and 19th century "old world" gear handcrafted with modern materials. Malcolm's products are all designed and handmade in the United States. For extreme durability and long life out in the field, the Hidden Woodsmen uses military-grade fabrics and webbing. Each piece of gear is made individually and built to last.

Malcolm said, "I started this gear line not only to make durable handmade camping and hiking gear, but also to build relationships and provide great customer service."

HAVERSACK

I'd been hearing about Malcolm's gear for a while. After we met at a large cutlery convention in Atlanta, he agreed to outfit me with some of his more popular gear for woods travel: a belt pouch, signaling panel, and haversack.

Popular with hikers and soldiers of yesteryear, haversacks were in use during the American Civil War. In addition



Hidden Woodsmen Haversack is manufactured from 1000D Cordura and made in the USA. Soldiers in the late 19th century often attached their tin mess cup to a ring on their haversack.

to the supplies transported by boat, the men carried 40 rounds of ammunition in cartridge boxes and four days' rations in haversacks. The pack is essentially a sheet of rugged canvas that folds around its contents (bedroll, clothing, daily rations, and assorted personal items) and is held together by flaps and adjustable buckle-straps. About 150 years later, not much has changed as far as haversacks go. Malcolm has done an amazing remake of the time-tested haversack design.

The dimensions of the Hidden Woodsmen Haversack are 12x11x4 inches in a color Malcolm calls Earth Brown. Rather than the canvas material once used, Malcolm uses 1000 Denier (1000D) Cordura for the main construction and 500D and 420D liners on the inside.

The Haversack is double walled, with a front zipper pocket, two heavy-duty buckles, Velcro front panel, MOLLE webbing on either side of the bag, and a wide adjustable shoulder strap.

The MOLLE webbing loops are compatible with most modern tactical and military gear. The webbing can also be used to attach a button compass, carabiners, small lights, whistles, or sunglasses. Another outstanding feature of the Haversack is the inside colored pockets, which can help the user stay organized. The back of the Haversack has a heavy-duty loop meant for a hatchet or tomahawk to be stored while out and about.

If the Haversack is slung over the shoulder and kept to the left, it's easy to adjust the shoulder strap while walking. But when the position is switched, it has to be taken off to make the adjustment. I walked about six miles the first trip with it and the Haversack seemed comfortable until I filled the two-liter water bladder I kept inside the Haversack. I could feel the extra four pounds of water resting on one shoulder. With a lighter weight load in general and shorter distances, the bag is fine.

It was comfortable on shorter jaunts with less weight due to the wide nylon strap, which is very robust. The inside consists of a main pocket covered with

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flaps that also attach via Velcro strips, a smaller mid pocket, and a front zippered pocket. I stashed a small Boy Scout mess tin with lid and Signal Panel inside the mid pocket, but it would also be perfect for a map or GPS.

The zippered pocket is good for stashing important items like money, identification and keys. The Haversack is a good compromise between utility and mid-weight carry at about one pound empty. I am looking forward to more trips with the Hidden Woodsmen Haversack!

BELT POUCH

Although Malcolm has an item called a Possibles Pouch, the Belt Pouch he offers is more of a Possibles Pouch, according to many published photos and early diagrams. However, these things are usually up for interpretation and the intended use of the individual. An early Possibles Pouch was a small bag made of animal skin and either slung over the shoulder or attached to a belt and kept easily accessible. Inside one would find tobacco and pipe, tin cup, flint and steel, tinder, tools for one's muzzleloader, matches, compass, and maybe some jerky or other edibles.

The Hidden Woodsmen Belt Pouch is 8x5x6 inches, made of double-walled 1000D, and has a large plastic buckle on



Besides the main pocket, the Haversack has a colored pocket that can store a water bladder or maps, a medium pocket, and a zippered outer pocket. Two long flaps fold over the top and securely fasten via Velcro.

the front. It's simple and durable, perfect for hip carry on a belt. I like that it's free of zippers and extra pockets. Everything is in plain view and little searching is necessary.

The loops on the Belt Pouch are spaced apart just enough to fit a tomahawk in between them when attached to a belt, but this may impede opening the pouch depending on the tomahawk's head size. I used this on my belt while hiking in the Northeast wilderness and found it on the large size for what I was carrying, but it only weighs about three ounces empty. I like the idea of having some extra room inside, so it's easy to find what I want.

The alternative is stuffing it, but then you risk losing something while sifting through the pouch, which often happens when any bag is full to capacity. The tough, abrasion-resistant material means it can hold items that may tear up frail materials on other pouches.



Above: Haversack's medium pocket easily fits a flat Boy Scout mess kit and signaling panel. Author found this pocket accessible while walking by just unlocking one buckle.

Right: Author used Belt Pouch as his possibles pouch/ditty bag. Slim profile kept pouch from feeling too weight forward.



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Author thoroughly enjoyed the wide load-bearing strap and found it very easy to adjust on the go. Extra length of webbing was neatly kept together by a simple Velcro loop.

In my possibles pouch I keep a small stick of fatwood and a triangular ceramic that over time can wear a hole in fabrics. With the 1000D materials of the Hidden Woodsmen Belt Pouch, this won't ever be a problem.

SIGNAL PANEL

The Signal Panel is bright orange and measures 22 inches square. It's made from 420D Cordura with four nylon webbing tie outs. This is perfect for the color, contrast, and movement criteria of signaling. It can easily be lashed to a long stick and waved up high over brush, or stuck in the ground to get attention. It also makes a good sitting mat or firewood carrier in camp.

I can see it being used as a sling for one's arm or even a kitchen mitt for moving hot containers on the fire. I used it as a collection cloth for a carving project. I gathered excess wood shavings along with small sticks for use as kindling. I never worried about it tearing or getting worn out.

Gear from the Hidden Woodsmen project quality and a sense of security. Whatever you are carrying and wherever you may find yourself, the last thing you want to worry about is your gear. (i)

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Target-Factory Reactionary Targets

arget-Factory[™] has come out with some awesome new reactionary targets that are lightweight, easy to handle and simple to set up and take down. Not only are they very affordable, they are also a heck of a lot of fun. They're just the ticket for

a family day at the range.

The targets are made of LDPE (Low Density Polyethylene), a tough plastic used in many outdoor applications (such as large neighborhood trash cans). LDPE is environmentally safe and 100% recyclable. It has excellent UV stability and maintains good color.

All rounds penetrate through the hollow targets,

BY EUGENE NIELSEN PHOTOS BY JEFF CALDWELL

leaving a smaller hole than the actual diameter of the bullet and, while not completely self-sealing, the targets are pretty darn close to it. The targets can be shot literally hundreds—if not thousands—of times before replacement.

You don't have to worry about cleanup. There isn't any. They are the only action targets for indoor ranges that have no fragmentation, ricochet or bullet deflection. Minimal plastic material comes off the product as a result of shooting, with the plastic punching out versus ripping apart.

TARGET-FRAME SET

The patented Target-Frame Set comes with Target-Factory's A-frame and one 6-Pak[™] of reactionary Target-Bottles. You can purchase an additional 6-Pak to make a deluxe Target-Frame that holds 12 bottles. Replacement bottles are sold separately. The Target-Frame Set weighs only 12 pounds with six bottles attached or 14 pounds with 12 bottles.

The Target-Frame is made of LDPE and is just as durable as the targets. The frame will take hits from hundreds of rounds. Target-Factory hasn't had any reports of a frame destroyed by shooting. The frame features an interlocking hinge and folds flat for hanging, easy storage, and transport. The frame is neutral green to offset the bright target colors.

TARGET-BOTTLES AND TARGET BOWLING PINS

U-Hang Target-Bottles[®] come in a 6-Pak or 3-Pak[™] in highvisibility colors that stand out against virtually any background. The bottles have a one-inch hole drilled in the bottle bottom to facilitate hanging. All bottles come with 18 inches each of 3/16-inch cord. The Target-Bottles are similar in size and weigh about the same as a long-necked glass bottle. They provide high action for even the smallest calibers.

For something more substantial, Target-Factory offers its



Above: Target-Factory Target-Bottle 6-Pak.

Below: Target-Factory A-frame still standing after Scottsdale Gun Club Independence Day 7.62x51 NATO Machine Gun Shoot.





Above: Target-Factory Bowling Pins color selection. They're a hot item for indoor ranges and large-caliber ammo.

Below: After a nice day in the desert shooting a couple thousand rounds with our Arizona buddies POF-USA Rifles and ASYM Precision Ammunition, and demoing U.S. PALM Defender Chest Rig.



high-visibility, high-durability Target Bowling Pins[®], which are the same size as regular bowling pins and weigh ³/₄ pound each. Due to their weight, they provide the best action with larger calibers, as there is not enough mass in a small caliber to create significant movement when they are hit.

Each Target-Bottle will take over 200 .22-caliber hits and over 100 .45-caliber hits before needing to be replaced. High-velocity smaller-diameter calibers, up to .50 caliber, create minimal damage. The Target Bowling Pins will take hundreds of rounds. According to Target-Factory, they have yet to shoot one of their targets to the point of complete destruction, and haven't had any reports of complete destruction from purchasers.

EASY ASSEMBLY

Assembly of the Target-Frame couldn't be simpler. Run the supplied cord through the Target-Bottle out the bottom, knot the cord, place another knot one inch above the bottle top, then insert that knot in the hole and slot on the underside of the frame (it's a good idea to melt the ends of the cord by the knots to keep them from coming loose). At the range, just unfold the frame and you're ready to shoot. It takes only seconds.

There are no mechanical or other parts to fail. If the cord holding a bottle is accidentally shot, reattach the target with the extra supplied cord or use any 3/16-inch cord. U-Hang and Bowling Pin Targets are easily hung and removed. There is no resetting of any hung targets after they are shot. The tar-

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gets may also be set on the ground or on other surfaces or stands.

The durability of Target-Factory products makes them usable for long periods of heavy shooting. Due to the lack of degradability by the elements (e.g., rust, fading, UV damage, moisture), the product will last for years. They may be left outdoors on personal ranges without fear of damage. In the long run, they're quite cost effective.

Target-Factory products are being used by many ranges, clubs, and competitions. Commercial ranges are both renting and selling the products for use by their customers. Scottsdale Gun Club is one such range.

Paul Sherman, Purchasing Manager for Scottsdale Gun Club, states that "Target-Factory products have been a great addition to our range. They are fun for shooters of all demographics and are an exceptional value because they can be reused again and again."

NO ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT Due to the virtual lack of environmen-

tal impact of Target-Factory's products,

the company has established an official partnership with the Tread Lightly! organization because of its "Respected Access Is Open Access" campaign and collaboration with the U.S. Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management, Arizona Game & Fish, and many other States'

SOURCES

TARGET-FACTORY (602) 828-3601 www.target-factory.com

ASYM PRECISION AMMUNITION LLC (201) 777-1911 www.asymammo.com

PATRIOT ORDNANCE FACTORY INC (POF-USA)

(623) 561-9572 www.pof-usa.com

SCOTTSDALE GUN CLUB (480) 348-1111 www.scottsdalegunclub.com

TREAD LIGHTLY! (800) 966-9900 www.treadlightly.org

U.S. PALM (602) 281-2940 www.uspalm.com agencies to help put an end to "Trigger Trash." This is critical to maintaining the right to shoot on our public lands.

Suggested retail price for the complete Target-Frame Set is only \$129.99. Replacement or U-Hang Target-Bottles are \$24.99 for a 3-Pak and \$39.99 for a 6-Pak. Target-Factory Bowling Pins will run you \$24.99. Target-Factory offers free shipping on all orders over \$100. Bulk pricing is available. All products are made in the USA.

The author would like to extend special thanks to Patriot Ordnance Factory (POF-USA), ASYM Precision Ammunition, and U.S. PALM for their assistance. (5)

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.

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ENEMY AT THE GATE

A Massacre Away

AT the time of this writing, in the aftermath of the Orlando, Florida nightclub massacre carried out by an Islamic extremist with a semi-automatic detachable magazine-fed rifle, the gun-ban zealots' passion for forcible citizen disarmament is at a fever pitch not seen in decades, if ever.

Pundits in numbers never before seen are openly calling for the repeal of the Second Amendment. Even now, that would appear to be a very long way off, but gun-rights advocates cannot afford to take much comfort from that. The Second Amendment's protection of the fundamental human right of the individual to keep and bear arms is only as good as its enforcement, and historically, there has been little apparent appetite for that enforcement, whether by any of the three branches of government or by the people ourselves. The focus of much of Congress' debate about which infringement to impose on that which shall not be infringed is on empowering the government to block gun sales to "suspected terrorists," without a conviction, without an indictment—without even an arrest or formal charges.

Just being named on the government's secret, unaccountable "watch list" assembled by unelected government officials would be enough. Keep in mind that many advocates of "gun control" enjoy referring to the NRA and other gun-rights advocates as "terrorists," and if the officials charged with assembling the list agree, there would seem to be little to stop them.

Because the terrorist in the Orlando attack had once been on the FBI's radar as a possible terrorist, some are blaming the lack of such a law for the fact that he was able to equip himself for his jihadist atrocity. One problem with that reasoning is that the FBI had eventually lost interest in the future killer and dropped him from the list.

That prompted Congressional gunban zealots to "improve" the legislation by applying the gun sales ban to anyone who had *ever* been on the list within the last five years, even if he had been removed from it by the time of the attempted gun purchase.

Excuse me?

A person no longer considered dangerous enough to be subjected to FBI scrutiny is *still* considered too dangerous to exercise a fundamental, Constitutionally guaranteed human right? But only for five years? What happens then? He's suddenly a good guy, merely by virtue of the passage of time?

But for most of the hardcore forcible disarmament advocates (and really, can there *be* such a thing as a "moder-



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ate" forcible citizen disarmament advocate?), a "suspected terrorist" gun purchase ban is merely a tasty appetizer. The main entrée for their eagerly awaited feast of tyrants would be a ban on so-called "assault weapons" and "high capacity" magazines.

And they don't intend to repeat the mistakes of 1994. *This* ban would be far more expansive, in an attempt to thwart gun manufacturers who would like to offer buyers a rifle nearly as capable as the newly banned models, but in compliance with the new laws—and there certainly would be no "sunset" provision, causing the law to dry up and blow away after ten years unless Congress renews it. But some believe even *that* does not go far enough.

David Yassky, who served as chief counsel to the U.S. House Subcommittee on Crime when the federal "assault weapon" ban was passed in 1994, told the *Huffington Post* back in June what he wishes that law had featured:

"In the original 1994 bill, owners were allowed to keep their assault weapons. In retrospect, I would prefer to have treated existing assault weapons the way machine guns are treated now: you'd have to go and get a license for the weapon you own. Companies would not be able to make or sell new ones, and the ones that are out there would have to be registered with law enforcement."

Yassky doesn't bother to mention the fact that these licenses are not easy to get. And for those "assault weapon" owners who cannot get the government to sign their permission slips? Prepare for the confiscation raids.

It's no accident that the volume and intensity of the "gun control" rhetoric is greater than it has ever been. It's also not necessarily the case that people find this particular massacre to be more of an outrage than any that came before it.

In 2013, a gun control "playbook" written by Democrat-affiliated political operatives was brought to light. In it, readers are urged to exploit every such massacre for every inch of political mileage they can get out of it, and to deliberately avoid facts and logic but focus instead on pure emotion. The gun prohibitionists have clearly embraced that strategy, and they get better at it with every high-profile mass shooting. They are now successfully leveraging public outrage over these shootings to exert real political pressure—more each time than the one before.

At this rate, it is not difficult to imagine a point at which even pro-rights politicians are faced with a stark choice they can either sell out the Constitution and their constituents' rights, or be voted out of office in favor of someone who will do so more eagerly.

At some point, in other words, we may be one more massacre away from an "assault weapons" ban more draconian than we have ever before seen. (5)

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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Duty Behind the Badge

IN a free society, we are allowed to criticize and question those whom we place our trust in. This is how it should be.

When an officer involved shooting (OIS) is of a controversial nature and saturates the media all hours of the day, it brings into question the decisionmaking skills of the involved parties. A highly negative incident places even higher burdens and stressors on those currently in the field in uniform who were not involved in the incident in an already highly demanding and exacting profession. Perhaps we should consider the following. account for. And he is expected to perform all of this flawlessly.

This is the nature of field police work. This is not the administrative, investigative, or those relegated to the nonfield-related aspects of police work. The true field police officer is the one who is always first on scene. He is the one who is pushing the black and white while you sleep. He will be the first one by your side, often alone and unassisted in tense and uncertain times, and your only blue line of defense at that precise critical moment.

He is the one who, unquestioning, will lay down his life and hazard his

The badge does not automatically instill superhuman powers or supernatural perceptive abilities. He is every bit as human as you and I.

Imagine a doctor who is expected to have mastered each and every aspect of medicine. This hypothetical would mean that from brain surgery to pediatrics to podiatry, any diagnosis or medical procedure would have to be carried out to perfection each and every time.

Imagine further that our doctor is called into the O.R. with little background information on the case itself. He may or may not have qualified personnel to assist him. He may or may not have the requisite tools to perform the procedure. He may or may not have sufficient background information on the patient's history and precisely how it was that the medical condition was incurred.

He will have to make split-second decisions involving the life of the patient. He will be called upon to explain his actions. He will be questioned before medical panels if something goes awry. He may find himself in court on a medical malpractice lawsuit. In essence under this hypothetical, he will be "flying blind" on each and every medical procedure he is asked to perform and safety for you, despite never having met you before. He does not have to do this. He does not need to respond rapidly on limited information. He chooses to do this as it is the moral obligation he has sworn to abide by.

The badge does not automatically instill superhuman powers or supernatural perceptive abilities. He is every bit as human as you and I. He has the same fears, trepidations and human emotions as we all do. He has family and friends and problems in life just as you and I do. He may work long, tedious hours day in and day out and yet is called upon at a moment's notice to make life-and-death decisions in the blink of an eye.

He does not know who, when, or where someone might attempt to harm him. When he ventures out to protect us, he is stepping into the unknown each and every day, each and every moment.

There are those who should have never been permitted to join the ranks of this profession. There are those who have tarnished and abused the badge, and they should be held accountable to the highest degree possible. They are few and far between. Most officers are attempting to do the right thing for the right reasons with little reward expected save for the satisfaction that they were there for you.

An officer's actions will be microscopically scrutinized in an event that is often measured in mere seconds. He will have to account for every action, word, tactic, thought process, and perception. He knows this every time he pushes out into the night, into the unforgiving unpredictability of the field, and yet he still chooses to do just that. It is a high-stakes risk that many would never take nor even contemplate.

I was once among the ranks of those who swore to serve and protect you. I have lost friends, and others have been injured. We knew the risks of our profession and yet we undertook them every day. Ours was a moral obligation that we all embraced not for the pay, prestige or reward, but because this was our chosen profession and it was the right thing to do. We took pride in a job well done. We took great satisfaction that some among you are still out there due to our actions.

We look back on careers that were uncertain, demanding, and hazardous and yet immensely satisfying in the same moment. We know full well that some who follow us will perish, and yet there are those who will still, remarkably, follow behind us.

The next time you encounter one who wears the badge, consider the obligation he or she has undertaken. If they are anything like the partners I worked with, they are there for you at all times under all conditions because it is simply the right thing to do. (())

Scott Reitz is a 30-year veteran of the Los Angeles Police Department and the director of the highly acclaimed International Tactical Training Seminars. Course information and schedules are available at their website at www.internationaltactical.com. Looking Back, a free monthly newsletter, is available by email at itts@gte.net.
S.W.A.T.'s authors and staff have been on the front lines in wars on five continents over the last 40 years, including the current battle against ISIS. They have served in all five branches of the U.S. Military, including such distinguished units as Rangers, Special Forces, SEALs, MARSOC, Marine Recon, and Air Force Pararescue.



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LONG GUNS

Shotgun Shell Pouches

I bought my first U.S. military shotgun more than 40 years ago. An M97 Trench Gun, it was the most iconic of the U.S. fighting shotguns—and still is, for that matter.

Ever since then, I have retained my interest in GI shotguns and their accouterments. Along with World War I and World War II shotguns, I've accumulated the bayonets, slings, shells, and shell pouches to go with them. Some of the latter are quite scarce now and pricey.

I have also retained an interest in current U.S. martial shotguns, ammunition, and ammunition pouches. As a result, when I got a call a few weeks ago from a friend who is one of the foremost experts on U.S. martial shotguns telling me that a lot of the War on Terror shotgun pouches are available as surplus or overruns, I was interested.

The types of shotgun pouches used from WWI

through Vietnam can be counted on one hand, though there are variations among the basic types. But over the last couple of decades, myriad shotgun shell pouches have been purchased by the armed forces. The ability to make special purchases at battalion level, or even lower in some units, has helped this proliferation.

As a result, I thought readers might be interested in some of the pouches I've found lately. Some are available on eBay, but others may only be obtained from specialist disposers of surplus U.S. military equipment.

One of the most interesting is the one about which my friend initially called. Unlike most recent pouches, which are designed for attachment using MOLLE (Modular Lightweight Load-carrying Equipment), this one has a shoulder strap for over-the-shoulder carry. It also

> has a belt loop to keep it against your side. Given that it only holds 12 shot

gun shells, it is fairly good-sized, but is also designed to hold two spare Beretta M9 magazines.

Twelve is traditionally the magic number for U.S. military shotgun shell pouches, though some hold more. What I find interesting about this one is that it would make a great grab-andgo pouch for someone like me, who keeps a shotgun and self-loading pistol as house guns. A friend got this one for me from a surplus disposer, so I don't really know for whom it was intended—MPs, maybe?

Another one is from Specialty Defense Systems and combines a double M4 pouch with loops for two shotgun shells in Woodland Camo. I have concluded that the two loops would logically be for breaching rounds, as many breachers carry an M4 and a pistolgrip shotgun. Presumably, the shotgun would already be loaded with breaching rounds, with these two as spares. I bought this one on eBay because it looked interesting.

Another I found appealing is of the same type as WWII, Vietnam and later belt pouches that hold 12 rounds. This is a really handy pouch with two reloads for most combat shotguns. Its fasteners allow quick access but keep the shells secure. The original WWII and later pouches had a small drain hole in the bottom, but this one has a distinctive large brass drain hole.

Produced by Alphasoft Wearables, it has the NSN number and other info stamped inside, as do the older pouches. It also has "US" stamped on it. This one is available on eBay.

One of the best deals for anyone wanting a shotgun ammo pouch with GI cred is the MOLLE II ACU Digital Shotshell Panel Pouch. It holds 16 shells in two rows of eight and is very flat against the web gear when closed,

Over-the-shoulder pouch holds 12 shotgun shells and two M9 magazines, making it a nice grab-and-go pouch.

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BravoCompanyMFG.com • Hartland, Wisconsin U.S.A. Toll Free: 1-877-BRAVO CO (1-877-272-8626) • Fax: 262-367-0989 but may be opened quickly with a pulltab. The pouch has the NSN number and with its digital camo is quite "tactical looking" and also truly tactical for fast access. I found them being sold as a pair on eBay for \$12. That gives me 32 shells with the two pouches.

The most expensive of the pouches I bought is the Eagle Industries FSBE (Full Spectrum Battle Equipment) 24-Round Shotgun Ammo Pouch, MOLLE, Coyote Brown, USMC. The pouch's tag has all the military data. It folds to be compact on the belt or vest, though since shells will be quadruple stacked when the pouch is fully folded, it does stick out a bit. Still, it is a nicely designed pouch. The best price I found was \$49.95, once again on eBay.

Unless you specifically want this one because it was USMC issue, I recommend a pair of the MOLLE II ACU pouches I discussed above instead, at a lower price and a flatter package.

I tried one other pouch that holds 19 shotgun shells in a rather complicated system of multiple flaps. It is an OD MOLLE II pouch that holds 13 rounds in a pouch that allows tabs to be pulled to let the two rows hang out for faster access. When folded, there are two outer flaps, each of which holds three shells each for a total of 19 shells. It seems complicated to me, but I would assume the unit or units that ordered it felt it suited their mission. I could see using the six outer shell loops for breaching rounds and the interior ones for buckshot or slugs.

Other current shotshell carriers are out there, but the ones discussed here give some idea of what's available. As I



MOLLE II ACU pouch holds 16 rounds conveniently and offers good value.



Eagle Industries FSBE pouch holds 24 rounds. It is comparatively expensive, but Eagle Industries has a solid reputation for producing high-quality military gear.



Current incarnation of traditional U.S. Military 12-round pouch still offers a good, compact carrying system for shotgun shells.



Pouch from Specialty Defense Systems is interesting in that it holds two M4 magazines and two shotgun shells, but for most readers it will not offer much utility.

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Nineteen-round pouch seems somewhat complicated compared to the others, but it does offer a way to separate buckshot and breaching rounds.



Most of the pouches retain their military/NSN labels.

write this, they are listed on eBay, but I don't know how long they will remain. By the time you read this, there may well be some other designs that have seen military usage. Recently, one of my contacts told me about a shotgun pouch being used by the Air Force Security Forces. I am trying to track down one of those to try.

I wrote this column mostly to give readers an idea of the diversity of equipment currently available to U.S. military personnel. U.S. troops are creative, and Marines who used shotguns a lot grabbed up unissued WWI grenade pouches and crammed them full of shotgun shells.

Troops still find creative ways to fill equipment needs, but today they have quite a few shotgun pouches from which to choose. (3)





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TURNUP HOUET

Daniel Defense M4 Integrally Suppressed Rifle

> BY EUGENE NIELSEN PHOTOS BY TRAVIS TIPPS

Daniel Defense DDM4ISR's integral suppressor extends barrel to NFA-required 16 inches in length, therefore this platform is not classified as a Short Barreled Rifle (SBR) and requires only a single tax stamp (for the suppressor).

DANIEL DEFENSE

MFR XL 15

doubt about it, Daniel Defense makes some great guns. The Daniel Defense DDM4ISR™ Integrally Suppressed Rifle made waves when it was introduced at the 2013 SHOT Show.

Not content to rest on its laurels, Daniel Defense has made a great rifle even better for 2016. The second-generation DDM4ISR is lighter, quieter, and more accurate than before.

.300 AAC BLACKOUT

The DDM4ISR is built around the .300 AAC Blackout (.300 BLK/7.62x35mm), which was designed to achieve improved ballistics from the AR platform without a reduction in magazine capacity, and to be compatible with the standard bolt. Its design parameters make it an ideal round for use in shorter barrels and for suppressed applications. And to clear up a common misconception, yes, commercially loaded .300 Whisper ammunition is in fact identical to .300 BLK.

The .300 BLK gives you options not found in other cartridges for the AR. Full-power 110- to 125-grain .300 BLK ammunition matches the ballistics of the 7.62x39mm cartridge. Subsonic cartridges provide optimal performance with a suppressor. The .300 BLK with 220-grain projectiles greatly outperforms the 9x19mm HK MP5SD in all regards.

The .300 BLK is gaining traction in the law enforcement and spec ops communities. Although it's doubtful the .300 BLK will ever eclipse the NATO standard 5.56x45mm, the Netherlands Maritime



Suppressor's lightweight outer tube is constructed of durable, heat-resistant metal alloys and coated with a protective hightemperature Cerakote-C finish, which can withstand extreme temperatures and harsh environments. Suppressor's endcap is removed using a special wrench and is user-serviceable.

TURN UPH QUIET!



Special Operations Force (NL-MARSOF) in 2015 became the first military organization to adopt the non-NATO standard 7.62x35mm round.

Daniel Defense now offers its own .300 BLK subsonic rounds. First Choice™ DD-300BLK ammunition is manufactured using premium components, including firstquality durable brass cases and precision 220-grain Lapua Scenar-L OTM (Open Tip Match) bullets, which are noted for their exceptional match-grade accuracy.

The .30-caliber 220-grain Lapua Scenar-L OTM bullets used by Daniel Defense are very low-drag, with a ballistic coefficient

Above: Chrome-lined M16-profile bolt carrier group has properly staked gas key.

Below: DDM4ISR comes standard with Daniel Defense MFR XL 15.0 modular handguard, which features a continuous 1913 Picatinny rail on its top for mounting iron sights or optics, and KeyMod attachment points at 3, 6, and 9 o'clock positions.





(BC) of 0.324 (G7). Muzzle velocity of the DD300BLK averages 1,098 feet-per-second (fps) out of a 16-inch barrel and 929 fps out of the nine-inch barrel on the DDM4ISR. DD300BLK comes in boxes of 30.

SOUND SUPPRESSION

The DDM4ISR has a nine-inch cold hammer forged barrel with a pistol-length gas system calibrated for its integral suppressor for optimal performance with both subsonic and supersonic projectiles, providing extremely effective muzzle-blast and muzzle-flash reduction.

The discharge of a firearm has two main sources of sound that need to be considered



when "silencing" it: the weapon's report, i.e., muzzle blast, and the "crack" caused by a supersonic bullet passing the sound barrier. The sound from the cycling of the firearm's action is a third consideration for some specialized applications.

Muzzle blast is the most significant source of sound generated by a firearm. It is the consequence of the shock waves resulting from high-pressure gases exiting the barrel. If the pressure is reduced immediately before it exits, the weapon's report will be reduced. Muzzle blast is also

Right: Daniel Defense pistol grip and buttstock are of proprietary glass-filled polymer with soft-touch rubber overmolding.

Far right: Daniel Defense 32-round magazines were utilized exclusively in the testing.





waves or canceling them by interference with reflected waves coming from the same source.

OSHA limits impulsive or impact noise at 140dB peak sound pressure [29 CFR 1910.95(b)(1) or 29 CFR 1926.52(e)]. Without hearing protection, exposure to any impulse noise over 140dB causes varying degrees of permanent noise-induced hearing loss. It can also lead to tinnitus.

Although wearing hearing protection is acceptable for recreational shooters (and mandatory when shooting any unsuppressed firearm), it is often not a practical option for certain LE/MIL applications or home defense. And hearing damage is cumulative.

While a number of external variables impact sound suppression, the DDM4ISR typically averages 120dB with subsonic ammunition. This is outstanding performance and makes the DDM4ISR an excellent tactical, home

defense, or hunting platform. It aids in concealment of the shooter's position, prevents degradation of dark-adapted vision, protects hearing, and allows for faster follow-up shots.

THE DDM4ISR

The DDM4ISR is not classified as a Short Barreled Rifle (SBR). The integral suppressor extends the barrel to the NFA-required 16-inch length, so this platform only requires one \$200 tax stamp (for the suppressor). The suppressor is pinned and welded to the barrel per BATFE requirements.

Since it is not classified as an SBR, prior authorization from the BATFE is not required for the DDM4ISR when crossing state lines (although an approved Form 20 from the BATFE for suppressors is still recommended to brown-a color unique to Daniel Defense.

document that you are in legal possession in another state than is listed on your Form 4).

The suppressor features durable all stainless steel construction with a 17-4PH user-serviceable monolithic baffle core, which is easily removable for periodic maintenance. It is finished with an ultra-durable high-temp Cerakote®-C polymer-ceramic composite coating capable of withstanding extreme temperatures. These coatings are widely used in the automotive industry as high-temp exhaust coatings and are ideal for suppressor application.

The DDM4ISR comes equipped with the Daniel Defense long MFR 15.0 freefloat handguard. CNC machined from 6061-T6 aluminum and milspec Type III hard coat anodized, it features a continuous top Picatinny (M1913) rail for

TURN UPHQUIET!

» **SPECIFICATIONS**

DANIEL DEFENSE DDM4ISR

MANUFACTURER	Daniel Defense
MODEL	DDM4ISR
CALIBER	.300 BLK (7.62x35mm)
FEED DEVICE	Any AR-15/M4 magazine
BARREL LENGTH	9 inches, 1:8 twist, chrome lined
BARREL MATERIAL	Chrome moly vanadium steel
GAS SYSTEM	Direct impingement, pistol length
MUZZLE DEVICE	DD Integrated Suppressor
OVERALL LENGTH	31½ to 34¾ inches
WEIGHT (unloaded)	7.57 pounds
AVAILABLE COLORS	Mil Spec + Cerakote
ACCESSORIES	Daniel Defense 32-round magazine, full-latch impact plastic case
SUGGESTED RETAIL	\$3,049.00

mounting iron sights or optics, and also has KeyMod attachment slots at three, six and nine o'clock. The 15inch rail lets the support hand extend out closer to the muzzle, so the gun can be driven with greater precision.

The DDM4ISR has all the great features and construction we have come to expect from Daniel Defense. The upper and lower receivers are CNC machined from 7075-T6 aluminum and Type III hard coat anodized.

The lower receiver is milspec and features an enhanced widened and beveled flared magazine well and rear receiver QD attachment point. The lower receiver also incorporates an integral oversized trigger guard that doesn't require a roll pin and covers the gap between the grip and the receiver. The trigger is milspec single-stage.

The upper receiver is also milspec and has polished M4 feed ramps for smooth feeding. The bolt carrier is full-auto compatible, M16 profile, chrome lined, and has a properly staked gas key. The DDM4ISR has a sixposition milspec 7075-T6 aluminum receiver extension (buffer tube) and heavy (H) buffer. Daniel Defense is now shipping all rifles with a new polymer dust cover that is said to be ten grams lighter and more durable



Daniel Defense 220-grain Scenar proved most accurate of the ammunition tested.

» AMMUNITION PERFORMANCE		
LOAD	AVERAGE VELOCITY (feet per second)	AVERAGE GROUP (inches)
Black Hills 110-gr. OTM	2,069	1.53
Black Hills 220-gr. OTM	881	1.05
Barnes 110-gr. Tac-XP	2,129	1.15
Daniel Defense 220-gr. Sc	enar 929	1.0
Gemtech 187-gr. Polymer	Tip 901	N/A
Hornady 110-gr. V-MAX	2,130	1.32
Hornady 208-gr. A-MAX	838	1.20
Remington 125-gr. AccuTi	p 2,125	1.53
Remington 220-gr. OTM	847	1.54

Velocity measured with a LabRadar set to record two feet from the muzzle, average of five rounds. Accuracy results fired from the bench, using a Champion Enhanced rifle rest, average of five, five-round groups fired at 50 yards.

than the older steel design.

The DDM4ISR has a chrome-moly vanadium steel cold hammer forged 1:8 twist and nine-inch S2W profile barrel. Daniel Defense cold hammer forges the chamber and bore simultaneously for perfect alignment. The barrel is chrome lined and milspec heavy phosphate coated.

The DDM4ISR features a pistol-length direct-impingement gas system. It has a low-profile gas block that is CNC machined of 4140 hardened steel and has a milspec heavy phosphate coating. The gas system is optimized for use with both supersonic and subsonic projectiles—no small trick for the .300 BLK.

The DDM4ISR is equipped with the distinctive Daniel Defense buttstock and pistol grip, which are constructed of a proprietary blend of glass-infused polymers and feature Soft-Touch[™] rubber overmolding at strategic points. The adjustable buttstock has very little forward or lateral play, which is an issue with many AR adjustable buttstocks on the market. The pistol grip shares the grip angle of the classic 1911 pistol, regarded by many shooters as providing the most natural hand position and control.

The DDM4ISR is finished with a Mil Spec +® Cerakote finish. The secondgeneration Cerakote coating used by Daniel Defense features a unique formulation that enhances physical performance properties, including abrasion/wear resistance, corrosion resistance, chemical resistance, impact strength, and hardness. This finish not only protects the DDM4ISR weapon system from the elements, it looks very cool too. It's a definite head turner.

Total weight (unloaded) without accessories is 7.57 pounds. Overall length is 31¹/₂ to 34³/₄ inches. That, coupled with the integral suppressor, XL 15.0 rail and excellent ergonomics of the DD pistol grip and buttstock, makes for one sweet-handling carbine that is a pleasure to shoot.

32-ROUND DD MAGAZINE

Daniel Defense rifles now come with the new 32-round DD Magazine[™]. Molded from carbon-fiber-reinforced polymer, the patent-pending DD Magazine features an improved feed-lip design and enhanced anti-tilt follower for optimized feeding and reliability with both 5.56 NATO and .300 BLK. Some AR magazines on the market experience feeding problems with subsonic .300 BLK rounds. Not so with the DD Magazine.

The DD Magazine offers a number of other desirable features. Surfaces are textured for enhanced grip, and the magazine features an impact-absorbing baseplate design that's optimized for use as a monopod. The DD Magazine is easy to disassemble for cleaning and fits all DDM4®, M4/M16/AR-15 variants. It is the same size as standard 30-round magazines. DD Magazines are available separately. As of this writing, they are available only in black.

AT THE RANGE

S.W.A.T. Magazine was one of the very first to go hands-on with the new DD-M4ISR. I met with Thomas Carlson, Director of Marketing Communications for Daniel Defense, at C2 Tactical in Tempe, Arizona before heading out into the summer heat. Recently named Best Indoor Range in Arizona, C2 Tactical is an 07 FFL SOT and Daniel Defense >> Continued on page 88

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MOSSBERG 500° ATI TACTICAL

Mossberg[®] has teamed with ATI[®] to introduce a highly specialized factory version of its venerable pump-action: the Mossberg 500[®] ATI Tactical. This special-purpose shotgun combines all the field-proven features of the Mossberg 500 with ATI's T2 TactLite[®] six-position adjustable stock, featuring Scorpion[®] recoil-reducing rubber grip and rear pad, Halo[®] Heatshield, and Halo Side Saddle.

The legendary 500 pump-action platform is designed for smooth, reliable operation and features non-binding twin action bars, positive steel-to-steel lock-up, anti-jam elevator, and dual extractors. Its lightweight, anodized aluminum receiver provides added durability and better balance. And for ease of operation, the 500 ATI Tactical has Mossberg's universally recognized ambidextrous top-mounted safety.

The addition of ATI tactical accessories takes this 500 to the next level of functionality. The TactLite six-position stock features an elongated design to improve fit for most users, a 3 7/8-inch length-ofpull adjustment, and one-inch adjustable cheek riser. Incorporated into the stock is the Scorpion T2 Recoil Pistol Grip, which reduces discomfort to the shooter's hand and thumb, and Scorpion X2 Recoil Pad. The free-floating Halo Heatshield features a front dovetail rail attachment with two, two-inch rails for adding accessories, and a shield-mounted front post sight. Completing the accessory package is the Halo Side Saddle shell carrier, which mounts directly to the tapped receiver and comes with three Add-A-Shell[®] units.

PACKAGE VALUE OVER \$1,300!

ELZETTA HIGH OUTPUT SHOTGUN ILLUMINATION KIT

A high-quality white light is critical on a shotgun used for self-defense, so the winner receives an Elzetta High Output Shotgun Illumination Kit, which contains a Model B142 Elzetta Modular Flashlight and ZSM-T Mount. The unique Modular Flashlight provides 650 lumens of diffuse light using a proprietary optical Flood Lens. The uniform beam pattern illuminates entire rooms without simply putting a spot of light on the wall. This dramatically improves situational awareness and threat assessment while nearly eliminating splash-back reflections. The ZSM-T Mount places the Modular Flashlight's pushbutton in an ideal location for activation with one's thumb and may be installed on either side for right- or left-handed shooters.



HORNADY AMMO

This sweepstakes includes 100 rounds of Hornady Critical Defense Buckshot and 100 rounds of Hornady American Whitetail Rifled Slugs.

Specially loaded to ensure proper functioning in both semi-auto and pump shotguns, Hornady 12 Gauge 00 Buckshot Critical Defense features Versatite wad technology, which delivers tight patterns, consistent



performance, and reliable functioning without modification to your gun.

Designed for smooth-bore barrels, Hornady American Whitetail Rifled Slugs feature a one-ounce lead alloy slug loaded to 1,600 feet-per-second. A compression-style wad protects the slug at ignition and helps to seal the bore for maximum velocity.



GRAY GHOST GEAR CASE

To transport the shotgun, this Sweepstakes includes a Gray Ghost Gear rifle case. The case is 38 inches long and made out of 500D nylon. Two attachment points on either end of the bag attach the included carrying strap. The front of the bag features an 8x3-inch loop field to attach patches. The inside has two zippered mesh pockets to store miscellaneous loose items. The inside of the bag is covered in loop, so the three provided attachment panels can be used in an infinite num-

ber of placements to hold any 38-inch or shorter rifle in place. Two additional flat tiedowns can secure a smaller item, such as a handgun or spotting scope, in the bag.

HOW TO ENTER

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POSTCARDS ONLY! NO LETTERS PLEASE Or even easier, enter the sweepstakes at: www.swatmaqazineqiveaways.com

RULES: Contest is open to individuals who are residents of the United States of America and its territories. Limit one entry per household. Agents and employees of Group One Enterprises and their families are not eligible. All state and local firearms regulations apply. If contestant is unable to take lawful possession through a local registered firearms dealer, an alternate winner will be chosen. Winner shall be responsible to comply with all tax and firearms laws and regulations. Contest void where prohibited by law. Deadline for either mail-in or website entries is November 8, 2016. The winner will be chosen on November 22, 2016. Limit one entry per person. No purchase necessary to enter. *S.W.A.T.* Magazine reserves the unconditional right to publish winning name and city in promotional materials.

SOURCES

O.F. MOSSBERG & SONS, INC. (203) 230-5300 www.mossberg.com

ELZETTA DESIGN, LLC (859) 707-7471 www.elzetta.com **GREY GHOST GEAR** (253) 984-7854 www.greyghostgear.com HORNADY MFG. CO. (800) 338-3220 www.hornady.com

Sec. M.

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Primary Weapons Systems MK1 MOD 2



ressing to blend into an urban environment is not that hard. It just takes some thought. Coveralls, overalls or regular dress can do the trick. Bringing in a patrol or precision rifle is a whole

other story. Even in an age populated by video games and media coverage, a person in your neighborhood with a rifle draws attention. Carrying them in camouflage- or drab-colored bags, heavy hard cases, or anything else is not much better.

You want to use something that blends in, which requires more thought. Having dealt with this for years, my best solution is multifunctional. You get one system that provides a compact entry rifle and a patrol rifle. Both fit in a single bag with everything you need. It can be done with a number of rifles, but for me, the best so far is the Primary Weapons Systems MK107 rifle and MK116 upper receiver.

SWITCH BARRELS

Switch barrels have been popular of late, allowing for different barrel lengths and calibers. But it requires a different sighting system when moving from close contact to longer range. Removing and installing sighting systems present issues. It's too easy to lose your zero.

Thankfully, the AR has facilitated this for many years—just change uppers. Leave the optic on the long barrel and red dot on the entry rifle. You can decide what the mission requires at your car or command, and when deploying covertly, take them both. If you primarily deploy up close, leave the short barrel on the lower, and the opposite if long range is your thing. It takes less time than switching barrels, and it ensures accuracy.

TEST RIFLES

One of the most reliable seven- to eight-inch barreled ARs I've fired is the Primary Weapons MK107. It typically runs a larger variety of ammunition. It also works reliably suppressed—not something they all do. I thought it was

BY DAVE BAHDE

the perfect rifle to start with.

The barrel is 7.75 inches long with a three-position adjustable gas system to compensate for suppressors or ammunition changes. A new handguard using PicMod allows direct mounting of accessories to the rail while still accepting KeyMod devices as needed. No more rails coming loose for critical items.

Their CQB muzzle device caps the custom barrel that has been tapered for weight reduction, yet maintains strength. QPQ coated, these chromoly barrels are accurate, consistent, and rugged. Hardened custom-designed bolt carrier groups machined from tool steel are coated for reliability.

Both MK1 MOD 2 receivers are forged, providing the greatest strength possible while keeping them light and stiff. MOD 2 handguards include a trunnion machined into the upper receiver, insuring a precise fit and con-



tributing to strength and accuracy.

Each lower has ambidextrous controls, including the safety, magazine, and bolt release. Recessed nicely in the lower, they are easy to access when needed yet stay out of the way.

To ensure reliable and predictable accuracy while meeting most department policies, an enhanced trigger with 5.5-pound trigger weight is installed. A BCMGUNFIGHTER[™] stock goes over the PWS Enhanced Buffer Tube MOD 2. It retains the plunger/ spring retainer notch and adds a Ratchet-Lock nut to secure the tube in place. Control is maintained using the BCM pistol grip.

For long range, the new MK116 MOD 2 upper was provided. With a 16inch barrel, it takes the 5.56mm/.223 to the limits of its range. PicMod sits at the front of the handguard for a solid attachment of the Atlas Bipod. Three aggressively checkered rail sections attached using KeyMod can be placed to ensure a solid grip.

ACCESSORIES AND SIGHTS

I prefer a red dot with a fixed front and/or rear sight for CQ work, with a light mounted at 12 o'clock. The Trijicon SRS remains one of my favorite red dot sights (RDS). It provides a wide field of view with no tunneling effect.

In close quarters, you may not have time to flip anything up if your RDS is occluded or inoperative. Daniel Defense fixed sights mount directly to the rail. Sight through them if needed; they sit in the lower third of the sight.

My trusted SureFire X200 is perfect for close work. It sits a bit lower than the X300 and is plenty bright. The BCM Vertical Grip MOD 3 installs easily using their direct KeyMod mount. The Law Tactical Gen 3 folder works great and keeps things compact.

While training with Follow Through Consulting, the TReMoR 3 (T3) reticle became my preference for a patrol carbine, especially if the area requires more distance. It provides fast ranging and hits on target out to 500 meters maybe a bit farther. Wind is adjusted using dots, making for simple math. Leupold provided a Mark 6 3-18X with lighted T3 reticle sitting in a Mark 6 mount.

Griffin Armament Fail Safe Angle Sights were installed for close work. They line up at roughly one o'clock on the rail. Built from a single billet, they are very strong and always there if needed.



Above: Blast is all sent forward, making MK107 very comfortable to shoot even in tight spaces and at close quarters.

Below: Keeping MK107 intact, MK116 upper fit with all accessories in Elite Survival Systems bag. Law Tactical Gen 3 folder makes this possible.



NOT SO "TACTICAL" BAGS

Fold the MK107 and just about any bag with at least 18 inches of vertical space will work. It fits nicely in one of my standard hydration packs. If you want all the gear in one pack, you need something bigger.

I settled on the Elite Survival Systems Stealth Covert Operations Rifle Backpack for this test. Designed for LE use as a covert pack, it accommodated the folded MK107 and MK116 upper (with bipod and scope) and accessories: spare magazines, emergency medical gear, sling, water, and snacks. Pretty much all you would need for a deployment lasting a few hours. It's a growing market, so more are on the horizon, but Elite packs are top notch and well designed.

RANGE TESTING

Your zero is critical. You must be certain that first round goes exactly where you aim it. It's why moving sights around can be problematic. With this system, they are never removed. Field testing proved the concept-there was no shift in zero switching back and forth.

Both were zeroed using Black Hills 69-grain TMK ammunition. Sierra's TMK bullet is proving proficient at long range and is designed to expand at velocities under 2,000 fps, making it perfect for short barrels. It allows me to use one round for both uppers.

Switching back and forth over ten separate cold-bore shots, there was little if any shift in impact. At 100 yards (where it was zeroed), the MK116 put everything inside an inch. Ten-shot groups fired with Black Hills 69-grain TMK using my truck as an impromptu rest were under two inches. I would not hesitate one second to deploy this setup. Just a quick check to make sure nothing has moved and it's ready to go.

The Leupold Mark 6 uses a zero stop and windage knob cover protecting the turrets. Even if the elevation knob did move, just turn it back to zero and it stops. If all else fails, the Griffin Armament sights were zeroed at 100 yards and are rock solid.

The MK107 was similar from 50 vards. Using my truck bumper, it stayed under an inch at 50 yards. At 25 yards, it was one big hole. Swapping the uppers back and forth, it was dead on, with no shift in impact. The Trijicon SRS uses





included with the December issue of S.W.A.T.

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» SPECIFICATIONS

MK107 RIFLE

ACTION	Semiautomatic, rotating bolt, long-stroke piston
CALIBER	.223/5.56mm
CAPACITY	Accepts standard AR-15/M16 magazines
CHAMBER	.223 Wylde
BARREL	7.75 inches
OVERALL LENGTH	26.5 inches extended, 20 inches collapsed
WEIGHT	4.7 pounds
SIGHTS	None provided
STOCKS AND GRIP	BCMGUNFIGHTER
FINISH	Black anodized
PRICE	\$2,025.00



X Products X-15 holds 50 rounds, is easy to load, and provides extensive firepower in a very compact package.



Law Tactical Gen 3 folder is lighter, stronger, and has no effect on reliability or operation, yet allows for an incredibly compact rifle.

dual-lighting technology, so complete failure is unlikely at best. Even so, the Daniel Defense sights are right there—no transition, just aim and go to work.

Accuracy with both uppers was excellent. My best group came from the Black Hills 69-grain TMK at just over .50 inch. Everything was under an inch at 100 yards using the bipod from a supported position. The MK107 was similar at 50 yards, although the Barnes 70-grain TSX was just a bit tighter, again all under an inch. Anything off hand or even moving from 25 yards and closer was under three inches.

Moving out to longer ranges, both the Hornady 75-grain 5.56mm NATO and



PWS MOD 2 lowers have completely ambidextrous controls that are easy to access yet do not interfere with operation.



Primary Weapons enhanced trigger provides a crisp singlestage trigger that is suitable for duty use, meeting most agencies' policies. Ambidextrous safety is easy to access with gloves, while right-side bolt release is accessible without overextending.

» SPECIFICATIONS

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ACTION	Semiautomatic, rotating bolt, long-stroke piston
CALIBER	.223/5.56mm
CAPACITY	Accepts standard AR-15/M16 magazines
CHAMBER	. 223 Wylde
BARREL	16 inches
OVERALL LENGTH	33.5 inches
WEIGHT	6.5 pounds
SIGHTS	None provided
STOCKS AND GRIP	BCMGUNFIGHTER
FINISH	Black anodized
PRICE	\$2,025.00 (upper alone: \$1,750.00)

» AMMUNITION PERFORMANCE - MK107

LOAD	VELOCITY (feet-per-second)	ACCURACY (inches)
Black Hills 69-gr. TMK	2,325	.55
Barnes 70-gr. TSX	2,250	.65
Hornady 75-gr. BTHP	2,200	.75
Gorilla 69-gr. SMK	2,140	.60

» AMMUNITION PERFORMANCE - MK116

LOAD	VELOCITY (feet-per-second)	ACCURACY (inches)
Black Hills 69-gr. TMK	2,800	.55
Barnes 70-gr. TSX	2,750	.65
Hornady 75-gr. BTHP	2,770	.75
Gorilla 69-gr. SMK	2,700	.60

Velocity measured by ProChrono Digital chronograph. Accuracy averaged from three five-shot groups fired at 50 yards from seated or supported using bag as a rest.

Black Hills 69-grain TMK were excellent. Starting at 100 yards, I engaged a 12-inch steel at 200, 300 and 400 yards. The loads were all but interchangeable. Using the same zero, it was merely a matter of holding and reading the wind.

OTHER CONSIDERATIONS

This MK116 arrived with the new PWS FSC brake using a closed flash-hider section. It does a pretty good job keep-

5	SOURCES
	PRIMARY WEAPONS SYSTEMS (208) 344-5217 www.primaryweapons.com
	ELITE SURVIVAL SYSTEMS (866) 340-2778 www.elitesurvival.com
	GRIFFIN ARMAMENT www.griffinarmament.com
	LEUPOLD OPTICS (800) 538-7653 www.leupold.com
	SUREFIRE (800) 828-8809 www.surefire.com
	TRIJICON (800) 338-0563 www.trijicon.com
	X PRODUCTS (971) 302-6127 www.xproducts.com

ing you on target with less muzzle blast directed at you than most. It was also tested using the SureFire WarComp and SOCOM556-RC suppressor.

Timing the WarComp for a righthanded shooter, it was very controllable, not much louder, and the blast was similar. The MK116 ran well with the SOCOM556-RC with no change in accuracy and only an inch of vertical difference when removed using the 69-grain TMK.

Primary Weapons CQB is an excellent brake for sending muzzle blast forward. Firing at slower speeds, it removes much of the flash with most ammunition. Rapid fire, it sends out a pretty good flame every few rounds. As short barrels go, it's very pleasant to be behind or beside when firing. It also worked well with the SureFire.

The Enhanced Trigger was crisp, with no creep or overtravel. Reset is noticeable both in feel and sound. It remains a two-piece unit, meeting department regulations that ban trigger "packs" for the AR. At 5.5 pounds, it's heavy for me, but about right for most duty applications and the minimum for many policies.

All the new ambidextrous controls are well placed and effective. Three other similarly equipped lowers are *Continued on page 88*



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he corporate history of CZ dates back to 1936, when a political decision by the Czechoslovakian National Defense Council established an arms factory in the town of Strakonice. Production of military and civilian arms commenced in January 1937. The first products were aircraft machine guns, military pistols, and rifles. During the Nazi occupation, the plant was forced to produce and repair military arms.

Events leading up to and through World War II, combined with the subsequent Cold War between West and East, removed the CZ name from the U.S. market for the second half of the 20th century.

In 1990, production for Czechoslovakian armed forces ceased, with the newly available capacity turned to expanding production of arms for hunting and sporting purposes, as well as exports for police and military units. By the 21st century, CZ had evolved into one of the largest firearms producers in the world.

PERSONAL DEFENSE WEAPON

The CZ Scorpion EVO 3 is a modern rendition of an SMG produced by CZ (Ceska zbrojovka Uhersky Brod). Fortunately, CZ's U.S. subsidiary, CZ USA,



has convinced European HQ of the worthiness of introducing a semi-auto-only pistol version for American consumers.

The relatively recent appearance of PDWs (Personal Defense Weapon) stimulated by multiple NATO weapon requests had many sounding the death knell of the SMG. The PDW is characterized by its compact size, much like an SMG. But the PDW concept is centered around new cartridge designs facilitating the penetration of body armor out to a couple hundred yards, along with one-handed pistol-like use.

PDWs were created during a time when NATO had images of body-armored Spetsnaz troops running amok in rear echelon areas. The FN 5.7mm and H&K 4.6mm are the most prominent examples of these new PDW cartridge types. Times have changed, along with the most likely threats faced by military and LE. While certainly not comparable to a rifle cartridge, a 115- to 147-grain 9mm instills more confidence than a 23-grain .22 caliber when having to put down an opponent in close quarters.

The CZ Scorpion EVO 3 is an interesting introduction to the market that will spark debate about the revival of the SMG concept.

THE SKORPION

CZ's use of Scorpion nomenclature with the EVO 3 will surely stimulate a connection to an infamous earlier CZ weapon, the SA Vz.61 Skorpion machine pistol. I remember seeing images of European terrorists in the 1970s carrying small, yet lethal, machine pistols. Most were chambered in .32 ACP, though other chamberings were produced, including .380 ACP, 9mm Makarov, and 9mm Luger.

The Skorpion was officially adopted in 1961 by the Czechoslovakian Army. Reports indicate it found favor with special operations units of the period

Inset: CZ USA makes available a rear receiver attachment accessory that facilitates use of AR buffer tube if one wants to use a SIG Sauer forearm brace or possibly convert it to an SBR.

Below: Range evaluation proved Czech EVO 3 worthy of consideration for serious use, once its limitations as a pistol were understood.

Above: CZ Scorpion EVO 3's frame is made from polymer, with Picatinny rails featured prominently. It weighs five pounds and features 7.7-inch barrel contributing to an overall length of 16 inches.



I SERIOUS STINGER

due to the ease with which the .32 ACP can be effectively suppressed with a 71-grain bullet at 900 feet-per-second.

The Skorpion was never widely used or distributed among the Warsaw Pact armed services, rather it found favor with the secret police and intelligence agencies of Soviet-dominated Eastern Europe. The Czechs also heavily exported the Skorpion. Unfortunately, the Skorpion found its way into the hands of various European terrorist gangs, such as the German Baader-Meinhof Gang and Italian Red Brigades, who also appreciated its small size, firepower, and ease of suppression.

As a side note, the Spetsnaz commander in the original *Red Dawn* movie, played by William Smith, used a Skorpion.

THE SCORPION

The CZ Scorpion EVO 3 traces its development back to a 2002 Slovakian SMG design labeled the Laugo, whose design rights were sold to CZ in 2009 and the name eventually changed to Scorpion EVO 3.

CZ proceeded to tweak the design based on their own experience. There



Full-length upper rail facilitates mounting of optics such as Meopta Meosight III another great product from the Czech Republic.

are few shared design characteristics between the Vz.61 and EVO 3. The EVO 3 operates with a blowback closed bolt with internal hammer. The EVO 3's bolt is located behind the barrel, similar to earlier SMG designs versus the telescopic bolt found on the Vz.61 and other SMGs designed after WWII.

True to its SMG roots, the CZ EVO 3

is simple and economical to manufacture, taking full advantage of polymers in the frame and integral accessory rails. Today's polymers are what stampings were in the 1940s and 50s in terms of economical manufacturing.

The Scorpion EVO 3's cold-hammerforged barrel measures 7.7 inches, contributing to an overall length of 16 inches. The Scorpion EVO 3 weighs only five pounds thanks to being made primarily of polymer material. CZ includes numerous Picatinny rails on the Scorpion. A birdcage muzzle device is threaded on the barrel via 18mmx1 RH threads.

The EVO 3's compact size, relative to an SMG or rifle, is further illustrated with a width of 2.4 inches and height of 9.4 inches without magazine inserted. The EVO 3 pistol arrived with two 20-round translucent magazines. Scorpion 20- and 30-round magazines will be available soon in sizable numbers, with a reasonable suggested price of \$20.

CZ equips the Scorpion EVO 3 with low-profile removable iron sights. The rear sight has four different aperture sizes. The 11-inch Picatinny rail is ideal for mounting a red dot optic on



Trigger group can be removed via single push-pin, allowing access to bolt group. Scorpion's simplicity is key to its reliability.

the EVO 3. A quality red dot is an immediate performance enhancement for any non-traditional-style pistol.

Meopta is another Czech Republic-based company that American consumers are becoming familiar with. A compact Meopta Meosight III offers a three-MOA dot, which simplifies placing rounds on target, within a two-ounce package. The unit has 1,000 hours of battery life.

SBR OPTION

The EVO 3 select-fire SMG features a folding stock. The pistol version tested herein does not. It did arrive with a tube extension in case someone wanted to mount a SIG Sauer SB15 forearm brace. This option enjoyed an explosion of popularity until tempered somewhat by the BATF "clarifying" (altering) its opinion on the use of the forearm brace.

Another option is to fill out appropriate paperwork and turn the EVO 3 pistol into a short barreled rifle (SBR) by mounting a stock. This is a simple proposition due to the way CZ has designed the rear receiver area via accepting an AR-style stock. Many would want a folding-stock configuration to take full advantage of the SBR's compactness.

An obvious candidate for this type of stock is CZ's own. However, CZ USA is having an internal debate whether or not to make available their proprietary stock that is used on the European version of the Scorpion SMG due to 922R compliance concerns here in the U.S.

I urge people to consider an option from ACE Ltd, now part of DoubleStar. The Scorpion rear receiver's compat-



New-age Scorpion in pistol format so U.S. private citizens can experience it. A multitude of ammunition types was used while testing.

ibility with AR receiver extensions (buffer tubes) guided me to similar products designed for other such weapons. The ACE AR-15/SIG 556 Ultra Lite Folding Stock Set is a viable option for installing a folding stock on the Scorpion once BATF Form 1 paperwork is approved.

The heart of the ACE stock kit is the new heavy-duty steel folding mechanism (FSM-S), which is machined from 1018 CRS steel case hardened to RC 62 and finished with Ion-Bond Coating. It fits between the Receiver Block and Modular Stock. The FSM-S can be mounted to fold either left or right, while only adding five ounces of weight and .55 inch to your LOP.

VIABILITY

We might as well speak about the 400-pound gorilla in the room: weapons turned into pistols from designs more associated with SMGs or rifles.

What does a pistol like the CZ Scorpion EVO 3 offer in terms of real utility in its pistol form? The answer here is nebulous, based on user expectations and intentions. For many, a non-traditional pistol like the EVO 3, while enticing due to firepower potential, lacks much in terms of accuracy past normal handgun ranges, with the added negative of weighing twice as much as a typical handgun. But this can be tempered by utilizing certain techniques of de-





Above: Reasonably priced translucent 20- and 30-round magazines are available for CZ EVO 3. Two 20-round magazines ship with EVO 3.

Left: CZ EVO 3 features metric 18x1mm threading, which makes adaptation to U.S.-centric suppressors problematic. Birdcage-type flash hider is standard.

ployment such as an SAS sling and twohanded grip.

Another possible method can be derived from how Czech Special Forces ran their original compact Skorpion machine pistols. The Vz.61's wire stock was floated on the cheek, providing three points of contact for more stability and thus accuracy. While not optimal and not nearly as effective as a true stock cheek weld, the alternate methods proved superior to merely attempting to hold via the traditional pistol method, especially when the goal is rapid-fire rounds downrange with a semblance of accuracy. Attentive training will pay dividends in finding what works best for individual users.

MUZZLE UP

The 9mm SMG-like Scorpion screamed for suppressor use, but the CZ Scorpion EVO 3 proved challenging in adapting to it, due to the European-based



EVO 3 design places seated magazine in line with chamber, helping to ensure reliability.



Grizzly Gunworks thread adapter converted Scorpion's 18mm threads to more typical U.S. 1/2x36 pattern to allow for use of U.S.-based suppression tools.

18mm threads found on the Czechbased Scorpion versus more typical U.S. patterns.

I reached out to Jeff Cox's Grizzly Gunworks for assistance. Jeff has a vast background in machining combined with a passion for firearms. He managed a robotics company of 80 employees for 13 years. During this time, his love for competition shooting, hunting, and firearms in general grew exponentially. Jeff won the 2010 Ontario Rifle Association's (ORA) Precision Rifle Matches Sniper Aggregate, as well as placing 1st at ORA's 2009 Long Range Precision Rifle Championship.

A few emails giving measurements and photos of the Scorpion EVO 3's muzzle configuration were all that was needed for Grizzly Gunworks to create a 1/2x36 adapter for the CZ Scorpion.

The aluminum adapter is a model of simplicity, a low-profile affair that contributes minimally to barrel profile and length. The Grizzly adapter looks like an integral piece between the Scorpion barrel and the Yankee Hill Machine (YHM) flash hider.

YHM created the patent-pending Quick Detach (QD) flash hider muzzle device for the quick mounting and dismounting of their Wraith suppressor. Hand tightening is all that is needed to hold the Wraith suppressor firmly in place. Conversely, the suppressor can easily be removed via hand pressure when no longer needed.

The YHM muzzle device supports the suppressor in two places to help ensure bore alignment. A patented gas seal keeps the threads clean so the suppressor will not bind when removed from a weapon no matter how many rounds are fired. The YHM QD flash hider is available in 1/2x28, 1/2x32, and 1/2x36 thread patterns.

The YHM Wraith 9mm Sound Suppressor utilizes Mike White's Sound Technology Inc's patented baffle design. YHM offers a newer version of the Wraith tested herein, labeled Wraith XL. The Wraith is designed for use on SMGs constructed from aircraft-grade aluminum and stainless steel. It features a matte black Parkerized finish. Overall length is 7.5 inches with a diameter of 1.25 inches and weight of only six ounces. The Wraith is designed to reduce muzzle noise up to -30db.

Many turn to a 9mm platform for the reduced recoil and muzzle blast rep-



ACE/DoubleStar hinged folding-stock kit proved easily adaptable to rear of Scorpion receiver.

resented by the 9mm pistol cartridge compared to a rifle. Others point to it for the ease of suppressing the 9mm. The Wraith can be mounted on the Scorpion's 7.7-inch barrel and yet still be shorter than a 16-inch barrel rifle in total length.

Range time consisted of not only testing accuracy and reliability with all types of ammunition, but also ensuring that the YHM Wraith in no way compromised the established baselines of accuracy and reliability.

The 147-grain 9mm subsonic loading is an obvious choice for use with a suppressor. But the Wraith proved effective at taming the muzzle blast of even 115- and 124-grain +P loads. It comes down to just not that much powder/blast in a 9mm to contain. With the can installed, all loads could be comfortably fired without the use of ear protection.

FIELD EVALUATION

The Scorpion EVO 3 was tested at the range first by establishing iron sight and red dot zeros. The irons and Meopta red dot did not co-witness.

Several 20-round magazines were fired rapidly downrange. The EVO 3 has a non-reciprocating cocking handle that is very similar in appearance and function to the HK MP5's. The cocking handle is reversible to either side of the frame. The ambidextrous safety lever took some time getting used to. It was easier to manipulate the lever with either thumb or index finger of the firing hand, depending if moving it on or off safety.

The CZ EVO 3's non-discriminatory handling of several types of 9mm ammunition was a pleasant surprise. Winchester 9mm NATO loads were purchased based on experience with other 9mm SMG designs requiring the higher-pressure NATO loads to operate reliably.

The Scorpion EVO 3 functioned flawlessly with not only Winchester 9mm 124-grain NATO FMJ loads, but also Winchester 115- and 147-grain JHP, Federal 115-grain FMJ, Hornady steel-case 125-grain HAP and 147-grain TAP, and Black Hills Ammunition 115-grain FMJ and 124-grain HP. The ability to feed the JHPs was a totally unexpected bonus and a credit to the EVO 3's weapon design. This further increases its potency as a CQB weapon for LE and citizens.

The CZ EVO 3 proved very capable at handling a CQB-style course set up at Echo Valley Training Center. Most targets were ten yards away, with others placed 50 yards downrange.

Transitions among the multiple targets were effortless and the EVO 3 offered little in terms of recoil. As expected, muzzle signature was minimal with firing a 9mm from the 7.7-inch barrel.

Magazine changes, shooting from behind cover, transitions, and firing

from unconventional positions put the Scorpion EVO 3 through its paces. Strings of fire ranged from single magazines worth of ammunition to some drills incorporating up to three magazine changes before finishing.

The Meopta Meosight III assisted in engaging targets at close distances, with the red dot easy to pick up rapidly.

CONCLUSION

The SMG's most prominent role, indeed its *raison d'être* stretching back to the WWI trenches, is as a CQB weapon. Ease of sound suppression is another important SMG advantage. Increases in terrorism, organized crime, and drug smuggling, with law enforcement teams having to deal with these well-armed opponents, have created a new need for the 9mm SMG. The CZ Scorpion EVO 3 represents a re-emergence of the SMG, reminding everyone of its positive characteristics. (•)

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



CZ-USA (800) 955-4486 www.cz-usa.com

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Editor's Note: After the untimely passing of Pat Rogers earlier this year, readers asked us to reprint some of his best articles. Though this piece is ten years old and Pat was known for his constantly evolving TTPs, in the area of carbine cleaning, his views remained basically the same. He was also a fan of Slip 2000 weapon lube for the rest of his life.

KEEP YOUR CARBINE RUNNING

Dispelling Lubrication and Cleaning Myths

BY PATRICK A. ROGERS



grew up at a time when most every male had seen some military service, and I was treated to numerous tales of life in the service of this country in combat and in peacetime. That exposure, and a strong desire to get out of the city and do something that mattered, led me to enlist in the Marine Corps shortly after my 17th birthday.

While I had fired rifles and pistols before, my education was informal and generally limited to what my Dad and others remembered, as well as articles in the various gun-related

magazines of the time. Cleaning was something that took on an almost formal overtone and was continued for three consecutive days.

This paled in comparison to what I was taught in the Marine Corps Recruiting Depot (MCRD), where cleaning was in fact a religion, and reached Jesuitical proportions at Parris Island. Brand-new M14s were scrupulously scrubbed on that three-day schedule, a remnant of the use of corrosive primers during World War II. No one had bothered to tell the Marine Corps that that was then, and this was now, so three consecutive days it was. Interspersed with the cleaning lectures were equally ardent lectures about why we shouldn't believe all the gun



Two lubricants suggested, based on field use, are Slip 2000 and MD Labs XF7. Choosing a quality carbine to start with doesn't hurt either.

magazine and newspaper articles bemoaning the adoption of the M14 and how this monstrosity would lead to the demise of the Western world.

Surprisingly, when we got to the Infantry Training Regiment (ITR) at Camp Geiger, we were issued M1 Rifles, and all the T/E equipment was what we would now consider old school—M1918A2s, M1919A4s, etc. The training schedule was all field oriented and we shot what was considered a lot (by 1963 standards). On several occasions after returning late from the cold and wet North Carolina training sites, I marched my squad straight into the shower. We scrubbed the mud off our rifles, 782 Gear, and bodies. We brought the rifles into the squad bay and briefly cleaned and lubed them on the deck while using the miniscule cleaning gear we were issued or purchased. We squared our gear away and grabbed a few hours' sleep before heading off to learn something new about killing other humans.

What a great life!

I was initially terrified that we weren't spending enough time cleaning those old M1s, but they continued to work as long as they were properly lubed and moderately cleaned. Then I began worrying that the M14s might be more fragile if they required such constant attention as taught at MCRD. How could that be? After all, they were similar in many respects, so why did one require much more cleaning than the other?

The short answer is that they don't require a different cleaning regimen because they are different rifles—it is just that cleaning has to be looked at from several widely divergent points of view.

The first and most obvious is that, if there is sufficient time available for cleaning, that time will be used for cleaning, meaningless or not. Second is that, under exigent circumstances, a quick cleaning, paying particular attention to salient points, may be all that is necessary to keep the weapon running.

A military issue is that in many units the armorers—and sometimes even an officer—will conduct what amounts to a "white glove" inspection, wherein the troops will be kept "busy" by performing useless, and sometimes harmful, "cleaning" in order to satisfy the whims of despots and buffoons. Removing protective lubrication or scraping away finish does nothing to improve serviceability. It only destroys the guns and angers the troops.

When the M16 first came on the scene (shortly after the M14), it was a shock to those who believed in wooden stocks, match sights, and big bullets. It was billed as needing minimal cleaning, which turned into self-cleaning, which turned into no cleaning as some rifles were issued in country without cleaning equipment. Several issues combined to make a tolerance stack, and malfunctioning rifles were the result.

Probably as the result of these issues in the late 1960s, a myth of grand proportions has swelled up concerning the care and cleaning of the AR platform. This myth specifies that the AR must be kept spotlessly clean, and that it takes



When a shooter's gun started to run sluggishly, he was pulled off the line and his bolt carrier assembly removed. Bolt was stone dry and had standard extractor spring with blue insert meant for M16 rifles—not carbines. We replaced extractor spring with a Wolff, blue insert with black, added an "0" ring, and properly lubricated bolt with Slip 2000. Lube alone would have kept the gun running, but replacing wear items at regular intervals will *keep* it running.

an hour (if not more) of steady cleaning for the rifle to be once more useful. Indeed, because this rifle allegedly dirties where it feeds, it must be cleaned regularly and with great care if you are to use it. Also, a few meager grains of sand will cause it to stop running.

The highlight for many errornet pundits comes when they rally around a female soldier whose convoy was ambushed during Operation Iraqi Freedom. "Remember Jessica Lynch" has become a cry of the unknowing, and while the subject makes for great points for their side, it is flawed.

Reports concerning this incident state that weapons malfunctioned to be sure. But a sergeant in that convoy stated the weapons were cleaned daily and were clean when they left that morning. The M16A2 wielded very efficiently by a soldier who killed six of the enemy with it did malfunction—because of a faulty magazine and broken extractor. This is a service-life issue with the rifle, not a design flaw. While leadership and depot-level maintenance might have prevented something like this, the proper steps were not taken at a level above the soldier in the field. An M249 also failed, but that may have been due to lack of training with the weapon. And what of the celebrated centerpiece of this fight? She may have been knocked unconscious when her vehicle crashed at the beginning of the action—



Wear area on bottom of bolt carrier needs lubrication.

H KEEP YOUR CARBINE RUNNING



Wear on body of bolt and bolt cam pin.

but this is casually brushed aside in the bubble gum (gun) forums. The serviceability of her weapon is therefore moot.

Here's a news flash: Sand in the chamber will stop most guns—M16s, AK-47s, M24s, M1s, M9s, and so forth. It is not unique to the AR platform.

Cleaning is a hot-button topic, and a great many (especially AR detractors) *really* believe that the AR has to be kept meticulously clean to function. While having a clean gun is never bad, neither do you have to put up with the white-glove nonsense.

My cleaning regime may be different from conventional protocol, but it works and has stood the test of time. I normally spend no more than ten minutes doing a field cleaning, and oftentimes less than that. If it takes you an hour, you are wasting time on something or you are doing something wrong.



Wear on top of hammer where bolt carrier makes contact.

This is the cleaning protocol I use. This isn't "*the*" way, but rather "*a*" way. I don't pretend to know everything, and I wind up learning something new almost every day. Not using what is listed below won't necessarily get you killed, make you unattractive to a potential mate, or make you unpopular at the local gin mill.

• Field strip the carbine and punch the tube with a wet patch. Leave the chemicals to do their work and get to the bolt and bolt carrier assemblies.

• Spray the bolt with Slip 725 Gun Cleaner or Evinrude Johnson Engine Tuner and let it sit.

Clean the bolt carrier assembly by removing carbon from the bolt cam pin slot, inside of the bolt carrier (yeah, that chrome-lined thing where the bolt goes in) and the bottom of the bolt carrier itself. You can use a wet pipe cleaner to clean the inside of the bolt carrier key, but I rarely do. Do *not* put anything inside the gas tube—it is unnecessary, and you will only stick debris in there that can do no good.
 Use your toothbrush and a rag to clean the bolt, specifically the bolt lugs. Do not concern yourself with the carbon build-up on the bolt's tail. No matter how you clean it, it will just reappear the next time you shoot it. I had an armorer once tell me that the carbon promoted corrosion. That may well be if the gun is never shot, but I have yet to see a working bolt corrode away.

• Attach the chamber brush to your cleaning rod and scrub out the chamber. I generally use a worn brush, wrap a wet patch around it, and insert it in the chamber. Spin it a few times and replace it with a fresh brush and patch. Spin that and then dry the chamber out. Clean out the locking lugs with cotton swabs.

• Spray some Slip 725 into the upper receiver and the charging handle. Your toothbrush and cotton swabs work well here.

Take a few dry patches and clean the barrel. Note that I don't normally use a bore brush, and allow the cleaning fluid to take care of the bore.

Before the rockets start flying, let me state that I used to shoot Service Rifle and am a High Master and a Distinguished Rifleman. I rarely used a brush on my M14NM or match AR-15s. If I felt the bore was heavily fouled, I ran several wet patches through it, and if I absolutely felt the need for a brush, it was nylon, not copper. *Never* use a stainless steel brush in your barrel.

Understand that this is for a carbine, which by virtue of its definition is a short-barreled rifle. The 5.56x45mm service rounds and M4 carbines are capable of hitting out past 500 meters, but shine in fights that take place under 200 meters. Bothering with inconsequential increments may not be useful under these circumstances. If you have a DMR type, by all means give that barrel the care it deserves, but that care may be wasted on a 10.5- to 14.5-inch carbine.

Before reassembling, check your bolt rings for serviceability. Insert the bolt into the bolt carrier and turn it upside down (preferably over something soft). If the bolt falls out on its own, you need to change the gas rings. If not, you are good to go.

Don't get locked into the nonsense of misaligning the gas rings. Colt Armorer instructors state emphatically that the gun will run with only *one* good ring, and I have done exactly that. For about ten years, we have been teaching that misaligning the gas rings is a waste of time. I have seen nothing that leads me to believe differently.

One of the very prominent AR myths is that the gun runs better dry. In fact the AR series runs significantly better wet than dry, but some approach this with such trepidation that they steadfastly refuse to use more than a tiny bit of lube on their carbines, causing them to cease functioning after a very short while.

Hundreds of e-net posts speak of using little lube on the carbines, believing that too much lube is the cause of all problems. A friend, a retired Marine MSgt and prolific Class 3 collector, looks at lube like it's two-day-old cat urine and is absolutely phobic about putting anything more than a drop or two on any gun.

Our experience is that, after poor magazines and operator-induced malfunctions, dry guns are a major cause of stoppages. We see this in every class we have ever attended or taught, and are satisfied that our observations regarding lubrication are correct.

Consider that your carbine is a machine and, like an internal combustion engine, it requires lubrication to make it function. Certain wear points in the gun need attention, and failure to do so can cause a stoppage. A good rule of thumb is to look for shiny marks, which indicate metal-tometal contact. If it shines, get it wet.

Remove the bolt from the bolt carrier. Turn the bolt carrier over and observe the shiny area on the bottom. This is a wear point. The slot the bolt cam pin rides in is another wear point, as is the chromed hole in the bolt carrier that the bolt rides in. The entire bolt carrier can use a coat of lube, but pay particular attention to those areas. The military also states



Viewed through ejection port, wear can be seen on inside of receiver. Don't forget to lube this critical area.



Drop of lube properly applied will get—and keep—the gun running. Here one drop has been applied to one of two gas-vent holes. Next a second will be applied. This M4 was subjected to very harsh firing schedule in the desert, with winds gusting over 50 mph. It never malfunctioned. Start with a quality weapon, properly maintain it, keep it reasonably clean and lubricated, use good magazines and ammunition, and you won't have problems.

that a drop down the bolt carrier gas key is required.

The bolt itself requires a coating of oil, paying particular attention to the bolt rings and lugs. Those bolt rings function just like the piston rings in your car engine. How long do you think your ride would last without lube?

A properly cleaned and lubed carbine should go a minimum of 500 to 1000 rounds without any cleaning at all. Using a suppressor will cut that number down drastically, as will firing multiple rapid-fire strings or firing with the selector switch on "Group Therapy."

I advise shooters that during the chow break they should place a few drops of oil into those two gas ports on the right side of the bolt carrier. The lube will get into the gas rings located handily nearby and keep your gun running smoothly.

Finally, a few drops of oil into the underside of the charging handle are not a bad thing.

The AR system runs much better wet than dry, and we see that during every class. Understand it is not only the amount of lube used, but also the placement of the lube. At one class, a very experienced shooter was having functioning problems. He pulled back on the charging handle to show me the bolt was wet, but when he released the charging handle, I could see that the area on the bolt carrier adjacent to the gas holes was dry. I placed two drops of Slip 2000 into those holes and the gun ran fine.

The moral of this story is not just to put lube on, but put it on in the right places.

When at class and shooting 400 to 1000 rounds per day, the bolt will get blown dry. Adding oil during break time will keep the gun running and keep you learning new skill sets instead of becoming frustrated with a constantly malfunctioning gun.

In the 1990s, I worked for a government agency that had a large budget. We had a fair number of guns and a lot of ammunition, so on down days I had the opportunity to run some informal tests. While the exact results have been lost to the ages, some salient points remain embedded in my brain-housing group.

A totally dry gun will run approximately 100 to 200 rounds before seeing problems. A clean, properly lubed gun in good condition should go from 500 minimum to 1,000 maximum. More lube is not necessarily bad. I submerged bolt and bolt carrier assembly in a bucket of oil, shook it off and placed it in the carbine. It ran like a clock, though I only had enough time to fire off four mags' worth of M855 through it.

I have used every type of lube imaginable, from WD-40 (especially good when you have a dirty gun), to 3-in-1 oil, suntan lotion, butter, and even Vagisil—don't laugh, it works. I may not want to use any of them for the long haul, but for a quick fix, they beat having a non-functioning gun.

The type of lube you use is another topic that is full of mythology sprinkled with fact. While the military uses CLP, a book several years ago cautioned against using it for cleaning as it "promotes carbon." Why it only promotes carbon for cleaning and not lubricating is a mystery to me, but I don't use CLP for anything anymore.

Commercial choices abound, from mystical concoctions of "Sergeant Major's brew" to a host of "this is the best stuff ever made and we'll sue anyone who says different" crap. I prefer to stay away from most petroleum-based products, and use Slip 2000 for lube and that same company's 725 Cleaner and Degreaser for the other chores. Slip 2000 is aqueous based, eliminating a lot of the contamination issues seen with petroleum products, and their products flat work. I have found Slip 2000 to be excellent and the company's owner, Greg Connor, is a great American.

If I need grease, it will be TW25B (known in the Marine Corps, where it is used on up-gunned weapons stations on AAVs as "elephant sperm"). If you prefer to use eye of newt and toe of frog—have at it. My name isn't attached to any of it, and if you found the absolute key to the cleaning universe, go for it.

My experience over the years as a Marine and a cop and working with sister services, foreign governments, police departments, and civilians from all walks of life leads me to some inescapable conclusions.

First is that firearms are machines, and unless you keep them in the safe, heavily lubed, they will exhibit wear. Shocking but true: nothing lasts forever, and the harder you shoot them, the shorter their lifespan. Proper maintenance and cleaning will extend their useful life, but they are going to give up the ghost one day.



With less than 1,000 rounds fired, carrier key on this bolt is starting to show wear. If it shines, it needs lubrication.

Second is the fact that all guns are no more equal than all people are. The malfunctions I see at military classes are the result of worn-out guns and bad magazines. In the open enrollment classes, the malfunctions I see are poor quality control on the aftermarket guns, bolt carrier gas keys not staked or staked with a limp wrist, bad magazines, and improper lube.

I try not to be shocked and amazed at the poor quality guns being turned out by many, but then the homemade guns—the so-called Frankenguns built with gun-show parts and little knowledge—lead me to believe that in the gun world, P.T. Barnum would be a master.

That isn't to say all the companies aren't capable of turning out good (even great) guns, and often they do. But as a good friend often states, "Even a broken clock is right twice a day." I'm not impressed with the bleats of, "Well, I've had this gun for ten years and it has never 'jammed' once." Of course not. Malfunctions only occur when you fire them. I have seen enough of most types to realize that the only ARs in my company's armory are those that meet a standard.

Any gun is a machine, and once in your paws, it must be properly maintained. That does not mean incessantly cleaned with obsessive fervor, but rather taking care of those areas that affect functioning. Keep a gun book and annotate it with round counts so you can figure out when certain parts (extractor springs, gas rings, bolts, and barrels) need replacing. Replace these parts before they replace you.

Keep the gun lubed to reduce friction, and understand that the more you use it, the more parts need to be replaced. Accept that as a fact of life and drive on. (•)



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BENEFITS DESELECTIVE BREEDING

Faxon Firearms ARAK-21

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

> endelian Genetics is a fascinating field of study. By carefully manipulating breeding patterns, scientists can produce orange roses, grain that is resistant to blight and foul weather, the fastest horses in all of human history, and carp that will eat the weeds out of my farm pond while remaining unable to reproduce.

> Using the foundational tapestry that God designed into the world from the outset, we can accomplish

some of the most extraordinary things by melding the good stuff from one organism with the good stuff from another.

The *Avtomat Kalashnikova* assault rifle is universally extolled as the most reliable service weapon ever produced. Mikhail Timofeyovich Kalashnikov designed his rifle to defend the Soviet Union from the likes of Nazi invaders.

More than 100 million copies later, the AK rifle has arguably done more to shape the world than any other mechanical contrivance extant. While the ergonomics of the human interface are in sub-optimal places, no one will fault the AK rifle for its mechanical reliability. Kalashnikov's gun will keep running in the face of the most egregious abuse.

By contrast, Eugene Stoner's space-age creation, the AR-15, interfaces better with the human form than most any other shoulder arm. The rifle is lightweight and well balanced. The controls are right where they need to be for rapid, reliable, safe manipulation. The innate design of the gun lends itself to customization and personalization unlike any other weapon before or since. Nothing runs faster.

Despite the AR-15's legendary human engineering, the operating system is notoriously dirty. The same direct gasimpingement design that makes the AR-15 lightweight and

Faxon Firearms ARAK-21 represents a holy melding of the good stuff from the AK with the best of the AR. The resulting rifle sports superb ergonomics and never-quit reliability.

accurate spills voluminous carbon fouling directly into the rifle's action. Wouldn't it be nice if somebody took the inimitably robust action from an AKM and crossed it with the sleek, lithe human engineering of the AR-15? It turns out that Faxon Firearms did precisely that.

THE ORIGIN OF THE SPECIES

It's actually been tried before. The Israeli Galil strived to meld all that was good from the world's major weapon systems into a single optimized infantry weapon, and they came close. The Kalashnikov action, FN FAL side-folding stock, and zippy M16 chambering made for a robust though heavy combat arm.

But the Galil suffered from just a bit too much AK influence, so the magazine has to be rocked into place, and the controls are not made for real live humans. Faxon Firearms did it better.



Most controls on ARAK-21 will be familiar to anyone running a conventional AR rifle.



ARAK-21's bilateral ejection port seals nicely with the bolt closed and lends itself to easy reversal. Swapping ejection for the rifle requires nothing more than reversing the orientation of the bolt while field stripped.

Lots of smart people like guns. Every now and then, those smart folks devote their lives and fortunes to making them better. In the case of Bob Faxon, the founder and chief designer behind Faxon Firearms and the ARAK-21, his personal passion equates to something legitimately new and different.

Bob and his brother Barry are the driving force behind Faxon Machining. In business since 1978, they have produced more than 30 million parts for military, aerospace, oil and gas exploration, automotive and medical applications.

Their parts are employed by the military and in sea-



ARAK-21 rifle system is available as a complete rifle or as a drop-in upper receiver assembly. ARAK upper is compatible with any milspec AR lower.

floor exploration, as well as within the cars we drive and the airplanes we fly. They are also used on the International Space Station and the Mars rover.

With 37 years of engineering experience, these guys know how to build stuff right. When in 2011 they launched into the task of melding the best features of the AK and AR-15 into a single combat firearm, they ended up with a unique, topquality product.

VITAL STATISTICS

The ARAK-21 is available as either a complete rifle or a dropin upper receiver. The newest versions are completely ambidextrous. The folding charging handle is located at the front, akin to an HK MP5. This orientation allows the operator to manage the action without removing his right hand from the pistol grip. Flip it around backwards and the rifle is comparably optimized for Southpaws.

Everything about the ARAK-21 feels robust. The entire rifle is incrementally heavier than a comparable AR-15, but what you get for that extra mass is a gun that is rock solid on target. There are rails in all the standard places, and any magazine that will feed an AR will feed an ARAK comparably well. There is more railed real estate on the top of the chassis than you might conceivably use.

It is in the details that the ARAK most impresses. The barrel slips out without a fuss and is replaceable with tubes of various lengths and chamberings. Swap out a barrel and you are running .300 Blackout. Swap the barrel, firing pin, and bolt, and the gun shoots 7.62x39mm using appropriate magazines. The 5.56mm firing pin incorporates a small coil spring to prevent slam fires.

To exchange the barrel assembly, simply unscrew a halfdozen Allen screws, remove the aluminum forearm, slide


All that is required to swap the 5.56mm ARAK to 7.62x39mm are a new bolt, barrel, and firing pin. Replacement requires an Allen wrench but is simple, foolproof, and quick.

the old barrel out, and slip the new barrel in. Exchanging the bolt requires nothing more than field stripping the rifle. The 7.62x39mm firing pin is incrementally heavier than its 5.56mm counterpart, and they are not interchangeable.

Roll the bolt 180 degrees during assembly and it ejects out the opposite side. Both sides of the ejection port are open for bilateral ejection, but the bolt seals this opening tightly when closed. If a single ejector is good, then two ejectors are better, and the paired ejectors on the ARAK are both redundant and failsafe. All parts are remarkably heavy and robust for extreme service.

Bolt lugs are radiused in a series of curves rather than the more traditional square angles for improved mechanical durability. The exceptional attention to detail and durability is obvious when you paw over the rifle's sundry parts. As the

EOTech Holosight is go-to tactical glass for many of the world's high-speed tactical operators. Combined with a flip-out magnifier, Holosight offers unprecedented flexibility all the way from bad-breath range out to the ballistic limits of the cartridge.





Though the ARAK-21 rifle comes with a collapsible M4 stock, nature of the design is such that side folders can be employed just as easily. Recoil system is entirely contained within the receiver.



ARAK-21 charging handle folds for storage and is easily reversible. Its orientation on the forearm allows ready manipulation with the weak hand without breaking the firing grip.

recoil spring assembly is retained within the receiver, the gun will take a side-folding stock if desired.

Each barrel assembly includes an easily adjustable gas system tuned for the specific cartridge. Adjusting the system requires nothing more than a standard set of fingers and allows the operator to customize the action for the load. Every sort of brass-cased ammo I could find ran flawlessly on a common setting.

Steel-cased blasting bullets needed the gas plug bumped up a notch. There was still so much reserve power left in this rifle that I honestly doubt you could induce a stoppage short of filling the thing with concrete.

RUN AND GUN

The world's newest, best smoke pole is no better than its magazines. ProMag recently introduced a patented AR magazine that is as innovative as the Faxon ARAK-21. The ProMag Rollermag carries the same 30 rounds of 5.56x45mm ammunition that a comparable AR mag might, while doing it with much more style.



Ambidextrous fire controls are standard on ARAK-21 rifles.

The body of the magazine is a proprietary carbon-fiber blend they call Technapolymer, and the chrome-silicon treated springs will outlive your grandchildren. But what really sets the Rollermag apart is its unique follower.

The British Sterling submachine gun uses the best subgun mag on the planet. In this case, the follower is a pair of roller bearings that make the magazine easy to load and ridiculously reliable.

In contrast, the Rollermag uses polymer rollers to interface the follower with the mag body. As a result, internal friction is minimized, fouling resistance is maximized, and the resultant feeding solution is unnaturally smooth and utterly reliable. Rollermags fit comfortably into all your existing web gear and, despite their revolutionary features, cost no more than a typical box magazine from most anybody else.

Our test rifle came with 7.62x39mm magazines in five- and 30-round capacities. These bug-ugly boxes sport exaggerated curves to accommodate the innate taper of this .30-caliber cartridge. They ran flawlessly. Despite their unattractive appearance, these boxes fit just fine within the standard AR mag well.

The Faxon ARAK-21 is a bit more front heavy than a comparable AR, and this makes an already stable platform rock solid. The rifle keeps its recoil mechanism nested up inside the forearm, so there is no springy twang next to your face during firing, as might be the case with your AR.

The rifle I tested was chambered for 5.56mm as well as 7.62x39mm, and it ran like a scalded ape in both calibers. Controls will be familiar to anyone who has ever hefted an AR, and the forward-mounted charging handle is perfectly arranged for access by the weak hand whether your primary handedness is right or left. The ARAK-21 is arguably the most naturally ambidextrous long gun on the market, given its instantly reversible ejection.

Accuracy is more than adequate for any reasonable tactical applications, and double taps are simply delightful. The gun maneuvers well indoors and drops rounds right where you want them out to the limits of the cartridge. The proprietary muzzle brake on the ARAK, combined with the long-stroke operating system, keeps the gun on target painlessly through long strings of fire.



Inteliscope smart-phone mount includes a robust custom cell phone case and configures a smart phone to serve as an electronic heads-up gunsight. Free app that accompanies the mount sports GPS data, video recording capability, and a variety of reticle styles.

Love is a complicated term that has been embraced, abused, and maligned throughout human history, but I did find that I developed a deep and abiding affection for the ARAK-21.

GRAND SCHEME

If you're looking for that elusive one gun to do everything, Faxon Firearms may have found it with the ARAK-21. Versatile, customizable, robust, and capable of shooting both .22and .30-caliber rounds equally well with minimal fuss, the ARAK-21 is built like a tank while remaining perfused with an engineering elegance that is obvious the moment you crack the receiver open.

From its proprietary adjustable muzzle brake to its monolithic receiver, everything about the Faxon ARAK-21 is just different enough to be an improvement without losing track of the cool stuff that defined its esteemed parentage in the first place.

You can't swing a dead cat in America today without hitting somebody bodging together rifles in their basement. Some are extraordinary and some are rubbish, but most are AR-15 derivatives. Faxon Firearms, however, has brought something to the American firearms market that is legitimately fresh, new, and different.

Combining the very best features of the long-stroke gasoperated recoil system that makes Kalashnikov's rifle such an unstoppable war machine with the elegant ergonomics of Eugene Stoner's space-age wondergun makes for a truly remarkable piece of iron.

The ARAK-21 maneuvers like an AR but keeps on keeping on like an AK. The ARAK-21 from Faxon Firearms really is the best of both guns. ⁽) Will Dabbs grew up in the Mississippi Delta and has a degree in Mechanical Engineering from the University of Mississippi. He is Airborne qualified and accumulated 1,100 hours flying UH-1H, OH-58A/C, CH-47D, and AH-1S helicopters. He currently works in his own medical clinic and maintains a licensed 07/02 firearms manufacturing business building sound suppressors. He has written commercially on the subjects of firearms, medicine, and survival for more than 20 years.

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Text and GPS via Smartphone with goTenna BY RICHARD DUARTE

martphones can now be found just about everywhere on the planet. It's no exaggeration to say that these incredible devices have changed everything, especially how we communicate. As device functionality and cell service reliability have increased, so has our dependence on this technology. But what happens when there's no service?

Without connectivity, smartphones can still perform some very useful functions, but you can certainly forget about communications. In the past, you had few options when you got the dreaded "no service" message. Wouldn't it be great if there were a way to create your own personal network for true off-grid communications using your smartphone? Now there is.

THE SCENARIO

A widespread disaster (manmade or natural) has brought down power and cell service in your area. Panic and confusion quickly follow, as hordes of stressed-out, frightened people struggle to make their way through While many people consider their smartphone their go-to device for emergency communications, during a crisis, call volume can increase dramatically and wireless calls may not go through, or service may go down entirely. When cell service is unavailable, having a Plan B gives you options and may provide you with an alternate way to communicate with people in your group.

(((j)))

the chaos. Knowing that all your plans and preparations are solidly in place is a big relief, but there's still a lot to do, and you immediately go into survival mode.

One of your first priorities is to locate all members of your family and get them to safety. But first you must locate them, and for that you need a way to communicate. The people you want to locate could be just around the corner, but without communications, you'd never know it.

Under normal circumstances, a simple cell phone call, text, or email would be sufficient to get everyone on the same page and to coordinate those next crucial steps. But these aren't normal circumstances and, in the absence of a cell signal, your smartphone is dead in the water. Or is it?

You reach into your pocket, pull out a slender device that you attach to your belt or bag, and within minutes you're sending and receiving text messages and sharing GPS information with friends, loved ones, and others within range using your existing smartphone. And you manage to do all this without cell service, towers, routers, satellites, or even wifi. How is this possible?

Enter the goTenna.

WHAT IS GOTENNA?

GoTenna is a lightweight, pen-sized device that generates a two-watt digital radio signal, allowing you to send and receive text messages, and to share GPS information with other goTenna units using your existing smartphone (iPhone or Android) and the goTenna app. Essentially, goTenna turns your smartphone into an off-grid communications tool that can be used anywhere on the planet without cell reception, wifi, or satellites.

GoTenna works on all Apple devices running iOS 8.4 or above that are Bluetooth enabled, and on Android smartphones running 4.3 or above, again with Bluetooth. GoTenna does not support voice or images.

HOW DOES IT WORK?

The goTenna device pairs with your existing smartphone using Bluetooth, and works in conjunction with the free goTenna app to send and receive end-to-end encrypted text messages, or to share your location with other goTenna devices.

You just compose your text message using your smartphone and the app sends the message to the goTenna device, which then transmits it to the intended recipient via longrange radio waves (151-154 MHz).

On the receiving end, the entire process is reversed. The receiving goTenna device receives the message and sends it to the paired smartphone via Bluetooth, where the text is displayed on the recipient's smartphone. Pretty cool.

Since goTenna creates its own wireless network, you can send text messages and share your location with specific individuals or groups. The entire process looks and feels very similar to any other text messaging app that many of us are already familiar with.

GOTENNA RANGE

Overall range depends on the terrain, elevation, weather, and interference. The folks at goTenna claim the effective range will usually be between one and four miles, depending on the environment and elevation. The distance is much shorter in urban areas, where it's reduced to between one-half and one mile. GoTenna breathes new life into smartphones that were once limited by coverage areas, signal strength, dark spots, and dead zones.



GoTenna units come in pairs and are offered in Green and Blue or Purple and Orange for easy identification



Extended antenna adds another 2.2 inches to the overall length.

Since physical barriers and obstacles can affect your signal, it's always a good idea to get as much elevation as possible and to get out from behind large structures. It's also a good idea to attach the device to the upper portion of a pack or jacket using the strap. Don't hold it in your hand in an effort to get it higher, since this decreases range.



Micro-USB cables are included, and make charging the lithium-polymer battery an easy process.



Left: To maximize performance, attach the goTenna device externally to the upper portion of a bag or jacket using the strap.

Below: Small, powerful, and capable of being used almost anywhere on the planet, goTenna is a great addition to any go or bug-out bag.



BATTERY LIFE AND CHARGING

The company states that the goTenna's rechargeable Lithium-polymer battery lasts 24 hours or more on standby (just listening, not transmitting); less if you send a lot of messages. You can also put your smartphone in airplane mode to save battery life. This presents no problem for goTenna's functionality as long as your Bluetooth remains on.

Charging the unit is a simple process. A small latch located on the bottom of the unit provides easy access to a micro-USB charging port. The goTenna takes one to two hours to charge depending on the power source. A red charging light located next to the charging port turns off when the unit is completely charged. The goTenna continues to work when it's charging, but with less range since the charging cable may interfere with the unit's radio signals.

In any event, plan on having a way of charging your go-Tenna device and cell phone that does not rely on the grid. It makes no sense to have this equipment if it can't be recharged in the field or when the power is out. Consider getting a back-up battery charger, or better yet, a solar charger.

MAPS AND NAVIGATION

Lost and need to find your way, or the location of others in your group? No problem. The goTenna app provides maps that you can download to your smartphone and use offline. Choose your maps by country or region and download the files using a data connection or wifi in advance of going off-grid.

All the available maps are free and feature full-zoom capabilities that can be used entirely offline in conjunction with the goTenna app. These maps are incredibly accurate and detail-rich down to street level, and can easily be used for navigation. This is yet another benefit of having the go-Tenna. By leveraging the GPS on your smartphone, the map will show your location with a blue dot. You can then share this information with others.

PRIVACY

As with any other radio device, privacy can be an issue. But you can rest easy knowing that all goTenna private one to one and group messages are encrypted with 384-bit elliptic curve public-private key ciphering. Messages sent using the "shout" feature are not encrypted. This can be a major consideration especially if operational security becomes an issue.

PRACTICAL APPLICATIONS

The possibilities for this product are limited only by your imagination. In a survival situation, the benefits are obvious. GoTenna breathes new life into smartphones that were once limited by coverage areas, signal strength, dark spots, and dead zones. All these barriers mean nothing when you can transmit and receive data independent of your carrier.

As with any other survival tool, this one has strengths and limitations. We can easily see the goTenna being used in a survival situation for critical communications and for keeping track of others in your group. Range is definitely an issue to consider, and if you need communications beyond the goTenna's range, you'll want to look for alternatives. But for essential communications in a grid-down situation, this product affords an option.

PRESANDCENS

Still not sure if goTenna is right for you? Below is a quick summary outlining the pros and cons we found during our review of the goTenna. While there will never be one piece of gear for all situations, it's up to each of us to decide if the positives outweigh the negatives, and if the cost justifies the perceived benefits.

PROS

- Private wireless network that allows you to send text messages and location information between goTennapaired smartphones using the radio frequency (RF) spectrum.
- Pairs wirelessly with smartphones using a Bluetooth connection.
- Provides an option for private encrypted communications bypassing the wireless provider.
- + User-friendly app and device; easy to set up and operate.
- Compact design incorporates essential functionality into a lightweight, ergonomic device. Dimensions are 5.8x1x0.5 inches. Extended antenna adds another 2.2 inches in length. Weight is 1.8 ounces.
- Rugged color-coded nylon strap attaches the unit to a backpack or belt.
- + Comes with micro-USB charging cables.
- Great for outdoor activities in remote areas, traveling abroad, or to maintain critical communications during disaster scenarios when the grid and/or cell networks may be down or overwhelmed.
- Free downloadable maps with full-zoom capabilities can be used entirely offline with the goTenna app.

During our unscientific tests, the units performed well. We had no problems with the devices, app, and setup, or with downloading any of the offline maps. All went smoothly, and within 20 minutes we were sending and receiving messages.

Overall range performance was as expected once we entered heavily congested urban areas. The effective range dropped to just under a mile—not great, but still of value. While we were originally put off by the limited urban range, the goTenna still won us over with its simplicity, user-friendly app and maps, and its ability to bring communications into remote areas where cell phones usually don't have a chance of getting a signal.

PRICE AND WARRANTY

As of this writing, the goTenna costs \$199 for a pair and \$389 for a four-unit family pack. The app and offline maps are free, and there are no usage charges or any other such nonsense. The devices come with a one-year limited warranty and a micro-USB cord for each unit.

- App-based FAQ section features a "how-to" segment with instructions to guide the user through the most common functions.
- Emergency Text function also automatically shares your location.
- + Easy to turn on: just extend the antenna.
- Lithium-polymer battery can be recharged with any micro-USB cable.
- Excellent option for areas with poor or no cell coverage.
- + Comes with a one-year limited warranty.
- ✤ 15% military discount and payment plans are available.

CONS

- You must download maps and the goTenna app in advance while connected to wifi or your wireless network.
- Texts are limited to 160 characters. No images or voice.
- Battery lasts approximately 24 hours on standby, much less if you transmit messages often.
- Range is limited: from one to four miles depending on the environment and elevation. Typical range in urban areas is one-half to one mile.
- Cost. A pair of goTenna devices will set you back \$199.00.
 Well worth it if they give you emergency communications during your time of need, but still something to consider.

CONCLUSION

Being prepared is about giving yourself options. Communications before, during, and in the aftermath of a crisis are a big deal. Having a reliable and practical option for text communications and GPS on your everyday phone, even when the service goes down, provides you with a huge advantage in an off-grid or grid-down situation. Even with its limitations, the benefits goTenna brings to the table make this product a worthwhile addition to your survival preparations and planning. ()

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.





HAPPY HANDGUNNING

Loading for Practice and Duty

BY DENNY HANSEN

FOR years, many people have said it is unwise to carry handloaded ammo for defensive purposes. This is based on two elements, both of which I believe are mostly myths.

The first point of contention is that handloaded (reloaded) ammunition is unreliable. Let me say that you may trust your loads, and I may trust mine, but until proven, we should not trust each other's. As long as cartridges are loaded properly, following a manufacturer's manual (avoid on-line data), and stored properly, reloads are every bit as reliable as factory ammo.

I recently went to the range with some .45 ACP reloads. According to the data sheet that I include with every batch of reloads, they were loaded in June 2004. The loads were accurate and every single round fed, extracted, and ejected as if they had been loaded yesterday.

The second element some people pontificate about is that if the loads are ever used in a self-defense shooting, you are opening yourself up to a lawsuit. I have investigated this and, while it's possible I missed one, I have never found a single incident that supports this theory.

I investigated numerous shootings



Nickel-cased duty ammo next to loads in brass cases. Left to right: .45 ACP, .357 Magnum, 9mm Luger.



A supply of duty ammo may keep your hide intact, while practice ammo will do the same for your skill sets.

when I was a peace officer, and I never asked if a handload had been used. It was, in fact, irrelevant to the case. Taking it a step further, many officers are not "gun people," and it is extremely unlikely it would occur to them to ask if reloaded ammo was used.

If this truly concerns you, inquire around to what the officers in your area carry. For example, if they carry a 124-grain 9mm jacketed hollow point (JHP), load a 124-grain JHP, being sure to keep the loads around factory velocity specifications.

In my experience, "hot" loads use more powder, resulting in an increase in muzzle flash and recoil, and often degrade accuracy while offering little increase in downrange performance.

PRACTICE OR DUTY?

Except for precision rifle loads, I don't

separate cases by brand. Rather, I separate them into brass and nickel-plated cases. Generally, this is more for aesthetics than anything else, though it shows at a glance what category the round fits into.

Jacketed hollow point duty bullets go into the nickel cases, while practice lead bullets are loaded in the brass. Far and away the most used JHP bullet I load is the Hornady XTP. Using manuals from Accurate Arms, Hornady and Lyman, I try to duplicate Hornady's loaded factory ammunition as closely as possible.

With only a couple of exceptions, lead practice bullets are cast from wheel weight alloy using Lee Precision molds. I try to come as close as possible duplicating the perceived recoil of the duty loads. In hotter loads, like .357 Magnum, I use a gas-checked bullet to keep barrel leading to a minimum.

I use Unique powder more than any other because it is, well, Unique. I use it almost exclusively in handguns. It can be used in shotshells and even some rifle cartridges with cast bullets.

When loading my duty loads, I wanted a powder that measured very accurately from my powder measures and also had a low flash signature. The powder I chose was Accurate #5.

There are powders with even less flash, such as Winchester's Auto-Comp and Ramshot's Silhouette, but I chose #5 because it is reasonably priced and



Alliant Unique and Accurate #5 powders were used to assemble practice and duty loads.



Author uses Hornady XTP JHP bullets almost exclusively for duty loads, while casting lead bullets from a Lee Precision mold for practice.

widely available in my area without placing a special order.

A discussion of primers often results in a spirited debate among handloaders. Because one of the main reasons for reloading is to save money, for practice loads I use what I find on sale.

For duty loads, I stick with CCI primers. I have been reloading since 1974 and can't remember ever having a bad CCI primer. They are very reliable and clean burning.

Avoid dies that seat and crimp in one step for auto-pistols. Pistols headspace on the case mouth. Crimping while you seat may displace material, especially lead, from the bullet in front of the case, resulting in a round that may not chamber. I use a separate factory taper crimp die (preferred) to seat the bullet, and then back off the seating stem and turn the seating die down until I have just removed the flare from seating the bullet. Revolver rounds should be moderately crimped into the crimp groove on the bullet, so a bullet will not setback into the case (causing higher pressure) or jump forward of the cylinder and lock up the gun. The latter may be described as a true jam instead of a malfunction. It takes the gun entirely out of the fight.

KEEPING IT TOGETHER

For lead practice rounds, it is a common practice for me to bulk pack them in an MTM .30-caliber size ammo can. With a water-resistant "O" ring seal, the rounds will stay protected and reliable for a long time.

I take a bit more care with the duty rounds and place them in either 50- or 100-round MTM boxes made for the specific caliber. While unlikely if bulk packed, it is *possible* for a hollow point to become damaged, which may affect accuracy or performance. I then place the boxes into either a .30- or .50caliber ammo box for weatherproof storage.

SUMMARY

It wasn't too long ago when Obama was elected—both the first and second times—that factory ammunition disappeared from dealers' shelves. Now the socialists have taken off the proverbial gloves and are openly admitting they want to take away the guns and ammunition of law-abiding American citizens.

With a little time and effort, you don't need to be caught short during the next event of panic buying for either duty or practice ammunition. (•)



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(406) 234-0422 www.accuratepowder.com

ALLIANT POWDER (800) 276-9337 www.alliantpowder.com

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HORNADY MFG. CO. (800) 338-3220 www.hornady.com

LEE PRECISION, INC. (262) 673-3075 www.leeprecision.com

MTM MOLDED PRODUCTS COMPANY (937) 890-7461 www.mtmcase-gard.com



Author places hollow-point duty loads in individual boxes, but often bulk packs practice ammo.



PACKING FOR THE APOCALYPSE

Realistic Planning for Defensive Firearms

BY COLIN MCVEAN



Low-bulk CQB Solution vest augmented with extra pouches holds nine magazines. Set up for a right-handed shooter, it also holds small light, utility knife, 550-cord, first aid and bleeding control. Retain this unit after jettisoning the larger backpack in an emergency.

his is written for apocalyptic times, when open combat might be present in our country. It could happen as a result of an attack on our Constitution by an out-of-control president, a nuclear event, pandemic, geothermal event, or EMP. Regardless, things will get unfriendly quickly.

Aside from your food, water, and shelter preparation, what can you do to effectively

move and operate in this environment? For brevity, I will focus on the AR-15 platform, but the elements can apply to most other firearms when your fellow citizens and wellmeaning local authorities could become an active enemy. It has happened many times in many countries.

Initially folks will work together, but as time passes (it took just three days in New Orleans after Hurricane Katrina), bonds will fall apart as people get desperate for necessities. America's citizenry has never been tested as Europe was during World Wars I and II. The majority of our population has never been tested in much of anything, let alone events that will quickly result in desperate and hostile people.

So for localized movement and survival in this mess, what might be best and for what reasons?

THE HEAT

A big fat .338 Lapua Magnum will do the job if you're into killing small planets. But it and calibers like .300 Win Mag for survival or urban warfare are impractical. Our highly trained

Right: Springfield M1A with rubber-wrapped Burris tactical scope. Detailed scope hold-overs and settings are on handguard with data for several types of .308 ammunition. If needed, quick camo job can be applied with spray paint. Extra batteries and ear plugs are stored in magazine well.

military snipers have plenty of heavy-duty backup, tech support, ammo, and supplies—you won't.

A high percentage of the shoot-or-die situations citizens in apocalyptic times face will be under 300 yards. Many folks don't realize the prior planning necessary to get equipped properly.

For example, a trusty AR-15 with three to four magazines and 150 rounds of ammunition is a good start, but what can you do to make that more affordable and make your movement in the crisis more efficient?

Let's talk firearms first. Fancy bells and whistles will fail over time—guaranteed! Stay as basic as you can. A semi-auto is better than a bolt-action rifle should you need to deliver some fire volume to get out of a mess.

The best calibers for this potential disaster are military: .223/5.56, .308/7.62, .30-06/.30 Cal, and 7.62x39. Do not underestimate a 12 gauge, which with slugs, 00, or number 4 buck can be bad news out to 125 yards.

Best handgun calibers are .38 Special, .357 Magnum, and 9mm Parabellum, because you can affordably stock up on ammo or maybe locate some when the poop hits the fan. The .22 LR is wonderful for survival, but not this kind of combative survival—but I still would not like to be shot with one!

SIGHTS AND OPTICS

Target-type sights and high-magnification scopes are not practical for real rattle-battle. Depending on your wallet and thinking, I recommend staying under 6X ... you may find that 4x is the most realistic. Various military-type sights are good but expensive and some require batteries—think long term. Same goes for the 10-20X specialized sniper scopes. I like simple optics and favor one in particular—the Burris 1-4X Fullfield TAC30. It is affordable, designed for serious work, and has an easy-to-see variable-brightness illuminated red reticle when needed.

When turned off or no more batteries are available, it still has a permanent black reticle. It has uncluttered reference points for hold-overs, if you care to go to the range to verify. The 1-2X setting allows for CQB work and the 3-4X works fine for longer shots. I have used mine from 15 to 1,000 yards.

To further protect any scope, try wrapping it with several layers of elastic self-vulcanizing rubberized tape (available in hardware-store electrical aisles). This creates a thick layer of rubberized armor to protect your scope from non-fatal bumps and hits.

If your gun has iron sights, get it zeroed with them. And keep range hold-over information taped to your rifle stock for the various types of ammunition you have.

AMMUNITION

You can't have too many magazines or too much ammunition. At a minimum I recommend at least ten magazines per gun and the necessary ammunition to initially load (charge them, for the purist) them at least once. Without plenty of ammo in this scenario and a way to utilize it quickly, you have a problem! A battlefield-proven trick is to first load three or four tracer rounds into your magazines and top off with your regular ammo. In a hot fight when you see the tracers, you're coming up short and need to prepare to reload.

About tactics: some shooters practice partial-reload magazine drills or will not drop an empty magazine on the ground. Shoot the thing empty, reload, and get back in the

> Left: AR with rubber-wrapped Burris 1-4X tactical scope, singlepoint sling, 550-cord butt loop for hands-free carry hooked to a vest carabiner, heavy-duty charging handle, adjustable Accu-Grip with spare ear plugs and batteries inside, small Picatinny rail, and vertical forend grip. Unusual dazzle paint scheme visually breaks up rifle's profile. Pre-zeroed alignment reference points are noted on carry handle and sight should scope need to be replaced.



fight. Your greatest concern is to win or escape the current fight, not to worry about empty or partially loaded magazines for tomorrow.

Partial mag changes look nifty in articles. A gunfight is different. Farting around switching out and pocketing partial magazines, trying to count shots, or saving empty magazines by carefully pocketing them are distractions when your "target" is trying to kill you.

If you win the fight, you can pick up your empty magazines afterward. If you lose, your opponent will appreciate your partially loaded and pocketed empty magazines. This is another reason why more magazines are better.

PRIMARY AND SECONDARY GEAR

The best bet for carrying magazines and ammo is an uncomplicated vest, military magazine pouches, old-style canteen cases, or a combination of the above.

You need a way to effectively carry enough ammunition for trouble. Bulky SWAT-like vests with many pockets can be problematic for several reasons, such as heat, weight, and moving quickly. Many are cluttered with loops for shot shells, pockets and pouches for rifle and pistol ammo, knives, lights, wedges, cord, first aid, radio, cell phone, television set, beer, and pretzels.

Sure, macho-looking SWAT teams wear all this junk for what they are doing, but their event area and encounter time are small and short compared to yours, which may be miles and days, weeks or months.

Rig your gear for reaction. Your secondary gear might be a backpack to carry essentials such as food, water, bedding, and cooking gear. Your primary gear is designed to immediately help save your life. This kit is possibly a vest or belt system



Author's AR supplies are spare parts, tool, and basic military cleaning kit augmented with civilian products such as SEAL 1 CLP, patches, and pipe cleaners.

with your immediate-action gear such as enough magazines and water for a hostile encounter.

In an emergency action, you can dump the heavy main pack and retain magazines, water, and short-term supplies to fight your way out of immediate trouble. When all is done, you can recover your bulky stuff if you're alive. Loaded down and trying to shoot, scoot, and get good cover with a 40-pound backpack is a game for dead people or supported infantry, but not so good for a 35+ year-old citizen who's out of shape and sapped of energy.

Setting up your quick-reaction gear vest or kit correctly is essential. Consider: extra ear plugs because any guy over 50 will go permanently deaf around gun fire, prescription medicine, trauma/first-aid gear, 50 feet of 550 cord, carabiner, water, gloves, high-energy snacks, and utility pocket knife, plus a minimum of 180 rounds of AR magazine charged ammu-

nition or 120 rounds of .30 caliber for this kit.

Personally I won't pack a handgun, holster, and ammunition with their extra weight and bulk. I never carried a handgun in the military, and less than 25 of the last 100,000 enemy killed in the Middle East have been by handguns.

This lightweight tactical kit facilitates improved shooting on the run maneuverability. If I win the fight, I can retrieve my jettisoned main pack and possibly the other guy's stuff too. If I lose, it won't matter.

AR PARTS AND ACCESSORIES

Rifle accessories might be a bipod and/ or vertical foregrip. If you actually need a Picatinny rail, don't overdo it. Maybe a laser and/or flashlight, but the batteries will eventually go. Have a decent lightweight sling or carry strap. For ARs



Surplus military-style magazine pouches are excellent and affordable way to belt-carry extra ammo.



Many types of economic surplus bulk pouches can carry plenty of ammo.



Small butt/shoulder packs are excellent for reaction use. This small one is filled with six 30-round magazines, water, energy snacks, first-aid supplies, knife, light, and 55-cord-bag. Pack cost just \$15.

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I recommend a heavy-duty, easy-to-reach AR charging handle. Bravo Company Mfg's GUNFIGHTER charging handle is the gold standard.

The AR requires continual maintenance, so have a toothbrush and shaving brush to dust it. For efficiency, I prefer a single-use cleaning and lubing product such as SEAL 1's stuff—it's safe and works! Make up a basic cleaning kit and keep it in your pack. Wooden-stock M1As, Garands, SKSs, and AKs have space for cleaning gear in their stocks. And don't sneer at wooden stocks. They've lasted for many decades and will outlast you.

For the more delicate AR, have basic parts such as springs, pins, and gas rings. Have an extra firing pin and broken shell extractor for each of your emergency rifle(s) and keep those with each rifle. The hollow inside of an AR pistol grip is a good place to store extra ear plugs, spare batteries, and other small items. Seal the grip with tape.

STORING AMMO

Ammunition: carry as much as you reasonably can on your person for immediate use (120 rounds of 5.56 or 80 in .30 caliber). Have more in your main pack. Hunting ammunition is especially effective against personnel due to its expansion characteristics and is an instant fight stopper if you can afford some.

For bulk storage, keep ammunition in smaller 5.56mm and



Larger commercial military-style emergency-reaction butt pack holds 16 magazines in pockets and has plenty of room in the main bag for supplies. It is attached to a military web belt with two one-quart canteens. Butt pack can be worn with backpacks.



Low-cost day pack holds eight magazines, water and one week's worth of food and supplies. Augment it with an old-style surplus butt pack with more supplies, ammo, and water. In an emergency, main pack can be dropped while retaining water, six magazines, and other supplies in the butt pack.

.30-caliber metal ammo cans because they are water and fire resistant, and lighter and easier to carry or pack than the bulk-ier .50-caliber cans.

Keep stored ammo dry and reasonably cool (under 110 degrees and never in sunlight). Never store your ammunition in any type of bag or container that has an anti-rust firearm-protecting vapor component unless the ammunition is 100% sealed tight from these vapors by a metal barrier such as well-sealed aluminum foil.

Over time, vapors penetrate the bullet mouth area and primer pocket and can seriously degrade the primer. Properly cared for, today's newer ammunition (military in particular) should be very effective for 80+ years. Cared-for WWII/ Korea-era stuff still works fine.

DOOMSDAY RISING

Preparing for a national emergency apocalyptic rattle-battle situation need not be terribly expensive or tough. It's like buying a fire extinguisher or insurance: a waste of money if you never need it, but if you do need it and don't have it, the consequences are much worse.

Evaluate your area and scenario, then imagine the worst and plan as best you can. After you solve your basic requirements within reason, you can add other less-necessary items.

And if all of this sounds over the top, remember, "Just because you're paranoid doesn't mean they aren't after *you*." (()

Turn Up The Quiet!

Authorized Dealer.

The DDM4ISR provided for our evaluation came equipped with a Trijicon[®] VCOG[®] (Variable Combat Optical Gunsight) and had no BUIS. When running optics for anything other than range use, BUIS are essential. Murphy is always lurking. Optics can become damaged or fail. The DDM4ISR is sold without sights or optics, so you must purchase them separately.

Daniel Defense designed and builds the ISR suppressor in-house. We tested the suppressor indoors at the C2 Tactical range using Daniel Defense subsonic 220-grain Scenar in both semiauto and full-auto fire using a Daniel Defense select-fire lower.

First round pop (FRP) was very minimal. FRP results from the burning off of the oxygen in the suppressor by the first round. FRP occurs with all suppressors to varying degrees and is generally more apparent on monocore suppressors. Overall sound suppression was outstanding, as was previously mentioned. No muzzle flash was visible.

ACCURACY TESTS

Accuracy tests were conducted at 50 yards from a rest using Black Hills 110and 220-grain OTM, Barnes 110-grain TAC-XP, Daniel Defense 220-grain Scenar-L, Gemtech 187-grain Polymer Tip, Remington 125-grain AccuTip, Remington 220-grain OTM, Hornady 110-grain V-MAX, and Hornady 208-grain A-MAX. Five, five-shot groups were shot with each ammunition tested.

Velocities were measured using an Infinition LabRadar ballistic velocity Doppler Radar. Unlike standard chronographs, LabRadar is unaffected by environmental conditions. It is the most precise method for measuring velocities.

No ammunition tested produced average groups greater than 1.54 inches at 50 yards. Best accuracy was obtained from the Daniel Defense 220-grain Scenar ammunition, with five-shot groups averaging 1.0 inch and the best group measuring 0.65 inch.

At the conclusion of our testing, several thousand rounds had been put through the DDM4ISR without cleaning other than wiping the bolt down and applying a little CLP. There were no malfunctions.



Test rifle was equipped with a Trijicon VCOG.

Significant differences exist between supersonic and subsonic .300 BLK ammunition from manufacturer to manufacturer. As a result, .300 BLK carbines can be a bit finicky. This was not the case with the DDM4ISR during our evaluation. DD Magazines were employed exclusively.

The DDM4ISR has a suggested retail price of \$3,049.00. It comes with a Daniel Defense Full-Latch Impact Plastic Case, 32-round DD Magazine, and operator manual. The DD Magazine has a suggested retail price of \$20.00. All Daniel Defense products carry a 100% lifetime satisfaction guarantee against defects in original materials and workmanship. (5)

SOURCES

DANIEL DEFENSE, INC. (866) 554-GUNS (4867) www.danieldefense.com

BLACK HILLS AMMUNITION (605) 348-3150 www.black-hills.com

BARNES BULLETS (800) 574-9200 www.barnesbullets.com

C2 TACTICAL (480) 588-8802 www.c2tactical.com

GEMTECH (208) 939-7222 www.gem-tech.com

HORNADY MFG. CO. (800) 338-3220 www.hornady.com

INFINITION, INC. (316) 866-2525 www.mylabradar.com

REMINGTON ARMS CO., LLC (800) 243-9700 www.remington.com

TRIJICON, INC. (800) 338-0563 www.trijicon.com

Two Guns, One Bag

in my inventory, and this configuration is the most intuitive. My left hand seemed to fall right on the bolt release when shooting off hand, as did my trigger finger releasing the bolt on the right. Safety manipulation was also easy, with a crisp release.

FINAL THOUGHTS

I'd been looking forward to testing the PWS MK1 MOD 2 rifles since the 2016 SHOT Show. Many of the designs meet my personal preferences. No disappointment here: they are excellent. Both uppers are accurate and reliable, with the soft-shooting impulse that long-stroke gas systems offer.

Fit and finish have tighter lines, more precise fit, and better ergonomics. They are lighter, stronger, and sleeker. The PicMod is excellent, with no rails to come loose. The handguard stays thin and sheds weight. The bolt carrier uses a standard hole at the rear. No more keeping track of specific extensions for the Law Tactical folder—they are interchangeable now.

Since I started the testing, the entire system has been in my possession inside an Elite Survival Systems Stealth Covert Operations Rifle Backpack. Whether carrying for specific deployment or in the back of the squad, it is very handy. Grab the bag and everything is in there. My preference these days is to leave the MK107 intact given where I live, but you can pack it either way. It's a tighter fit with the lower on the MK116, but it works.

If you need real stealth at your next call-out, keep a hydration pack handy, as the MK107 fits many of them perfectly.

One quick note: you need to start with the MK107 rifle since it is a registered item (LE or not) and add the longer upper. All in all, it's a very handy setup that gets you from across the room to 800 meters—and that's about perfect for government work! (5)

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





Here's help with "WHAT" and "HOW"

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THE CUTTING EDGE

Ruger Knives

THEE white box with the stylized red hawk is pure Ruger, but the contents are a new direction for the world's largest firearms company. Ruger is in the knife business!

Several knives are offered, and I have been able to test two of the first available. Bill Harsey designed these for Columbia River Knife & Tool (CRKT), Ruger's partner in the project.

RUGER GO-N-HEAVY

The Ruger Go-N-Heavy folder weighs a solid 10¼ ounces. While this may seem heavy for a folder, the heft and balance of the Go-N-Heavy are excellent. The Ruger knife features a liner lock and thumb opening stud. As the blade is opened, a portion of the liner pops into place to lock the blade open. This section of the liner is tensioned in order to offer a good spring fit to the blade.

I conducted the usual test of rap-

ping the back of the blade against a hard wooden desk to test the lock. Half a dozen hard raps failed to dislodge the Go-N-Heavy lock.

Even when cutting with a knife that has been properly vetted for reliable locking, I like to angle the blade in such a way that lock failure isn't invited, but this is a sturdy lock.

The knife opens by use of twin studs in the upper blade. Jimping just to the rear of the opening studs helps with control in close cutting chores. Despite the size of the Ruger knife, I found the geometry of the blade is such that the knife may be rapidly opened and locked with one-handed use.

The knife blade itself is well finished in a satin polish. The blade is a full five inches long. A synthetic spacer at the rear of the handles serves as a recess for the point.

The grind is high, which should make

for ease of cleaning and sharpening.

The drop point is a common style for hunting knives and will serve well for skinning, chopping, and slashing.

While a knife makes a poor crowbar, this blade is as sturdy as any folder blade available. While the Go-N-Heavy knife is a big knife for big chores, it is not so large and heavy that it could not be used for peeling an apple or preparing food.

The handle offers a finger groove at the lock for good retention. When testing the knife in cutting chores and also a number of martial arts workouts with a heavy grip, the fingers did not deactivate the liner lock. This is something that must be addressed when choosing a heavy-duty outdoors folder, whether the Ruger Go-N-Heavy or any other.

The handles are interesting in both appearance and function and are reminiscent of a Picatinny rail. The alumi-



Ruger Go-N-Heavy (top) and Accurate are useful, well-made knives.



Thumb studs allow rapid opening of Go-N-Heavy's blade.



Strong liner lock ensures proper locking of Go-N-Heavy.

num scales are hard anodized black.

The Ruger Go-N-Heavy comes with a well-designed sheath. When space is at a premium, the Ruger folder may ride in the sturdy belt pouch supplied, and would be a great all-around edged tool.

When I tested the Ruger Go-N-Heavy, the knife exhibited good heft, excellent balance, and presented the blade edge properly for cutting chores. This is a heavy knife well suited to outdoors cutting chores. I find the knife well made, useful, and definitely worth its \$99.95 price tag.

RUGER ACCURATE

For many users, this knife would be the first choice for field use. Another Bill Harsey design, the Accurate is a traditional knife with the general outline of a classic skinning knife. The synthetic handles are similar to Ruger handguns such as on the SR series. The red Ruger medallion sets this knife off. Scales are nylon-fabric resin.

The Accurate is available with both a drop point and a rising clip blade. I chose the latter. This design offers ex-



Ruger Go-N-Heavy handles offer excellent adhesion for heavy chores.

cellent control when dealing with cutting chores such as skinning and gutting small game.

The grind is high and the edge is excellent. It is in fact shaving sharp. Some factory knives are not delivered with a



Ruger Accurate features a rising clip point. This design offers good field utility.

truly sharp edge and require some time with the sharpener. The Ruger line is delivered sharp.

In common with the Go-N-Heavy folder, this knife features a blade of 8Cr13MoV stainless steel. RC hardness is 58-59. All stainless steel is just that, stain*less*, but the combination should give good service. The handle offers excellent retention for normal cutting chores. Blade construction is full tang.

The sheath is well designed, demonstrating good retention and little rebound when worn on the belt.

Suggested retail of the Accurate is also \$99.95.

After testing the Ruger knives for several weeks, I concluded that they are good designs, well executed and available at a fair price. They are impressive examples of modern steel and the result of a happy partnership between Ruger and CRKT. (•)

Robert Campbell writes in the firearms, personal defense, and outdoors fields, with several thousand published articles, columns and reviews, and ten books. He 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.



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OFFBEAT

BY PAUL D'ANGELO

Marathon GSAR: One Tough Watch

TITI IIII

have been interested in watches for most of my adult life. While working in New York City, I would often peruse the watch stores on Madison and Fifth Avenues. Over the last 30 years, I have owned and worn many fine specimens, including Rolex, Breitling, and Omega.

Many excellent watches are on the marketplace, so how do we decide what to look for? Usually budget, as well as our subjective taste, dictates what will suffice. Do we want the simplicity of a batterydriven quartz watch or a mechanical watch? A dress watch or a sporty watch? For me, ruggedness has always played an important part in choosing a suitable watch.

First and foremost, we have to understand the differences between the two types of watches. The quartz watch is simple, with very few moving parts. It works with a battery. Some are solar powered with a built-in rechargeable battery. A watch with a quartz movement is generally more accurate than the second type of watch, which has a mechanical movement. Having owned both types, I must admit I am a purist and therefore like mechanical automatic watches. I have been wearing the watch that is the subject of this column for about a year and a half. After that amount of time, the testing phase is complete, and the verdict is in!

Marathon has been making watches for the Canadian and United States Militaries for many years. Their watches are built tough to withstand the rigors of an active lifestyle. I am partial to diver watches. They are overbuilt to endure extreme pressures as well as knocks and other abuses.

The model I have been wearing is

Marathon GSAR automatic watch.

called the GSAR (Government Search and Rescue). It has a 41mm case, which is a good size yet not too big for a small wrist. It is available with U.S. Government markings on the dial, but can also be had with a "sterile" dial.

This robust watch is built like a tank and has a very manly presence on the wrist. It comes in either a quartz model or a self-winding automatic offering. I chose the automatic model.

The very legible dial has a 24-hour military scale incorporated into the design, as well as numerals and stick markers that are Tritium for easy night reading. It is very bright at night! A date window sits between the four and five o'clock marks, though it is not magnified.

The bezel is marked with 60-minute

graduations and turns counter-clockwise. It has a ratcheted 120-click movement, which has a quality solid feel and no sloppiness whatsoever. It can be used for timing a parking meter, food in the oven, and many other timing functions, in addition to diving times for real adventurers.

The winding crown is located at the three o'clock position and is very robust. It is protected against knocks by shoulders surrounding the crown. In addition, it screws down to ensure water resistance to 300 meters. Most quality-built diver watches have this feature. Others are cheaply made and only push closed, relying on gaskets to insure water resistance.

The winding crown has three positions. Fully screwed down, the first click is for setting the date and the second click for setting the time. It also has a "hacking" feature where the second hand stops, enabling you to set the exact time. This watch is fairly thick at approximately 13mm—a little snug if you are wearing a tight-sleeved dress shirt. Under normal circumstances, it wears just fine. It is a little heavy at just over four ounces, but I found it easy to get used to.

The case is made of 316 stainless steel and has a satin finish that is very pleasing to the eye. The quality that goes into the manufacture of this timepiece is obvious.

The crystal is sapphire. Anyone familiar with fine watches can attest to the virtues of sapphire. The only thing that will scratch sapphire is a diamond. As a matter of fact, I have never seen one scratched, but it will shatter if given a hard enough shock. I am very hard on my watches and have never broken a sapphire crystal.

The lugs are drilled through to accommodate the spring bars. Changing straps is simple. The watch comes with a rubber strap but a stainless steel bracelet is available.

The powerhouse of this watch is the Swiss-made ETA-2824-2 movement, the same movement used in many high-end watches that cost many times more than the Marathon. My particular watch is accurate to about four seconds a day. This is very good for automatic movements.

For those unfamiliar with automatic watches, by just wearing the watch during the day, the movement of the wrist keeps the watch wound by means of a rotor inside the watch that responds to





Marathon GSAR watch has a very thick case.

Left: Knurled crown is protected with shoulders.



Marathon GSAR comes in no-frills packaging.

movement. When I take the watch off at night, it has a power reserve—usually about 40 hours.

The only drawback of the automatic watch is that it should be serviced every five years or so. The upside of this is that you will be able to pass it on to your child. Think of it as a work of art, for it truly is, when you consider that it consists of over 100 separate parts. It is the Master watchmaker who breathes life into the timepiece. Very intricate indeed.

The automatic version of this watch can be purchased for about \$920 on a rubber strap. That's a lot of money considering you can buy a watch for \$5, albeit a cheap, low-quality one. For those who appreciate excellence, this watch is a great buy. It's a solid, no-nonsense piece of equipment that will serve its owner for many years. ()





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Mesa Tactical Stock for Beretta 1301

Mesa Tactical is pleased to announce the introduction of the LEO® Telescoping Stock adapter and pistol grip system for the Beretta 1301 semi-automatic shotgun. The stock system can be fitted with a standard AR-15 grip and telescoping stock.



All of Mesa Tactical's stock adapters are investmentcast aircraft aluminum that are then CNC machined and powder-coated black with a tough, chemical-resistant finish. LEO stock adapters provide a lower stock elevation, allowing the use of iron sights or the front bead, and incorporate an advanced sling attachment method that accommodates a variety of sling styles.

The LEO adapter comes as adapter kits or complete stock kits and is available for many popular shotgun models, including the Remington 870, Mossberg 500, Mossberg 590, and Maverick 88 pump shotguns.

Kahr Arms Gold .380 ACP

Kahr® Arms has partnered with Sports South to offer a limitededition double-action semi-auto micro-compact pistol in .380 ACP. The CT3833CG is offered in an attractive Cerakote Gold finish and can be purchased only through Sports South for a limited time.

The CT3833CG features a three-inch conventional rifled barrel, overall length of 5.5 inches, height of 4.4 inches, and it weighs just 11.4 ounces.

The pistol features a lock breech, modified Browning-type recoil lug, passive striker block, and it utilizes Kahr's seven patents including the "safe cam" action found in all Kahr pistols. The result is a micro-compact pistol with very little recoil and quick follow-up shots. The pistol has a drift-adjustable white bar-dot combat rear sight and pinned-in polymer front sight. Capacity is 7+1.

The pistol is shipped with two seven-round magazines and has a suggested retail price of \$439.



Daniel Defense Ambush .308

The Daniel Defense Ambush .308 in Kryptek Highlander is an accurate, hard-hitting rifle engineered from the ground up to take down any North American big-game animal. It's quickly setting a new benchmark for what a hunting rifle should be.

At the rifle's core is a free-floating, 18-inch Cold Hammer Forged barrel that comes standard with Daniel Defense's Superior Suppression Device Extended for reduced muzzle flash. This high-quality barrel connects directly to the upper receiver and free-floating KeyMod handguard with a robust 4-Bolt Connection System with patent-pending barrel extension, resulting in increased stability, better accuracy, and reduced weight.

Ambidextrous controls make operating the rifle intuitive

and comfortable for right- and left-handed shooters.

The Ambush .308 has a crisp two-stage Geissele Super Semi-Automatic Trigger that provides a smooth, precise trigger pull every time.

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Steel Will Knives Argonaut 800

Steel Will Knives announces the Argonaut 800. This progressive knife is one of the most versatile outdoor knives in the Steel Will Outdoor Series and is designed for demanding work.

The powerful tang, which extends throughout the entire handle, creates a heavy-duty clip-point blade with superb structural integrity and natural balance. Adding to further practicality, the tang houses a reinforced eyelet and is equipped with a multi-purpose pommel/glass-breaker. Strengthening the integrity of the knife, the tang is void of sharp corners or edges, which typically create stress points in the steel.

Comfortable TPR handles with deep grooves allow the Argonaut to be used with wet or slippery hands. The Argonaut 800 comes with a nylon sheath that firmly holds the knife in place during travel. The sheath can be installed in multiple configurations.

STEEL WILL KNIVES (877) 969-0909 www.steelwillknives.com



Cyclops Waterproof LED Spotlight



Cyclops[®], a division of GSM Outdoors, launches their new 300 lumen Rechargeable Waterproof LED Spotlight that is versatile for the outdoorsman's many lighting needs.

The CYC-300WP was strategically engineered to be fully immersible down to one meter. Its lightweight construction allows it to float if accidentally dropped in water. The ultralightweight CYC-300WP is armed with Tri-Mode Illumination that boasts three setting features of high, low, and red LED S.O.S. A rescue whistle is attached for extra precaution in unpredictable situations. The top adjustable bracket can be used as a stand or an additional handle, adding to the multiple uses this light provides. The magnetic switch with locking function permits hands-free use. This light has impressive burn times of three hours on high, 6.5 hours on low, and eight hours on S.O.S. Suggested retail price is \$49.99.

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GOOD GUYS WIN!

Dance Resolution

In the wee hours of a Sunday morning, an argument at a Spartanburg, South Carolina nightclub grew heated. One of the men involved in the altercation pulled out a handgun and started firing into a crowd that had formed outside the club, striking several bystanders, at least one critically.

One of the onlookers was licensed to carry a handgun of his own and drew it, returning fire and stopping what could have been a much worse incident. The wounded gunman was taken into custody by arriving officers and faces criminal charges for attempted murder, possession of a weapon during the commission of a violent crime, and unlawful carrying of a weapon. The defender cooperated with the police investigation and will not face any charges.

SOURCE: WIS-TV, Columbia, South Carolina, 6/26/16

Blown Over

An argument over leaf blowing in a Macomb Township, Michigan trailer park came to blows when one man, who had reportedly become increasingly hostile over the previous weeks, attacked his neighbor for blowing leaves in his driveway. As the attacker rained blows on his neighbor, the victim was knocked to the ground and lay helpless before a violent assault.

Seeing her boyfriend being pummeled in the yard, the victim's girlfriend grabbed her .38 revolver and ran out of her home. She pointed the .38 at the attacker and ordered him to stop or be killed. The attacker at last relented and ran back to his home, where he was later arrested by police. His victim suffered traumatic brain injuries, and the couple lived in fear of their neighbor until he was evicted and finally sentenced to ten years for assault with intent to commit great bodily harm less than murder.

SOURCE: WZZM, Grand Rapids, Michigan, 6/29/16

Special Order at the Waffle House

After midnight in a DeSoto, Texas Waffle House restaurant, an AK-wielding robber burst in and robbed the business as well as several customers. When the robber turned to leave, a customer realized his wife was about to pull into the parking lot, so he drew his legally concealed handgun and followed the robber out.

He called out to the robber, who turned and pointed the rifle at him. Fearing for his own safety at this point, he opened fire, striking the robber several times. The wounded holdup man was taken to a hospital, where he was put on life support, and the customer with the pistol was reported as unlikely to face any charges, although the case will be referred to a grand jury per Texas law.

SOURCE: The Dallas Morning News, Dallas, Texas, 7/12/16

Bluff Called

On a Tuesday night in July, a man wearing a mask and gloves entered the Whistle Stop convenience store in Lancaster, Texas. He placed a sack on the counter and ordered the cashier to put all the store's money in it. The clerk reached for a hidden handgun and the robber drew a pistol from his waistband, pointing it at the cashier.

The clerk fired and hit the robber, who crumpled to the floor. Calling 911, the clerk removed the gun from the robber's hand and waited for police. The robber was pronounced dead at Methodist Hospital in Dallas. His pistol turned out to be a BB gun.

SOURCE: KDFW, Dallas, Texas, 7/14/16 🔘



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DECEMBER ISSUE ON SALE NOVEMBER 1st

TRAINING AND TACTICS

Get The Point?

Speaches and cream, death and taxes, politicians and lies. Then again, some are not. Like, for example, me and sharp pointy objects.

After my latest visit to yet another hospital emergency room with a self-inflicted vein gusher, I came to a brilliant conclusion: maybe I should stay away from sharp pointy objects. Since my self-ventilating wounds over a couple of decades have included a slashed throat, ventilated buttock, and numerous other arm, leg, and torso orifices that weren't there before I picked up the sharp implement of the day (did I mention the Dremel circular saw modification to a knee?), I decided to give Musashi a rest from all those pinwheels in his grave.

Hence my decision to stay with safe material objects like guns and fast motorcycles—and only a couple of daily carry sharp implements like a Reeve Sebenza and a Sure-Fire Delta, which to date I have managed to use without simultaneously performing the Vlad the self-Impaler act.

However, despite the moronic repetitiveness of the aforementioned stupidity, I actually do try to learn from my mistakes—and try to vicariously help others by learning from my idiocy. Hence this article.

Case in point (no pun intended): The latest debacle began with the gift of a "fighting folder" from a friend. Personally, I couldn't care less about fighting with a knife. As stated in a prior *S.W.A.T.* column, my strategic outlook is either to use a gun or take away the opponent's knife, as I don't have 20 years left to become proficient in the art of fighting with a blade. I do, however, value a gift from a friend, irrespective of what it is. And since this is, indeed, a quality purpose-built weapon, I decided to carry said instrument.

Since most of the Cutthroat Commandos I've seen carry this specific weapon clipped to the strong-side groin area of their jeans (presumably for the "fast deployment" thing I keep hearing about), I decided to park my weapon in the same place. This worked out well for me as, apart from being innocuous in appearance, it allowed for easy one-handed access regardless of body position. And despite the fact that I'm more Donkey Hotay than Don Quixote with blades, since Spyderco revolutionized the knife world with their pocket/pants clips and one-handed blade-opening capability, I've grown accustomed to this system—even for the mundane chores for which I use my Delta or Sebenza.

So far, so good. I even worked out on my own how to do the cool-looking finger-twirling act to open the wicked hooked blade on the Knife From Hell.

And then the miserable planets of my life aligned once more into a self-destructive syzygy as I made a business call to Sheriff Ken. Since I've known the man a long time and respect his advice and opinions, and knowing that he carries—and is proficient with—one of these hellish blades, I asked him, in passing, the correct technique to open the blade one-handed. And of course I had to try it, even though my home-brewed system was working just fine.

And it worked great—the first time. The second attempt, unfortunately, resulted in a fountain of red liquid gushing from my wrist, courtesy of a punctured vein. The good news? GPS systems are a great help for locating one of the few—for me—hitherto unvisited North American hospitals. The doctor said I'd done a great job plugging the wound, and I was lucky I'd missed the artery. Thanks, Doc. I thought "lucky" meant winning the lottery—not opening a vein.

A week later, after he'd received a copy of the emergency room report in the mail (with no cover letter), Wince With Ken asked me—between peals of maniacal laughter—why I hadn't used the "thumb brake." Shows you what I know. I ride fast motorcycles because they have brakes. I don't ride bulls because they don't come equipped with brakes. And I sure as hell didn't know that knives have brakes.

And yes, there is an objective to writing this article. The crux of the matter is, if you have a system that works for you, stay with it. By all means, if another system or technique could perhaps improve your ability, try it, but make sure you research *all* the information from your source before you even think of fixing something that ain't broke.

For example, if you use an Isosceles Stance during defensive pistol training without even trying the Weaver (or vice versa), you'll never know what your potential peak performance could be. Or for that matter, what could be detrimental to your ability in certain circumstances. Because, in this example, gunfighting with a pistol isn't the same as firing rounds at a single static target on a shooting range. And as stated above in the bloodletting incident, you need *all* the information and have to experiment on the range prior to hitting the street for real—because in many pistol fights, a bastardization of both the Weaver and Isosceles is used before the dust clears. And for that matter, many is the time you have to shoot one-handed.

If you've invented your own system and you win the fight, who cares what you use? If you're a high-speed, lowdrag blade artist and your defeated opponent looks like he was pushed through a Cuisinart, your technique was the correct one to use in that situation. But if you ventilate your own wrist vein with your own knife before the fight starts, it's time to change your whizz-bang knife-opening technique.

The next time I even think of playing with the Knife From Hell, I'm doing two things beforehand. First, I'm getting the address of the nearest ER. Second, I'm getting the address of the shop that relines knife brakes.

Get the point? I did. 🔘

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





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* Some rifles may not be available in all states and locales due to laws limiting magazine capacity and feature-based restrictions. Please check with your local law enforcement agency prior to purchasing this firearm to verify that it may legally be purchased and/or possessed in your particular state and locale.

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