

FIREARMS NEWS[®]

GUN SALES, REVIEWS & 2A INFORMATION

AUGUST 2024

JAMES TARR REVIEWS THE

CANIK TTI COMBAT PISTOL

A FACTORY/CUSTOM PHENOM

■ **CARRYING CONCEALED**
THE 5.7X28 FOR CCW?

■ **THROUGH THE LOOKING GLASS**
SWAMPFOX KRAKEN RED DOT

■ **IN HUSHED TONES**
INNOVATIVE INDUSTRIES
XM177 RETRO SUPPRESSOR

■ **MUSINGS FROM
THE AMMO BUNKER**
7.92X33MM KURZ

■ **THE WAR GUNS**
SWEDISH BARs

■ **CODREA'S CORNER**
GUN OWNERS' EFFORTS WITH TRUMP
CAN'T END WITH ELECTION WIN

SPRINGFIELD
ARMORY'S
SA-16A2
RIFLE

JAMES TARR
VISITS THE
2024
NRA SHOW

THE SWEDISH K
SUBMACHINE GUN

THE FIREPOWER OF
**PLANET
OF THE
APES**

DR. DABBS GOES "APE"
WITH THE GORILLA
M1 CARBINE!



\$8.99 USA / \$9.99 CAN





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THE AMERICAN TACTICAL AR FAMILY



WEBSITE

NEW! ALPHA MAXX .410 PISTOL

MSRP \$499⁹⁵



PISTOL ITEM: ATIGAXP4109ML
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- PATENTED .410 GAUGE DESIGN & ADJUSTABLE GAS PISTON
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**FIRST AND ONLY AR-15 STYLE
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• **CARBON FIBER INFUSED NYLON POLYMER UPPER, LOWER, & RAIL**
ALSO IN AVAILABLE IN FULL SIZED .410 SHOTGUN

MILSPORT AR-15 5.56 RIFLE

USA MADE FORGED ALUMINUM
UPPER & LOWER RECEIVER



- 5.56 NATO
- 30 RD CAPACITY
- 16" BARREL
- 1:8" TWIST
- 10" M-LOK FORE-END
- AMERICAN TACTICAL REAR STOCK
- SAF-T-FIRST METAL TRIGGER

MSRP \$539⁹⁵

ITEM: ATIG15MS556MLP3P

OMNI HYBRID MAXX 5.56 RIFLE

METAL REINFORCED POLYMER
UPPER & LOWER RECEIVERS



- 5.56 NATO
- 30 RD CAPACITY
- 16" BARREL
- 1:8" TWIST
- SYNTHETIC STOCK
- 10" M-LOK FORE-END
- AMERICAN TACTICAL REAR STOCK
- NANO COMPOSITE TRIGGER PARTS KIT

MSRP \$489⁹⁵

ITEM: ATIGOMX556MP3P

MILSPORT AR-15 5.56 PISTOL

USA MADE FORGED ALUMINUM
UPPER & LOWER RECEIVER

MSRP \$539⁹⁵

ITEM: ATIG15MS556ML7



- 5.56 NATO
- 30 RD CAPACITY
- 7.5" BARREL
- 7" M-LOK FORE-END
- POLY FLIP-UP SIGHTS
- SAF-T-FIRST METAL TRIGGER

OMNI HYBRID MAXX 5.56 PISTOL

METAL REINFORCED POLYMER
UPPER & LOWER RECEIVERS

MSRP \$469⁹⁵

ITEM: ATIGOMX556MP4B



- 5.56 NATO
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- 7.5" BARREL
- 7" M-LOK RAIL
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#A4276200 rd. belt \$20. #A4269
See our Web Site for
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& Soviets.Favorite of
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w/ dust cover,
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Rocket
#RL003TGerman WW2
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each

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Israel & more.Colors on Rocket
may vary from
picture shown.INERT
Display
Piece\$65.
#MISC730

Russian PU Sniper Scope & Mount

3.5x
Magnification-New Mnfr.
-WW2 Dated
-Precision
Elevation &
Windage\$135.
#SCP063

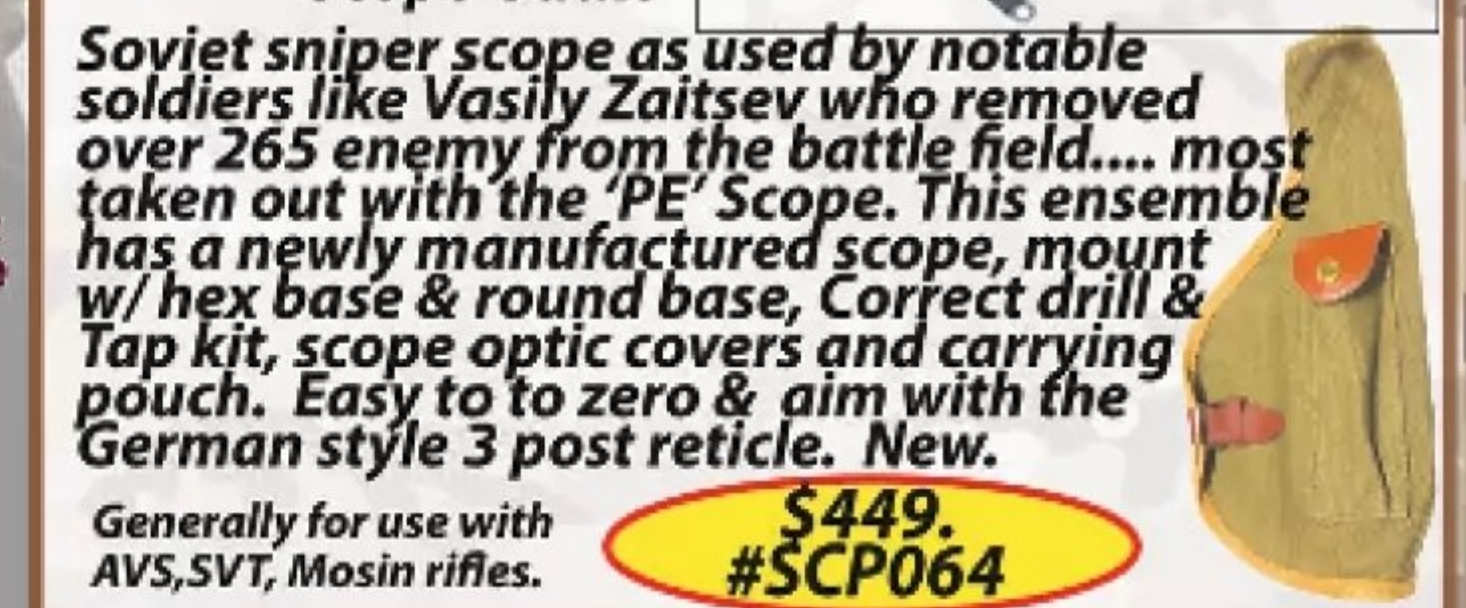
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Tube w/ Ball Mount
Non-firing

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'Spot on' accuracy .45 cal., with 5" barrel, dovetail fiber optic front sight, LPA MPS1 rear sight, 8 rd. mag., & G10 Black/Grey grips. & tight specs on mating parts!

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See our Web Site for over 200 styles of historic military holsters.
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-all steel
-comes w/3 brightly colored used golf balls.
-crimped blanks in stock for sale separately.

Double Magazine Holder for 30/40 rd M16 Mags.

Most secure dual mag holder around. Comes w/ hex key. **\$16.** Green and Black colors available.

BLACK Holder #AR537-BLK
GREEN Holder #AR537-GRN

Chamber Safety Flag

Convenient insert for letting anyone know that your Firearm is on safe. When not in use, fits onto a picatinny rail. Pack of 6

\$8. Pack # AR540

M16/AR15 Parts & Accessories

M16 Magazine Boot
Rubber boot gives a secure grip and easy removal of 5.56mm mags. Green and Black colors avail. **\$6. ea.** of 3 for \$11.
BLACK-#AR539-BLK
GREEN-#AR539-GRN

Rubber Magazine 'Pull' - M16 standard quick pull mag boot for 5.56mm mags. Green & Black Avail. **\$4. ea.**
GREEN-#AR538-GRN
BLACK-#AR538-BLK

M16 30 rd. Mag. 5.56mm, Alum. Used USGI. Mags may have some black tape on the shells. Used, Excellent. **\$9.95 #AR228**

Anderson AR15 Lower Receiver, Stripped. 'Don't Tread on Me' Precision 7075 T6 Aluminum forging with 'Mil Spec' certs & hard anodized coating for combating abrasion and friction. Marked with the classic 'Don't Tread on Me' Logo. Great for your next AR15 Build!

\$89. #GUN660 (restricted from buying w/parts set on same order)

AR15 Spring Kit - all springs for the standard AR15 Rifle. 14 springs in all, new. **\$12.95 #AR397**

AR15 Spring Kit for M4 (shorty) version. 14 springs in all including Carbine buttstock spring. **\$12.95 #AR134**

5.56mm

AR15 Parts Set w/ Detachable Carrying Handle

Parts set to build an AR15 rifle with 16" barrel, collapsible buttstock, detachable carrying handle with flat top picatinny rail allowing for attachments. All parts included except for the lower receiver and magazine. A cost effective way to obtain an AR15 rifle! Save a bundle...

\$385. #AR150

Bolt Carrier Complete

Carrier assy. and Bolt assembly ready to install. Works in Full & Semi Autos! New

\$75. #AR264

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A. 12" OTD, SS, 350 Legend \$49.50 #BB140
B. 11.5", 6.8mm 1-7 SS w/ext. \$65 #BB189
C. 18", 6.5 Grendel, contour, fluted, SS w/ Extension \$65. #BB205
D. 20", .224 Valkyrie, contoured, SS, w Extension. \$75. #BB193

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New Stripped
FLAT TOP UPPER in the 'white' **\$45. #AR500**
FLAT TOP UPPER with phosphate finish **\$64.95 #AR196**

Sarco Has Thousands of AR15 Parts in Stock. Please Visit Our Web Site. Stock Changes Frequently & So Too, the Great Deals!

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A. M4 Handguard set with single aluminum liner. **\$19.95 #AR185**
B. M4/CAR15 Handguard with 'double aluminum liner for those 'hot' barrels. **\$19.95 #AR501**
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M16 Bipod

Original USGI Spring tension leg bipod is great for a lot of military & commercial firearms. Only weighs @9 oz.

\$24.95 #AR139

Tactical Gun Case 43-44", 2 Rifle Capacity

Olive drab 600D poly padded case holds two rifles up to 44", with room for extras like ammo, pistols, cleaning gear. Carry using the mid handle or sling it or wear as a backpack.

\$45. #CASE016

Tactical Gun Case 36"

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\$65. #CASE011

TACTICAL RIFLE CASE W/BACKPACK STRAPS - 2 RIFLE CAPACITY

Woodland camouflage pattern tactical rifle cases with backpack straps. Can hold two rifles and additional items including pistols in numerous internal and external pouches. Two size lengths available: 36" & 46" lengths.

\$48. each, 36" Length Case #CASE012-36
46" Length Case #CASE012-46

M16 Triangular Handguard

New, replacement black plastic handguard set with aluminum heat shielding. **\$39. #AR443**

5.56mm
16" barrel

Upgrade your AR15 charging handle w/ these two upgrades:

A. Tactical extended latch eases unlocking. **\$20. #AR485**
B. Double latch ambidextrous style **\$25. #AR486**

Classic M16 'Silent' Black Sling

53 inch long sling with buckles. Canvas **\$5.95 #SLNG003**

AR15 Barrels

Top Quality-made in the USA

A. 5.56, 16", complete with slip ring assy. **\$160. #AR426**
B. 5.56, 16", complete with slip ring assy. 'Optic Ready' **\$119.95 #F1003536**
C. 5.56, 8", gas hole threaded muz., **\$95. #AR481**
D..300 blackout, 8", gas hole, threaded muz. **\$95. #AR483**
E. 5.56, 14.5", gas hole, threaded muz. **\$95. #AR484**
F. 5.56, 20", gas hole, threaded muz. 1 in 12 twist, Call on Availability

Steel Dual Magazine Clip Holder for AR15 Rifles

Steel clip holds 2 standard aluminum or steel magazines side by side with a slight angle, but relatively parallel to one another for ultra quick changing of magazines during firing.

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AR15 OPTICS READY PARTS SET

All parts except lower receiver and magazine. Barrel has low gas port and with the flat top upper, the perfect platform for an AR15 Scoped Rifle Build. Comes with 4 position collapsible buttstock. This will save your '\$s on your next build!

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M7 Bayonet New in Wrap

USGI

M9 Bayonet w/ Scab. w/ stone, wire cutter slot, & hex bolt take down inommel.

\$59.95 #BAY288
\$69.95 #BAY363

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100 **THE SWEDISH K SUBMACHINE GUN**

Known as the Carl Gustaf, or
m/45, or the *Kulsprutepistol*
m/45 as Well the Port Said,
and the Akaba! By Whatever
Name, It's a Useful SMG!
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7.62x39



75RD DRUM
\$79.99
#DRUM0036

100RD DRUM
\$109.99
#DRUM0025

AK-47 Blued Steel Magazines

7.62x39



\$7.99
#MAGAKA_KR10

\$8.99
#MAG0251

\$9.99
#MAGAKA_KR30

\$12.99
#MAGAKA_KR40



AR-15 100rd Duel Drum w/ Reinforced Feed Lips

.223/5.56

\$109.99

Your Choice:

OD Green #DRUM0076
Black/Black #DRUM0101
Neon Green #DRUM0102
Black/Clear #DRUM0026



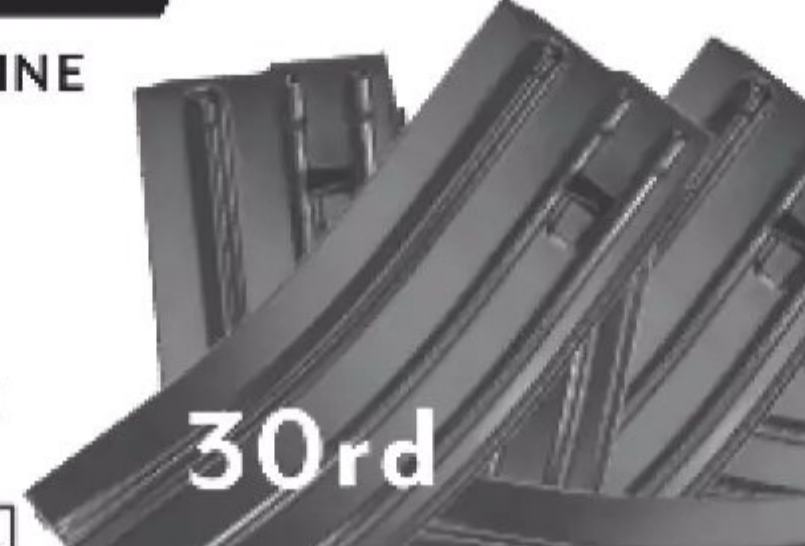
100
ROUNDS

AR-15 30rd Blued Steel Magazine

.223/5.56

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\$9.99
#MAG0301

4 PACK
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#MAG0301T4PK



ProMag Akdal 20rd Drum 12 GA



INJECTION MOLDED
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HEAT TREATED
CARBON STEEL
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#DRUM0013

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Fits G22, 23, 27, & 35

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Accept Double-Stack Glock Magazines.



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Compatible with
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AR-15 STYLE
Lower Receiver

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#DRUM0002



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.45ACP

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#MAG04501

7 ROUND
Magazine

\$59.99

#DRUM0002

28 ROUND
Drum Magazine



RPD 100rd Drum

7.62x39

\$49.99

#RPD_DRUM

100
ROUNDS



AK-47 30rd Bakelite Style Magazine

7.62x39

\$19.99

#MAG0727

Bakelite
Style!



MAGAZINES

SCAN THIS
FOR MORE!

ProMag 9mm Pistol Drums

Price Varies by Model

Your Choice:

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AR-15 Style 30rd Drum #DRUM0054

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CZ Scorpion 50rd Drum #DRUM0058

CZ-75 50rd Drum #DRUM0057

SIG MPX 50rd Drum & More! #DRUM0067



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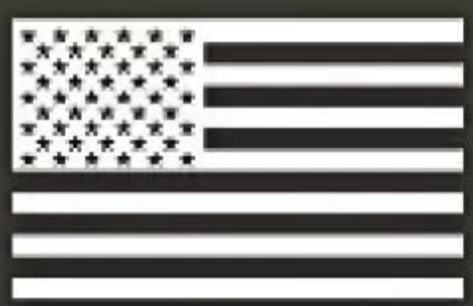
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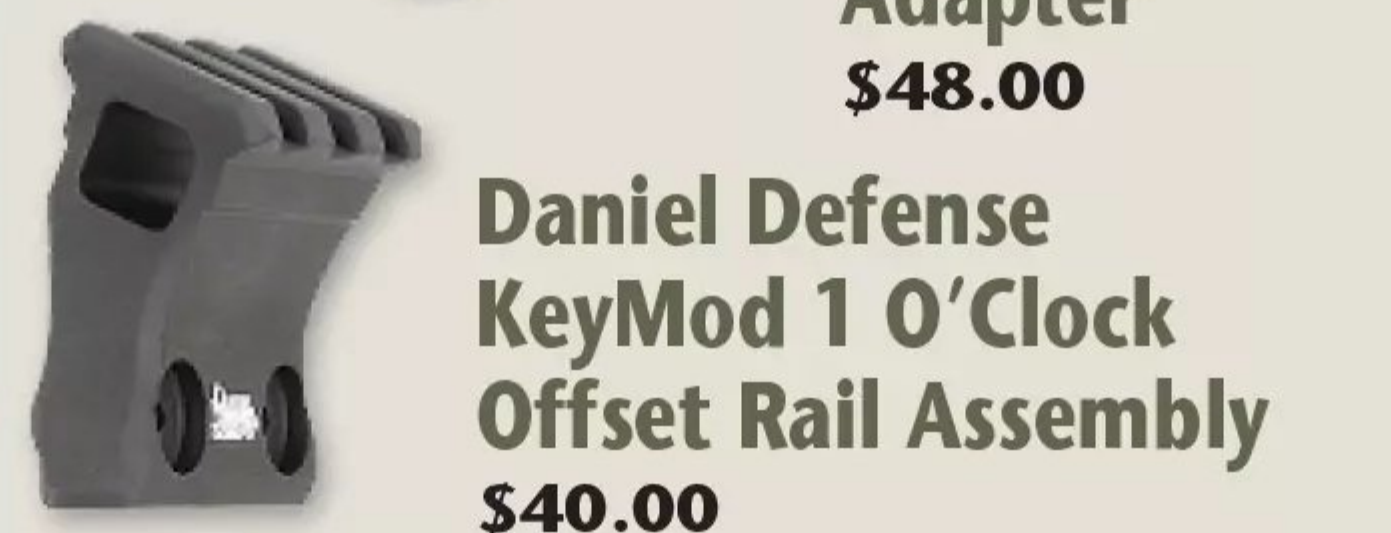


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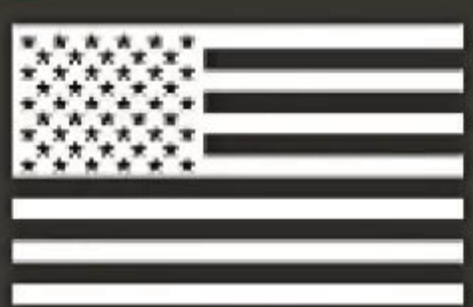


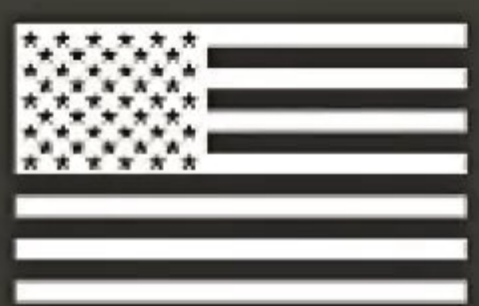
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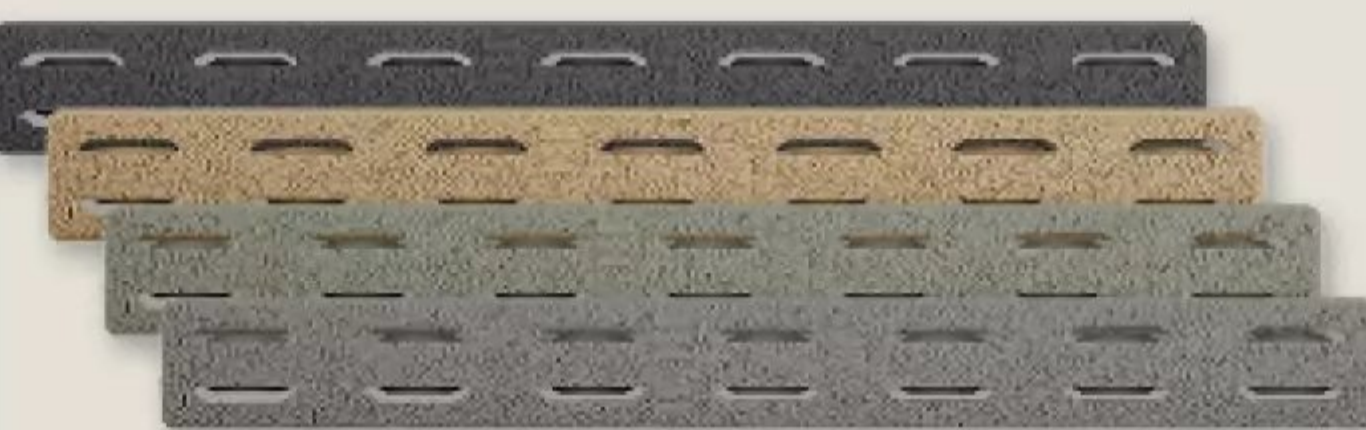
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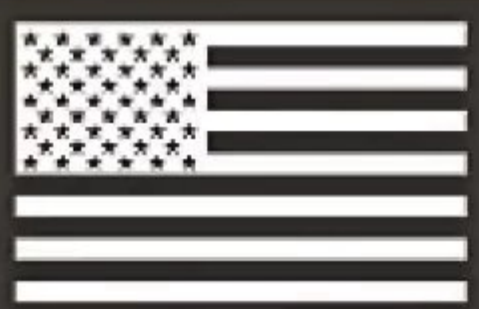
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For 2024, Fiocchi is giving 5.7x28mm fans two combo pack options to satisfy both training needs and end use.

Each combo pack starts with 300 rounds of Fiocchi's Range Dynamics load featuring 40-grain FMJ bullets. This Range Dynamics bulk pack is ideal for high-volume pistol and rifle training.



Also included in each combo pack are 100 rounds of either Fiocchi's Hyperformance self-defense loads or Fiocchi Range Dynamics Subsonic loads. The Hyperformance cartridges are loaded with 40-grain tipped hollow point bullets to satisfy the terminal performance requirements of those who use their 5.7 firearm for personal defense or small-game hunting. If suppressed shooting is your game, then choose the combo pack with Fiocchi's Range Dynamics Subsonic in 62-grain FMJ. For more information about Fiocchi ammunition, visit FiocchiUSA.com.

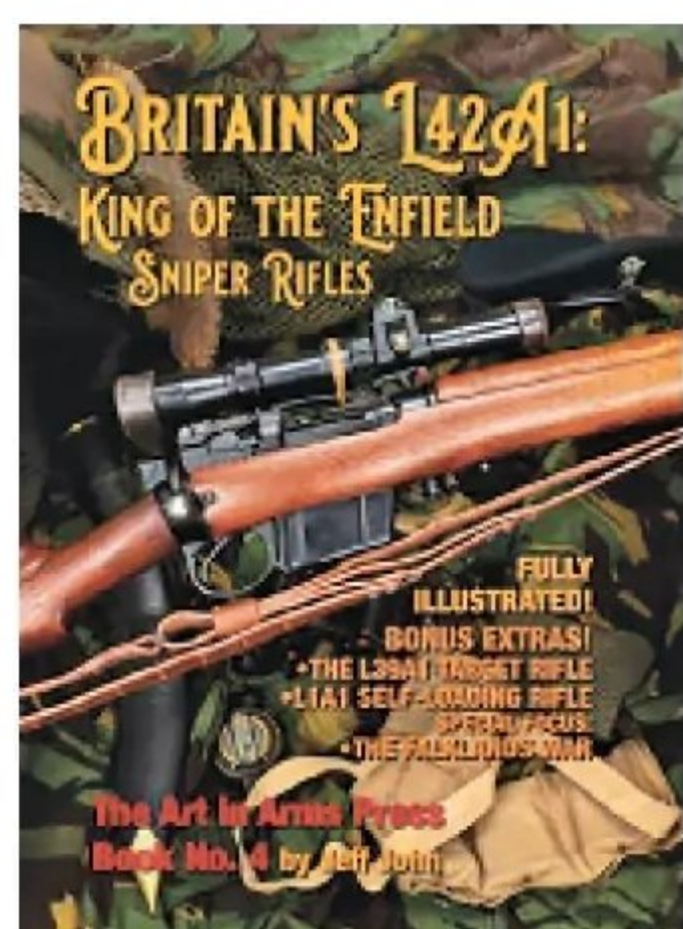
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COURTS' DECISIONS ON PRIVATE SALES, PISTOL BRACES, AND BUMP STOCKS CONFIRM RULES DON'T TRUMP LAW

By David Codrea

Three Rules enacted by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF) were thwarted by court orders in recent weeks. Federal courts in Texas blocked licensing restrictions on private sales in *State of Texas v. BATFE*, and a Rule redefining pistol braces as restricted National Firearms Act (NFA) weapons was vacated in *Mock v. Garland*. While the Justice Department is sure to appeal the licensing and pistol brace setbacks, the big win for gun owners was the United States Supreme Court's (SCOTUS) 6-3 ruling in *Garland v. Cargill* that "ATF exceeded its statutory authority by issuing a Rule that classifies a bump stock as a 'machinegun'."

"Michael Cargill surrendered two bump stocks to ATF under protest. He then filed suit to challenge the Rule under the Administrative Procedure Act," the majority opinion written by Justice Clarence Thomas explained. "As relevant, Cargill alleged that ATF lacked statutory authority to promulgate the Rule because bump stocks are not 'machinegun[s]'..."

Proponents of the ban missed the point, whether due to ignorance or disingenuousness being irrelevant.

"When I see a bird that walks like a duck, swims like a duck, and quacks like a duck, I call that bird a duck," Justice Sonia Sotomayor wrote in the dissent. And anti-gun Sen. Chris Murphy added to public confusion even more by telling CNN's *State of the Union* that the Supreme Court was "ready to fundamentally rewrite the Second Amendment," even though *Cargill* was not a Second Amendment case.

Arguably, the biggest surprise came from Justice Samuel Alito, once disparaged by opponents to his confirmation as "Machine Gun Sammy" due to a prior ruling that federal regulations on machineguns were unconstitutional because Congress had failed to prove an impact between intrastate possession and interstate commerce. He joined with the majority, but nonetheless felt compelled to offer a significant concession.

"There is a simple remedy for the disparate treatment of bump stocks and machineguns," Alito wrote. "Congress can amend the law — and perhaps would have done so already if ATF had stuck with its earlier interpretation. Now that the situation is clear, Congress can act."

Left unsaid is where Congress derives such authority in the first place, as the power to regulate and ban arms is nowhere delegated to it in the Constitution. The only clear mandate is "the right of the people to keep and bear arms shall not be infringed." By any branch of government.

Never ones to let that stop them, Senate Democrats tried Tuesday to fast track a bump stock ban under unanimous consent, a procedure that requires everyone agree. It failed as planned. The transparent purpose was to be able to point fingers at Republicans voting against it and use that in the months leading up to the November elections while complicit media stands by to connect bump stocks to horrific crimes. And that's already started, with an NBC News commentary masked as straight news that tied the SCOTUS bump stock



decision in with three mass shootings that did not involve the devices.

Firearms News readers may be interested to know that the magazine has connections with the Supreme Court decision. Field Editor Patrick Sweeney's articles provided information used by Thomas in his opinion, specifically on pages 8 ("Gunsmithing the AR-15," pg. 131, and "Gunsmithing: Rifles," pg. 269), 10 ("Gunsmithing: Rifles," pg. 269), and 11 (footnote, *Gun Digest Book of the AR-15*, pg. 38). Additionally, colleague and advisor Len Savage's analysis was the genesis of the argument used on pg. 16 that "a semi-automatic rifle with a bump stock is indistinguishable from another weapon that ATF concedes cannot fire multiple shots 'automatically': the Ithaca Model 37 shotgun."

About David Codrea:

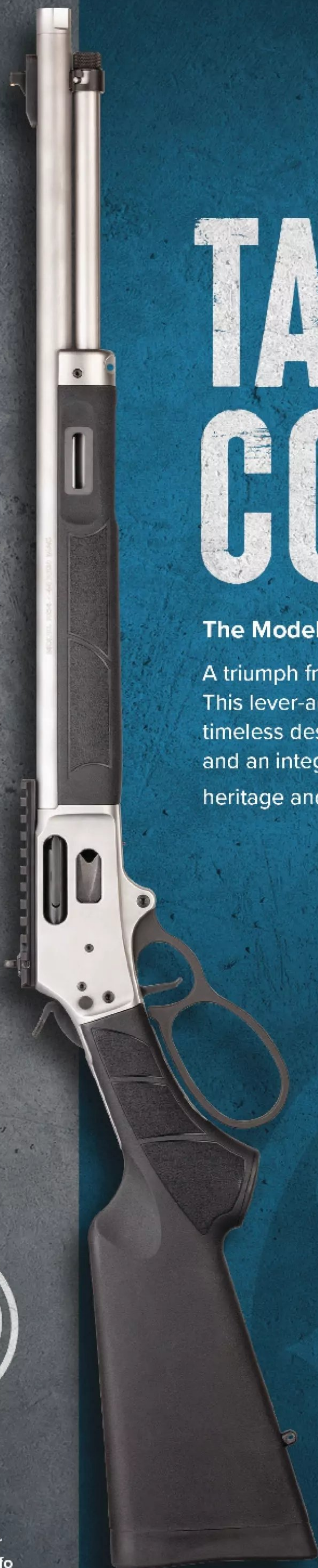
David Codrea is the winner of multiple journalist awards for investigating / defending the RKBA and a long-time gun owner rights advocate who defiantly challenges the folly of citizen disarmament. In addition to being a regular featured contributor for *Firearms News*, he blogs at "The War on Guns: Notes from the Resistance," and posts on Twitter: @dcodrea and Facebook. **FN**

[Cont. to page 110]

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GUN OWNERS' EFFORTS WITH TRUMP MUST NOT END WITH WHITE HOUSE WIN

With the return of 34 guilty verdicts by a Manhattan courtroom jury on felony charges for falsifying business records against Donald Trump, the National Rifle Association is in the unprecedented position of supporting a "prohibited person" for president. So much for "Enforce existing gun laws."

The convictions have prompted revocation of Trump's New York City concealed carry permit.

"Two of the three pistols he was licensed to carry were turned over to the NYPD on March 31, 2023, and a third gun listed on Trump's license 'was lawfully moved to Florida,'" Fox News reported. In light of felony convictions, he can't keep that one, or any others he may own, either. There's an absurd counterpoint to that when you realize that if the convictions stand and he somehow manages to still win the White House, he'll have access to the "nuclear football."

At this writing we are still awaiting word on if Judge Juan Merchan, a Democrat apparatchik if ever there was one, will sentence Trump to jail. And if the charges somehow end up being overturned by the Supreme Court, the former president still faces politically motivated charges in Georgia for election racketeering, along with Espionage Act violations in Florida, and election interference in Washington D.C.

Whether those cases will unfold before or after the election is unclear, but how juries could possibly be formed where members have not formed opinions from the barrage of circus acts highlighted daily by a jubilant media is left unsaid. Team Biden actively campaigned outside the New York trial, with headliner Robert DeNiro (another reputed New

York City concealed carry permit holder) putting his TDS (Trump Derangement Syndrome) on full display by calling Trump supporters "gangsters."

This is what Republicans had better understand. It's not just Trump who is hated. Every accusation, everything the left would like to do to him, they also extend to his supporters. Love the man or not, or just support him because you can't stand Joe Biden, when they call him a criminal, a racist, a Nazi, that goes double for you, especially if you own a gun. They hate him, and if you're even nominally on his side, they hate you.

Stipulation

I'm going to bring up some things Trump has said or done that are decidedly anti-gun. I'm even going to point out some disconnects with a big reason gun owners will be voting for him, his judicial appointments. Doing so generally results in angry queries to know if I would rather vote for Biden, and even in furious letters to the editor demanding I be fired and canceling subscriptions.

That's not why I do it. I bring these things up because informed gun owners need to... uh ... be informed. We need to understand that his ego and his stump speech words notwithstanding, Donald Trump is a flawed Second Amendment candidate prone at times to saying and doing some stupid and destructive things. If we do somehow manage to help him gain a second term in the White House, we're going to need to be able to influence what he says and does on guns. And we won't be prepared to do that if we gloss over the seriousness of his failures.

But for the record: I plan to vote for Donald Trump and support his campaign. I urge readers to do the same. If



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we want to have a shot at influencing him, first we've got to help him.

A Biden "victory," with an unrestrained federal Leviathan and with what Democrats will do to the Supreme Court, would be an existential threat to the Republic and to any who oppose what they're trying to impose in its place.

'Our Beautiful Second Amendment'

Ever the showman who knows how to work a crowd, Trump excites them to a fever pitch at his rallies. The loudest cheerers are, in many cases, the type of MAGA supporter who will see, hear, and speak no evil, and *Firearms News* explored how there's no sin they won't forgive, presuming they're even aware of them, at NRA's Presidential Forum at the Great American Outdoor Show. We've been consistent in pointing out where he falls short of his promises not because we want to sabotage his campaign and help the Democrats, but for the reasons stated and to make sure our rights don't fall to "friendly fire" (go to the *Firearms News* website at <https://www.firearmsnews.com/> and enter "Trump" in the search bar to see the extent we've tried to get his and his administration's attention to pull them back from the brink).

He pulled the same act at the recent NRA Annual Meeting, where he received the Association's formal endorsement. His speech is available on YouTube where you can see his full hour-and-a-half + address. I followed along with a transcript I copied and pasted into a Word file, and noted once again he was long on self-aggrandizing

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happy talk and short on showing he comprehends the essential serious intent behind “shall not be infringed,” only mentioning the Second Amendment nine times, and not once to explain why it’s important to freedom. He spent a similar amount of time talking about golf, also mentioning it nine times.

Along with the obligatory praise for NRA’s up-to-its-neck-in-LaPierre-cronyism management (with Lautenberg Amendment supporter Bob Barr since named president), Trump instead took the nonetheless enthusiastic crowd on a rambling exposition with plenty of detours. As for staying on topic, some of the highlights included:

- Not enough gun owners vote. If you look at a recent Texas primary runoff, where incumbent Biden “bipartisan” bill backer Tony Gonzales edged out red meat 2A warrior Brandon Herrera by a mere 407 votes and most voters didn’t bother, he’s got a point.
- “RFK Jr is radical left ... RFK Jr calls you a terrorist group...” It’s a valid observation. Too many so-called “conservatives” like the man’s anti-Covid shot stance and ignore the rest.
- He’s courting Libertarians. It’s got to be done, but the Party platform calls for open borders, their presidential candidate defends Drag Queen Story Hours, and an attendee at Trump’s speech, where he called himself “a libertarian,” shouted that “Donald Trump should have taken a bullet!”
- “[T]he Second Amendment will be ... under siege but with me they never get anywhere... every promise I made every single promise I made to you as a candidate I kept as your president” he claimed. This is where gun owners need to be reminded that he’s telling them what they want to hear, and they can’t forget Trump’s bump stock ban (given a nominal green light by NRA endorsing extra

regulation), which in turn helped solidify ATF rules precedents now applied to pistol braces, frames, receivers, private sales, etc. Ditto for “take the guns first, due process second” red flag enthusiasm, considering gun bans for citizens under 21, and more. This is where he needs to be reminded that we know.

- “I appointed nearly 300 pro-Constitution judges to interpret the law as written. It’s a record, by the way, and I faced down vile attacks from the radical left to confirm three great Supreme Court Justices Neil Gorsuch, Brett Kavanaugh and Amy Cony Barrett,” he reminded the audience. It’s true, if Joe Biden and the Democrats win, the high court will be reshaped, and you can bet *Bruen* will be on the agenda for reversal. That said, Senate “advise and consent” protocol allows nominees to play coy and not commit to bedrock principles, and Kavanaugh volunteered in his *Bruen* concurrence that “Properly interpreted, the Second Amendment allows a ‘variety’ of gun regulations [including] shall-issue regimes may require a license applicant to undergo fingerprinting, a background check, a mental health records check, and training in firearms handling and in laws regarding the use of force, among other possible requirements.” And Barrett joined Chief Justice John Roberts and the court’s three “liberals” to allow Biden administration “ghost gun” regulations to go into effect.
- “I revoked America’s signature from the globalist United Nations Arms Trade Treaty ... I stood up for our hunters, fishers, and sportsmen like never before ... opening up millions of acres of federal land ... the radical left Democrats tried to

use Covid to shut down gun sales during the China virus. I proudly designated gun and ammunition retailers as critical infrastructure so they couldn’t touch it ... my Administration also petitioned the Supreme Court to overturn New York City’s unconstitutional ban on transporting handguns outside the home,” he claimed.

- “In my second term, we will roll back every Biden attack on the Second Amendment,” he pledged. “[S]tarting the minute that Crooked Joe shuffles his way out of the White House at noon on Inauguration Day, we will sack the anti-gun fanatic Steve Dettelbach ... and replace him with an ATF director who respects the sacred rights to keep and bear arms.” How that’s even possible remains unsaid (and unchallenged by anyone at NRA), and it’s important to remember that when Trump was in office, his nominee to head the Bureau was former Fraternal Order of Police President Charles Canterbury, and on his watch, FOP opposed concealed carry reciprocity, while he personally supported Sonia Sotomayor and Eric Holder.
- “[W]e will give our police back their power and their respect. I am going to indemnify all police officers and law enforcement officials throughout the United States to protect them from being destroyed by the radical left,” Trump declared in a promise that should have produced shudders instead of polite applause. How he’s going to strengthen the already frighteningly abused practice of qualified immunity remains unclear, but he’s basically giving a green light not just to gangbusters, but to gun confiscation enforcers. Compare that to a few minutes later when he praised “the Texas spirit” and “Come and take it.”

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Gun Owners for Trump 3.0

“Today we are also announcing the launch of Gun Owners for Trump, and this is to get out the vote,” he announced. “Sign up at gun owners. Get out there and do it we have to get the votes and remember what I told you is so true, the gun owners don’t vote, it’s so crazy, they should be, you I would think that they would vote more than any other group of people and it’s just the opposite they don’t vote, and they have to get out and vote. So, tell all your friends...”

That rang a bell — two, in fact. A similar effort was launched in 2020, and that itself was a reboot of sorts of 2016’s Second Amendment Coalition, jointly chaired by Donald Trump Jr. and then-NRA ILA head Chris Cox along with 62 co-chairs. After the election, we never heard from them again.

Recalling that prompted me to send some questions to some of the luminaries on the new list of 50 prominent names in the gun community, especially since I didn’t recognize many of or see anyone from Gun Owners of America on the list. Here’s what I asked:

“I’m doing an article for *Firearms News*. I’d appreciate your response to this. I leave it to you if you want to be named or remain unnamed. I’ll state up front in my piece that I understand it’s either Trump or Biden, that I will be voting for Trump, and tell readers why. But I am concerned that if gun owners besides NRA don’t have his ear, he’ll be more apt to cave to political pressure like he has before. Can you give me brief answers on these?

- When and how did you receive your invitation to join Gun Owners for Trump?
- Who sent it (name/title)?
- What did it say? (screenshot? cut & paste?)
- Is there actually an organization with structure, or are they just compiling a list of prominent/influential names with large gun owner followings?
- If there is no formal organization, does that mean all media released

from GOFT will be from the Trump campaign, with no consensus of members?

- What indications did they give that GOFT will have Trump’s ear and be able to advise, influence, and provide feedback on concerns that will reach his attention?

Second Amendment Foundation head Alan Gottlieb answered my questions:

“All my answers are on the record, and you can attribute them to me.

“I received my invitation by telephone about 7 to 10 days before the NRA annual meeting. I was told they wanted to release it to the public on the Saturday of the annual meeting. I immediately confirmed that I would join and gave permission to use my name. I was also asked to recommend other individuals that I thought they should invite. Which I did over several days. Several contacts since.

“I would be breaking confidence and privacy of the people I work with at the Trump Campaign if I disclosed who called me an invited me. Remember, that I served on the Gun Owners for Trump Coalition in 2020.

“There is actually an organization with structure as well as a compiled list of famous prominent people and influential names with large gun owner followings. It is part of the joint Trump Campaign and the Republican national Committee. In addition, any gun owner can go online and add their name to the list and get involved.

“GOFT will surely issue information to the media and coalition members are encouraged to reach out to the public spread the word as well which is what I have done.

“In addition, I am heavily involved in gun owner voter registration in 7 key battleground states and will be involved in turning out the gun owner vote as the election nears as well. In 2020 when I was a member of the Coalition, I did many media appearances and expect to do the same this time.

“As far as input, I think that will depend on each individual. It will probably vary greatly. I have a great

working relationship with the former president and his team. In his first term I attended several White House West Wing meetings to discuss both gun policy as well as personnel at BATF, UN Arms Trade Treaty US delegation and outreach to the gun rights community. One meeting was even held in the White House Chief of Staff’s office.

“I attended three White House Christmas parties with my wife, Julianne and attended the White House gathering when he accepted the Republican 2020 nomination. Also, with the President at the Trump National Doral Golf Club Mar-a-Lago and VIP seating at campaign rallies.

“I work very closely with key current and former staff members like Mercedes Schlapp as well as his main pollster Jim McLaughlin. I have his ear. But it will vary from coalition member to member.”

Additionally, I was a guest recently on Armed American Radio’s Daily Defense, and asked my friend, host Mark Walters, who is also one of the Gun Owners for Trump big names, if there was any chance he’d be able to interview him on air (the “monster” show “airs live Sunday nights on nearly 250 radio stations and 200 cable radio stations nationwide distributed by the Salem Radio Network.”

“Yes, there is a chance,” Walters replied. “I am very hopeful, not only to have him on the show, but I’m hopeful to see Gun Owners for Trump actually have the ear of the president this go-around that we didn’t have the last time.”

That’s critical if Trump and the voters manage to pull off a November win so that we don’t see some of the same missteps and flat-out wrong positions and statements we saw during his first term. We need to make sure there are some voices from the gun community reaching him besides just NRA, who have a line to him when they see he’s about to step in it again or appoint someone to the courts or to other high-profile positions of authority.

And first we’ve got to help him win. **FN**

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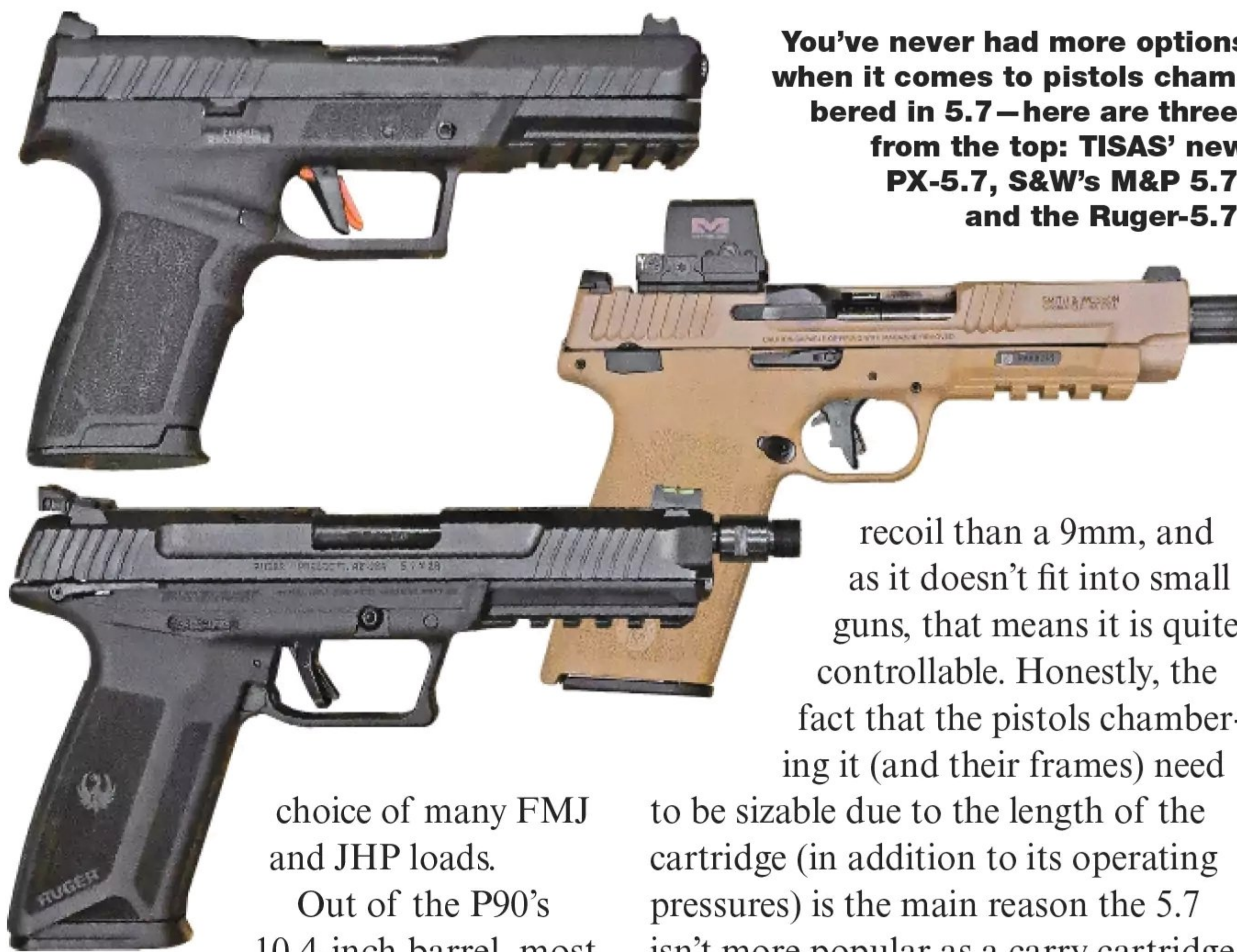
THE 5.7x28 FOR CCW?

This past May 7th (5/7, get it?) I got invited down to the Range Ready Studios in Louisiana for 5.7 Fest, a two-day event where gunwriters got together with various manufacturers to talk about all things 5.7x28mm—past, present, and future. It was highly educational, and I walked away from it with a lot of information, and a new opinion—5.7x28mm isn't a bad choice for personal defense, as long as you understand its limitations. Before I dive into that, let's cover a bit of history:

The FN 5.7x28mm cartridge, introduced in 1990, was designed in conjunction with the very sci-fi-looking FN P90 PDW (personal defense weapon). The specs for the cartridge called for something that could penetrate a ballistic helmet at 200 meters, while fitting into a gun smaller and lighter than a standard rifle. The 5.7x28mm SS190 cartridge was capable of defeating that level of armor, but as it is specifically “armor piercing” it is not available commercially. But you do have your



Christian Hogg from FIOCCHI showing off their new 400-round combo packs, which include 300 rounds of 40-grain FMJ and 100 rounds of either 40-grain JHP or 62-grain subsonic.



You've never had more options when it comes to pistols chambered in 5.7—here are three, from the top: TISAS' new PX-5.7, S&W's M&P 5.7, and the Ruger-5.7.

choice of many FMJ and JHP loads.

Out of the P90's 10.4-inch barrel, most 5.7 loads will do over 2,200 fps. Current bullet offerings for the 5.7x28mm feature bullets everywhere from 35 to 62 grains, and except for the subsonic offerings most cartridges out of pistol-length barrels will produce 1,600–1,800 fps.

In appearance, the bottlenecked 5.7 looks like a baby rifle cartridge, and in effect that's what it is. Because it has almost no taper, the cartridge body needs to be lubed during the manufacturing process, which is why many ammunition makers have been slow to invest in the caliber (in addition to only a small number of guns chambered in it, up until recently).

While long, the cartridge cases are skinny, which means magazine capacities for 5.7 pistols start at 20 and go up from there, a big selling point. While it is loud, one of the reasons the 5.7 has been popular in pistols is its lack of recoil. It has a little less

recoil than a 9mm, and as it doesn't fit into small guns, that means it is quite controllable. Honestly, the fact that the pistols chambering it (and their frames) need

to be sizable due to the length of the cartridge (in addition to its operating pressures) is the main reason the 5.7 isn't more popular as a carry cartridge.

The cartridge has been around for quite some time, but for most of its life FN was the only big-name company offering firearms in that caliber, and FN didn't pay much attention to the P90 and nearly ignored their Five-seveN pistol, which is why a lot of police and federal LE agencies who were quick to adopt the pistol (including the U.S. Secret Service) gradually moved away from it (a lack of support). But then, Ruger introduced their 5.7



Enough companies are now making 5.7x28mm ammunition that the costs have started to come down. And you're more likely than ever to find it at your local gun store.



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They did a lot of gel testing using Clear Ballistics' polymer blocks. Here's a Hornady 40-grain Critical Defense FTX JHP, which penetrated the block 16 inches.

pistol, and the race was seemingly on.

Currently, you can find pistols in this caliber from FN, Ruger, Smith & Wesson, Palmetto State Armory, and now TISAS with their new PX-5.7. Ammo, once rare and expensive and only made by Fiocchi (which has always made the FN ammo), is now becoming more widely available. Hornady announced two 5.7 loads at the 2024 SHOT Show. Speer has a Gold Dot 5.7 load. American Eagle makes affordable FMJ bulk packs. At the event, Fiocchi talked about their 400-round combo/value packs which combine 300 rounds of 40-grain FMJ with 100 rounds of either 40-grain JHPs or 62-grain subsonics.

During 5.7 Fest, we had product and presentations from Smith & Wesson, Hornady, Ruger, Steiner/Burris, The Kinetic Group (Federal and Speer Ammo), TISAS, MeproLight, EO-Tech, Silencer Central, Fiocchi, and probably a few others I've forgotten. In addition to shooting a lot through various existing and new guns, we witnessed a ballistic gel test of various 5.7 loads, and watched a decibel meter

One of the attendees shooting TISAS's new 5.7. Tarr likes the look of it the best, and it is quite affordable.



testing the efficacy of Silencer Central's Banish 22 silencer on various 5.7 loads, super- and subsonic. Fiocchi's 62-grain subsonic FMJ load is Hollywood quiet and produced just 122 dB.

I know a few people who actually carry pistols chambered in 5.7, and in truth I was ambivalent. However, after this event, I understand the choice. Bullets wound two ways, with permanent wound cavities and also with hydrostatic shock that is a product of velocity upon impact. Generally, you need an impact at or over 2,000 fps to get that traumatic hydrostatic shock—which means a rifle, but the 5.7 cartridge, out of a pistol, lives in that nebulous gray area between the two, the bullets speeding downrange at near-rifle velocity, and that speed seems to offset the small size/weight of the projectile.

We did some gel testing using Clear Ballistics' blocks, which are not quite FBI spec but close, and saw excellent results. Generally, 5.7 JHPs will do 12+ inches of penetration in bare gel or gel covered with FBI-spec "heavy clothing," and that velocity seems to guarantee expansion/fragmentation.

While the new TISAS PX-5.7 didn't like the blunt nose profile of Hornady's new Critical Defense load, that was the only real problem we experienced shooting thousands of rounds over a two-day period in hot, humid weather.

Smith & Wesson's M&P has the best trigger of any of the 5.7 guns. When tipped with a suppressor (this is a Banish 22) and fed Fiocchi's new 62-grain subsonic load, it is very quiet.

While there haven't been a lot of shootings involving the 5.7x28mm, there have been some, and on the street, it seems to perform as well as standard pistol-caliber hollowpoints. A rep from the USCCA was at the event, and he stated the organization was currently defending a member who'd used a 5.7 pistol in a shooting—two shots, center mass, and the other guy stopped, dropped, and died.

What 5.7x28mm isn't good at is penetrating barriers, and that's exactly why some law enforcement agencies choose it for certain roles—indoors, or around crowds. Those light, fast bullets go through clothing just fine, but usually break apart going through drywall or auto glass, and they have a much lower chance of going all the way through a person. Which makes it a reasonable, rational caliber choice for the concealed carry piece of a private citizen who is far more likely to get into a face-to-face confrontation.

Even though the cartridge was introduced almost 35 years ago it was a late bloomer, and its potential is just now being explored. I expect we'll see a lot more interesting things happening with the 5.7 in the next few years. **FN**

SOURCES:

EOtech / EOtechInc.com

Federal/American Eagle Ammunition
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FN America / FNAmerica.com

Hornady Ammunition / Hornady.com

MeproLight / MeproLight.com

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Fielded by the German Army during World War II, the 7.92x33mm Kurz (R) was the first successful intermediate cartridge and led to the Soviet 7.62x39mm (L). (Photo by David M. Fortier)

THE GENESIS OF ASSAULT RIFLE CARTRIDGES 7.92X33MM KURZ

Eighty-one years ago, 7.92x33mm Kurz weapon systems were just starting to be fielded in numbers on the Eastern Front during World War II. While the MP43/MP44/StG44 weapon systems firing it are historically significant, it was their short “intermediate” cartridge that was most noteworthy. Initially referred to as the Pistolenpatrone M43 (pistol cartridge model 1943), and later Kurzpatrone 43 (short cartridge 1943), it was a groundbreaking step into the future. Why was this stubby cartridge so technically important? The 7.92x33mm Kurz was groundbreaking as it provided the rifleman with a cartridge specifically optimized for the realities of modern combat in Europe.

Extensive studies conducted between the wars by the German military on infantry combat during World War I, and the ranges soldiers were actually able to see, identify, and effectively engage enemy soldiers, led to some interesting conclusions. These studies showed average soldiers with iron-sighted rifles were only capable of effectively engaging real world targets under actual battlefield conditions out to about 400 meters. Due to this, cartridges like the 7.92x57mm were needlessly powerful for use in rifles. Not only that, but they wasted important material resources which were in short supply. A cartridge optimized for realistic engagement distances would require less material

for manufacturing the cartridge case and projectile while also needing less propellant. These savings were huge and measured in railroad cars.

While there were a number of perhaps more innovative German cartridges developed prior to World War II, in the end, a fairly straightforward design came to the front. The 7.92x33mm Kurz cartridge was the work of a team of engineers at the Polte ammunition works in Magdeburg. They basically shortened a 7.92x57mm Mauser case by 24mm and added a bit of taper to avoid any feeding/extraction issues, especially with steel cartridge cases. The new design was topped with a fairly light 125-grain FMJ projectile driven to approximately 2,247 fps.

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Cartridge comparison showing L to R: 7.62x54mmR, 6.5x50mmSR Arisaka as used in Fedorov Avtomat M1916, 7.62x25mm used in Soviet submachine guns, 7.92x33mm Kurz and 7.62x39mm. (Photo by David M. Fortier)

While the bullet weight was light compared to older full-power infantry rifle cartridges such as the 7.92x57mm, .303 British and .30-'06, more modern designs had already begun moving towards lighter bullets. The best examples of these would be the French 7.5x54mm with a 139-grain FMJ and the Italian 7.35x51mm with its 129-grain FMJ. In actual use, the 125-grain FMJ used



Soviet assault troops armed with 7.62x25mm PPSH-41 submachine guns had impressive short-range firepower, but their effectiveness dropped off past 150 meters or so.

and effective at the distances infantry normally engaged at, it increased a soldier's survivability on the battlefield.

However, not everyone agreed with the concept of an "intermediate" cartridge during its development in Germany. Following the disaster in Crete, the German Reichsluftfahrtministerium

the Luftwaffe bypassed the Heereswaffenamt (Army Ordnance Department) and went directly to German industry, and a small number of FG 42s were produced. Of course, the German Army did their own testing with the 7.92x57mm FG 42, comparing it to their 7.92x33mm Kurz MP 43. As to

Although lacking in stature, the 7.92x33mm Kurz would prove to be the missing piece of the assault rifle puzzle.

in the 7.92x33mm Kurz proved effective, providing adequate penetration of intermediate barriers and good terminal performance at the distances it was actually utilized.

Yes, its exterior ballistics are a noticeable step down from the older 19th Century 7.92x57mm Mauser, however that was the entire point of the design. It allowed for a smaller and more compact weapon system which recoiled less, was effective at actual combat distances while also being controllable on full-automatic. Magazine capacity and the amount of ammunition a soldier could carry were increased. Sufficiently accurate

(Reich Air Ministry) made plans to develop an entirely new multi-purpose weapon based upon the specific needs of the Luftwaffe. Intended for the elite Fallschirmjäger (paratrooper) units, the new selective-fire design was expected to be compact and portable, possess the range and accuracy of a Kar 98K, and have the firepower of a light machine gun. The eventual outcome of this Luftwaffe rifle project was the innovative 7.92x57mm FG 42.

The German Wehrmacht (Army) disagreed with the basic concept of the FG 42 due to its full-power cartridge, and expressed no interest in being a part of the project. Undeterred,

be expected, the 7.92x33mm Kurz MP 43 out-performed the 7.92x57mm FG 42 during the close combat trials. On the range, both rifles performed similarly when firing on targets up to 400 meters. Past 400 meters, the FG 42 had an advantage. However, the FG 42 could not provide accurate fire on full-automatic at long range when employed like a light machine gun. Seeing as the MP 43 had matched the FG 42 out to 400 meters, and out-performed it in close-combat, the German Army came to the conclusion the 7.92x33mm Kurz was the future and continued to oppose the FG 42 project as a waste of time and resources.

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The 7.92x57mm FG 42 developed for German Luftwaffe Fallschirmjäger, while a fascinating design it was beat by the Army’s 7.92x33mm Kurz MP43 in head-to-head testing.



The 7.92x33mm Kurz chambered Sturmgewehr 44 gave German soldiers a rifle that was extremely effective in close-combat, controllable on full-automatic, and held 30 rounds while still being accurate out to 400 meters.

The 7.92x33mm Kurz proved to be a very effective cartridge on the battlefield with greater range, accuracy and terminal performance than the 9x19mm used in the MP 40 and other submachine guns. Unlike selective-fire rifles chambered for traditional

1980s. Many are still being fielded in combat to this day in the Middle East and Africa. The ‘Kurz’ is a cartridge which forever changed how military rifle cartridges were viewed. Although lacking in stature, the 7.92x33mm

cartridge. Soon Soviet engineers were developing an intermediate cartridge of their own, the 7.62x41mm which was refined into the famous 7.62x39mm. Mated with the AK-47, and later the AKM, the 7.62x39mm became hugely successful.

It might come as a surprise to some, but 7.92x33mm Kurz ammunition remains in production all these years later by Prvi Partizan (PPU) of Serbia and is available commercially. Components, reloading dies and data are all available. An important step in the history of military small arms, I would love to see a modern commercially available rifle chambered for it. **FN**

The 7.92x33mm Kurz proved to be a very effective cartridge on the battlefield.

full-power cartridges, such as the FG 42 and Soviet AVS-36, the MP 43/44/StG44 is startlingly controllable on full-automatic. So, it bridged the gap between the controllable on full-automatic pistol caliber submachine gun and the traditional rifle with its long range performance. The 7.92x33mm Kurz chambered MP43/44/StG44 rifles greatly increased the firepower of the German infantry squad over the old bolt-action Kar 98Ks. The 7.92x33mm Kurz would go on to carve its mark on the battlefield. Indeed, its service life has been much longer than most would realize. Sturmgewehr 44s were fielded by the East German Volkspolizei until 1962 and by the 63rd Paratroop Battalion of the Yugoslav People’s Army into the

Kurz would prove to be the missing piece of the assault rifle puzzle. In it was the solution which was just beyond Vladimir Grigoryevich Fyodorov’s grasp when he designed his 6.5mm Avtomat during the previous war. It was a cartridge whose attributes would be lost on arrogant US Army ordnance officers until their beloved M14 would encounter a similar intermediate cartridge in South East Asia 20 years later. It was the Soviets who immediately took notice of the 7.92x33mm Kurz cartridge. They captured examples as soon as they were fielded in combat on the Eastern Front. The Soviets fielded huge quantities of 7.62x25mm submachine guns and readily recognized the potential of an intermediate

7.92X33MM KURZ	
Parent Case:	7.92x57mm
Case Type:	Rimless bottleneck
Base Diameter:	0.470 in.
Shoulder Diameter:	0.440 in.
Neck Diameter:	0.350 in.
Bullet Diameter:	0.323 in.
Rim Thickness:	0.051 in.
Case Length:	1.30 in.
Overall Length:	1.90 in.
Performance:	125-grain FMJ at 2,247 fps



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SWAMPFOX KRAKEN

The Swampfox Kraken closed emitter red dot is more than just a “pistol dot,” it’s a multi-role micro optic that performs well across the board.



Interested in a Closed Emitter Red Dot, But on a Budget? Here is One to Consider!

Kraken, what is it exactly? Well, it depends on whom you ask and in what context. In most circles and conversations, it is a mythical sea creature of enormous size that typically appeared off the coasts of Norway and Iceland. This ship-sized sea monster is said to resemble a giant squid or giant octopus that destroyed ships, eating their crew. While that particular Kraken is a subject of myth, legend, and only found in books, stories, and movies, another does exist. The Swampfox Kraken, however, is substantially smaller than its cryptid counterpart, but can it offer performance worthy of the name? To find out, I would need to quote the 1981 movie *Clash of the Titans* and, “Release the Kraken!”

The Swampfox Kraken is a micro, closed emitter red dot that weighs in at 2.5 ounces, making it among the heavier closed emitter micro optics on the market, but only by a marginal amount. In comparison to its peers, it weighs anywhere from a quarter to a half ounce more. The Kraken features a robust outer shell, machined from 7075-

T6 aluminum, and features an independent inner optics tube. The battery life is somewhat on the lower end of the spectrum in comparison to its peers, but at 17,500 hours (roughly, two years) it is still quite acceptable. Then factor in the user-friendly “shake awake” feature, and battery life doesn’t seem to be an issue.

The red dot itself is a “between dot” size, much like other Swampfox red dots, with a 3 MOA dot. This seems to be a good all-around size and is a decent compromise for most users, making it acceptable for use on SBRs, rifle caliber pistols, handguns, and shotguns. The Kraken ironically seems slightly hydrophobic with its waterproof rating, being only 1 meter or a bit over three feet. For most users, though, this should be adequate.

The Kraken has a forgiving range of 10 brightness settings, including two night vision and eight standard settings that will cover daylight to dark. The footprint of the optic itself is proprietary to Swampfox but has base/adapter plates that correspond with the more common attachment methods. Supplied with both an RMR and MOS baseplate, the optic comes ready to mount, right out of the box to your favored handgun of choice.

The Kraken features 1 MOA adjustments, with an adjustment

range of 45 MOA elevation and 45 MOA windage. All of this ‘seems’ promising to a user, with good specs, a robust design, and build, but how does this translate to real world and practical use? How will their “1,500G recoil rating” handle the Barrett M82A1 .50 BMG? Will it live on short barreled .30 caliber rifles?

On the range, the Kraken performed well, even under harsh pressures and blasts coming from my Barrett M82 Light Fifty and the short barrel found on my 7.62x39mm M92 pistol. The Kraken was easy to zero, and held zero in both applications. The brightness settings perform well between bright daylight, low light, and even in darkness, matching well with a weapon mounted flashlight. The dot didn’t seem “washed out,” nor did I “lose it” due to insufficient brightness settings in any lighting.

While the night vision settings are limited, they are quite usable, pretty much equating to a “high” and “low” setting. While not “perfect” by any means, as they can’t be tailored precisely to the user, they are effective, simplistic, and work. Then, considering the price



A look at the intensity adjustment buttons, also note the 1913 rail adapter.

More than just an optic, the box contains everything to mount the Kraken to a host of firearms.



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Yes, that is a Barrett .50 caliber rifle used by Hamilton during testing, the Kraken had no issues with the heavy recoil.

point, having NV settings at all was a pleasant surprise. All in all, a nice optic.

Pros

The Kraken’s design is quite robust and well made. Everything is doubled up, from the double-walled 7075 aluminum body to the outer protective glass, protecting the internal lenses. The result is a well-made and well-designed micro optic suitable for multiple applications. The “between size,” 3 MOA green dot is easily visible, very clear, works well for close range, and will place effective hits easily on target at reasonable distances as well. For the Kraken’s current assignment, my Zastava 7.62x39mm M92, the 3 MOA dot performs well. It allows me to make easy hits on steel at 100–200 yards and effective upper center mass hits on B27 police silhouette targets.

Adjustments for the Kraken are overall good. Windage and elevation adjustments are nice, tactile, and have crisp clicks. They are well protected by the body of the optic and clearly marked for ease of use. Adjustments do require a tool that is supplied from Swampfox, but if necessary, field adjustments can



The Swampfox Kraken finds its “forever home” on Hamilton’s Zastava M92 pistol, which is her “car gun” for longer trips and excess travel.

be made with an appropriate-sized object, including an empty cartridge case.

The buttons controlling the brightness settings are large, tactile, easy to operate and well-protected by a rubber covering. The brightness adjustment buttons fit flush with the left side of the optic, meaning accidental brightness adjustments is relatively unlikely. The battery compartment is well protected and low profile, hugging snugly to the right side of the Kraken.

One thing that always impresses me with Swampfox is how they offer their customer a “complete package.” In the box is everything a person needs to use their product, on multiple platforms, from start to finish. Their customer will not be disappointed they are missing a small, yet crucial “accessory” to install and use their product. For instance, the Kraken comes with two 7075 aluminum mounting plates in the box that are nicely machined and finished. Overall, Swampfox offers the most complete package of any optics company I’ve used or had experience with. Excellent job, Swampfox.

Cons

There are a handful of things I dislike about the Kraken, some of which are nitpicky at best. For starters, while the Kraken does have an IPX7 waterproofing rating and is rated to 1 meter, most users will want a better waterproofing rating for their optic. Is it necessary for the average citizen? Most likely not, but as stated before, for one of the most feared ocean dwelling cryptids, the Kraken does seem a bit hydrophobic in comparison to its peers.

The windage and elevation adjustments are 1 MOA per click. If simply marketed for handguns or shotguns I would consider this a non-issue. However, considering Swampfox does refer to it as a “tool for precision shooting,” along with its ease of adaptability for pistol caliber carbines, submachine guns, personal defense weapons, short barreled rifles and even carbines, the 1 MOA adjustments seems a bit coarse.

The brightness buttons themselves work well, but the adjustments lack in the audible department. Users are just about forced to physically view through the optic to see the brightness setting it is being switched too. There is a click, but it is so slight and soft that it is hardly noticed. This is one area I’d like to see improved on. Lastly is the physical size of the optic if being mounted onto a handgun. Some may find it a bit large, although this is true of most enclosed emitter red dot sights.

Overall, Swampfox really did well with the Kraken. It is very well made, robust, and built with hard use in mind. Overall, it checked all the boxes for most users. This optic will offer shooters a nice, budget-friendly option, especially in a world where closed emitter red dots are limited and often feature a steep price tag. The dot is very clear, intensity is quick to adjust and it’s fast on target. Due to all of the positives, along with it “shake awake” feature, the Kraken will become my new micro optic for my “car gun” for trips and travel. Overall, it is a very nice effort and execution for Swampfox. **FN**

SWAMPFOX OPTICS KRAKEN	
Optic Type:	Red Dot, closed emitter, micro
Weight:	2.5 ounces
Waterproof Rating:	IPX7 (1 meter)
Windage/Elevation Adjustments:	1 MOA, 45 MOA Windage and 45 MOA Elevation
Dot Size:	3 MOA
Dot Color:	Red or Green
Battery Type:	CR2032
Battery Life:	17,500 hours approx. (2 years)
Size:	1.85 in. (length), 1.38 in. (width), 1.27 in. (height)
Mounting Options:	RMR adaptable/ MOS adaptable
Price:	\$349.00
Contact:	SwampfoxOptics.com



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INNOVATIVE INDUSTRIES XM177 RETRO SUPPRESSOR



Innovative Industries makes an identical copy of the XM177 Moderator, as used in the late stages of the Vietnam War. In the late 1960s, Colt had a problem. Their XM177 (it ended up with almost a dozen different model designations) was very popular with the troops, at least until they fired one at night. Then the nuclear-flame muzzle blast was eye-searing, and the short barrel had functional problems due to a difficulty we would later call dwell time.

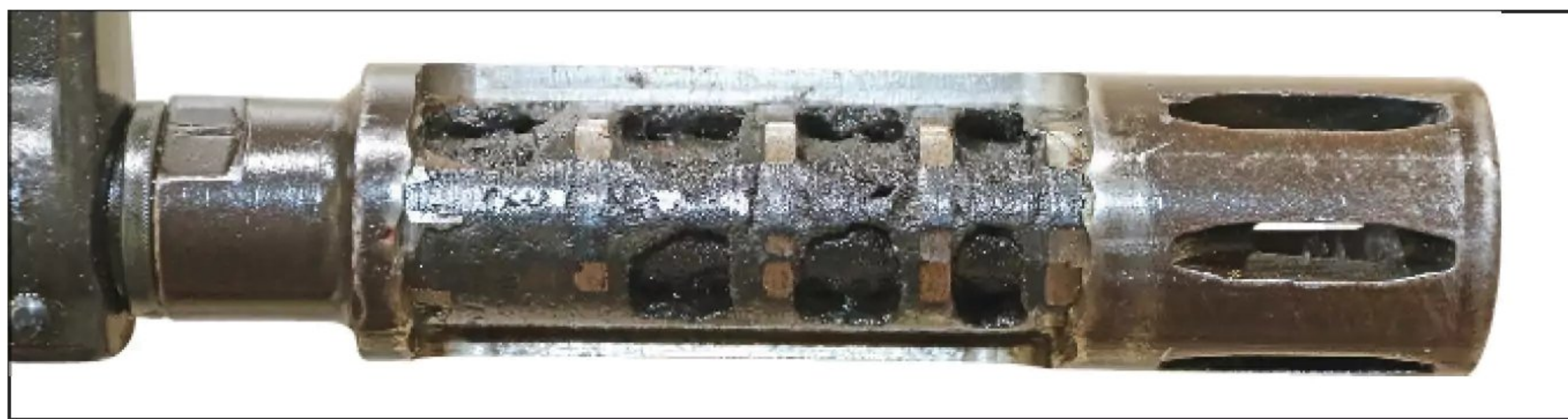
What Colt did, besides extending the barrel from ten inches to eleven-and-a-half, was add a “moderator” or flash-hider, or gas-release-delay gizmo. That, and some other changes, made the Colt Commando work. And work so well it is still in inventory in the Air Force as the GAU/5.

By mechanical definition, it is a suppressor. It has a front cap, baffles, expansion volume. It just doesn’t take many of the decibels out of the muzzle blast. So, if it doesn’t do much,

why is it a silencer? Because way back in the past the ATF determined that if you parked one on a .22LR, it took a measurable amount of the sound signature off of a shot. So, that was that.

If it is not so quiet as a very big can be, why would you get one? And why would Innovative Industries make them? Because this is America, and we insist on choices. If you want to build up a clone of an XM177 (of whatever era/version you choose) you’ll need one of these. Putting a super-efficient modern suppressor on your Vietnam clone is just...wrong.

The XM177 Moderator is made out of 4140 steel, heat-treated and parkerized to be a close match to the



This is a sectioned original moderator, and you can see it was carboned-up before it got sectioned.



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This is what it looks like when added to an SBR of the correct length for a Vietnam build.



The external sleeve is welded to the baffle stack, which might be described as an early monocoire.

originals. Since this is a silencer, you’ll have to go the BATFE form route. The Moderator is so straightforward, and so readily constructed that it costs a mere \$269, which means you’re almost paying as much for the transfer tax as you are for the product. (Such is life in “Suppressorworld.”) And depending on what version you are opting to build, you will want to add in the grenade ring, or not.

The assembly is pretty simple and straightforward: the central baffle assembly, a single steel array that could well be describe as the first monocoire design, has a thick steel sleeve slipped over it, and then the two are welded together. On the muzzle end, you might not tell that it is a moderator, as the flash hider portion has the same cone-shaped interior as your A1 or A2 flash hider.

I put my XM177 Moderator onto my select-fire faux XM177 (the lower

is an A2, which is a bit unfortunate, but the upper is a real-deal Colt 1960s era A1) and it pretty much resides there unless I need the upper/lower combo for another project, article or photo session. No, it does not make the XM177 anything like “Hollywood” quiet, but it does take enough of the bark off of the blast that you don’t feel like you are being pummeled during bursts.

Now, if spending time and tax-application money on a moderator that doesn’t make things as quiet as you’d like just isn’t your thing, then Innovative Industries has another choice for you: a faux moderator. Two versions, actually. One is a rear-thread you can pin and weld, and a slip-over that has the threads up near the front of the body, so you can just screw it onto your 16-inch barrel and call it good. Now, you’ll have to make sure you’re using a thin/pencil barrel for



If you didn’t know it as a moderator, you might think, looking at the muzzle, that it was just a flash hider.

the slip-over, as it requires a barrel no larger than .569" in diameter. So, no M4 profile barrels, but that would be wrong anyway, am I right?

If you are tired of building yet another M4gery, or splatter-painted aluminum-handguarded “tactikool” AR, and want to reach back into history for a fun build, then here’s where you start. **FN**



An XM177, called the GAU/5 in the Air Force, on the range with a USAF MP in Desert Storm. (U.S. Government)

INNOVATIVE INDUSTRIES XM177 SUPPRESSOR	
OAL:	4.3 in.
Net Added Length:	3.75 in.
Diameter:	1.0 in.
Material:	4140 steel
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THE SWEDISH BARS-

KULSPRUTEGEVÄR M/21 AND M/37 NORDIC “BULLET SPRAYING RIFLES”

From 1621 to 1812, Sweden was one of Europe’s major military powers. But a series of military defeats culminating in the Napoleonic Wars left the country close to bankruptcy, its army had endured high numbers of casualties and the kingdom lost about one third of its territory. This led the Swedes to officially established a policy of neutrality—the Policy of 1812—which they stuck to doggedly until recently.¹ But as did Switzerland, Sweden realized their neutrality could only be insured if they maintained strong armed forces. During this period, they attempted to equip their army with up-to-date rifles, and artillery.

Their first machine gun—the Kulspruta m/1900—a Hotchkiss design was followed by the Schwarzlose Kulspruta m/1914.² Both were heavy, tripod mounted guns that fed from metal strips and canvas belts.

The Swedish army adopted their first light machine gun, the Madsen, as the Kulsprutegevär m/1914. It was a recoil operated design that was fired from a bipod and used a detachable, top mounted, box magazine. They were purchased from the Dansk Rekyl Riffel Syndikat in Denmark.

The end of WWI saw increased interest in light machine guns by many



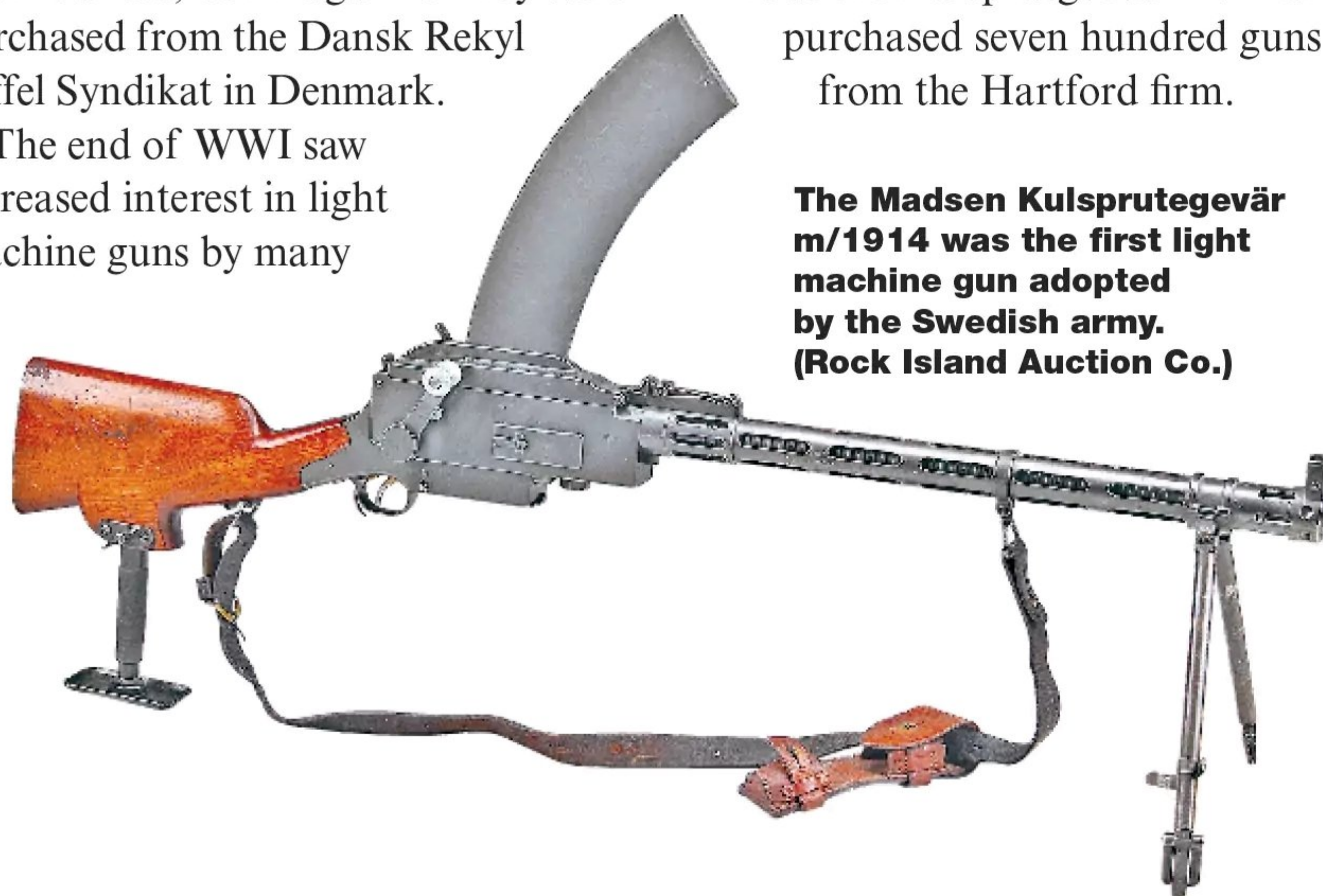
1940. Volunteers of the Svenska frivilligkåren armed with Swedish m/96 Mausers, Kulsprutegevär m/21s and captured Soviet PPD 34-38 submachine guns.

armies and in 1920 the Swedes began looking for a replacement for the Kulsprutegevär m/1914 and saw what they wanted in the American army’s M1918 Browning Automatic Rifle (a.k.a. BAR). They obtained several from Colt for trials, and afterwards adopted it as the Kulsprutgevär m/21 and purchased seven hundred guns from the Hartford firm.

The m/21 was a gas operated, air cooled, selective fire, automatic rifle that differed from the American M1918 in that it had a fixed bipod, detachable pistol grip, hinged magazine well cover, heavy, checkered forearm and buttstock and a utilized a curved magazine. A license was obtained from FN (the European holder of Browning’s patents) and by 1935 over seven hundred guns were produced by the state arsenal, Carl Gustafs Stadts Gevarsfaktori.

In 1936, with the increasing threat of Nazi Germany, the Swedes had begun a program to increase the size of their armed forces and improve its equipment. It began drafting conscripts in 1938 for the Linjen (regular army) while the Landstormen (reserve units) was enlarged.

The army began upgrading their weapons and requests went out for a new Kulsprutegevär. While popular, the m/21 had a number



The Madsen Kulsprutegevär m/1914 was the first light machine gun adopted by the Swedish army. (Rock Island Auction Co.)

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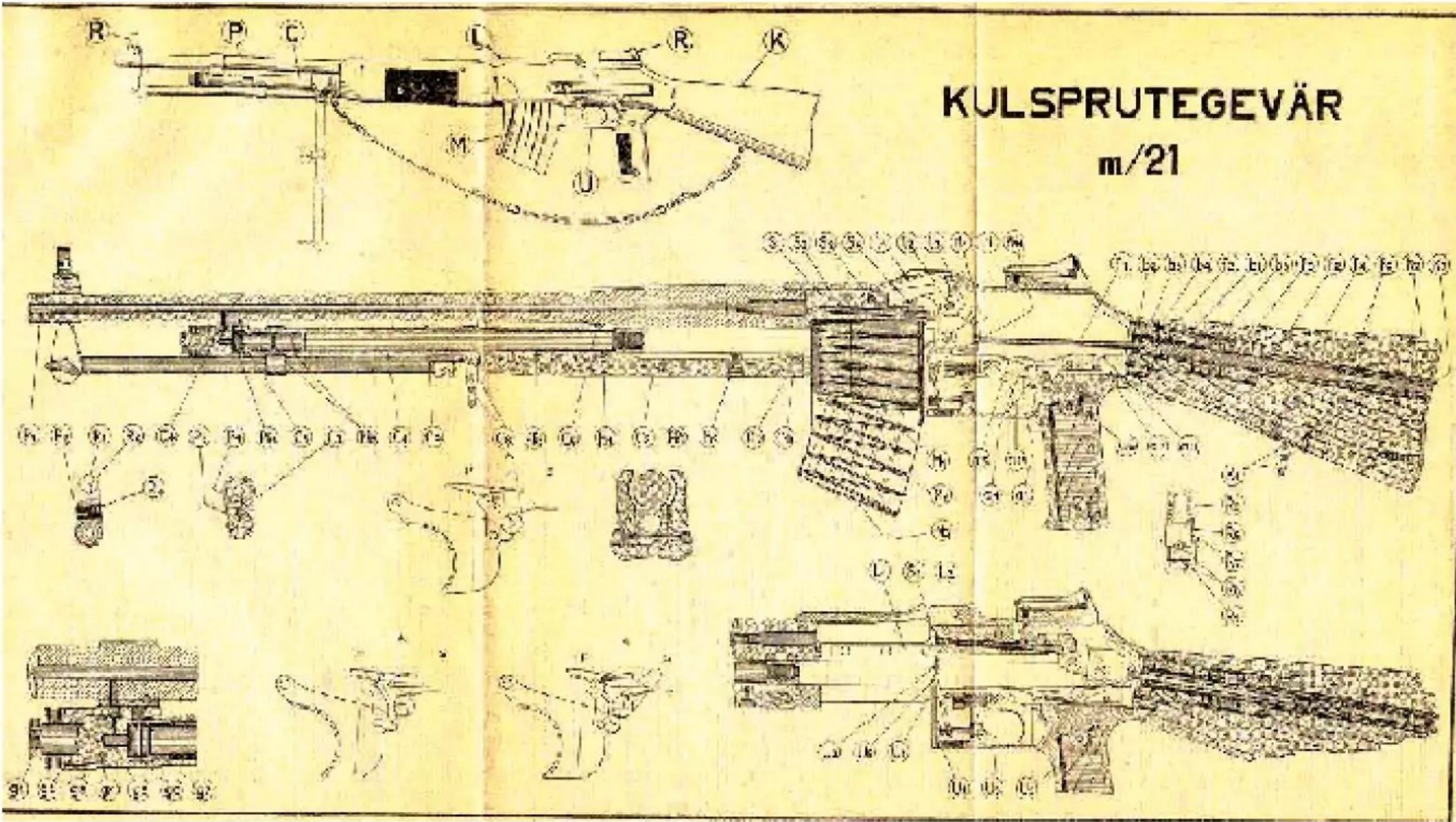


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A Swedish army training poster for the Kulsprutegevär m/21.



WWII era Swedish soldiers in winter uniforms armed with the Kulsprutegevär m/21.



The Kulsprutegevär m/21 was a modified (improved?) M1918 BAR. Note the pistol grip, bipod, curved magazine, checkered buttstock and forearm. (Morphy Auctioneers)

of shortcomings the most pressing being its fixed, light weight barrel, and limited magazine capacity both of which prevented soldiers from maintaining a high rate of fire. M/21 gunners were trained to fire the rifle in semiauto mode unless a high rate of fire was necessary such as during an assault or to defend a position.

To correct this problem, Carl Gustafs' engineers designed a lock on the front of the receiver which allowed gunners to remove a hot barrel by using a swiveling handle which also served as a carrying handle for the gun.

KULSPRUTEGEVÄR M/21	
Caliber:	6,5 skarpa patronen m/94 or m/41
Overall Length:	43.7 in.
Barrel Length:	24 in.
Weight:	19.6 lbs.
Magazine:	20-rd. detachable box
Sights:	Front: Blade Rear: Aperture adj. from 200 to 1,200 meters
ROF:	500 rpm

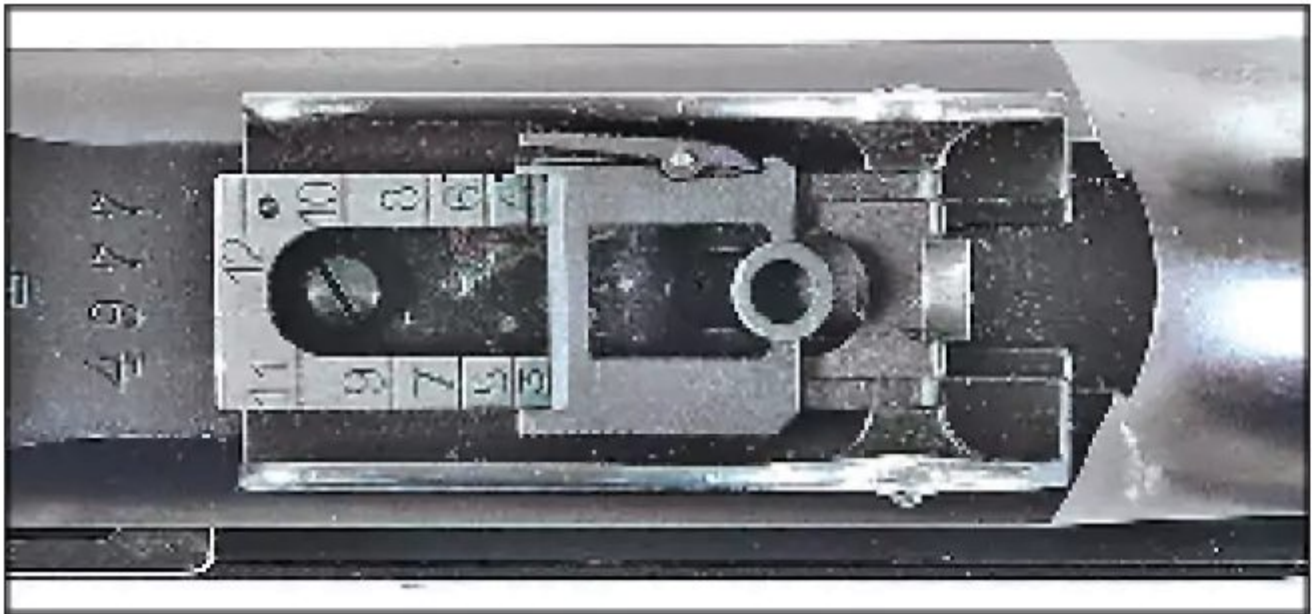
The improved Kulsprutegevär m/37 had a heavier, finned barrel to improve cooling, a gas regulator on the end of its gas tube that could be adjusted depending upon whether m/94 or



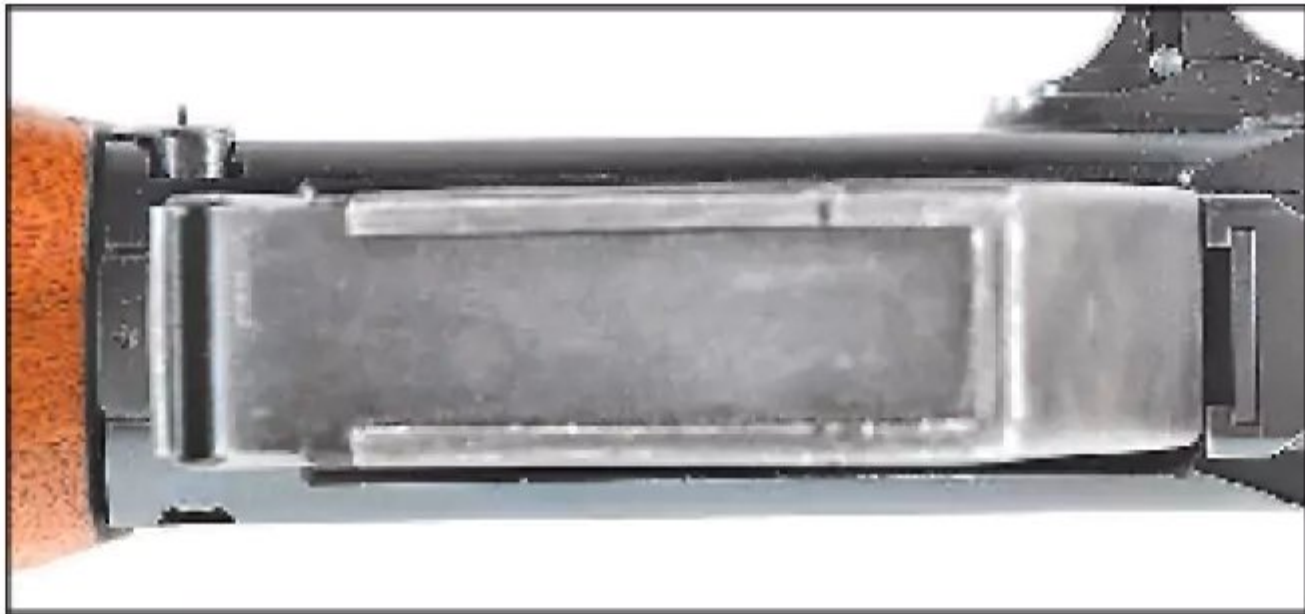
This right-hand view of the m/21's receiver shows the checkered buttstock and pistol grip, magazine release inside the trigger guard and rear sight. (Morphy Auctioneers)



This left-hand view of the receiver shows the non-reciprocating cocking handle, safety and fire selector levers. (Morphy Auctioneers)



The m/21 had an aperture rear sight adjustable from 200 to 1,200 meters. (Morphy Auctioneers)



The m/21 had a folding magazine well cover to keep debris out of the action. (Morphy Auctioneers)



Manufacturer's makings on a m/21's receiver. (Morphy Auctioneers)



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KULSPRUTEGEVÄR M/37	
Caliber:	6,5 skarpa patronen m/94 or m/41
Overall Length:	43.7 in.
Barrel Length:	24 in.
Weight:	21 lbs.
Magazine:	20-rd. detachable box
Sights:	Front: Blade Rear: Aperture adj. from 200 to 1,200 meters
ROF:	500 rpm

m/41 ammunition was used, and to insure reliable functioning under adverse (a.k.a. Winter) conditions. To reduce its weight, the wooden forearm was disposed of, and a cone style flash hider was mounted on the muzzle of the barrel. (Note: the 6,5 skarpa patronen m/94 used a 55mm, bottle necked case whose 156-grain round-nosed FMJ bullet had a velocity of 2,380 fps while the m/41's 139-grain boattail Spitzer bullet had a velocity of 2,625 fps.)

The gun has a gas regulator under the barrel which could be adjusted depending upon the ammunition used. The cyclic rate for live ammunition can be made as slow as 500 rpm, which makes it very easy to shoot with even in full automatic fire. Normally, it was used to shoot short bursts or for single fire. Even though it fired from an open bolt it was reportedly easy to hit with—even with single shots. Unfortunately, the magazine capacity was not increased as, did the U.S. Army, they felt that would prevent it from being fired close to the ground. Both m/21 and m/37 guns were manufactured concurrently until 1949.

Because of Sweden's neutrality, the m/21 did not see combat until 1939—and then not by Sweden! When

The Kulsprutegevär m/37 featured a heavier, quick change barrel system, a gas regulator, flash hider and a strengthened bipod. (Rock Island Auction Co.)



Post-1945 Swedish soldiers training with the Kulsprutegevär m/37.

the USSR invaded Finland in 1939 (the Russo-Finnish Winter War), the Swedish government and civilians provided their neighbor with large amounts of aid. The Finns bought, or were supplied with, 135,402 rifles, 347 medium machine guns, 450 light machine guns and 50 million rounds of small arms ammunition.

Sweden also allowed volunteers to travel to Finland to help her resist the Soviet invasion. Almost 9,000 Swedes—the Svenska frivilligkåren (Swedish Volunteer Corps) arrived completely equipped with their own weapons and equipment. Of the many foreign volunteers who came to Finland that winter, the Swedish contingent was the largest, best trained, equipped, acclimatized and saw the most combat.

When the Svenska frivilligkåren returned to Sweden in 1940, they conveniently “forgot” to bring their equipment with them leaving the hard-pressed Finns with almost 9,000 small arms including numbers of m/21s which saw use during the Continuation War (1941–44) with the Soviets. They were usually issued to second line troops, support units and coastal artillery units.

Late in WWII, the Swedish government allowed Norwegian and



1939. Finnish soldiers armed with Kulsprutegevär m/21.

Danish refugees residing in Sweden to form “police” units (Norway-Norske Polititroppene; Denmark-the Danske Brigade i Sverige) to maintain order in their respective countries when the Germans were defeated. They were armed with standard Swedish small arms including Kulsprutegevär m/21s.

Both the Kulsprutegevär m/21 and m/37 remained in Swedish service well into the 1970s with reserve units.³ They were both replaced with the 7,62mm FN MAG (Kulspruta m58) in the 1960s and the 5,56mm Kulspruta 90 and 90(B) (FN MINIMI and MINIMI Para).⁴

I would like to thank Rock Island Auction Co., Morphy Auctioneers and the Gothia Arms Historical Society in Gothenburg Sweden for information and photos used prepare this article. **FN**

1 Sweden became a member of NATO in March 2024
2 Kulsprutegevär is often translated as “Bullet Spraying Rifle”
3 www.gotavapen.se/gota/artiklar/kg/swedish_kg.htm
4 Early Kulspruta m58s were chambered for the 6,5 skarpa patronen m/41.

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COMBAT PISTOL

The Factory/Custom Phenom

By James Tarr

Cover and lead by Andy Grossman



One of the most successful pistol introductions of the past few years has been the CANiK TTI Combat, debuted at the 2024 SHOT Show.

The number of orders CANiK USA (a partner with Century Arms) took for these pistols just on the first day of the show would shock you, and in fact rocked the industry. I learned the actual sales numbers, and while they're an open secret behind the scenes I was asked not to divulge them. Adam Ruonala, VP of Business Development and Marketing, told me, "*I'm comfortable you saying, 'record numbers of pistols' have been sold out, but would like to stay away from actual numbers of units or sales dollars.*" So, what's the big deal?

The TTI Combat is a joint project between CANiK (and yes, that's how they spell it) and Taran Tactical Innovations (TTI). TTI is run by Taran Butler, national and world champion competitive pistol and 3-Gun shooter. He and TTI have been getting a huge amount of publicity since 2016 when Taran posted a video of Keanu Reeves training for John Wick 2—"Keanu shredding with Taran Butler," which currently has over 11 million views on YouTube. In the video, Reeves, at the TTI facility, was running

a pistol, rifle, and shotgun with skill and at impressively high speed, all using live ammunition. Actors almost never use live ammunition when training for movies (Michael Mann's movies are about the only exception) and both Taran and his facility in Simi Valley, California, got a huge amount of attention. Now, every actor in Hollywood seemingly shows up at TTI for live-fire training sessions.

In the movie, Reeves used a variety of highly customized TTI guns onscreen, and they immediately garnered interest. That interest has only grown as TTI guns have appeared in all the subsequent John Wick movies and dozens of different TV shows and movies, everything from *Hawaii Five-O* to *The Terminal List* to several *Fast and Furious* films.

The only downside? Tricked-out TTI Combat Master/John Wick/Pit Viper/Sand Viper pistols, either built on Glocks or Staccato 201s, are not just expensive, but backordered months or years. Two years ago, Taran started working with CANiK to produce a TTI version of their pistol, and the CANiK TTI Combat is the result—with a package price of just \$949.99. As Taran told me at the SHOT Show, "*Finally it's a TTI pistol people can afford. And they're available.*"



The TTI Combat from CANiK is a collaboration with Taran Tactical Industries, an upgraded and tricked-out CANiK, at an affordable price.

Full disclosure—I’ve been friends with Taran since we were standing in the registration line together at the 2007 USPSA National Championships in Tulsa, Oklahoma, and started talking movies. He is such a character that I’ve put him—as himself—in two of my novels (*Whorl* and *Waiting for the Kick*), and his guns in several more.

The CANiK TTI Combat sports a whole list of features not found on any of their other pistols, it is unique. It sports a compensator and a bronze Cerakote finish to quickly make it stand out, but before we dive into the specifics of this model, a brief history of this base CANiK pistol inside the U.S., for those of you who are interested:

It was introduced here around 2013 or so. CANiK Arms is actually a division of Samsun Yurt Savunma Sanayi (SYS), one of Turkey’s biggest defense contractors. Like seemingly every gunmaker in the region they make CZ-75 clones, but their original TP-9 is what got them traction in

America, and the evolved version of it is the base gun for the TTI Combat.

The original TP-9 looked very much like a Walther P99. The original TP-9 is a DA/SA striker-fired gun, whereas the subsequent reworked TP9SA was a single-action only pistol, and it first sported the familiar lines you see in the current CANiK lineup. The TP9SA had a decocker atop the slide, just forward of the rear sight. Putting a decocker on a single-action striker-fired gun was a weird move, and Americans weren’t much interested. At the time, CANiK was also making the TP9SF, but only selling it overseas. This was identical to the TP9SA, except it didn’t have the decocker, and the Turkish National Police bought 25,000 of them in 2013. As I wrote in 2015, “The

decocker-less TP9SF seems like it would have been a much better choice for Century Arms to choose to import...” and it wasn’t long before they started doing just that. The current iteration of the TP9 design is the basis for all their popular “CANiK” pistol lines in the U.S.—the Mete, the SFX the Elite, the Rival, and now the TTI Combat.

The CANiK pistol has seen success because it’s been very reliable, offered in multiple different variations, and is inexpensive. Accomplished competitive shooter Nils Jonasson won the USPSA National Championships in 2022 shooting a CANiK, thereby killing any grumbles the pistol couldn’t perform.

The CANiK TTI Combat is a 9mm with a 4.7-inch barrel. It is a single-action semi-auto striker-fired design with a polymer frame. Overall, it is 7.84-inches long, 5.87-inches tall, and 1.41-inches wide at the bilateral slide stop. Weight with an empty magazine in place is 29.5-ounces. It looks heavier than it is. It is fed by 18-round magazines, and you get a couple of those as well as all sorts of extras, as this pistol is sold as part of a package—more on that in a bit. The barrel is spiral fluted and ported right near the muzzle,



The TTI Combat is a unique CANiK, with a bronze Cerakote finish on all the metal parts and CANiK’s first compensator. (Andy Grossman)



Taran Butler of TTI and John Wick training fame designed the CANiK pistol from the ground up, and this 9mm sports many unique features including this 21-round magazine.

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CANiK TTI COMBAT PISTOL



Taran Butler holding the TTI Combat at the 2024 SHOT Show, where it debuted and resulted in record sales for CANiK.

one crosswise oval hole that vents up through the two ports in the compensator. The steel compensator, CANiK's first, is connected to the barrel via an ingenious quick-detach system. The barrel is ribbed, the compensator binds on those ribs, but a spring-loaded tab on the bottom is what locks it into place.

Taran told me, *“That comp will give you about a 15–20% reduction in muzzle rise. I wanted the port to be a little bigger, but they were afraid that might cause issues. The gun also ships with a different recoil spring in case you’re running lighter competition ammo.”*

For comparison, the compensators in the TTI Pit Viper and Sand Viper 2011s reduce recoil nearly 50%, but those are custom-built guns whose price tags usually start north of \$5,000, and you’ll likely have to wait years to get one. While Taran specced nearly every component of the CANiK TTI Combat, it is a factory gun, hence the much lower price and greatly increased availability.

The slide, comp, takedown levers, slide stops, magazine release, backstraps, trigger safety, and magazine well are all treated to a bronze Cerakote finish which contrasts nicely with the black frame and barrel. Underneath, the bronze Cerakote the slide has a nitride finish, as does the barrel.



A still from Taran Butler shooting the TTI Combat, the gun in full recoil. Between the aggressive texturing and the compensator muzzle rise is reduced about 20%. (Taran Butler)



The TTI Combat (left) compared to the very first pistol in the line, the CANiK TP-9. The TP-9 is a DA/SA striker-fired gun with a decocker, priced very affordably.



The CANiK TTI Combat (bottom) compared to a first-generation TTI Combat Master based on the Glock 34, as seen in John Wick 2. The Combat Master is still in such high demand you’ll pay top dollar and wait months or more—the CANiK is priced under \$1,000 and a factory-produced gun, with much higher availability.



The compensator is a brand-new design and held in place by internal ribbing and the locking tab you see underneath the muzzle.



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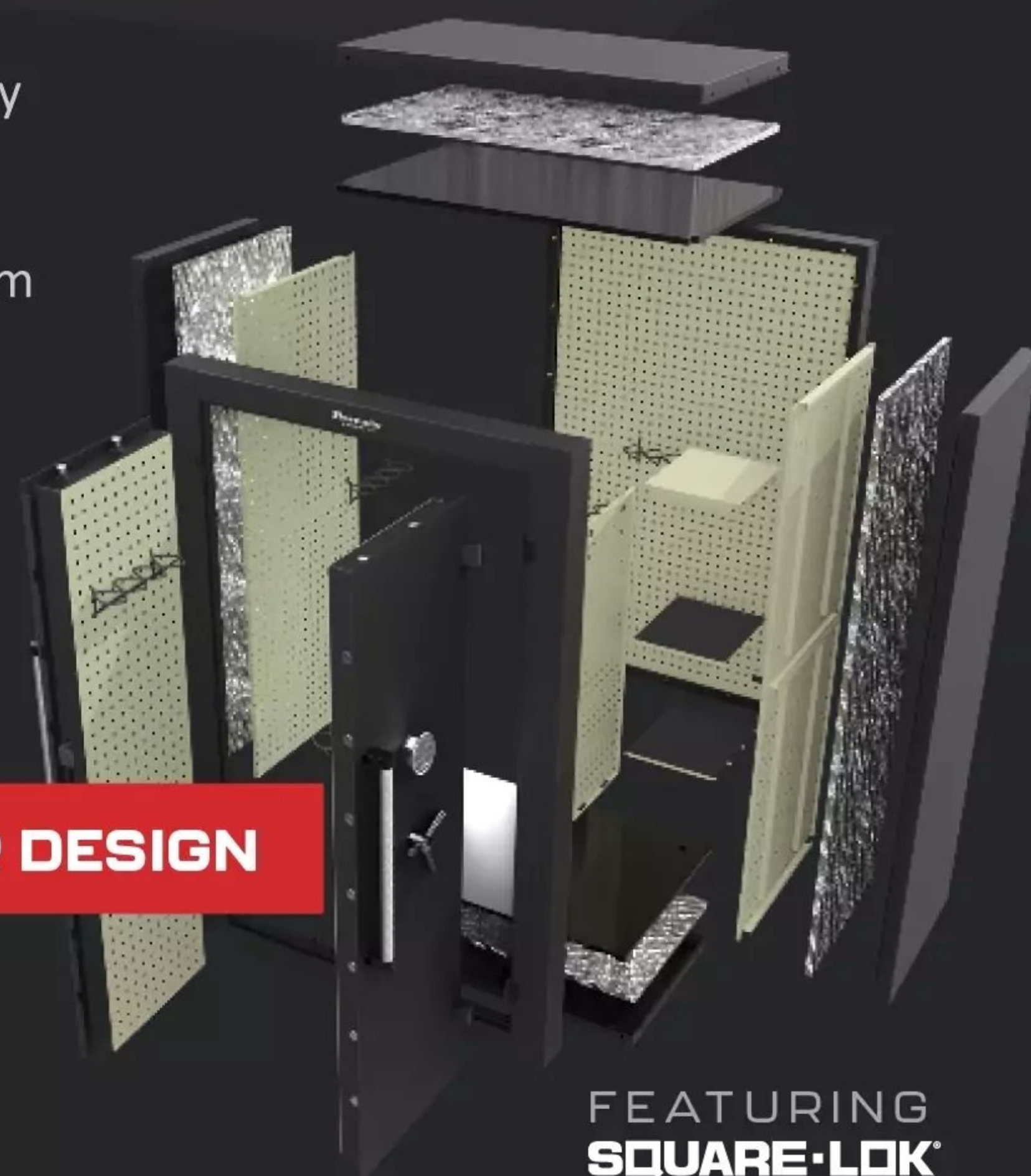
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CANiK TTI COMBAT PISTOL



This pistol is full of tiny little details—that’s not light shadow behind the forward cocking serrations, but black Cerakote shadow...

There are lightening cuts in the sides and top of the slide, showing off the helical spiral fluting of the barrel.

The slide is very aggressively serrated front and back. The serrations aren’t just functional, they’re good looking. If you peer close, you’ll see black Cerakote shadowing on the back side of the forward serrations for a bit more style. There is a pivoting loaded chamber indicator atop the slide, and inside the slide is a firing pin block safety. When the striker is cocked, you can see it through the hole in the back of the slide, it is silver with a red tip.

This pistol is optics ready, and I’ll dive into that shortly. If you choose to run iron sights the steel cover plate has angled serrations to match the rest of the slide. You’ll see the TTI lightning bolt logo on the top of that plate, atop the barrel hood, and on either side of the slide.

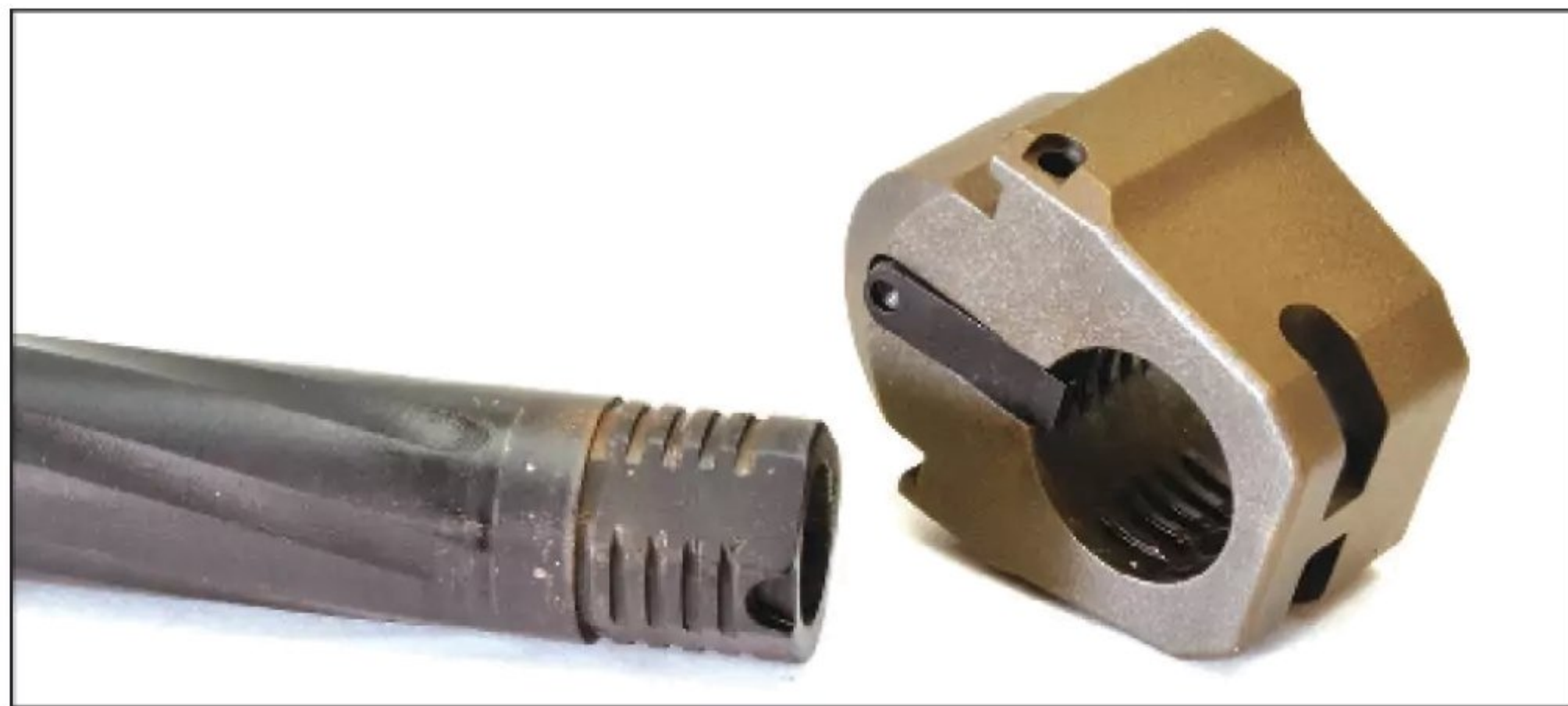
At the back of the slide is a plain black steel sight, nicely serrated. The front sight is steel, with a green fiber optic insert. The front sight is narrow at .105" and combined with the .115" rear notch you get a lot of daylight around that front sight when aiming.

The bilateral slide stop levers are serrated to match the slide. They look like they stick out farther than they do, but in fact they’re nearly flush with the frame. At the front of the frame is a three-slot MIL-STD-1913 “Picatinny” rail for mounting lights and/or lasers. As for the frame, it is unique to this model, designed by Taran Butler. You’ll see a double-undercut trigger guard, and the texturing on



◀ **The front sight is steel with a green fiber optic insert. (Andy Grossman)**

▶ **Both the magazine and slide releases are large enough to run quickly, but not so large they’ll get in the way if you want to carry the pistol. (Andy Grossman)**



The barrel and compensator disassembled. You’ll only need a punch to take them apart.



The TTI Combat is both looks and feature-rich—compensator, fiber optic front sight, relief cuts showing off the helically-fluted barrel, aggressive serrations, and bronze Cerakote finish.

the frame is very aggressive. The grip angle on the Canik is close to that of a 1911 or S&W M&P.

With the pistol, you get three different-sized backstraps, all polymer with a bronze finish. The aggressive texturing on the backstraps matches that on the frame. The magazine well opening in the frame has been beveled, and the pistol comes with an aluminum magazine well installed. The aluminum magazine well is easily removed, if you so desire.

The reversible magazine release is steel and finely checkered. It’s easily workable but doesn’t stick out so much you couldn’t carry this pistol, although it is a big gun, bigger than most people would want to carry. With the pistol, you get a flush 18-round magazine, and one extended magazine. Both of them sport bronze aluminum TTI base





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The trigger is wide, flat, and checkered, and breaks at a 90-degree angle. Tarr didn't know if he'd like it, and found he really liked how it held onto his finger. The 4.25-lb crisp pull didn't hurt either.

pads, and the longer magazine sports a +3 base pad for a 21-round capacity.

The original magazines for the CANiK were made by Mec-Gar, the kings of OEM magazines, and it appears they still are—if you look close at the front of the magazine, below the CANiK name you'll see the Mec-Gar MG logo. In the world of double-stack 9mms there's no need to reinvent the wheel—these magazines use the same body as the world-renowned and combat-proven SIG P226, just the magazine catch cutout is a bit different.

All CANiKs have pretty good trigger pulls, but the trigger on this model has been upgraded. The trigger itself is aluminum. The trigger is wide, and the bronze safety lever in the center, also aluminum, is wide and flat and aggressively checkered. It really grabs onto your fingertip. The trigger breaks right about at ninety degrees. If you look under the gun, on the trigger right below the frame you'll see another tiny TTI logo.

CANiK advertises the TTI Combat has a 3.8-pound trigger pull. Mine wasn't that light—my sample provided a 4¼-pound trigger pull fresh out of the box. There was a bit of take up, then a good (for a striker-fired gun) break, and just about zero overtravel. Reset was very short as well. Between the lack of overtravel and short reset, if you're quick on the trigger, you'll be able to shoot this pistol surprisingly fast. For a striker-fired gun, the trigger was definitely better than average.

Disassembly might be a bit different than you're used to, even before you get to the compensator. After making sure the magazine is out and the pistol is unloaded, pull the trigger. Then, keeping the trigger depressed, pull down on both takedown tabs. The slide will "click" and move forward just a tiny bit. Slide the slide forward half an inch or so, and then it will pull upward off the frame.

To remove the barrel from the slide, you'll need to remove the compensator. CANiK provides a handled punch for this, but most any punch should work. Push in on the divot at the



The opening in the frame is nicely beveled, and mates nicely with the aluminum magazine well, which is removable.



Taran Butler reloading the CANiK at speed during a promo video. The aluminum well makes reloading quickly very easy. (Taran Butler)

bottom of the black tab running down from the muzzle at the front of the gun. That pivoting tab locks into a slot in the bottom of the barrel. Once you've pushed that in, it clears the slot in the barrel. While keeping pressure on the tab, you then have to twist the comp sideways, and it will pull off.

For reassembly, just slide the comp back on the barrel at an angle, and then twist it back into position. When it comes time to put the slide back on the frame, there is no clearance at the back of the frame for the ejector, so you have to place the slide over the frame covering the ejector to start, about half an inch forward of where it will finally come to rest and cycle it backward.

As I mentioned, this pistol is sold as a package, with the gun and all the extras shipped in a lockable travel case. On the top of the case, you'll see an inlet bronze polymer badge with the TTI logo and TTI COMBAT written there. Open the case and you'll find three layers of stuff.

The first layer is a foam cover with the CANiK name and the TTI logo. Flip it over and you'll find the owner's manual in a pocket, and detailed pictographic disassembly instructions for the compensator and gun. The second layer has foam cutouts for the gun, the magazines (a version with 10-round magazines is available if you live in one of those states), the backstraps, three optic mounting

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CANiK TTI COMBAT PISTOL



Takedown is a little bit different, but still easy. You only need a punch to take the comp off the barrel, and the pistol comes with a spare, lighter recoil spring assembly for light competition ammo.

plates, and a small CANiK pistol that actually is a tiny tool for optics mounting. Slide off the baseplate of the tiny pistol and you'll find it contains hex and Torx bits that fit into the "muzzle," as well as spare mounting screws.

You can buy just the gun with or without the MECANIK MO3 optic, and if you get the optic (which raises the package price from \$949.99 to \$1,099) there's a cutout for it here on this second layer. FYI: that optic retails separately for \$299, so buying it with the gun saves you \$150.

On the bottom third layer you'll find cutouts for the lighter recoil spring assembly, cleaning kit, punch, magazine loader, polymer belt holster, trigger lock, and the TTI/CANiK gold medallion/challenge coin. You get all of the above except the optic for just \$950, so I'm not surprised at how popular this gun is.

The MECANIK MO3 optic uses a Trijicon RMR footprint. It has an anodized aluminum body, glass lens, and is made to CANiK's specs in China. The window on the MO3 is oval and quite large, 1.14-inches wide by 0.90-inches tall. It rivals the Trijicon SRO in window size, but unlike the SRO the top corners of the housing are peaked to better



With the TTI Combat, you don't just get the pistol but rather everything you see here (and a bit more). There are two different variants, and the only difference is whether or not it comes with the new MECANIK MO3 optic.



The rear sight is prominent and serrated. When cocked, as you see here, the striker is visible at the rear of the slide. The steel slide cover is textured to match.

withstand impacts. The front of the housing is concave as well to better deflect impacts.

The MO3 has a 6 MOA red dot reticle, and has an advertised battery life of up to 60,000 hours using a CR2032 battery. The provided battery is top-loaded into the optic. There are ten brightness settings, and the optic has an auto-off function and motion-activated illumination. Windage and elevation are click adjustable, each click equaling 1 MOA. FYI with the MO3 mounted you can't use your sights through the window.

If you get the TTI Combat without the MECANIK optic, the three provided mounting plates work with



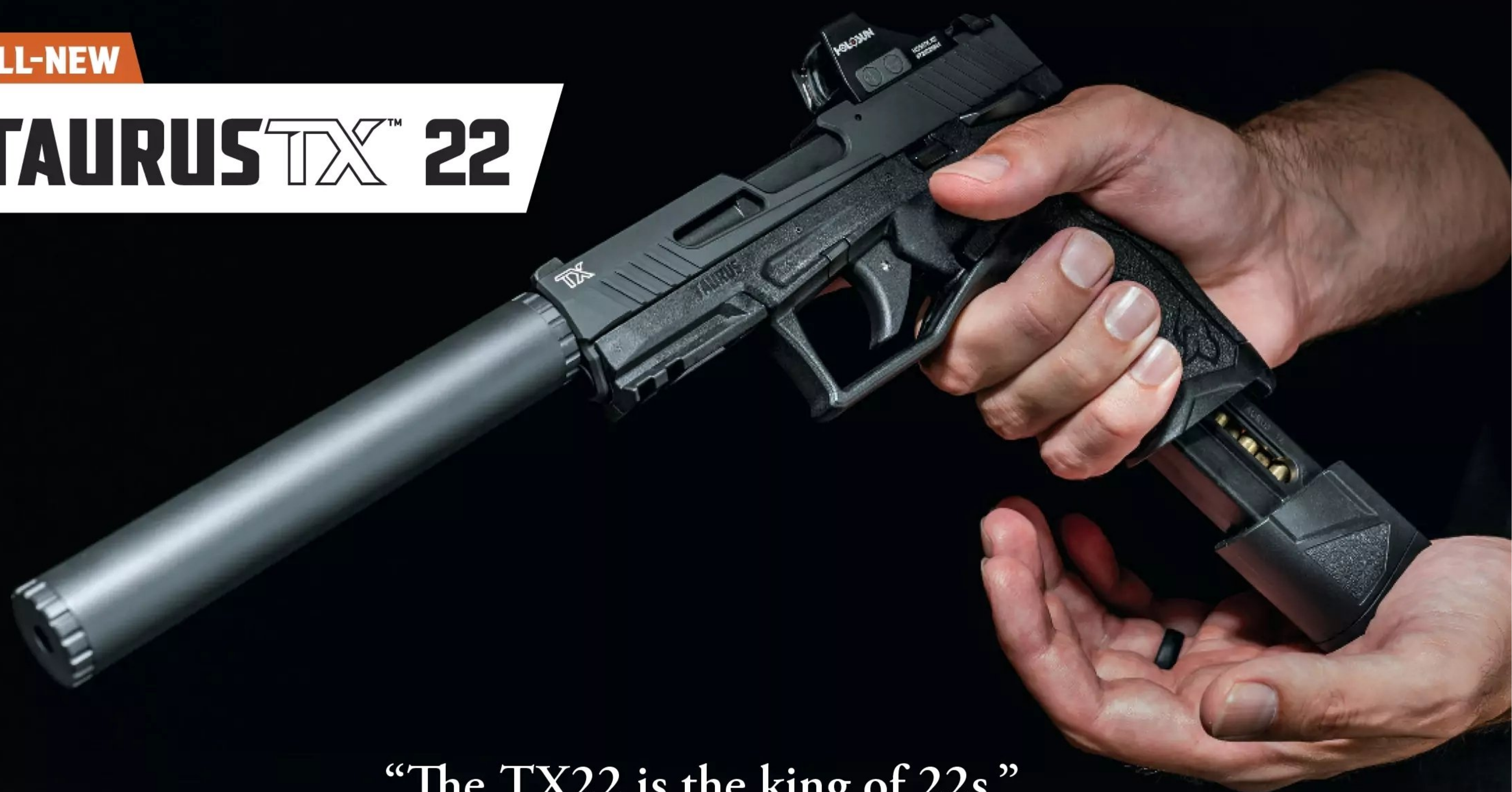
◀ **The MECANIK MO3 optic has a window to rival the Trijicon SRO. It has an aluminum body and glass lens, with a frame designed to absorb impacts.**

▶ **The big window of the MECANIK MO3. Unfortunately, you can't see your iron sights through the optic.**



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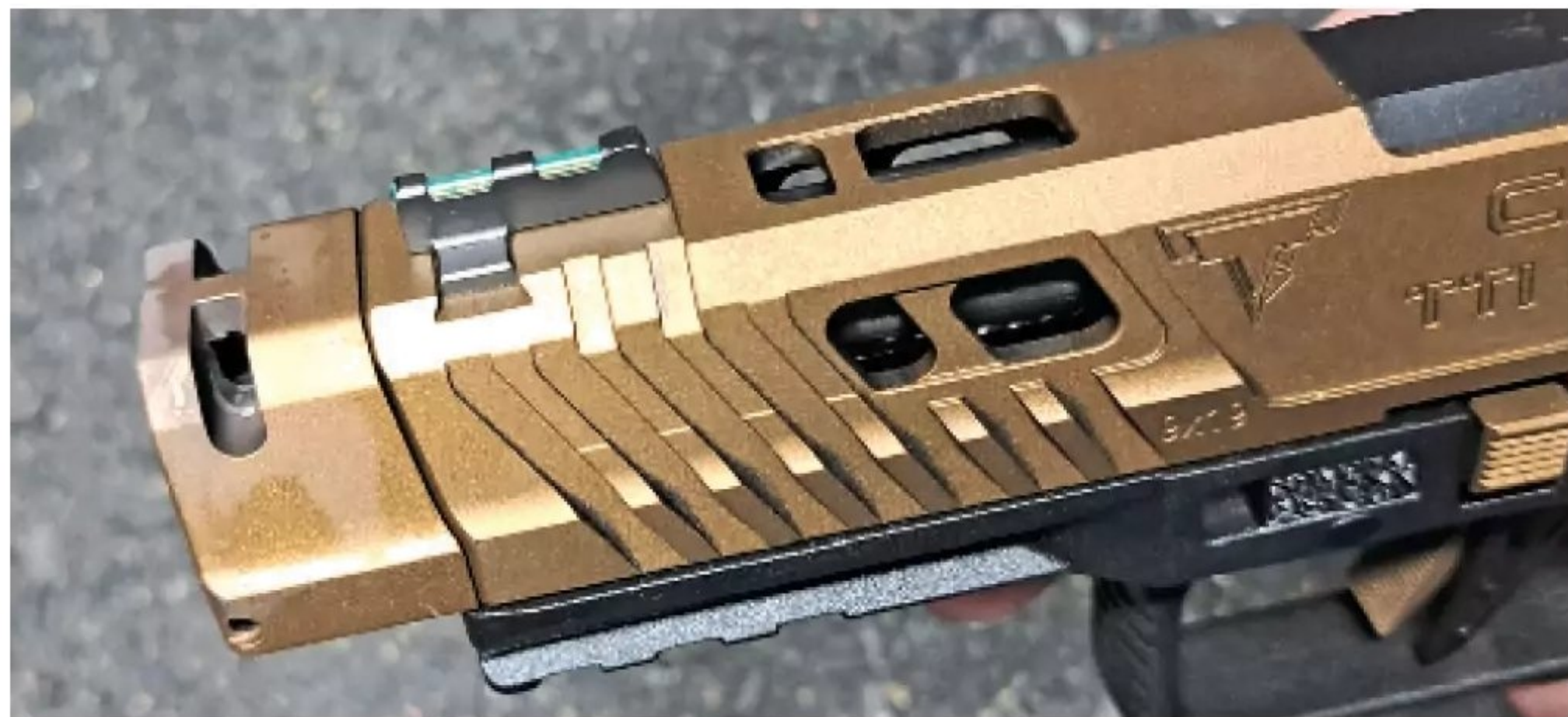
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LONG LIVE THE KING.



CANiK TTI COMBAT PISTOL



A sure sign you've been having fun at the range—a dirty comp. Tarr shot the pistol so fast the slide got too hot to touch, and it still ran.

the Trijicon RMR/SRO, the Shield SMS/RMS/RMSc, Holosun 407C/507C, SIG Sauer ROMEO Zero, and other optics with those footprints. If you prefer the Leupold DeltaPoint/Pro...you're out of luck.

On my first trip to the range, I fed the TTI Combat half a dozen different types of hollow points, just to check reliability. It ran them all flawlessly, and whether it was the good trigger or an accurate barrel or both, the TTI Combat was more accurate than I was expecting, while being just as fast. The comp worked better with lighter +P loads, but it did help keep the muzzle down no matter what I was shooting.

Shooting the TTI Combat, I wasn't surprised at its popularity. The standard CANiK pistols are relatively boring, utilitarian guns. The TTI Combat is definitely not boring. I normally don't like bronze guns, but the color quickly grew on me, and compensated guns are cool. Full-size 9mm pistols don't have a lot of recoil to begin with, and when you add a compensator and aggressive grip texturing, you'll find the pistol is down out of recoil before you have a chance to fire your next shot.

Between the texturing on the grip and backstrap and the fine but aggressive texturing on the trigger (which I wasn't too sure about but ended up liking a lot, it kept my fingertip in place) you'll find your hands don't move on this gun. I punched a lot of paper and knocked down a lot of steel. I burned through so much ammo so fast I got the slide too hot to touch—and still it ran. All in all, I liked the CANiK a lot more than I thought I was going to.

The holster provided with this pistol is an injection molded belt holster with an adjustable slot to fit belts narrow and wide. The exterior of it is textured to match the grip of the gun, and you'll spot the TTI logo as well. There is a tensioning thumbwheel on it to adjust it to the level of tightness you prefer.

The TTI Combat is marketed as a competition or just plain fun gun to shoot. It will be bigger than what most people will want to carry. That said, you can conceal carry a gun this big if you're motivated to, you just have to be willing to dress around it. For most of the last two years, I've been carrying a SIG P226 in a holster like this, and that gun is roughly the size of this CANiK while being heavier.



At the range Tarr put a wide variety of ammunition, including various hollow points, through the TTI. It fed them all and was impressively accurate.

The first TTI Combat Master pistol was built on a Glock, and a gigantic hit for TTI, so I was curious why Taran didn't opt to go with a lower-end Glock package for a lower price-point TTI gun. Most of his response was not repeatable, but I can print this—"I do custom Glockes like crazy, I put them in movies more than anything, I've put them in the biggest action movies in the world, and they (Glock the company) do nothing for me. They've promised the world, and delivered nothing."

It's not Taran or TTI, in these pages I've written repeatedly how Glock has ignored the desires of the U.S. commercial market, instead focusing their attention almost exclusively on law enforcement and military sales. They



Taran Butler, the man behind TTI, running the CANiK TTI Combat. Between the comp, aggressive grip texturing, and good trigger, it is very easy to run fast and hard. (Taran Butler)



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The most accurate group in Tarr’s testing was this sub-two-incher with Blazer FMJ.

don’t seem to understand the desires of U.S. consumers—I had a high-ranking Glock exec tell me off because I dared to stipple the grip of my new G17, thereby implying factory Glock pistols weren’t “perfection.” Seriously. Not kidding. Which is why so many companies are making better Glock-pattern pistols than Glock itself. Those of us who love their product can only hope the corporate mindset will change a bit now that Gaston has moved on.

As for the CANiK collaboration, Taran told me, “*It was an accident. I’ve sponsored Nils (Jonasson) forever, and ran into him right after he won with the CANiK. In talking to him he told me they have really high-quality accurate barrels. And that conversation turned into the start of this project.*”

“*It’s a good gun, and shoots great. Best of all, people can get it, and it’s under \$1,000. The MECANIK optic is finally something rivaling the Trijicon SRO because the screen is massive, and the price is incredible. As tall as the SRO but wider, and with an insane price point. I want to sell every gun with an optic on it...but the backorders are already off the charts.*” And speaking of the CANiK TTI Combat’s



CANiK TTI COMBAT PISTOL ACCURACY TESTING — 9MM					
Load	Bullet Weight (gr.)	Velocity (fps)	ES	SD	Best Grp./ Avg. Grp. (in.)
Blazer FMJ brass case	115	1,147	30	16	1.8 / 3.0
Wilson Combat JHP+P	115	1,223	36	19	2.7 / 3.5
Hornady Am. Gunner JHP+P	124	1,155	29	14	2.5 / 3.7
SIG Elite V-Crown JHP+P	124	1,188	28	12	2.8 / 3.6
Black Hills HoneyBadger	125	989	22	10	2.2 / 2.9
Accuracy results are the averages of four five-shot groups at 25 yards from a sandbag rest. Velocities are averages of ten shots measured with an Oehler Model 35P 12 feet from the muzzle.					

incredible sales, they’ve gotten the attention of other giant gun manufacturers, who have already approached Taran about a collaboration on some of their pistols.

The CANiK TTI Combat has striking looks, unique features, and performs. You get a solid gun and a surprising number of accessories and extras for a refreshingly low price. Basically, you’re getting a Hollywood gun for a midwestern price, and I’d be shocked if you didn’t soon see it in movies and TV shows soon, in addition to at your local range. **FN**

CANiK TTI COMBAT PISTOL	
Type:	Single action striker-fired semi-auto
Caliber:	9mm
Capacity:	18+1
Barrel Length:	4.7 in., ported, nitride finish
Overall Length:	7.84 in.
Height:	5.87 in.
Width:	1.41 in.
Weight:	29.5 oz. (unloaded, with magazine)
Slide Material:	Carbon steel, nitride under bronze Cerakote
Frame Material:	Polymer
Safeties:	Trigger safety, internal striker safety
Sights:	Black serrated rear, green fiber optic front, Optics ready
Optic (on optic-equipped model):	MECANIK MO3
Trigger:	3.8 lbs. (4.25 lbs. as tested)
Accessories:	Lockable hard case, optics plates, three backstraps, One 18-rd magazine and one 21-rd. magazine, Spare (lighter) recoil spring assembly, Optic mounting tool, takedown punch, Cleaning kit, magazine loader, holster, Trigger lock, TTI/CANiK medallion
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The SA-16A2 will let you unleash your inner Cold Warrior.

THE SA-16A2 RIFLE

Springfield Armory's Retro Rocket

By Will Dabbs, MD

The latest inspiration to be born out of the Springfield Armory is actually a throwback to an earlier time.

The SA-16A2 is a new-made semiauto rendition of the classic M16A2 US military service rifle. Featuring Uncle Sam's A2 upgrades along with Springfield Armory's well-established penchant for quality, the SA-16A2 is the retro service rifle tough enough for serious use.

The M16A2 upon which the SA-16A2 is based was itself a product-improved version of the original M16A1 that carried US forces through the war in Vietnam. Featuring enhanced sights, a heavier barrel, redesigned furniture, and a three-round burst fire control system in the place of the original full auto sort, the M16A2 was the ultimate Cold War-vintage M16 direct gas impingement service rifle. The new SA-16A2 folds all that tactical sweetness into a retro semiauto package that looks awfully cool just sitting in the gun box. Whether your mission is home defense, target shooting, competition, or simply collecting military ordnance, the SA-16A2 brings all that to the table and more.



The new Springfield Armory SA-16A2 is a spot-on semiauto rendition of the original 1990's-era US military service rifle.



The M16A1 rifle became an iconic part of the war in Vietnam. By the late 1970's, however, it was time for an upgrade. (Public domain)

The Iraqi Army charged into Kuwait on the false assumption that Uncle Sam wouldn't care. That turned out not to be the case. (Public domain)

War Story

On 2 August 1990, Iraqi combat units under the direction of Saddam Hussein rolled into neighboring Kuwait with the intent of subjugating the small, wealthy oil-producing nation and stealing all of its stuff. The Iraqis occupied the country in two days, and the world subsequently came unglued.

President George Herbert Walker Bush helped organize a broad-based international coalition with the mission to kick Hussein's people out of Kuwait. Bush's war was lyrically successful, but the initial exchanges were indeed hard-fought. It all started with Operation Desert Shield, the coordinated air campaign directed against Iraqi forces.

Desert Shield was indeed quite the spectacle. It was here we first heard

the term, "shock and awe." However, while attack jets and helicopter gunships look sexy cool, you really cannot seize and hold hostile territory until you've put boots on the ground. Leading the vanguard was a veritably superhuman young infantry NCO named Hercules.

Hercules wasn't his actual name. That's just what everybody called him, mostly behind his back. This guy was just jacked, an absolute mountain of a warrior. He was also my

By the First Gulf War, the M16A2 had already seen widespread issue. This officer is using his during a combat skills qualification course in Europe years later. (US Army Europe)



THE SA-16A2 RIFLE



The M-16A2 was proven in battle during Desert Storm.



The new Springfield Armory SA-16A2 is shown here above one of their early SAINT AR-15 rifles.



The SA-16A2 (top) is an evolutionary development of the original M16A1, shown here equipped with an M203 grenade launcher.



The barrel on the SA-16A2 is heavy ahead of the front sight base but thinner behind, just like those of the original M16A2 service rifles.

neighbor on the Army base where I was stationed and a great friend.

Hercules rolled hot into Iraq as a platoon sergeant in his infantry battalion. One of their first objectives was to seize a small village occupied by the Iraqi Republican Guard. Soon after the Iraqis encountered coalition ground forces in action, they began surrendering at their maximum cyclic rate. Early in the war, however, they still had quite a lot of fight left in them. This was one of those times.

Things did not start out well. One of Herc's grunts deployed an M67 hand grenade into a shack made of tin sheeting and then crouched down behind the flimsy wall when the little bomb went off. Frags from the M67 sleeted through the insubstantial structure and peppered the hapless guy liberally, earning him a one-way helicopter ride back to the World.

Once they got that kid sorted, it was time to clear the rest of the little town. Most of the Iraqi defenders called it a day in fairly short order, handing over their weapons in exchange for food, water, and not getting pulverized. This one guy, however, was clearly a true believer.

With the entirety of an American infantry company charging in to get all up into this man's business, he grew a pair and headed outside, AKM in hand. Before anyone could stop him, this rocket surgeon threw up his Kalashnikov and started screaming in



The rear sight on the SA-16A2 is likely the most efficient ever mounted on a combat rifle.



The flash suppressor is left closed on the bottom to minimize firing signature in dusty environments.

Mesopotamian Arabic. Hercules was having none of that.

Herc’s unit had fully transitioned to the new M16A2 rifles. For a generation raised on the skinny little M16A1, the A2 seemed a true rifleman’s weapon. Without much conscious thought, Herc snapped up his M16A2, thumbed off the safety, and plugged the man twice in the chest.

Folks prattle on incessantly about stopping power, but this guy really didn’t much care. He was dead where he dropped. Herc and his men retrieved the man’s weapon and tossed his body someplace before moving on.

Now, I thought that a simply capital war story as Hercules related it to me from a lawn chair behind my house on post over a cold Coke. However, I was surprised to see a solitary tear tracking down Herc’s face as he told it. This man was a legend—huge, hard, revered by his troops, and feared by most everyone else. Yet, as he related the tale of killing an enemy soldier with his rifle at across-the-room distances his voice cracked. It seems that most normal folks are not really wired to take human life.



The round handguards of the SA-16A2 are interchangeable top to bottom.



Upgrades incorporated into the SA-16A2 include an integral brass deflector, improved sights, and a redesigned pistol grip.

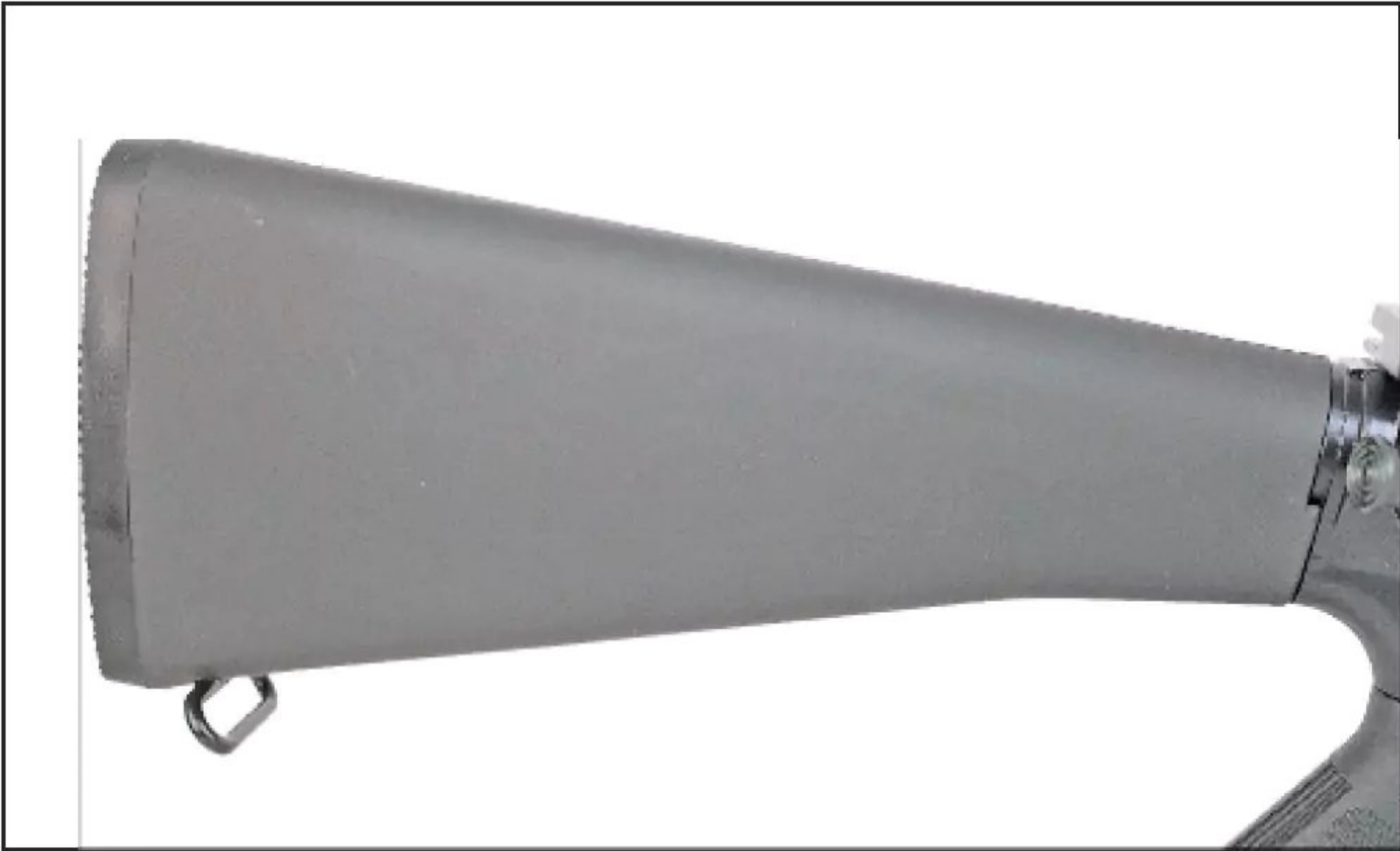


From top to bottom we see the M-16A1, the SA-16A2, and the M-4 carbine.



The Springfield Armory SA-16A2 is faithful to the original source material.

THE SA-16A2 RIFLE



The buttstock on the SA-16A2 is both beefier and longer than that of the previous M16A1.

“US Government Property” marked on the side of the SA-16A2 rifle doesn’t actually carry any legal weight, but it does look cool.



The SA-16A2 is an exceptionally smooth-shooting rifle. It has been widely used by both American and allied troops.



(Army Photo)



Origin Story

The tale of the development of the M16 rifle has been beaten to death in these very hallowed pages. I have myself done a fair amount of that beating. As a result, we will pick the story up in the late 1970’s as the Marines felt that the combat-tested M16A1 rifle was overdue for a facelift.

Mounting up this vintage 4X optic helped compensate for my aging eyes at decent ranges.

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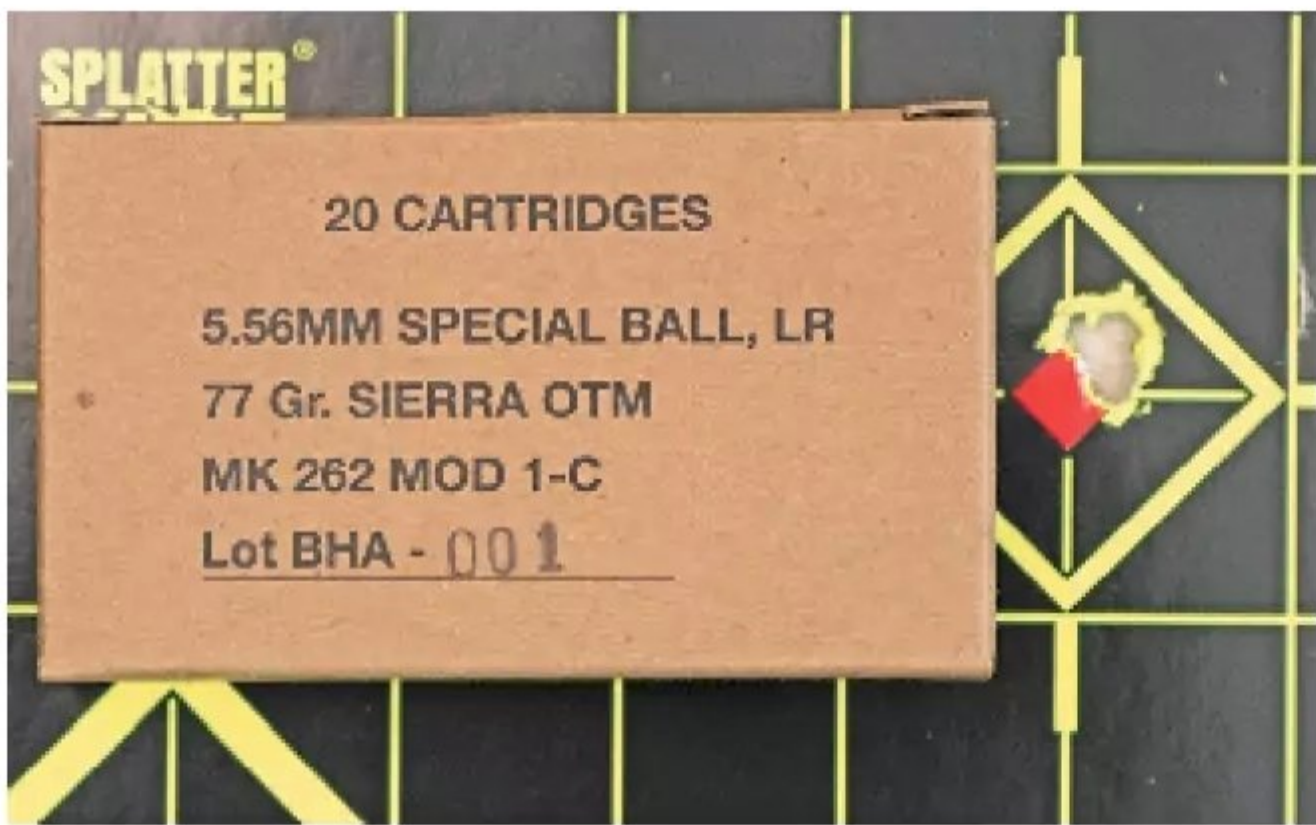


THE SA-16A2 RIFLE



These get-acquainted groups at 25 meters off of a sandbag rest were nice and tight.

The SA-16A2 shot plenty straight. This is a zeroing group using superb Black Hills 77-grain OTM match ammo fired from a sandbag rest at 25 meters.



So long as I did my part, the SA-16A2 consistently kept its rounds tightly in the black at 100 meters off of a sandbag rest. This rifle will shoot like this all day long.



ACCURACY SPRINGFIELD ARMORY SA-16A2 RIFLE			
Load	Velocity (fps)	SD	Accuracy (in.) (Best & Avg.)
Remington 55gr. FMJ	3,159	18.0	3.0 / 2.0
Winchester M855 62gr. FMJ	3,085	14.3	2.1 / 1.3
Black Hills Mk 262 Mod 1C 77gr. OTM	2,759	15.1	1.5 / 0.9
Group Size is the average of three five-round groups fired from a sandbag rest at 100 meters. Velocity is the average of fifteen rounds as measured by a Garmin Xero radar chronograph.			

Marine LTC David Lutz was a Vietnam combat veteran who was given the task of improving on Gene Stoner’s classic black rifle. LTC Lutz was the Program Manager for the M16A2 upgrade program. The entire enterprise only cost \$1.3 million. While that seems like a lot of money for us normal folks, \$1.3 million is a rounding error in the military procurement world. LTC Lutz saw to it that we got our money’s worth that time.

For starters, the new rifle was fitted with a heavier barrel with a tighter 1:7 twist. The M-16A1 tubes were rifled 1:12. This was so that the M-16A2 could accurately fire heavier 62-grain M855 tungsten-cored ammunition. These heavy rounds reliably tumble out of the earlier looser barrels.

The rear sight was redesigned to make it much easier to adjust without tools, and the buttstock was strengthened and lengthened by 5/8th of an inch. The bottom half of the flash suppressor was left solid to minimize dust signature and help counteract muzzle rise under recoil. The fire controls were reconfigured with a burst cam limiting the gun to three rounds at a time on rock and roll. The pistol grip was designed with a finger ledge, and the forearms were now round, more substantial, and interchangeable between top and bottom. There were other tweaks, but those were the big ones.

The Marines launched the M16A2 upgrade program in 1979. US Army units first fielded the weapons in 1986. The M16A2 then soldiered on for decades before being replaced by the M4 carbine, the further-enhanced M16A4, and the USMS M27 Infantry Automatic Rifle.

The Springfield Armory Treatment

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THE SA-16A2 RIFLE



Just like everything Springfield Armory makes, the SA-16A2 is exceptionally well-executed.

SAINT is a fine rifle for not too much money. Springfield Armory has carried this ethos over into the SA-16A2.

For starters, everything you can see is classic GI M16A2. That means the heavy barrel that tapers in the middle to accommodate an M203 grenade launcher, the partially-closed flash suppressor to minimize dust signature, and the ruggedized round forearm with generous heat shields. The buttstock is heavier than that of the M16A1 with a fully checkered buttplate and integral compartment for cleaning gear.

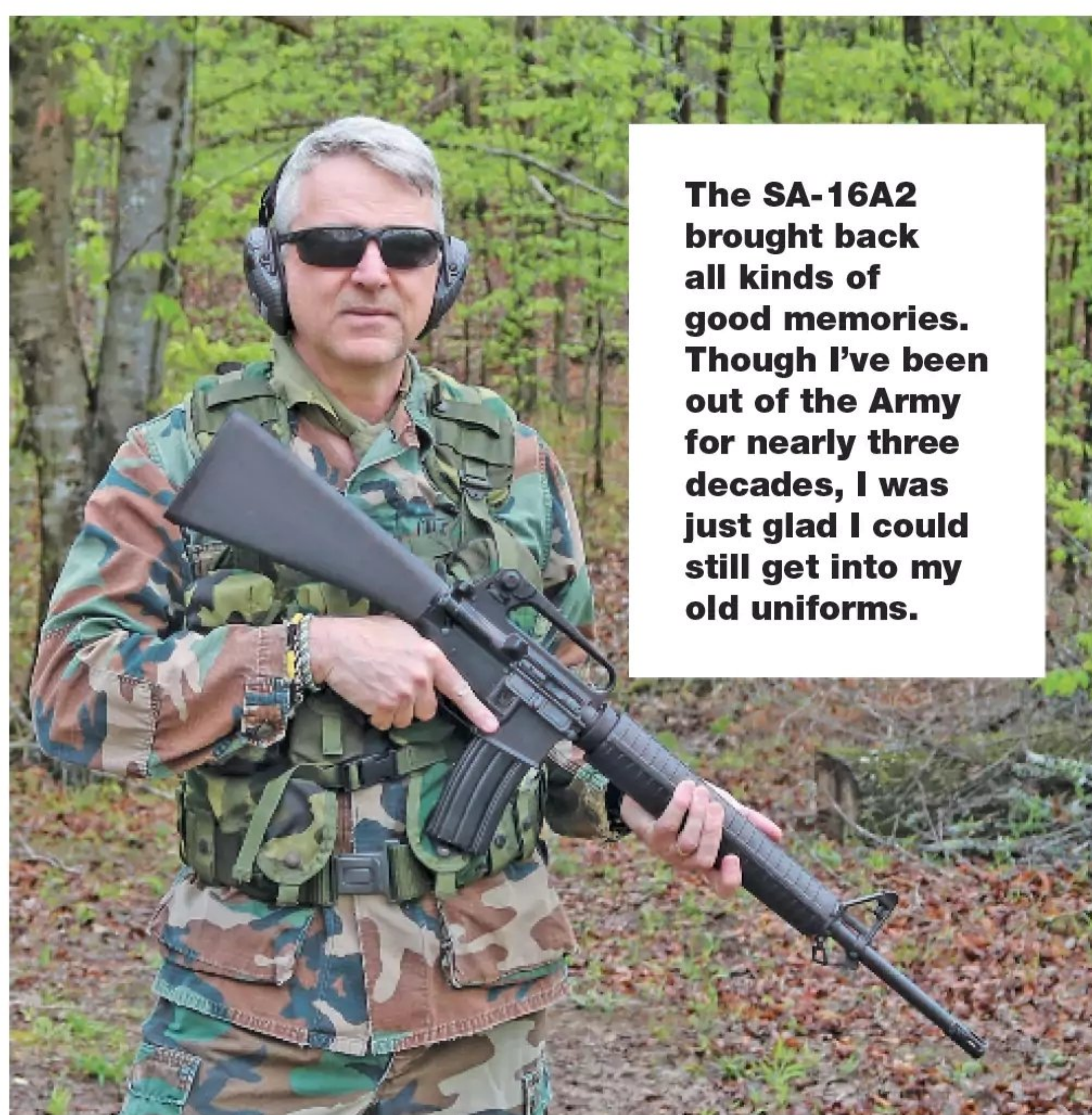
The front sight has a square profile and is adjustable for elevation zero with a bullet tip or similar pointy tool. The rear sight is thumb-adjustable for both windage and elevation and also features a two-position flip peep offering large and small apertures. The end result is arguably the finest iron combat sight I have yet encountered.

The only real departures from the GI rifle are buried deep. The Accu-Tite receiver tensioning system ensures that the upper and lower receivers interface without wiggling, but this doesn't show from the outside. There are M4 feed ramps for optimal reliability. Tragically, the SA-16A2 lacks a three-round burst giggle switch, but that is obviously to be expected. Aside from that and the markings on the side, the SA-16A2 would have been right at home in my arms room back when I wore the uniform.

On the subject of markings, Springfield Armory has added a little flair to the side of the magwell. In addition to the obligatory serial number, company information, and logo, there is a prominent "US Government Property" engraved across the side. While clearly not accurate—this rifle belongs to you—it does add a certain nifty martial flavor.

Trigger Time

The SA-16A2 is indeed a rifleman's rifle. The added weight up front thoroughly tames what little recoil the 5.56mm round might produce. The extended buttstock perfectly interfaces with my lanky American frame, and



The SA-16A2 brought back all kinds of good memories. Though I've been out of the Army for nearly three decades, I was just glad I could still get into my old uniforms.

backdrop, it is natural for folks to crave the simpler days of youth. Decades ago, we certainly had our problems, but life just seemed somehow less cluttered. The new SA-16A2 offers a taste of that nostalgic retro secret sauce.

Springfield Armory dove into the high-end AR market several years ago with their SAINT line of rarefied black rifles. Mine is an early example with a Keymod handguard. The SAINT was and is a shooter's gun. Packed full of practical top-end features at a mid-grade price point, the

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Springfield Armory M1A

THE SA-16A2 RIFLE

The SA-16A2 is shown here stripped down above an original GI M16A2. The new Springfield Armory is a faithful reproduction of the storied military design.

the rugged iron sights are as user-friendly as mankind can make them. The trigger is pretty typical for a nice AR rifle. That means it is smooth and crisp without being diaphanous or risky.

Throwing rounds downrange at a hundred meters brought back all kinds of good memories. There is that familiar twang as the bolt carrier and buffer cycle back into the buttstock right next to your ear. With fifty-eight years on my own personal eyeballs, I would not be nearly so dangerous out to 400 meters or so over open sights as was once the case. However, there are still lots of optics options available for carrying handle-equipped black rifles should the spirit lead. I mounted up one of those sexy little 4X scopes up top to help compensate for my aging peepers.

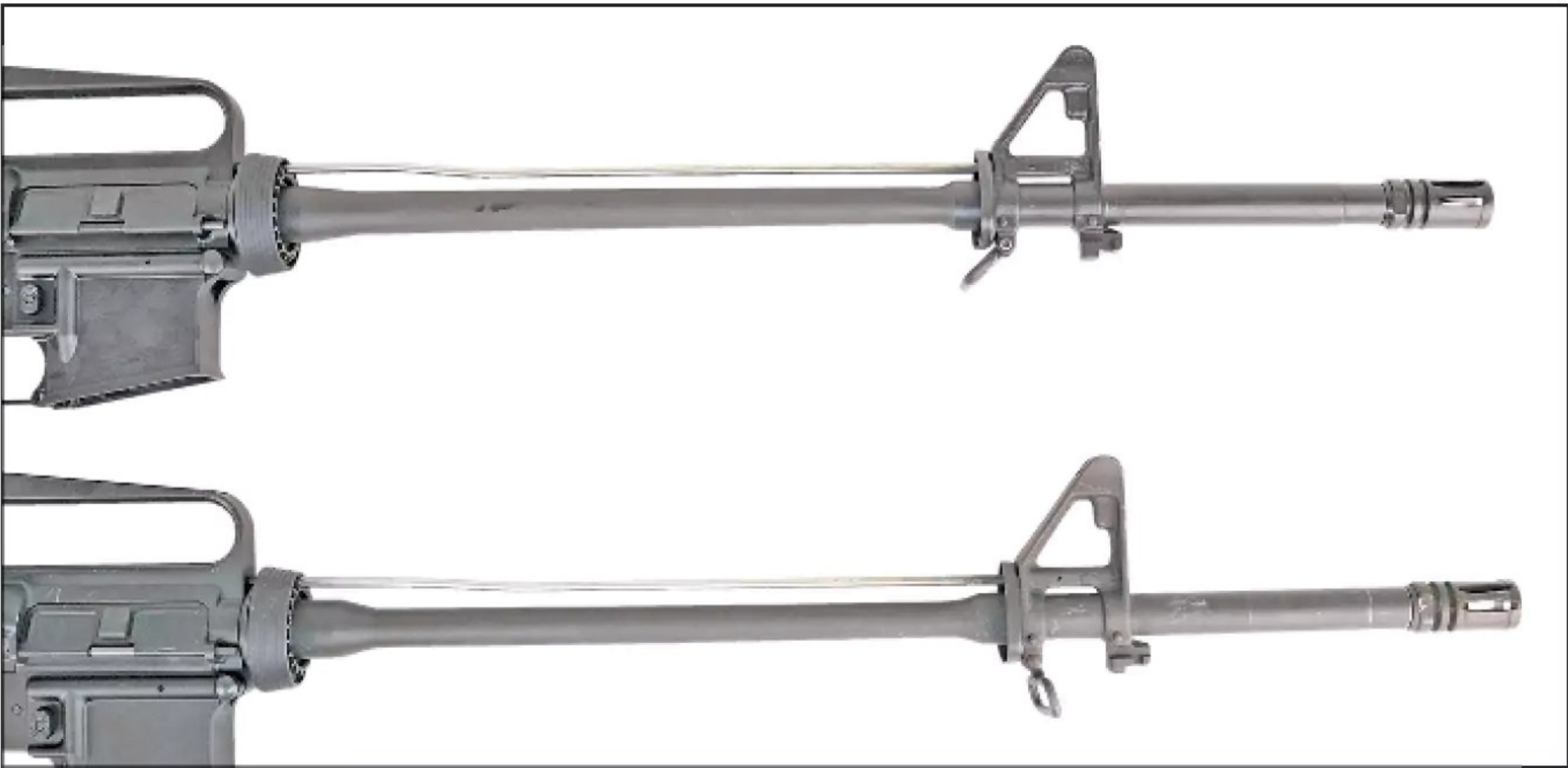
The ergonomics of the rifle set the standard for everything else, and magazine changes are limited solely by your experience and intensity. The built-in case deflector means that the SA-16A2 doesn't care which hand you favor. The 1:7-twist barrel will eat anything you feed it reliably and accurately. Burning a couple hundred rounds through the SA-16A2 will help you channel your inner 1990's-vintage Cold Warrior.

Ruminations

The US Army has a gift for making people miserable. Only the Big Green Machine could take something as innately awesome as shooting military weapons and make you so uncomfortable that you long for the experience to be over. However, the Springfield Armory SA-16A2 excises all that unpleasantness. Now, I can snatch up the SA-16A2 and wander out to the range any time the spirit leads without having to sleep in the rain or listen to some hulking shaved ape in a Smoky Bear hat belittle my parentage.

Old men are invariably nostalgic. I can tell you from personal experience that aging veterans tend to look back on their time in uniform and fixate on the good stuff while glossing over the bad. That's just part of the human condition.

With their new SA-16A2, Springfield Armory has packed a little of that inevitable martial nostalgia into a



The M16A2 eventually morphed into the Marines' M16A4 shown here in action. (Public domain)

vintage retro black rifle that would still yield yeoman's service as a home defense arm even this deep into the Information Age. Rugged, svelte, well-executed, and thoroughly old school, the SA-16A2 hearkens back to a better, simpler time. **FN**

SPRINGFIELD ARMORY SA-16A2 RIFLE	
Caliber:	5.56x45mm
Length:	39.5 in.
Barrel Length:	20 in.
Weight: (empty/loaded)	7.79 lbs./8.79 lbs.
Operating System:	Direct Gas Impingement
Barrel:	4150 CMV, Chrome-Lined 1:7
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This is a still from the sequel *Beneath the Planet of the Apes*. While an admittedly uninspired movie, *Beneath* introduced a slightly improved ape rifle. This version sported a retractable bayonet. The examples shown here are simple wooden background props. (MovieStillsDB.com)



THE FIREPOWER OF *PLANET OF THE APES*

By Will Dabbs, MD

Dr. Dabbs Goes “Ape” With the Gorilla M1 Carbine!

In 1963, French writer Pierre Boulle published a novel titled, *La Planete des Singes*. I’m told this literally translates to *Monkey Planet*. With a title like *Monkey Planet*, you might expect turtles with nunchakus or Barney the purple dinosaur. Reality was something altogether different.

In 1968, film director Franklin Schaffner released the movie, *Planet of the Apes* (POTA). Schaffner is also known for the fabulously successful film biopic *Patton*. The POTA screenplay was penned by Michael Wilson and Rod Serling, the sci-fi luminary behind *The Twilight Zone*. In my

opinion at least, *Planet of the Apes* has arguably the most compelling ending of any movie in history. POTA is a masterwork of the science fiction genre.

POTA spawned four direct sequels, an animated series, a family of comic books, and a popular TV series.

[EDITOR’S NOTE: Be sure to check out Dan Monroe’s *Movies, Music & Monsters* channel on YouTube. He did two great video documentaries: *What Happened to the Planet of the Apes TV Series?* and *What Happened to the Planet of the Apes Cartoon?*] Tim Burton tepidly remade



***Planet of the Apes* hit the big screen in 1968 and subsequently sparked a powerful film legacy. (Dabbs has to be the first doctor to ever wear a gorilla costume in a gun magazine! There is a first for everything!) (Photo by Hanna Panda)**

***Planet of the Apes* was a seminal work of science fiction. It has since been recognized as a classic film. (MovieStillsDB.com)**



► **The three surviving astronauts soon find that this strange new planet is both weird and dangerous. (MovieStillsDB.com)**

▼ ***Planet of the Apes* introduced us to a strange new world that ultimately spawned nine more feature-length films. (MovieStillsDB.com)**



the film in 2001, and a modern reboot series consisting of three standalone movies was profoundly popular. The next installment, *Kingdom of the Planet of the Apes*, is about to launch. I can't wait. Not bad for a French-language novel titled *Monkey Planet*.

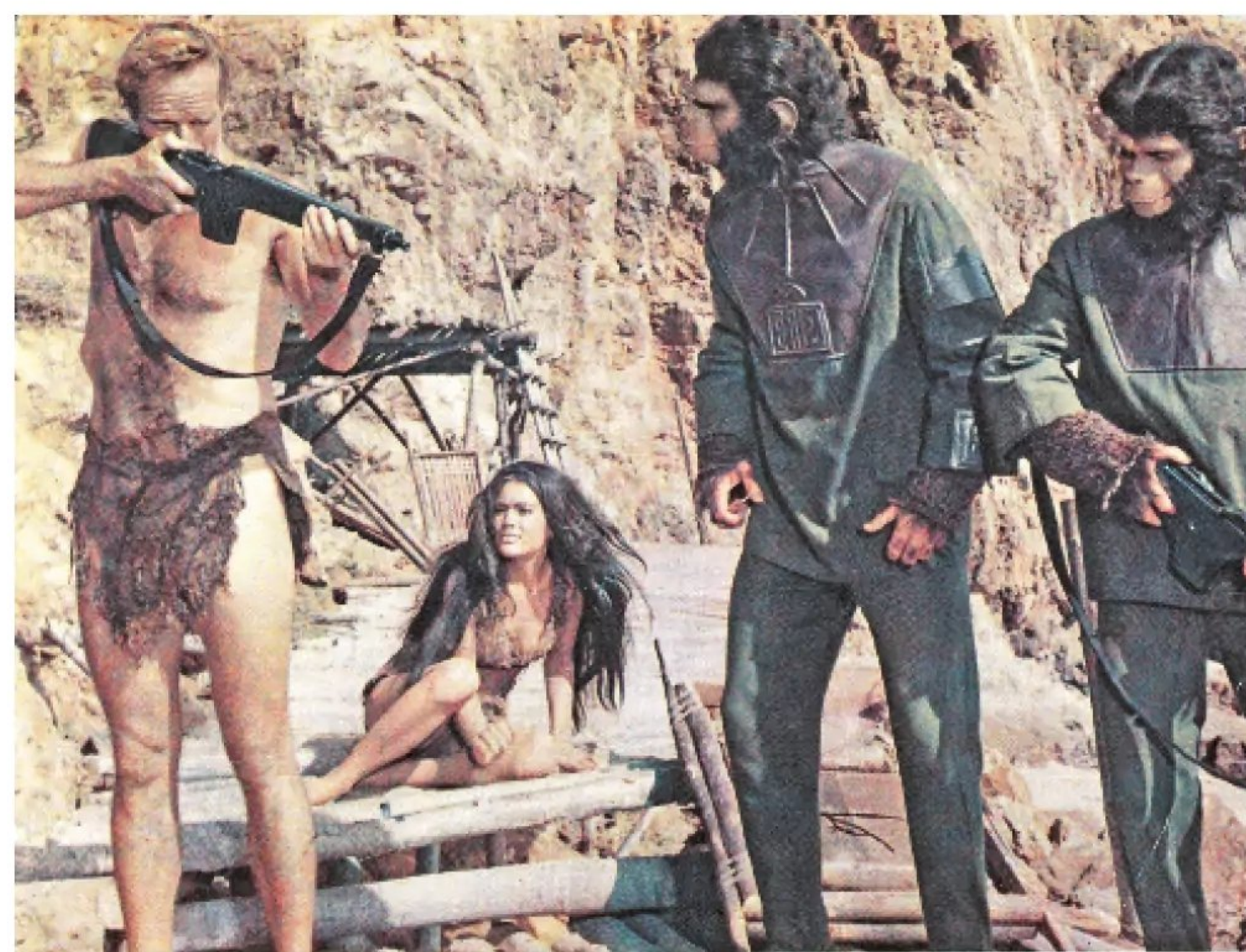
So, why did this one book with such a stupid title ultimately produce ten big budget Hollywood films along with all that other cool stuff? Because the basic concept is just so bleeding awesome. POTA has everything the sci-fi nerd committed to his craft could possibly want.

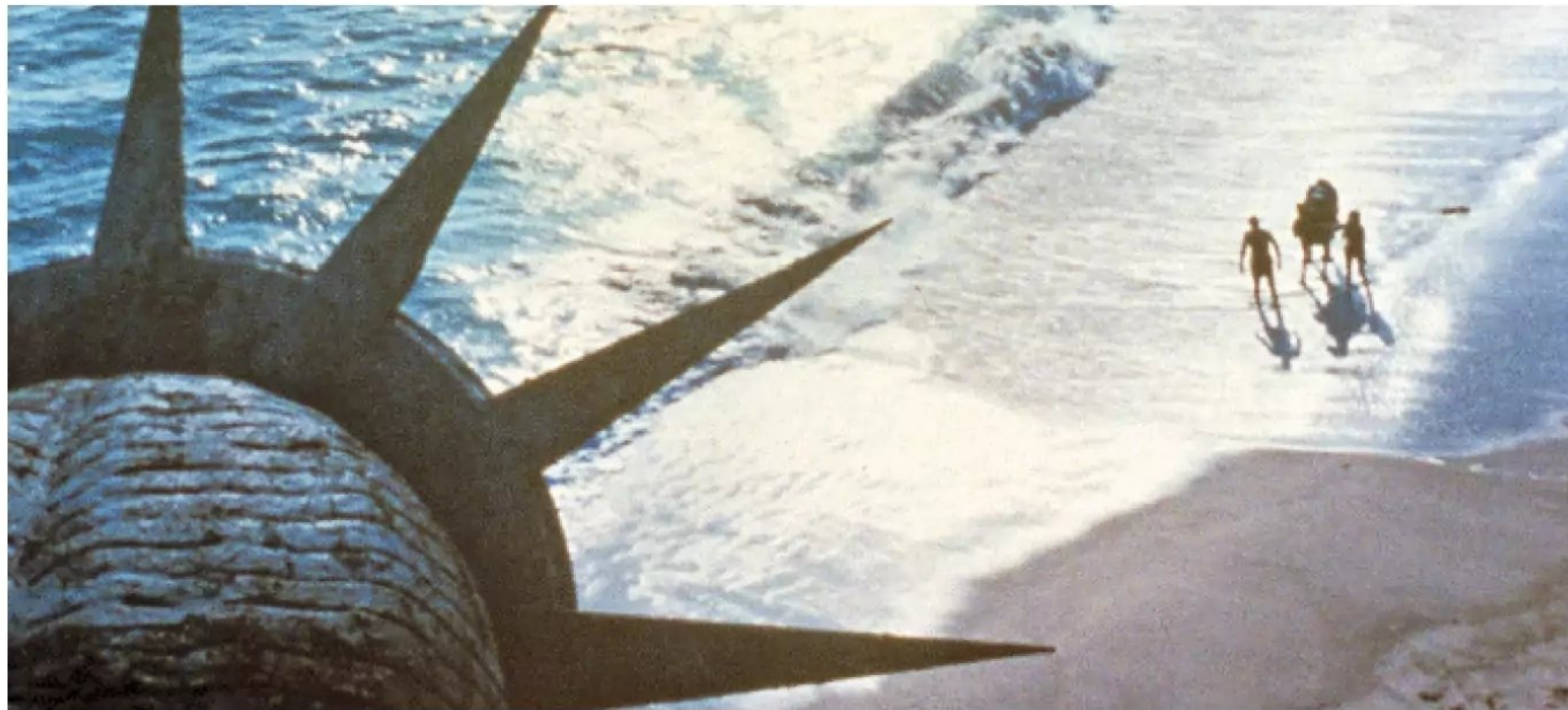
Spoiler Alert

If you haven't seen the original *Planet of the Apes*, then you need to drive home to your mom's basement where



There was originally a fourth female member of the crew, but she perished enroute due to a faulty sleep pod. (MovieStillsDB.com)



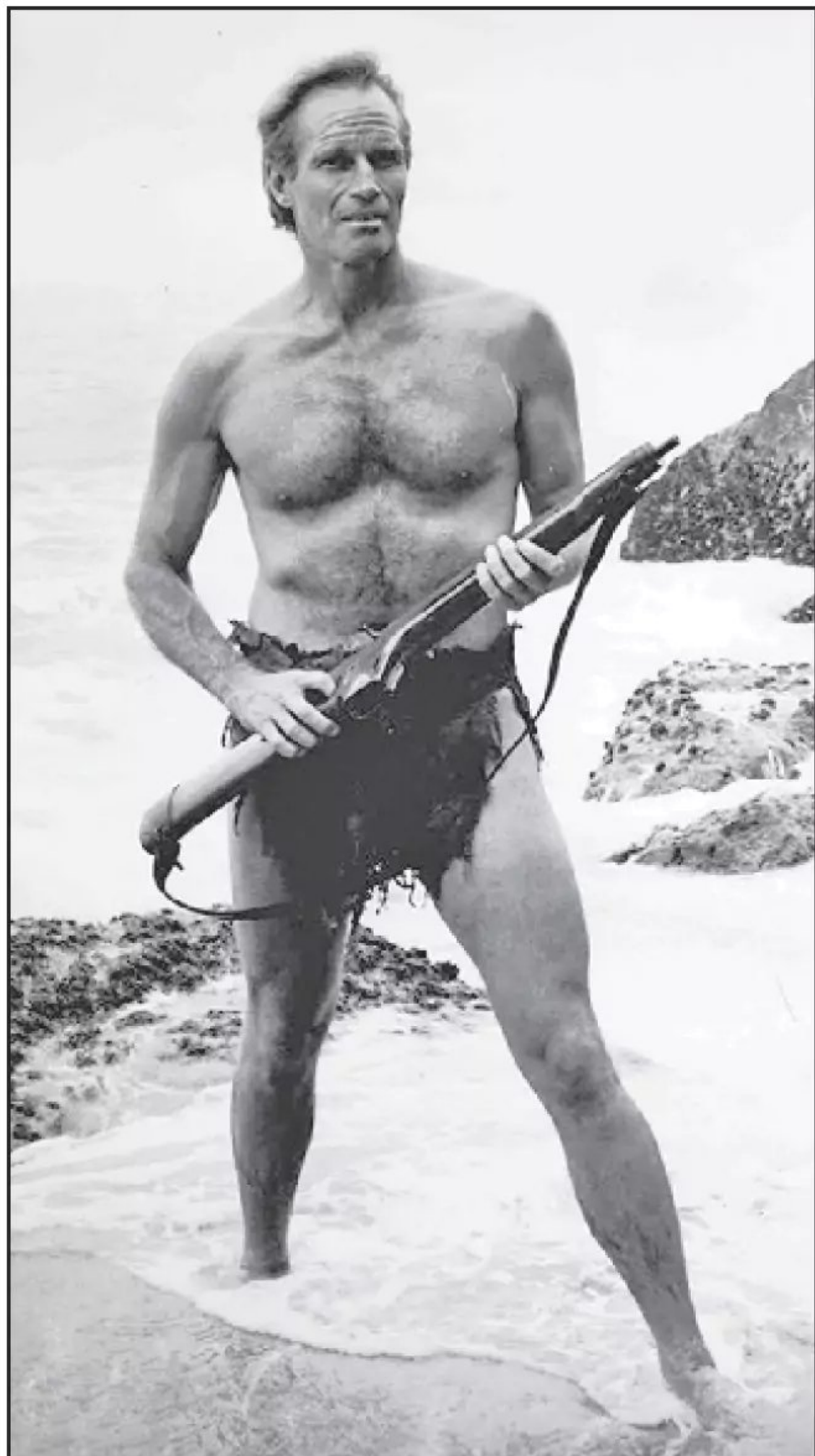


***Planet of the Apes* had one of the best surprise endings that has ever been put to film. (MovieStillsDB.com)**

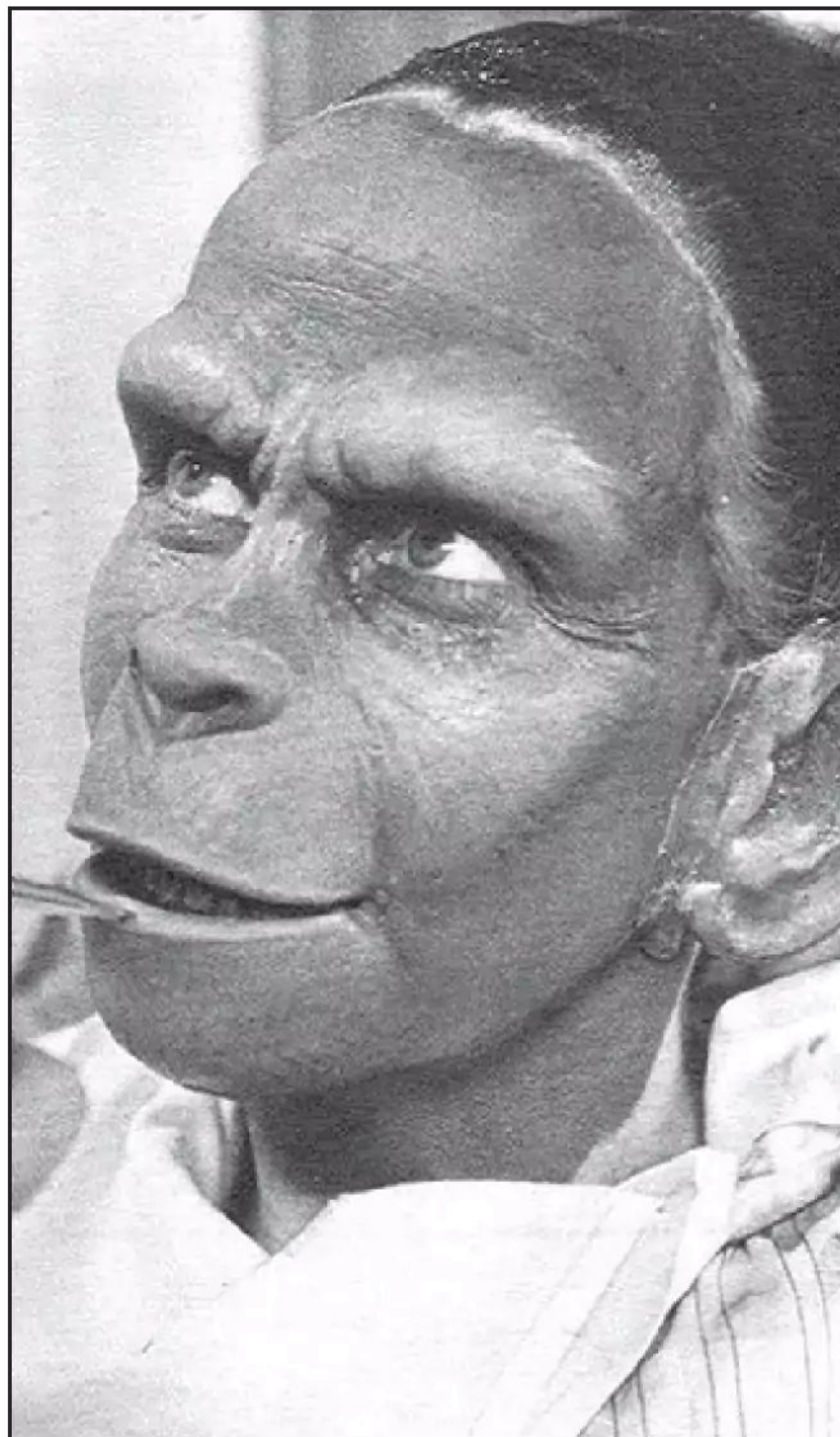
you live and stream that rascal immediately. Let me know when you get done. I'll wait. Now wasn't that just freaking incredible?

The basic narrative has the inimitable Charlton Heston playing one of four astronauts launched on a deep space mission. He inexplicably smokes cigars while onboard his tiny spaceship before being placed into suspended animation. Their ship eventually crash lands on an alien planet. The three male astronauts narrowly escape, while the fourth female is found to have died enroute due to a malfunction of her sleep pod. The chronometer informs them that 2,006 years have passed since their launch in 1972.

This bizarre planet is populated by a strange hierarchical race of talking apes, as well as a primitive society of non-verbal savage humans akin to cavemen. One of the astronauts is taxidermied for an ape museum, while the second is lobotomized by the inquisitive simians. Heston's character rocks the monkey world when it is revealed that he can actually speak. Eventually, Heston's character Taylor escapes to the "Forbidden Zone" with his mute caveman girlfriend while being pursued by the monkey army. There, they find archaeological



***Planet of the Apes* gave us more shirtless Charlton Heston than we really needed. (MovieStillsDB.com)**



The special effects makeup of *Planet of the Apes* won an Academy Award. (MovieStillsDB.com)



This is a spot-on replica of the rifle used in the first sequel *Beneath the Planet of the Apes*. It is identical to those used in the initial film save that it is wood grain rather than black and includes a retractable bayonet.

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The surviving astronauts had a survival kit consisting of a Colt 1903 pistol with three magazines, a pair of walkie-talkies, some basic hand tools, and a few other innocuous items. This cast replica kit, was available years ago from [ApeMania.com](#).



Orangutans were the political leaders in the *Planet of the Apes* movies. You can see the weirdly converted Madsen M50 submachine gun in the foreground. ([MovieStillsDB.com](#))

► This early replica POTA Madsen M50 SMG was available at [ApeMania.com](#). It featured an M3 Grease Gun magazine as a Madsen SMG magazine wasn't available to them at the time. Later, they obtained a Madsen magazine for recent models.



evidence of a long-dead intelligent human society to include a synthetic heart valve, eyeglasses, a set of dentures, and, most compellingly, a human baby doll that speaks.

Taylor eventually leaves with his smoking hot girlfriend on horseback only to unexpectedly discover the corroded Statue of Liberty half-buried in the sand. The big reveal is that this ape planet is actually Earth some two millennia in the future. The end result is intended to be a compelling anti-war commentary about the dangers of nuclear proliferation.

POTA has everything. There's a perpetually shirtless Charlton Heston overacting with lines like, "Get your stinkin' paws off me, you damn dirty ape!" There's the preternaturally quiet half-naked hot girl sporting ripped animal skins and inexplicably shaved legs. There's even some thinly-veiled incisive diatribe against racial prejudice spread throughout the compelling sci-fi narrative. The special effects won an Academy Award, and



The rifles used in the *Planet of the Apes* films were made from GI M1 Carbines sandwiched into fiberglass shells.

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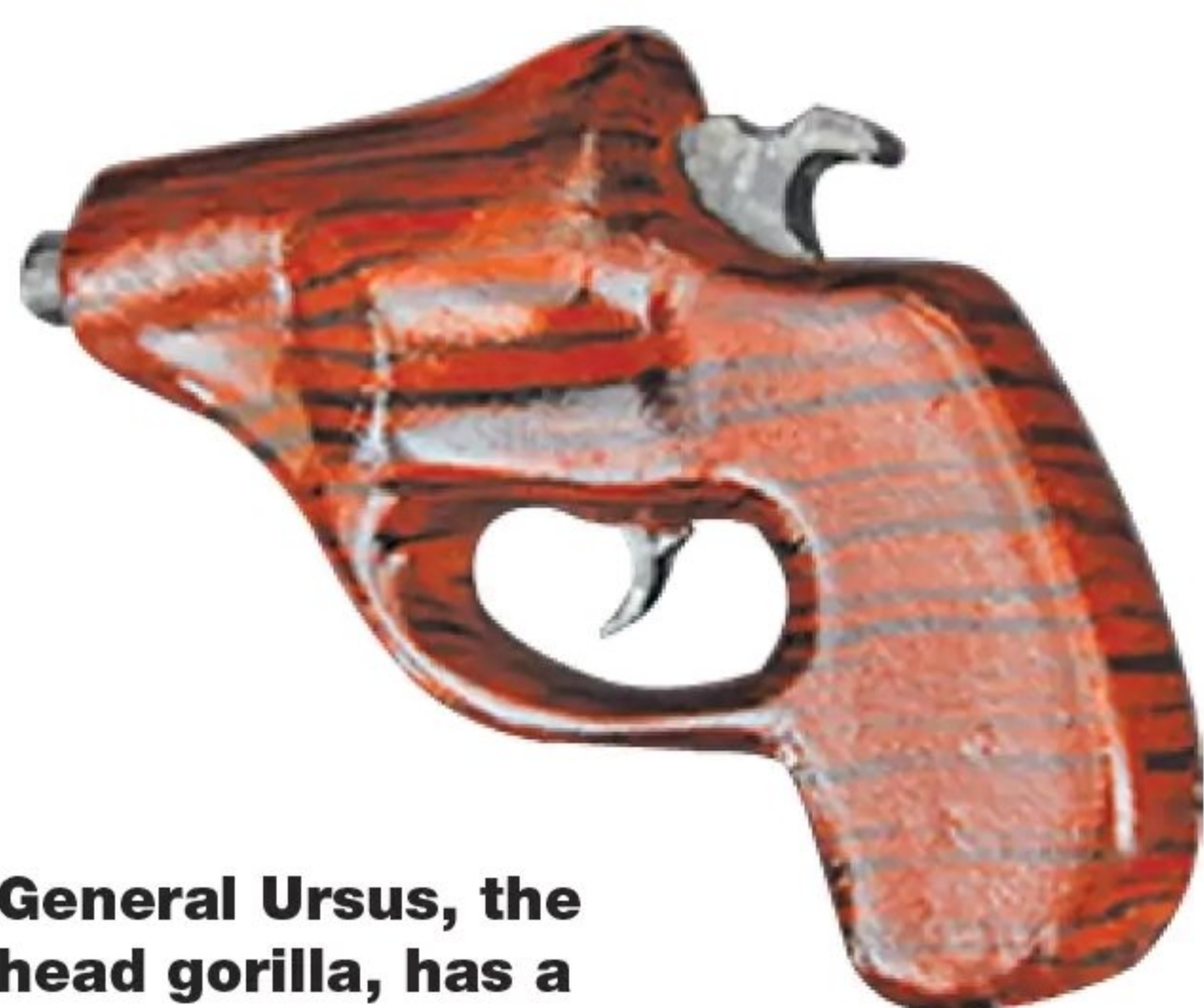
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General Ursus, the head gorilla, has a crude handgun made from a Smith & Wesson Model 32 revolver in a faux wood shell. This is a replica from ApeMania.com.



The bayonets on the *Beneath the Planet of the Apes* rifles retracted into the forearms. There was even a sequence in the movie wherein the ape warriors were running bayonet drills using humanoid straw targets.



Monkey Planet turned out to be an exceptionally fertile vehicle for subsequent sci-fi exploration. (Photos by Hanna Panda)



the original film returned \$33 million against a \$5.8 million investment.

The Guns

The director of the film made a conscious decision to depict the ape society in a less-advanced form than was

described in the book. This made the sets and general production costs much cheaper. A simple agrarian village was less expensive to build than would have been a sprawling modern ape city. Everything about the production was crafted to seem familiar, but just a little bit weird. This same ethos extended to the firearms in the movie.

Early in the film, the surviving astronauts are inventorying their survival gear. The kit includes a pair of walkie-talkies, some basic hand tools, and a few other innocuous items. It also contains a Colt 1903 hammerless pistol along with three spare magazines.

In the ape hierarchy, gorillas are soldiers, orangutans are political leaders, and chimpanzees are scientists. They ride about on horseback, powered conveyances apparently not yet having been rediscovered. The gorilla warriors are armed with a curious long gun made mostly of wood. There were a few firing hero versions made for the production. Those used by the extras for background flavor were dummy props carved out of lumber.

The ape rifle consisted of a slightly modified M1 Carbine nestled within a synthetic Fiberglass shell. The chassis was split down the middle and held together via screws. The prop rifles included a basic leather sling.

The first sequel, *Beneath the Planet of the Apes*, also kind-of starred Charlton Heston and included slightly upgraded versions of the same rifles, all of which now sported retractable bayonets. Heston reluctantly agreed to

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THE FIREPOWER OF *PLANET OF THE APES*



The Apemania conversions are extremely high-quality movie props. Each stock set is serialized and comes with a certificate of authenticity.



perform in the film if his part was small, his character got reliably killed off, and his salary was donated to charity. In the sequel, General Ursus, the head gorilla in charge, wields a crude handgun consisting of a Smith & Wesson Model 32 revolver in a faux wood shell. Some of the gorilla warriors use 9mm Madsen M50 submachine guns, also sandwiched into a curious wooden chassis.

Subsequent films got a bit more outlandish with plots that brought more humans to the future and apes to the past. The latest series depicts open war between apes and humans involving modern military hardware. Throughout it all, I am simply mesmerized by what a superb vehicle



It took a little work with a Dremel tool to get the stock to accommodate all of the moving parts, but this wasn't difficult.



▼ The carbine action needs to be stripped of its sights and stock to accommodate the POTA conversion.

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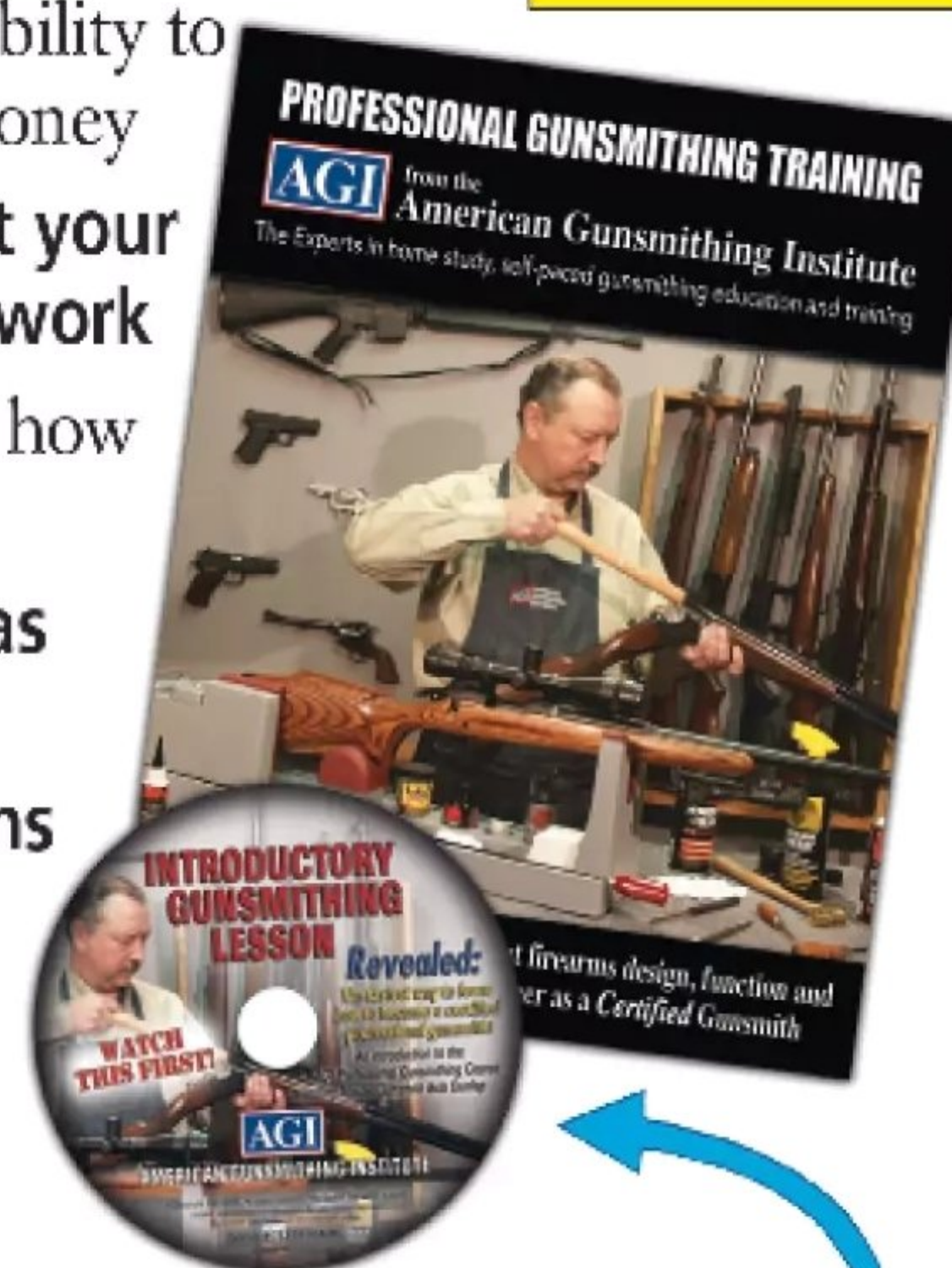
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THE FIREPOWER OF *PLANET OF THE APES*



The carbine parentage of the *Planet of the Apes* rifle is obvious if you look for it.



Once properly fitted, the POTA rifle runs just fine, albeit without sights.

Pierre Boulle’s *Monkey Planet* has been for such an inspiring science fiction world.

Where Do I Get an Ape Rifle of My Own?

The obvious starting point is ApeMania.com and their email address is apeman@apemania.com. Their contact info explains that they, “...ape-ologize if you get our answering service.” These guys take monkey madness to some

► There are access holes in the conversion stock so you can reach the magazine release. A bullet tip makes for an appropriate tool.



► The workmanship on both the Inland M1 Carbine and the POTA stock is just topflight.



The magazine inserts from the bottom as expected.



There is a knob underneath the forearm that extends and retracts the bayonet.

seriously rarefied levels. The good folks at Apemania do makeup, props, and special effects for modern movies as their day jobs. On the side, they produce movie-grade reproductions of the props and makeup appliances used



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The POTA rifles shoot fine once the stock is tweaked, but folks don't build these things up to shoot in most cases due to the lack of sights.

in the various POTA films. They offer their guns in several different versions.

Most any M1 Carbine will work as a host, but you'll have to remove the sights. If you can change the oil in your car, you can pull off this conversion. Once you get the carbine stripped, just drop it in place and secure the two stock halves with the included metal fixtures and screws. I did have to do some inletting to accommodate the reciprocating parts, but the fiberglass responds well to a Dremel tool. That chore is dusty but not unduly daunting. There are access holes provided so you can still manipulate the controls.

As regards performance, don't get your hopes up. The conversion has no sights. However, the end result is indeed movie-grade and plenty durable. A fully functional *Planet of the Apes* rifle is a splendid addition to any rarefied gun collection.

The Host

We produced some 6.5 million M1 Carbines back during World War II. However, the youngest of that lot is now 79 years old. That makes original rifles expensive, collectible, and potentially fragile. The answer for the

ACCURACY <i>PLANET OF THE APES</i> RIFLE (NO SIGHTS ON RIFLE)			
Load	Velocity (fps)	SD	Accuracy (in.) (Avg. & Best)
Prvi Partizan 110 gr. FMJ	2,014	17.8	5.2 / 4.1
Group Size is the average of three five-round groups fired from a sandbag rest at 25 meters. Velocity is the average of fifteen rounds as measured by a Garmin Xero radar chronograph. However, take all of this with a big grain of salt considering the converted rifle has no sights.			



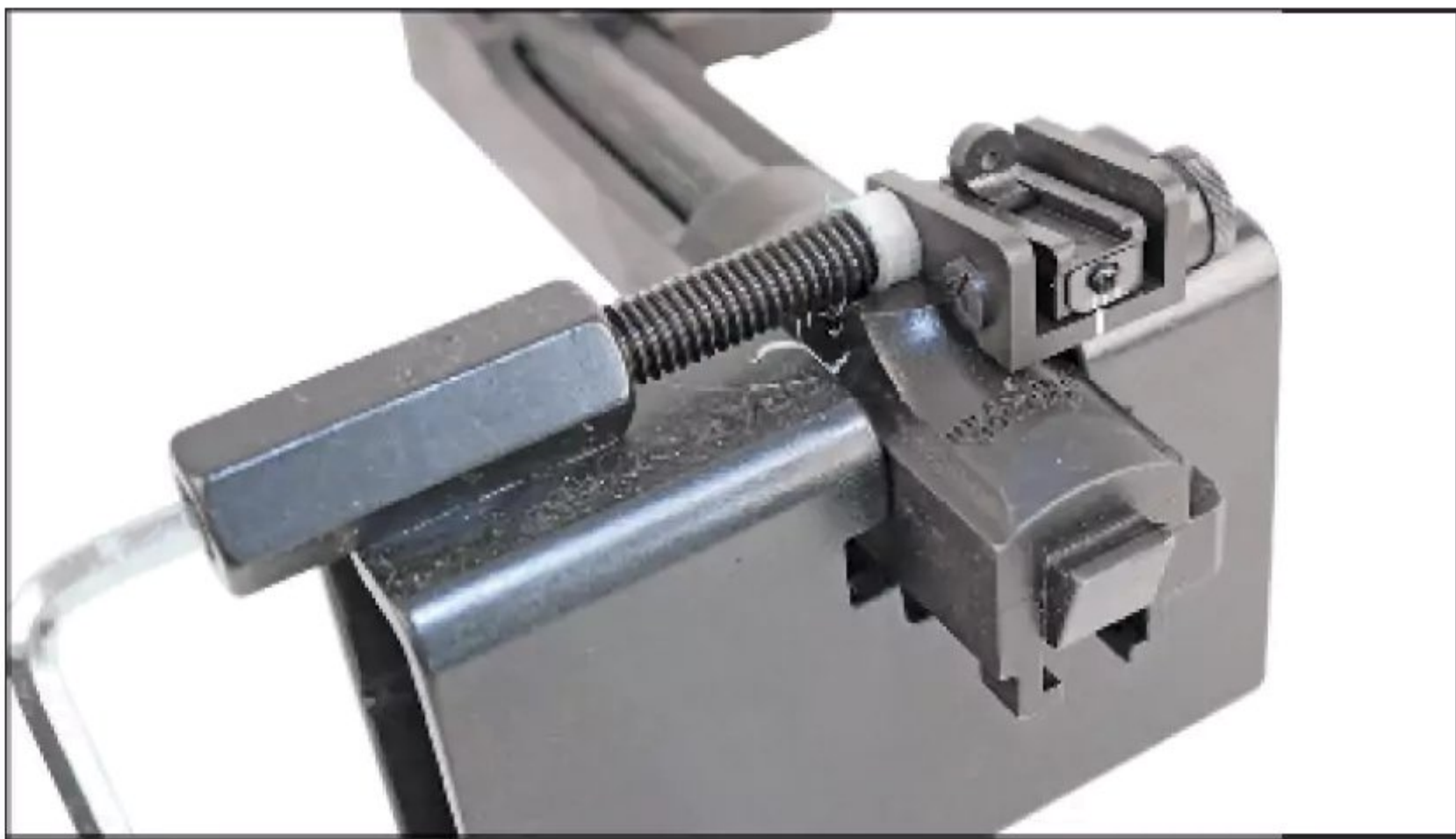
▲ The Inland Manufacturing M1 Carbine is a modern version of the most-produced Allied rifle of WWII.



The modern Inland M1 Carbine is shown here above a vintage original. This is the gun you can actually exercise without guilt.



Removing the front sight involves pushing out this small roll pin. There's really not much to that.



Years ago I dropped fifty bucks on a carbine sight-pushing tool. This chore can be done with a non-marring punch, but this nifty contraption makes it much easier.

DROP-TESTED FROM A LAND CRUISER AT 50 MPH IN UGANDA

Tenmile



Tim Herald's safari hunt started when a gust of wind knocked his rifle and Trijicon Tenmile® optic off the roof rack of his safari truck. It ended when he took an East African defassa waterbuck bull with that same rifle and optic two days later, after confirming zero.

Read the full story at
[Trijicon.com/50mphDropTest](https://www.trijicon.com/50mphDropTest).



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THE FIREPOWER OF *PLANET OF THE APES*



Jeff Staggs, MKS Supply Operations Manager (Inland's marketing company), at the 2024 NRA Convention with the "Ape Gun."

average American gun nerd searching for a carbine they can actually use is Inland Manufacturing.

During WWII, Inland was a subsidiary of General Motors. They produced some 2.6 million carbines or 43% of the overall total. Nowadays, Inland Manufacturing is resurrected in Dayton, Ohio, just two miles from the site of the original wartime carbine production plant. They are busy churning out new-production carbines in eight different variations today alongside 1911 pistols. Every part on these American-made carbines is brand new production.

Modern Inland carbines orbit around a cast steel receiver that is plenty rugged. The quality on my copy is superlative, and the parts interchange with the originals. I had to punch out a roll pin to remove the front sight, but that wasn't tough. I did use a sight pushing tool to rid the gun of its rear sight, but that could also be done with a non-marring punch and a little time. Whether you want a

I think I must have the coolest job in the world. (Photos by Hanna Panda)



There are some folks out there who are **REALLY** into *Planet of the Apes*. Considering I still have a couple of unopened vintage action figures myself; I should likely withhold judgment.



DINTY “DENNY” ARNOLD: STUNTMAN ON THE *PLANET OF THE APES*

My friend and boss, Vincent DeNiro, spent a career working in the film industry before coming over to the “dark side” and taking the helm at *Firearms News* (his archived theatrical armorer website can be viewed at ExoticArms.com). He also worked extensively in the firearms and defense industries since the 1980s—that guy knows everybody. One of the more colorful figures with whom he developed a great and abiding friendship was Dinty “Denny” Arnold.

Denny was a career stuntman and stunt coordinator in Hollywood who worked on a wide variety of familiar action movies. These included the *X-Men* films, several POTA titles, and the Burt Reynolds redneck action classic *Gator*. In fact, Denny set a world record for jumping a power boat in that film. He eventually married Slim Pickens’ daughter—John Candy was best man at

his wedding. In POTA, Denny taught the cast horseback riding and got paid to get thrown from a horse while wearing an ape suit.

Originally from Canada, Denny worked on more than 350 movies as an actor, 2d Unit Director, stuntman, and stunt coordinator. He invented and developed a great many of the dedicated mechanical devices used in creating some of Hollywood’s most compelling stunts. Being a rodeo champion, Denny broke into the movie business when Audie Murphy hired him to teach his kids horseback riding. His filmography reads like a cumulative list of Hollywood action films.

Sadly, a great many true luminaries are fairly self-destructive, and Denny was no exception. He struggled with alcohol and lived life excessively. Denny Arnold died in 2001 at age 67, a legend in his rarefied field. **FN**

fun shooter carbine, or a proper host for your *Planet of the Apes* build, Inland Manufacturing can hook you up.

Ruminations

So, I just got paid to dress up like a big honking monkey and shoot guns. I even told the IRS with a straight face that it was actually work. I also got to e-meet some nice people who run a website called *Apemania*. Thus is the sordid life of the movie editor for *Firearms News* magazine. I can’t believe I get paid to do this.

The stock isn’t cheap, and the conversion takes a little mechanical skill. However, once you’re done the end result is a tangible connection to one of the coolest sci-fi movies ever made. It is like a quick visit to the Planet of the Apes. **FN**

SPECIFICATIONS <i>PLANET OF THE APES</i> RIFLE	
Caliber:	.30 Carbine
Length:	35 in.
Barrel Length:	18 in.
Weight:	7.6 lbs.
Operating System:	Short Stroke Gas Piston
Feed:	15-round Box Magazine
Sights:	None
MSRP:	\$1,139 (Rifle), \$850 (Stock)
Contacts:	Inland Manufacturing—Inland-Mfg.com, (877) 425-4867 Apemania—Apemania.com, (818) 710-6587



2024's NRA show was held at the Kay Bailey Hutchinson Convention Center in downtown Dallas, and from the lobby you got a great view of the surrounding skyscrapers.

NRA SHOW 2024

By James Tarr

The NRA Annual Meetings (and convention) is the second largest show of its kind in the U.S., and the largest open to the general public. “14 Acres of Guns and Gear” as the advertising says. This year the NRAAM was held in Dallas. Trump made an appearance, and there were some shenanigans (or attempted shenanigans) at the members meeting by some of the FOW (Friends of Wayne) old guard, which will be covered in a separate column. Here, I’m just covering a bit of the guns and gear I saw that I found interesting, and providing a bit of flavor for those people who weren’t able to attend.

EOTech DCR Reticle (EOTechInc.com)

Prior to the show EOTech released a new version of their EXPS3 HWS (holographic weapon sight) with a new reticle, the DCR, and they had samples on display at the show. I got an opportunity to use this reticle on the range a

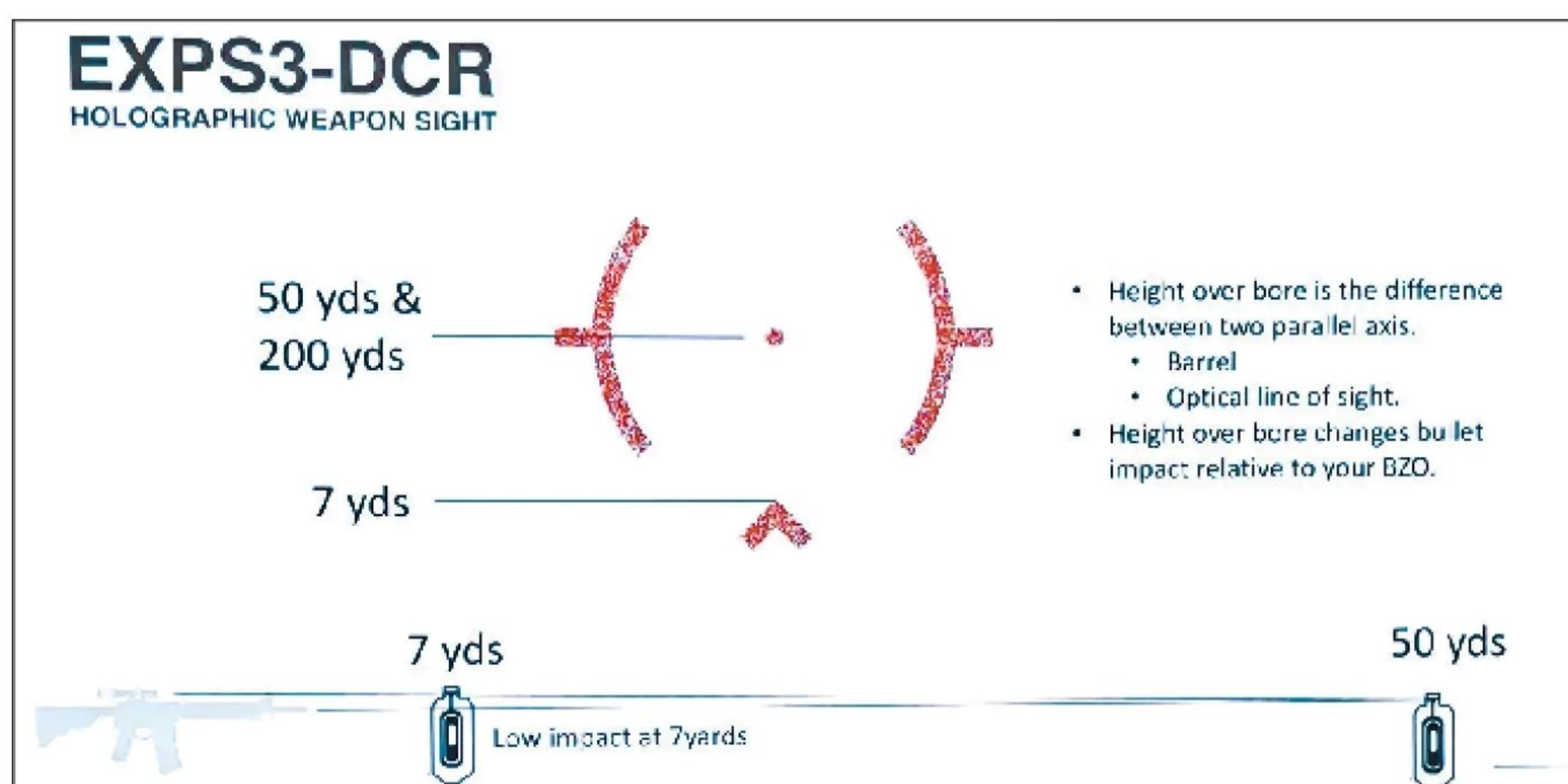
few weeks before the show, and by the time you're reading this EOTech should be shipping this model.

The traditional EOTech reticle is a dot inside a 68 MOA circle that works great for most everything, and is as combat-proven as red dots get. The Navy SEALs, who went into Pakistan after Bin Laden, had EOTechs atop their rifles. However, if you've zeroed that dot at the standard 50 yards, you'll find that at indoor distances, when doing CQB etc., because of bore offset, your bullets will be hitting low. Traditionally, the solution has been to use the the bottom of the circle as your aiming point when doing CQB. But that's less than ideal, and the new DCR—Danger Close Reticle—is meant to address that deficiency.

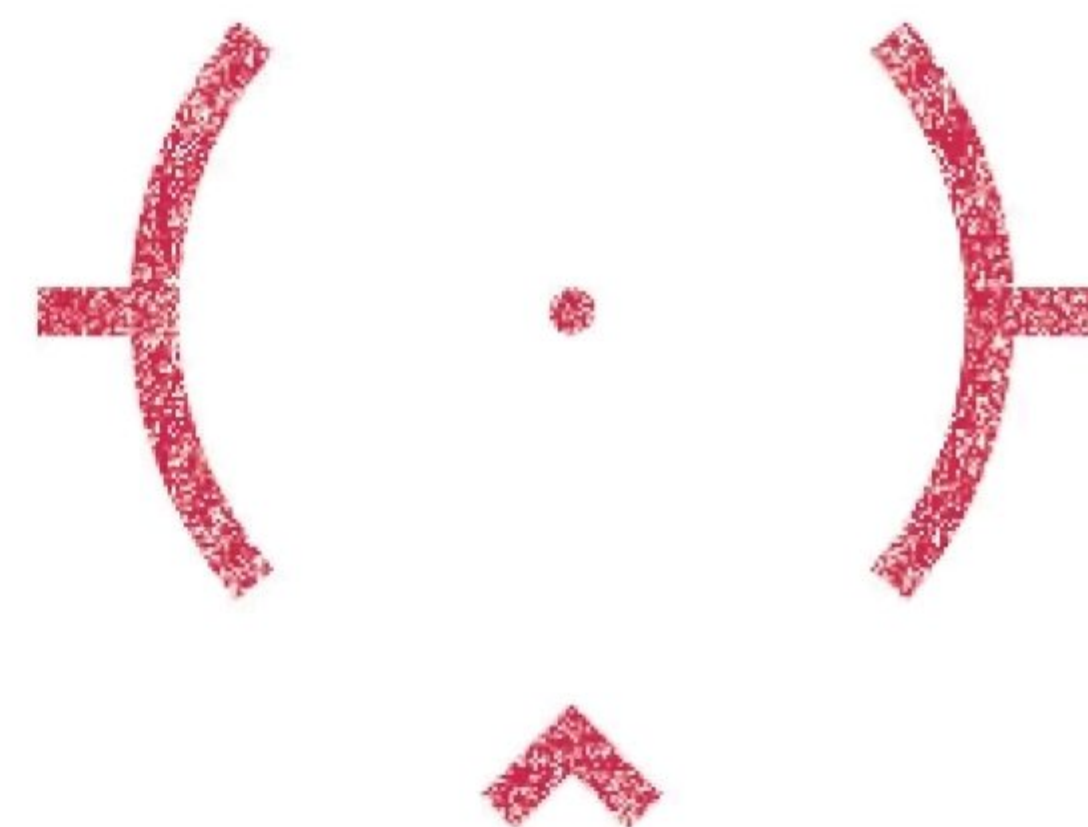
With the DCR reticle, the top and bottom of the circle have been removed. At the bottom now you'll see a chevron, and the point of that chevron is right where the bottom of the circle would have been—that's your aiming point when doing CQB, either the point of the chevron or the whole chevron, and it's not that big.

I used this reticle doing live fire at the range, and honestly, you don't notice that the circle has some sections missing. With the EXPS3 DCR you get all of the other features that continue to keep EOTech holographic weapon sights so popular—huge window, great functionality when using night vision, QD lever, lower 1/3 co-witness, and now a new and just as fast reticle. MSRP is \$789.

Externally, the new EXPS3 from EOTech doesn't look any different—but the new DCR—Danger Close Reticle—might interest you.



The Danger Close Reticle cuts out the top and bottom section of the circle, and adds a chevron at the bottom, which is your aiming point if you're shooting at indoor distances.



NEMO Arms Mongoose (NemoArms.com)

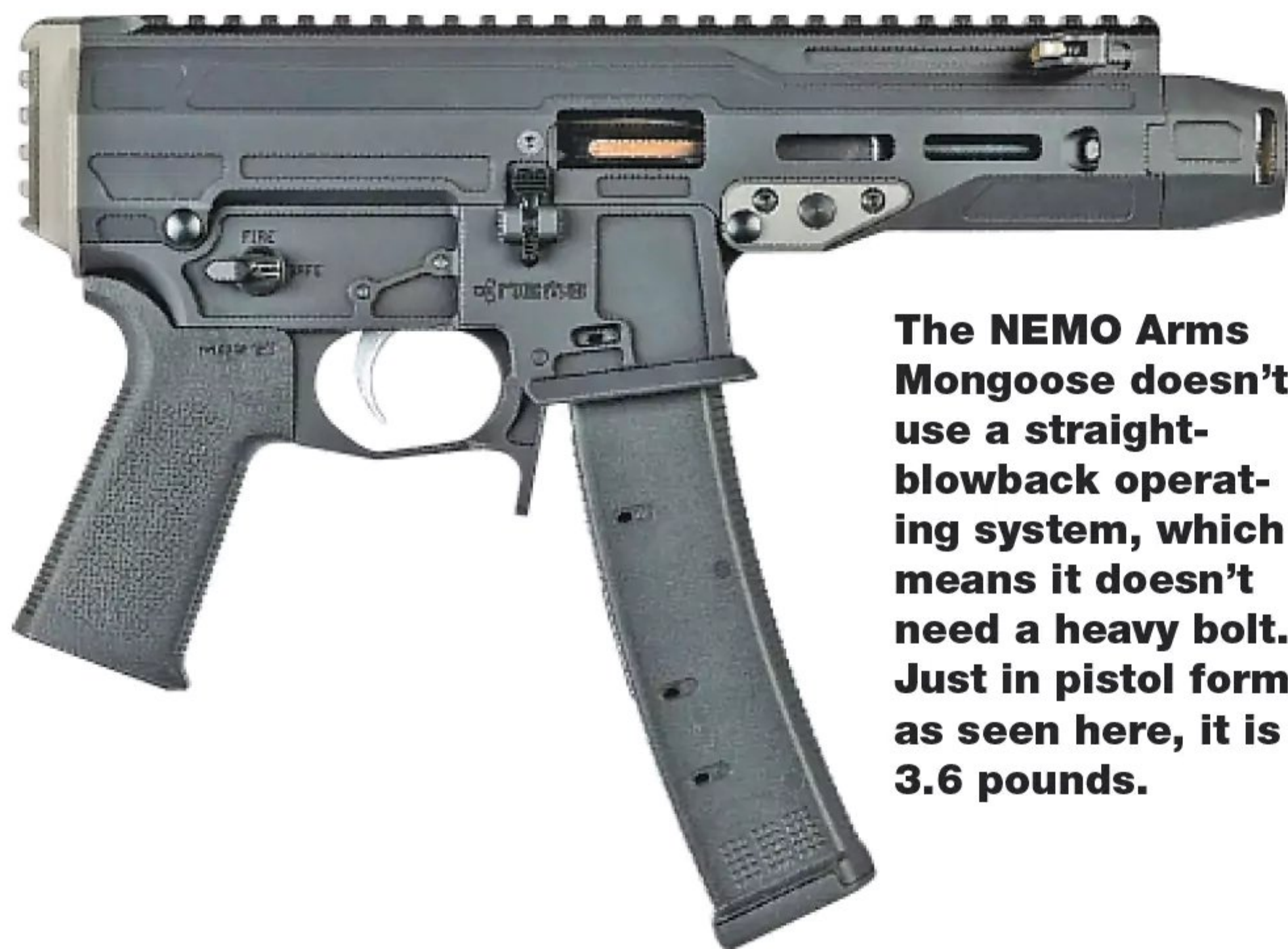
One of the unexpected finds of the show (and there's always something) was the Mongoose from NEMO Arms. NEMO is perhaps best known for their OMEN, an AR-pattern semi-auto .300 Win Mag. The Mongoose is at the opposite end of the spectrum—it is a 9mm.

Right now, they're calling the Mongoose a pistol caliber carbine, but the only version right now is a pistol, with no stock or brace on the back, and a short 5.8-inch 416R stainless steel barrel. Your first impression, upon seeing and/or handling the Mongoose, is that someone made an AR-based version of the CZ Scorpion EVO, and you'd be partially right.

The Mongoose is fed by 35-round Magpul Scorpion magazines, and has a non-reciprocating forward charging handle that can be switched to either side like the Scorpion,

but the similarity ends there. The bolt of the CZ Scorpion is very heavy because that gun has a straight-blowback operating system, and that heavy weight jumping back and forth makes the gun jump a surprising amount under





The NEMO Arms Mongoose doesn't use a straight-blowback operating system, which means it doesn't need a heavy bolt. Just in pistol form, as seen here, it is 3.6 pounds.



The forward cocking handle on the Mongoose is reversible. The chunky compensator on the front is connected to the handguard, not the barrel.

recoil. The Mongoose, on the other hand, is surprisingly light in the hand, just 3.6 pounds, so I knew the internals had to be different.

In fact, the Mongoose doesn't use a straight blowback operating system. The bolt has locking lugs, and combined with a short-travel operating system, recoil could be surprisingly low. The upper and lower receivers are aluminum, and a 10.25-inch rail runs along the top of the gun. It uses an ALG ACT AR-15 trigger.

To help reduce recoil, there is a big compensator at the front of the gun that mounts, interestingly, to the handguard rather than the barrel, and gives the gun somewhat of a snout on the front. I like the look, and it is quick detachable. I'd recommend NEMO thread the end of that

barrel, because you know people are going to want to mount a suppressor.

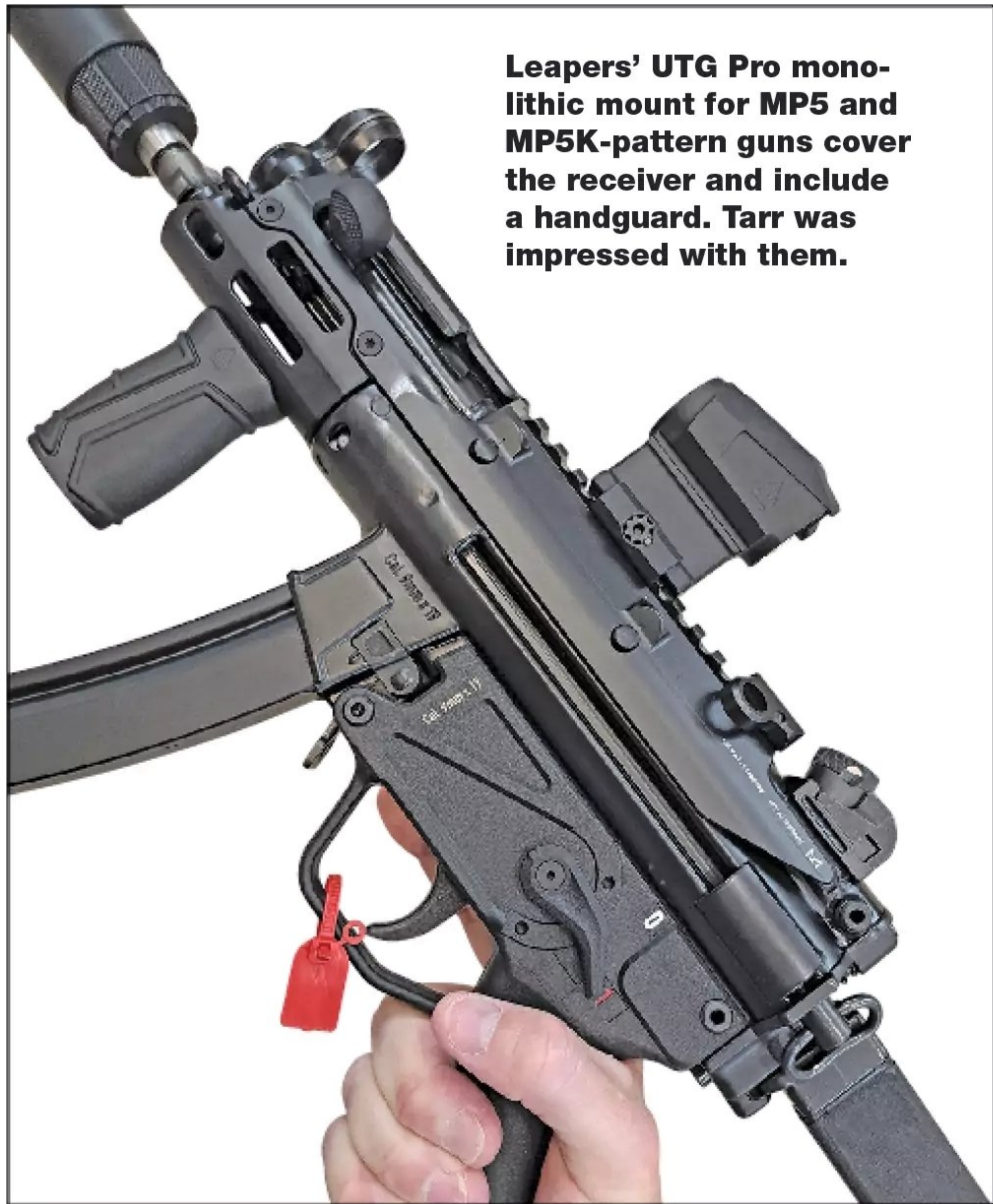
There is a MIL STD 1913 rail at the back of the receiver for mounting the brace/stock of your choice. The Mongoose has bilateral AR-style controls and an AR-pattern pistol grip. A Magpul SL grip and an SB Tactical side-folding brace were on the sample on display, and even with a brace and an optic and empty magazine in place, it was maybe 4.5 pounds.

No word on price yet, but provided it's not outrageous I expect NEMO to sell them as fast as they can make them.

Leapers MP5 Mounts (Leapers.com)

They were announced a few months earlier, but it wasn't until the show that I got to examine some of Leapers' UTG Pro Monolithic mounts for the HK MP5 and MP5K — and that's one of the great things about shows like this, even for people on the inside like me, you get to go hands-on with products you've only otherwise seen in advertisements.

Leapers took an interesting approach with these. These are optic mounts that also include a handguard. They clamp onto the two anchor points on the receiver and provide a long rail mounting surface along the top, longer than you'll find with most other optic mounting options. The K-version



Leapers' UTG Pro monolithic mount for MP5 and MP5K-pattern guns cover the receiver and include a handguard. Tarr was impressed with them.



Leapers' UTG Pro monolithic mount for the MP5/MP5K clamps to the receiver, offers a lot of rail space for optics, and has M-LOK slots in the handguard.

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CALIBER	BARREL			WEIGHT	LENGTH
	OP 1000BT (.308)	16" CHROME LINED, 1:10 TWIST			34.5" RETRACTED
	OP1500 (5.56)	16" CHROME LINED, 1:9 TWIST			33" RETRACTED

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has a 13-slot MIL STD 1913 rail, the full-size one for the MP5 has a 16-slot rail, but they also provide M-LOK accessory attachment slots on the handguard as well, for mounting foregrips, lights, whatever you want. They are machined from 6061 aluminum.

In person, these are excellent, smooth and well machined and very light, which is what I hoped for but not what I expected. The full-size version is 9.8 ounces including clamping hardware, the K version just 7.0 ounces—and remember, that includes the handguard. The only downside I saw was that, because the handguard surrounds the front of the gun, you can't get as full a grip on the charging handle. However, the functionality of these mounts might offset that small negative. The version for MP5K-pattern guns is \$229.97, and the MP5 version is ten bucks more.

Springfield Armory 2020 Waypoint Long Action (Springfield-Armory.com)

Just prior to the show, Springfield Armory announced new versions of their popular 2020 Waypoint bolt action available in multiple long action calibers. The 2020 Waypoints are intended as hunting rifles, but seem to be popular for other pursuits as well.

Springfield has 20 new SKUs of long-action Waypoints. You can get them in 7mm Rem Mag, 7mm PRC, .300 Win-Mag, .300 PRC, .270 Win, and .30-06. You have your choice of two different camo patterns for the synthetic stocks—Ridgeline and Evergreen. Depending on the model, you can choose between a 416R stainless or carbon fiber barrel. The barrels are all tipped with a very effective muzzle brake, and threaded so you can attach a suppressor if you want.

Best of all, Springfield guarantees their Waypoints will do 0.75 MOA with premium ammunition, so you are getting almost all the performance and features of a custom



The only downside Tarr found with the Leapers monolithic mount was it very slightly interfered with grabbing the bolt handle. Here's the model for the full-size MP5.

rifle at a much lower price. Personally I'm interested in the 7mm PRC version, as that caliber seems to be the one getting everyone's attention. Prices start at \$2,173 and go up to \$2,670, depending on caliber, stock, barrel, etc. Do I need a magnum rifle capable of reaching out to 1,000 yards and beyond? No, but I want one, and if you wait until you need a rifle like that before you start thinking about buying one, you're probably in trouble...

Mec-Gar 17-round Magazines for Browning Hi-Power (Mec-Gar.com)

Mec-Gar are the kings of OEM magazines. I've written up their magazines before, and I am a huge fan. Chances are they've made the "factory" magazines for your favorite double-stack 9mm, unless you're shooting a Glock. Their extra-capacity flush 18-round magazines for both the Beretta 92 and the SIG P226 are superior to the factory magazines—and I don't just use them, I carry them.

With the increased popularity of the Browning Hi-Power design (Springfield Armory, EAA/Girsan, and Inglis are making new guns), it doesn't surprise me that Mec-Gar has turned their sights in that direction. At the show they were showing off new 17-round magazines for the Browning Hi-Power.

Modern magazines have already increased the capacity of flush BHP magazines from the original 13 to 15, making



Springfield Armory introduced multiple new long action versions of their 2020 Waypoint rifle. Tarr has his eye on this one, a 7mm PRC with a carbon fiber barrel. The rifles are guaranteed to do ¾ MOA.



Coming soon from Mec-Gar are extended 17-round magazines for the Browning Hi-Power, as well as +2 magazine extensions for your magazines.

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What makes them iconic? The Morgan Silver Dollar is the legendary coin that built the Wild West. It exemplifies the American spirit like few other coins, and was created using silver mined from the famous Comstock Lode in Nevada. In fact, when travelers approached the mountains around the boomtown of Virginia City, Nevada in the 1850s, they were startled to see the hills shining in the sunlight like a mirror. A mirage caused by weary eyes?

No, rather the effect came from tiny flecks of silver glinting in the sun.

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Tarr spent two days at an event shooting this Walther PDP-F Compact topped with a C&H DMO (direct mount optic). Both the gun and optic worked great.



A collection of C&H's direct mount optics (DMO). Direct mounting is always better than using plates.

it more “competitive” with modern designs, and now Mec-Gar is offering a 17-round magazine that is basically their 15-round flush mag with a slightly extended +2 aluminum basepad. And they will be selling that +2 basepad separately, if you want to upgrade some of your magazines.

I’d stick a flush 15-rounder in the gun, and keep a spare 17-rounder on my hip for a reload, but you do you. No prices were available, but expect them (like all their other magazines) to be very competitive with standard factory mag prices.

C&H Precision Optics (CHPws.com)

In a previous *Firearms News* CCW column, I mentioned how the Gunsite gunsmithy was a huge fan of C&H Precision’s optic mounting plates as a replacement for Glock factory MOS plates. C&H Precision has been in the



During a grueling two-day even in Florida, Tarr and a handful of other gun writers put a lot of rounds through Walther PDPs. The shoot included low-light training, and the C&H optics worked great.

business of mounting optics to handguns for years now, and with all their experience decided they could design optics with the features they knew consumers wanted.

Prior to the NRA show, I attended a Safariland retention event in Florida where for two days we shot Walther PDPs topped with C&H optics, and those red dots performed very well. At the show, C&H was showing off their whole line, which features a number of small red dots meant to be mounted to pistol slides as well as larger red dot optics meant for AR-15s. Many of their smaller red dots are meant to be mounted directly to pistol slides, as direct mounting is always a better option than using plates.

C&H’s pistol optics have aluminum bodies, glass lenses, and are manufactured in China to their exacting specifications. The prices of most of those mini red dots start with a “3,” so they are very competitively priced. I’m looking forward to testing their ERD-1, which is a large-windowed optic meant to compete with the EOTech HWS. It has a circle/dot reticle, and an advertised 50,000 hours of battery life—using a CR2032 battery! I would keep your eye on the optics being produced by this small company.



LIFE SAVING TOOLS

BRAVOCOMPANYMFG.COM

Rock River Arms will be introducing several new drop-in cassette triggers for the AR-15. You'll have your choice of single or two-stage triggers, and straight or flat bows.



Rock River Arms' Drop-In AR-15 Triggers (RockRiverArms.com)

At the show, Rock River Arms (RockRiverArms.com) was showing off two new drop-in cassette triggers for AR-15s that will probably be available by the time you're reading this.

You have your choice of a single- or two-stage pull, and I believe they said they'd be offering both curved- and straight-trigger options. The trigger pulls on the ones they had at the show were great, crisp and somewhere below four pounds. The samples they had on display were prototypes, but considering how long RRA has been in the AR-15 game I expect the production models to be just as solid. They told me to expect an MSRP around \$125.



Tarr with Bill and Joyce Wilson (Wilson Combat, IDPA) on the NRA show floor. You never know who you're going to run into.



New from Bersa isn't just a 1911, but one made in America. Tarr was very impressed with them, and got to shoot one just before the show.

Bersa's B1911 (Bersa.com)

Bersa, known for budget-priced pistols from Argentina, is treading new ground with their B1911. Not only is it the first 1911 they've ever made, it is manufactured in America. They have five different models currently—all full-size government models chambered in .45 ACP, will full stainless steel construction. The only difference between the guns is the finish on the guns and the colors of the grips.

The B1911s are very attractive, and display a fit and finish equal to most of the 1911s I've seen coming out of Ruger and even Kimber. Unlike most 1911s at this price point, the B1911s have checkered front straps, which makes a huge difference in handling. I had an opportunity just before the show to shoot one of these, and came away very impressed. Prices start at just \$1,050.

Random Points of Interest

I had an opportunity to spend a good amount of time with Bill Wilson at the show. Bill, of course, started Wilson



Everybody seems to be making suppressors, and the quality has never been better. Here's a display of just some of the suppressors Dead Air is making.



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M1917 U.S. Rifles



M1917 U.S. RIFLE, CAL. .30-06

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Enfield NO 1 MK 3 RIFLE, CAL. .303

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While the organization itself is struggling, the NRAAM is a great place to meet up with like-minded Americans, and see cool stuff. Tarr recommends it.

Combat, but now also owns Lehigh Defense (innovators of fascinating copper bullets), NULA (New Ultralight Arms), and Chip McCormick Corp. Bill stated that it seems like all he's doing these days is testing bullets, and showed me photos of a recent group, the best group he'd ever shot—one of his NULA rifles chambered in 300 HAM'R printed a 0.12-inch group at 100 yards.

I recommend people go to shows like the NRA just for the experience, and you never know what's going to happen. The most memorable experience for me at the show was going out to dinner with Bill Wilson and his wife Joyce and a few other people. The steak house had low-hard ceilings, bare wood walls, and was packed with people—it was literally “The Loudest Dinner In History,” as loud as some concerts I've been to. We couldn't hear the people on the other side of our own table, and I'm not exaggerating. It was ridiculous and comical. And then I ordered a slice of carrot cake for dessert and that single “slice” was big enough to feed the entire table. I made the mistake of trying to finish it. Cue Wilford Brimley shouting “*DIABEETUS!*” The next day, I told Bill I'd be filing a work comp claim against him for PTSD from that dinner.

Erik Stern at FN nearly lost an eye when an attendee decided to disassemble a P90 magazine, and the follower and spring went airborne at speed—right past his head. And mine. “*You're leaving?*” Erik asked me as I rapidly back-pedaled, trying to get up range. “*I'm not wearing eyepro,*” I told him.

Seemingly everybody is making suppressors now, and if wait times continue to come down, expect to see the number of cans sold going way up.

I was asked if I was going to see Trump speak. I never do, because I wear my gun everywhere (they deliberately hold the NRA shows in places friendly to conceal carry). They don't let any weapons inside the hall where he speaks, and they're not going to make an exception for me, but as usual there were plenty of TVs around the venue where you could watch the various speeches live.

Dr. Will Dabbs is doing an article for this magazine on the guns of the *Planet of the Apes* movies, and the *Beneath the Planet of the Apes* rifle (an M1 Carbine surrounded by a funky brown plastic stock) was on display at the Inland Manufacturing booth. It feels as weird as it looks.

There were good crowds this year at the show, and it looked at least close to pre-COVID numbers. While the organization itself is struggling, in a lot of different ways, the NRAAM is a great place to meet up with like-minded Americans, and I recommend it. In 2025, provided we will have a functioning country, the NRAAM will be held in Atlanta. Maybe I will see you there! **FN**



Dave Kiwacka of MKS Supply with the rifle from *Beneath the Planet of the Apes* Dr. Will Dabbs used in his *Planet of the Apes* article for *Firearms News*, on display at the Inland Manufacturing booth.

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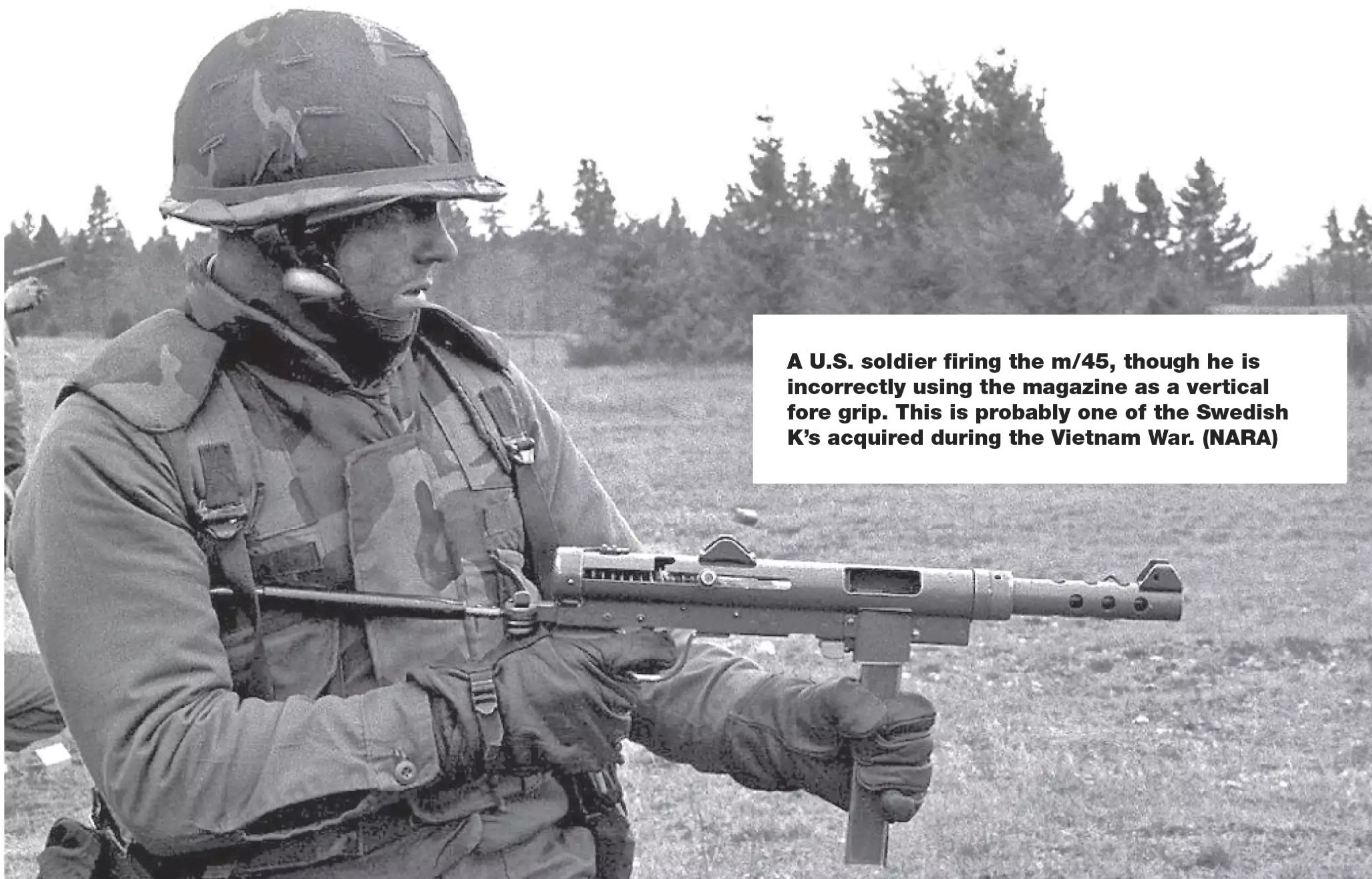


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A U.S. soldier firing the m/45, though he is incorrectly using the magazine as a vertical fore grip. This is probably one of the Swedish K's acquired during the Vietnam War. (NARA)

THE SWEDISH K

SUBMACHINE GUN

By Leroy Thompson

Known as the Carl Gustaf, or m/45, or the *Kulsprutepistol* m/45 as Well the Port Said, and the Akaba! By Whatever Name, It's a Useful SMG!

First adopted in 1945 as a replacement for the m/37-39 Suomi, the m/45 SMG was designed by Gunner Johanson and served as the standard SMG for the Swedish Army until 1965. Prior to the adoption of the m/45, Sweden had held trials to select a new SMG between 1944 and 1945. Another Swedish entry had been the HOVEA manufactured by Husqvarna. Various iterations of the HOVEA, which was based to a large extent on the British Sten, had been tested. At the same time, the m/45 had been under



The m/45 owed a debt to other SMGs such as this Russian PPS-43 being fired by Thompson.

development by the Swedish Carl Gustaf State Arsenal. The HOVEA design was not dead, however, as the rights to it were sold to Denmark where it became the basis for the Danish m/49 SMG, which is similar to the Swedish m/45.

Although Sweden had remained neutral during WWII, the conflict around them could not be ignored nor could weapon developments if Sweden wished to retain its armed neutrality. Submachine guns (SMGs), such as the PPS 43 and the MP40, that could use stampings to mass-produce weapons for Swedish troops seemed a good paradigm for equipping Sweden’s large reserve forces quickly and inexpensively. As a result, the m/45 relied primarily on stamped parts affixed with rivets. As befits a country with the forests of Sweden, the pistol grip panels are of wood.

With large numbers of Suomi SMG 50-round, four-column, “coffin magazines” in stock, the m/45 was designed to take the same magazine. This would also allow the use of Suomi 71-round drum magazines. A few years later, this 50-round magazine would be replaced by a 36-round, double-column, double-feed magazine. These magazines were known for their reliability because of the body’s taper towards the front of the magazine. In order to allow this magazine to work properly,



The Danish m/49 SMG was based on the Hovea m/49 designed for the Swedish SMG trials. Note the magazine well to take Suomi “coffin” magazines. (Courtesy of Morphy Auction Service)



Another SMG which influenced the design of the m/45 was the German MP40. (Courtesy of Rock Island Auction Services)



The Swedish m/37-39 version of the Suomi SMG, which was replaced by the m/45. (Royal Armouries)

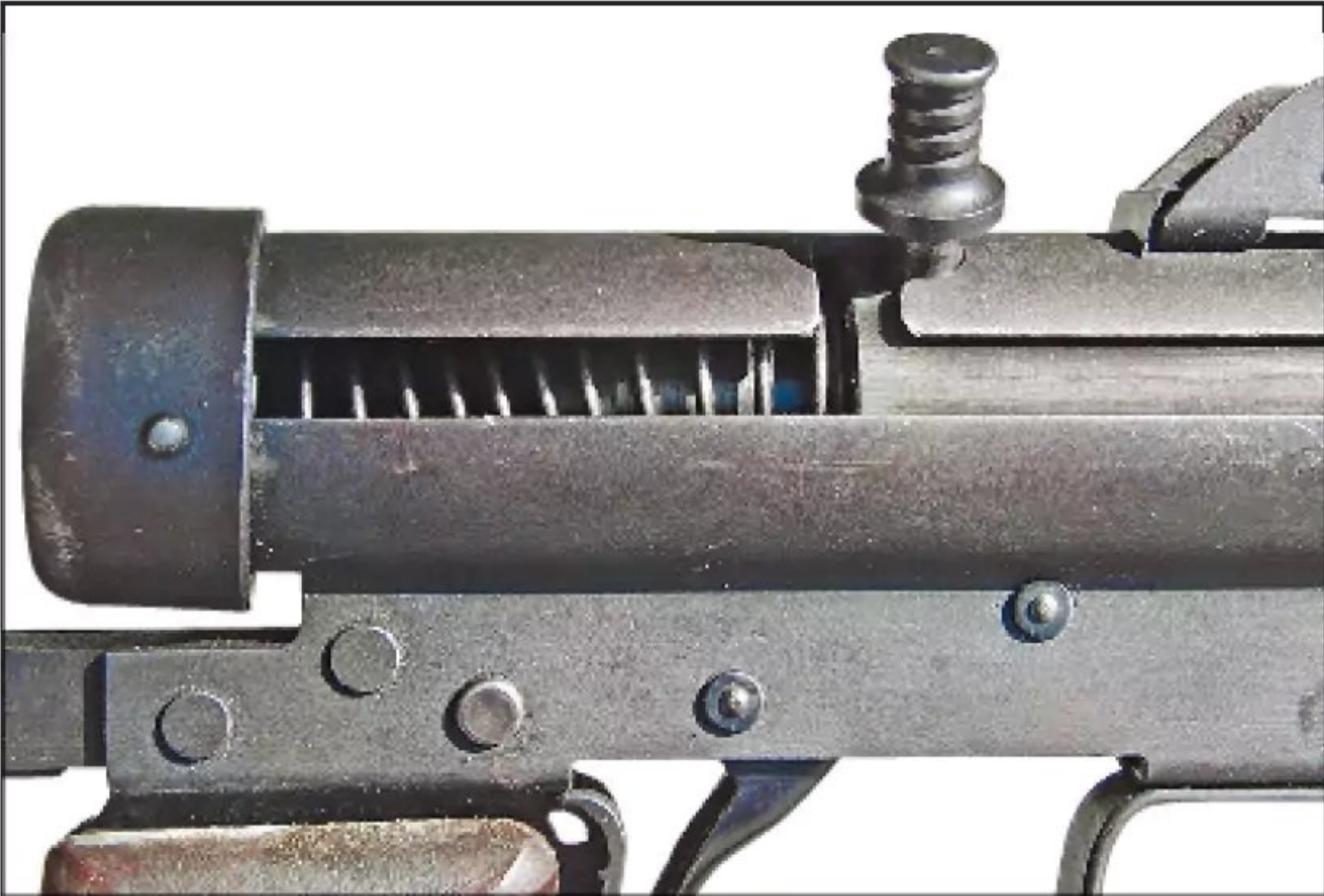


An early version of the m/45 as shown by the detachable magazine well for the 36-round magazine. When removed, it allows 50-round “coffin” magazines to be used as well as 71-round drums. (Courtesy of Rock Island Auction Services)

IDnumber	20
Caliber	9x19
Model	9 mm sk ptr m/39B
Projectile form	Ogival
Projectile weight	6,75 Gram
Projectile material	Jacket of tombac plated steel. Led core.
Projectile type	Ball
Colour markings	Red neck and primer.
V0 mps	410 mps
V0 fps	-
Propellant	Pkr II
Propellant weight Gram	0,37 Gram
Propellant weight Grain	-
m/39B is the 9mm ammunition used today. It was delivered in the beginning of 1955. It has a extra ordinary thick jacket that prevents it from deforming easily, and that makes it better in penetrating hard targets. Some examples: It goes through 50 layers of kevlar or 20 cm of wood or 7 cm of brick. The jacket of the projectile also leads to a higher tear and wear on the weapon. Some figures point at up to 25% higher wear on the barrel when using m/39B ammunition compared against normal 9x19 ammunition e.g. m/39. The V0 value mentioned above is for submachine gun m/45. For a pistol the value is some 40mps lower.	



◀ Data on the powerful Swedish m/39B 9x19mm loads. (Swedish Military Ammunition Site)



▲ Close-up of the m/45 safety requiring the bolt handle to be rotated into the slot in receiver; the Sten Gun used this system.



Left-side view of the m/45Bs receiver; note the shield for the magazine release behind the magazine well for the 36-round magazine. Note also on the receiver in front of the rear sight, the recess through which the bolt knob is pressed to lock the bolt forward.



The m/45's stock is comfortable and allows the SMG to be fired in bursts while staying on target.



An m/45 with bolt and mainspring removed; note the detachable mag well indicating an older model m/45 or a Port Said.



Right side view of an m/45B.

a detachable magazine housing was developed for use with 36-round magazines. If the user still wanted to load coffin magazines or drums, all they would do is remove the housing which took a few seconds. (This detachable magazine housing feature inspired Editor-in-Chief Vincent DeNiro to incorporate the idea into the Ultimax 100 MK3 SAW when he was working with Singapore Technologies over 20 years ago. The new Ultimax 100 MK4 machine gun allowed the use of unmodified STANAG/M16 magazines.)

This magazine housing also allowed surer magazine changes without looking at the mag well when using the 36-rounder. Inspection holes in the rear of these 36-round magazines allowed a quick check of rounds fired by the user. Finland ended up purchasing large numbers of the Swedish 36-rounders for use in their Suomis. When the Swedes decided to exclusively use the 36-round magazine in this SMG, they eliminated the detachable feature by permanently affixing the magazine housing. This model became known as the m/45B.

Swedish m/39B 9mm Parabellum ammunition used in the m/45 was loaded hotter than ammo in this caliber used by most other countries; hence, it was not recommended for use in auto pistols, even the sturdy Swedish Lahti. This ammo performed well against earlier generations of body armor and could penetrate a steel helmet at up to 400 meters. Reportedly, Ukrainian Special Forces have been using m/39B ammo against Russian troops!

The Suomi, especially in Finland, had a reputation for longer-range accuracy than was typical with an SMG. As a result, the Swedish m/37-39 had a rear sight designed for use at 100, 200, and 300 meters. This type of sight was retained on the m/45. Another feature that I've found aids the m/45's accuracy, as well as controllability, is the SMG's stock. Basically, it is a folding rectangle with an area on the top strut for a rudimentary cheek rest, the m/45's stock locks tightly against the shoulder, doesn't slip even when firing long bursts, and allows a steady hold when firing at longer distances. It also has an easy-to-use, but sturdy, lever that locks it in place when opened.

Anyone familiar with the Sten Gun will find many aspects of the m/45 familiar, although the Sten does offer a semi-auto option via a cross bolt, while the m/45 is full auto only. The m/45 fires from an open bolt and has a relatively low cyclic rate of 600 RPM. As with the Sten, the safety is a notch in the receiver into which the bolt may be rotated. However, there is an additional safety that is engaged by pushing the



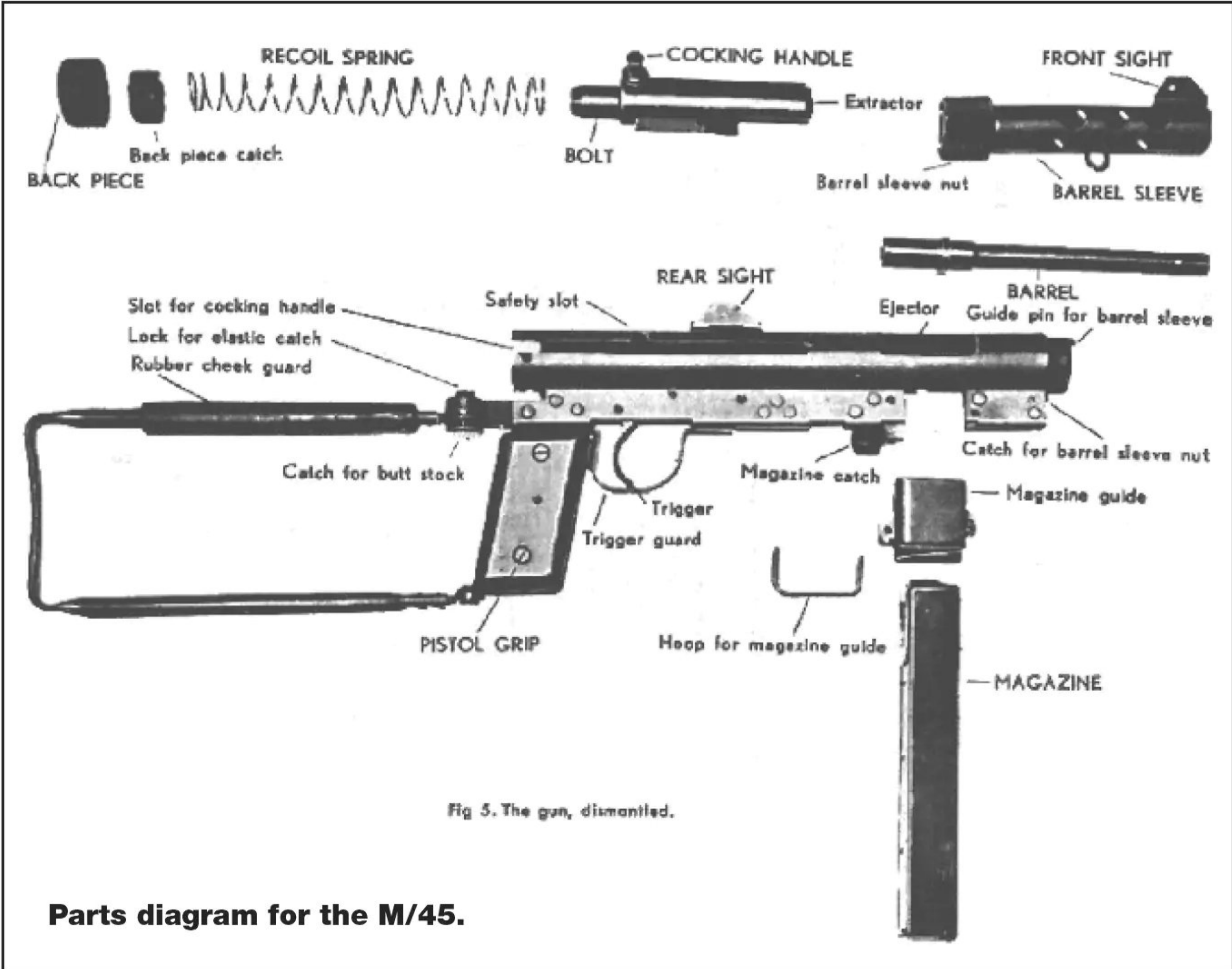
A Swedish Army “Valkyrie” armed with an m/45B SMG. (svenska armén)

bolt in when it is forward to lock the bolt closed so it can’t “bounce fire.” As with the Sten, the mainspring and bolt may be removed through the rear of the receiver after twisting off a butt cap. Sling swivels are located on the left side and allow the m/45 to be slung across the chest or back readily.

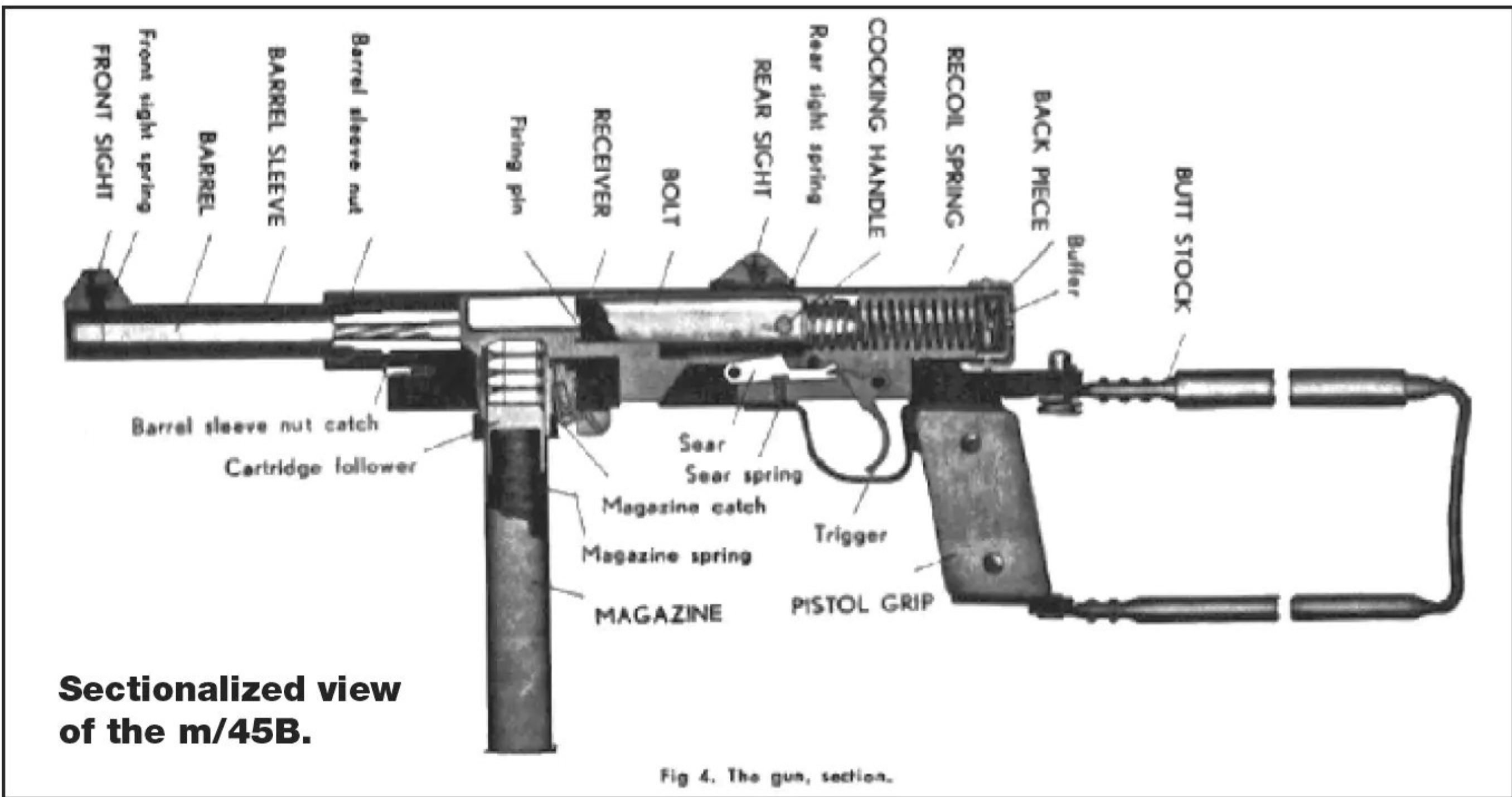
Disassembly into basic parts for cleaning is simple with the m/45. The butt cap is rotated and removed to allow the main spring and bolt to be removed. To remove the barrel a locking catch is depressed, then the barrel-locking nut is unscrewed allowing the barrel and barrel shroud to be removed.

The Swedes, aware that indoor training would be carried out with the m/45, had a sub-caliber barrel for firing gallery

ammunition or blanks. Another important accessory was a mag loader that made loading an entire magazine easily and quickly. Also, standard issue was a cleaning kit and sling.



Parts diagram for the M/45.



Sectionalized view of the m/45B.

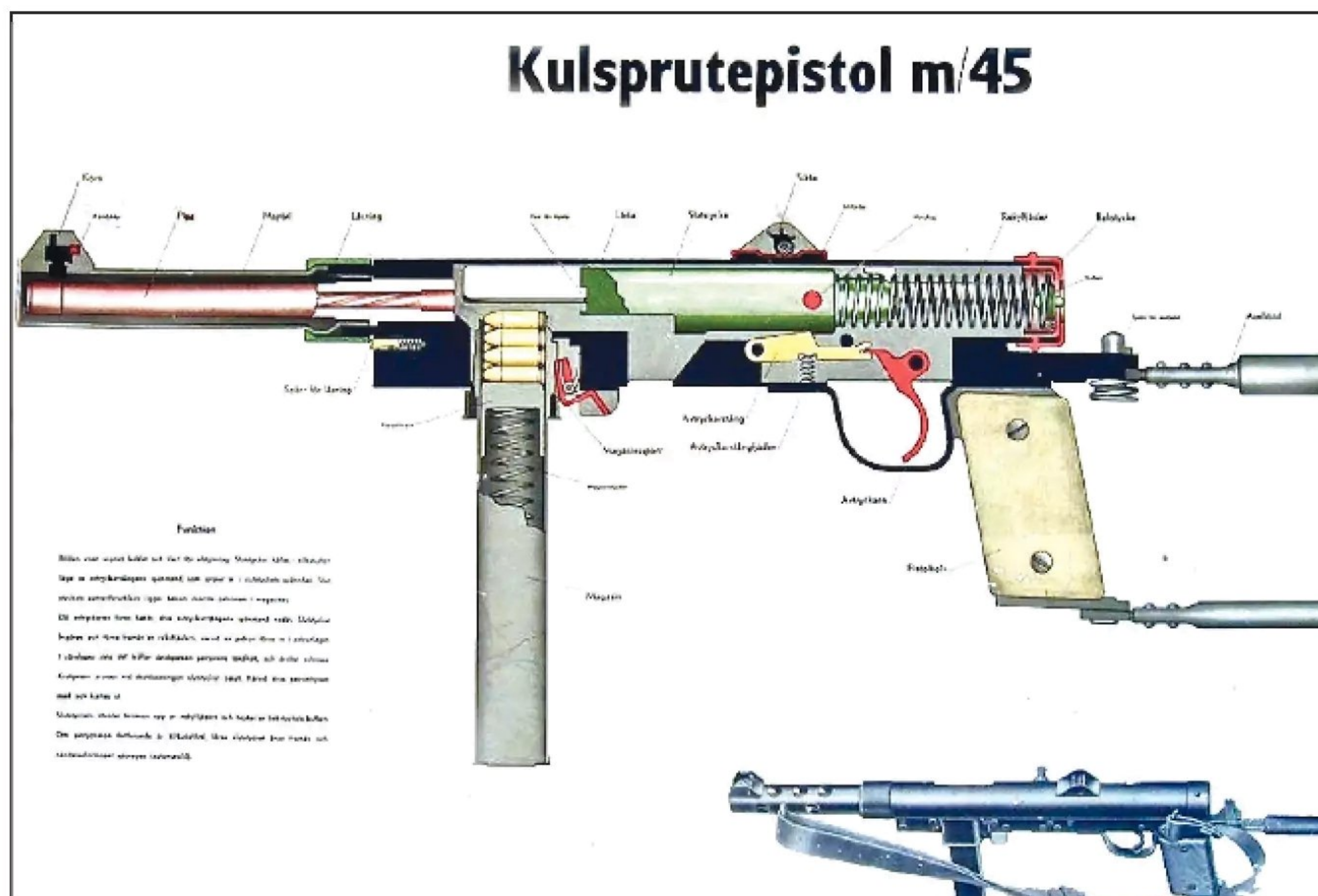


The barrel shroud of an m/45 removed and showing the cooling holes and the post front sight.



An m/45 magazine pouch and 36-round magazines.

THE SWEDISH K SUBMACHINE GUN



Two limited-production versions of the m/45 were produced: the m/45C (reportedly for guard duty) which could mount a bayonet, and m/45D, which was select fire.

Although often generically designated a “Swedish K,” the Egyptian “Port Said” licensed version of the m/45 is often encountered. A Port Said may be identified based on the fact it retained the original features of the early m/45 such as the removable magazine well housing that allowed the use of 50-round Suomi magazines and 71-round drums. Initially, the Egyptians had purchased m/45 SMGs from Sweden, which eventually supplied the tooling to build the SMG in Egypt. Swedish engineers supervised production. The Port Said has a reputation for reliability and accuracy. It is generally easy to tell if handling a Port Said by the Arabic markings as well as the magazine well housing. A simplified version of the Port Said, the Akaba, was also produced. Licensed copies of the m/45 were also made in Indonesia. Port Said SMGs were used in Jordan, Iraq, Central African Republic, and Zaire, as well as Egypt. Algeria also used the m/45, but it not clear if they used Port Said or Swedish weapons.

Other countries that used the m/45 included Ireland and the USA. US special operations units and CIA paramilitaries used the m/45 during the Vietnam War, as it had the double advantages of being an excellent SMG and being deniable. Reportedly, the SEALs found that even after being submerged, the m/45 could be used to engage immediately, though presumably, the user would point the barrel downward to clear the barrel of water. For use by “the Agency” and special operators, a suppressor for the m/45 was developed. Unfortunately, the Swedes took their neutrality seriously and enacted an arms embargo against the USA because of the involvement in Vietnam. Though the supply of “Swedish Ks,” as they were generally known among users in Vietnam, on hand continued to be used, a replacement was needed. [EDITOR’S NOTE: The late Charlie Cutshaw, who as one of the small arms editors for *JANES’ Defence* as well as well-known firearms writer and author, told me about him using a Swedish-K during the Vietnam War. He loved it for being extremely reliable in that environment. When he was getting rotated out, another officer traded him a case of beer for it.]

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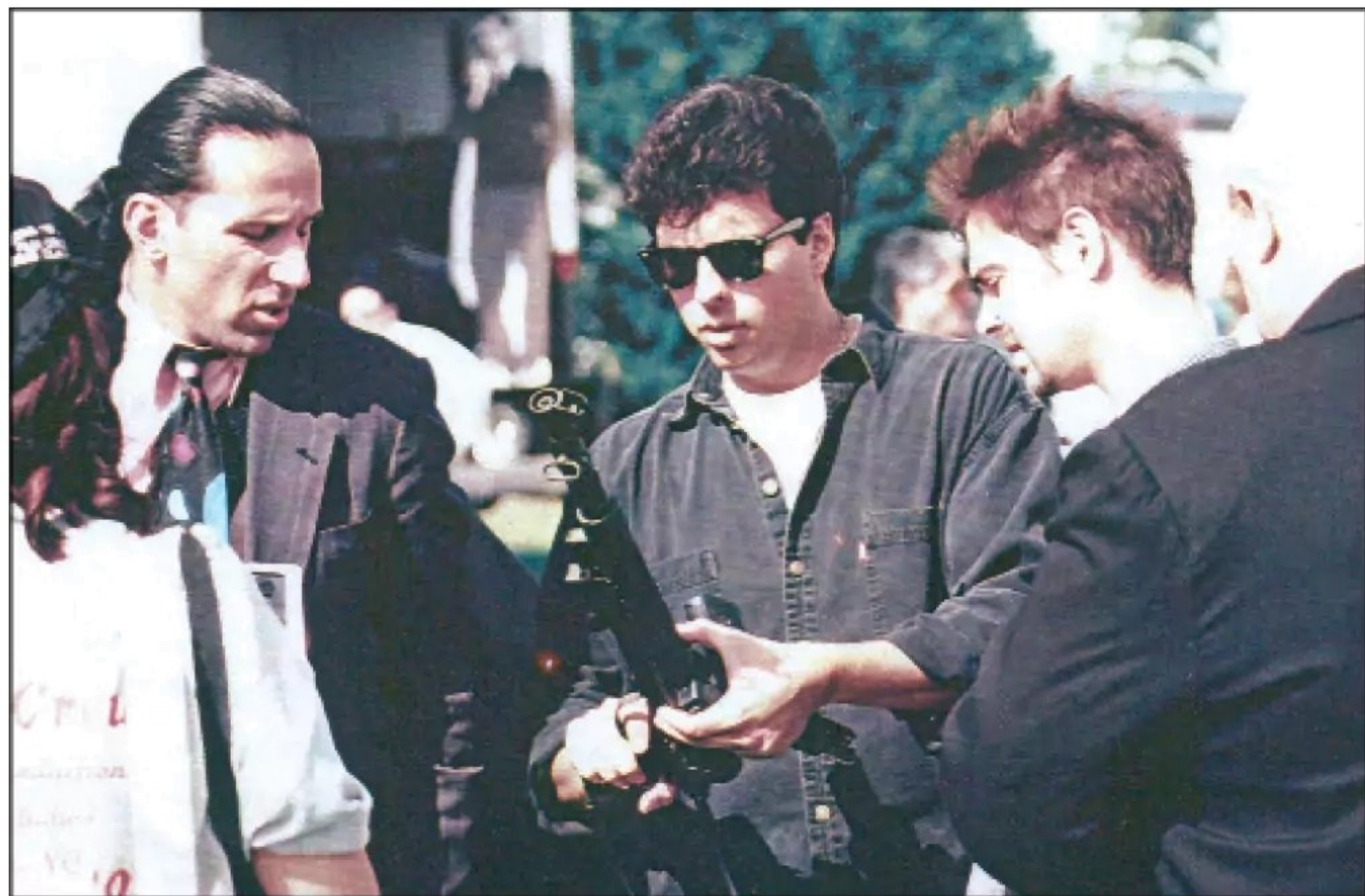
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Editor-in-Chief Vincent L. DeNiro working as the Chief Weapons Armorer at Screen Gems Studios during the filming of *The Cutoff* in 1997. He is getting a Port Said SMG ready for an actor.

Navy contacted Smith & Wesson for an SMG that could be delivered ASAP. S&W fast-tracked the project and delivered the first guns within nine months. Designated the M76, the S&W SMG retained some features of the Swedish K, including the same type of folding stock. It was also designed for ruggedness and reliability. As with the m/45, M76 took a 36-round magazine; however, not Swedish K magazines, which have to be altered to fit. Cyclic rate for the M76 was 720 RPM, which made it less controllable than the Swedish K. Unlike the standard “K,” the M76 offered select fire rather than just full auto. As with the “K,” a suppressor was developed for use with the M76. Although the M76 was manufactured until 1974, it did not sell well other than its Vietnam-era military contracts and to some law enforcement agencies.

I’ve shot the m/45, as well as the Port Said SMG, and concur with most shooters that it’s an excellent weapon. Among the features that I’ve found that allow it to be employed effectively is its stock, which is sturdier than many other types of folding



Swedish soldier in a wooded area with his m/45 shows why the green painted SMG was widely used. (Svenska Armén)

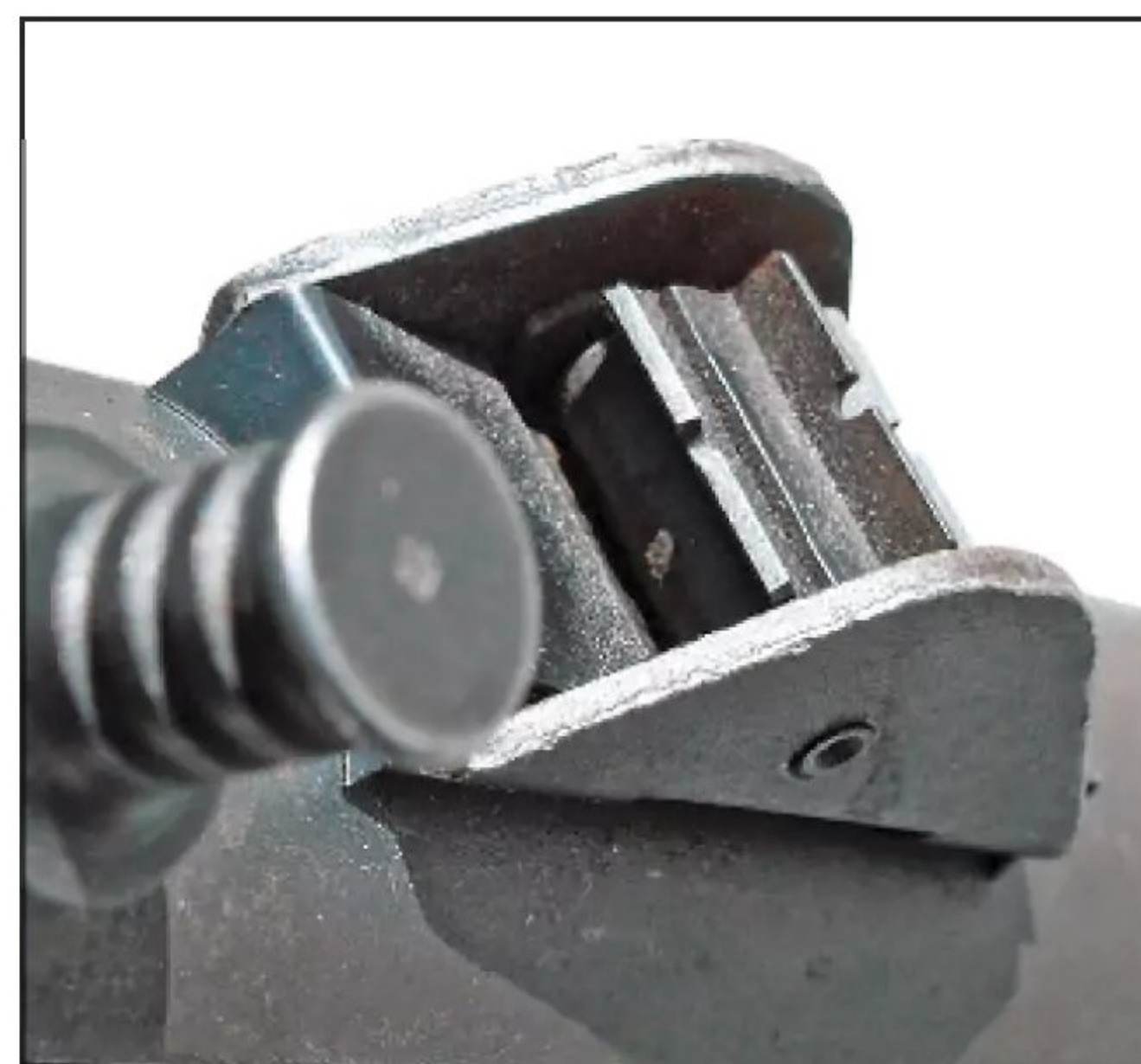


When the Swedes stopped the sale of the m/45 because of opposition to the Vietnam War, the S&W Model 76 was intended as a replacement. (Courtesy of Rock Island Auction Service)



◀ Most users, after firing the m/45 for a while, rate it among the best SMGs they’ve used. This includes the editor-in-chief of this magazine.

► The m/45’s rear sights are usable to 100 yards or more.



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◀ Front view of the m/45's barrel shroud, and front sight.

▶ Note how the m/45's magazine well is tapered forward making proper magazine insertion more instinctive; note also the conveniently located magazine release.



stocks. When pulled tight against the shoulder, it aids in controlling the SMG when firing bursts. The excellent magazine feeds reliably and also allows fast-instinctive insertion during a change. Although I prefer a selector instead of the need to rotate the bolt into a slot used by the m/45, I do appreciate the ability to lock the bolt in the forward position. With a bit of practice, the bolt handle may be pulled out of the locked position for cocking quickly. The m/45's relatively low cyclic rate aids in controlling the SMG on bursts, and even though the m45 is full auto only, the lower cyclic rate allows single shots or two-shot bursts to be fired using trigger control (i.e. releasing pressure quickly!). Also aiding accuracy is the rear flip-up sight is fast to acquire as well as the cheek weld on the upper strut positioning the head well for sight acquisition.

When I started working on this article, I realized it had been a decade or so since I last fired a Swedish K or Port

◀ Center of mass four- to five-round bursts from 25 yards, and single or double taps, fired at the head of the target at 15 yards.

▶ Swedish Army SMG qualification badge.

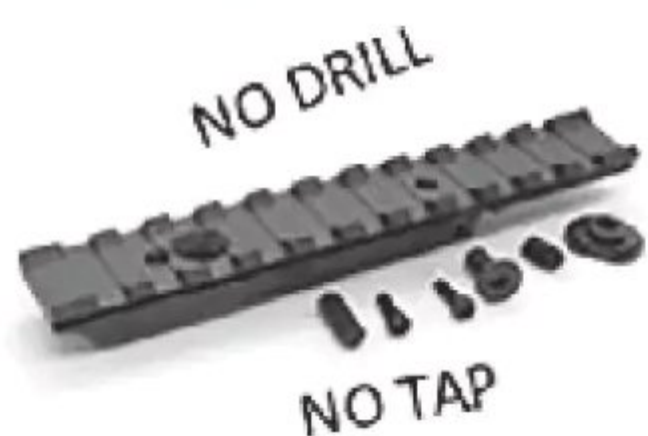


Said. That had to be rectified to properly evaluate the SMG. I fired mostly on silhouette targets at 25-yards, with a couple of double tap headshots at 15-yards, but also moving among plates at 25, 35, and 50 yards. Firing four or five shot bursts at 25 yards I kept my shots in center of mass. When I moved forward to 15 yards I fired two-shot bursts (I managed one single shot through trigger control) into the head of the silhouette. Shooting at plates in short bursts as I acquired each one, based on “playing a tune on the plates” I was hitting a goodly percentage of the time. Bottom line: the “K” performed as well as I remember it performing. For those of you have a “Want to Shoot One Day” list, I’d recommending adding the Swedish K. **FN**

SPECIFICATIONS SWEDISH M/45 SMG	
Action:	Blow Back
Caliber:	9x19mm
Overall Length:	31.8 in. (Stock Extended), 21.7 in. (Stock Folded)
Barrel Length:	8.3 in.
Weight:	7.4 lbs. (Without Magazine)
Magazine Capacity:	36-rounds
Sights:	Rear — Flip-Up Notch, Front — Post
Cyclic Rate:	600 RPM

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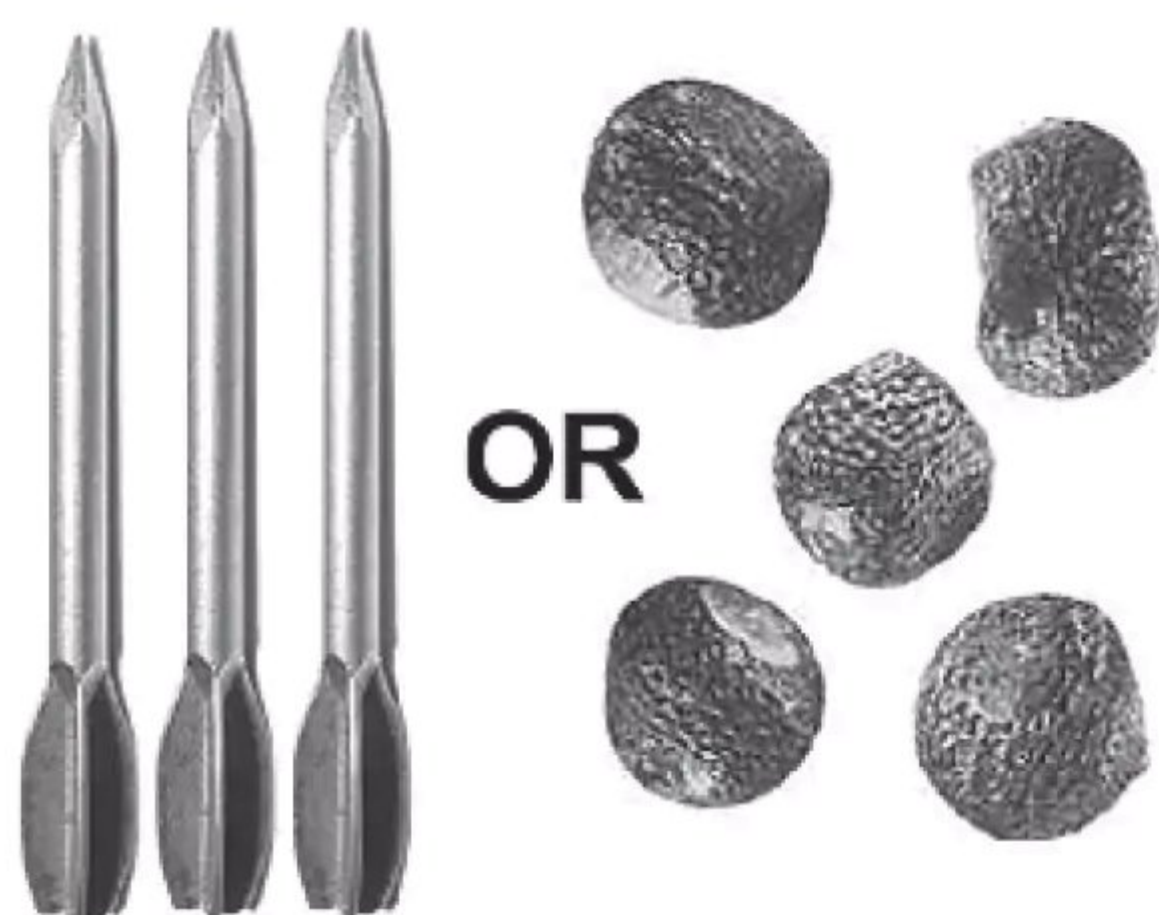


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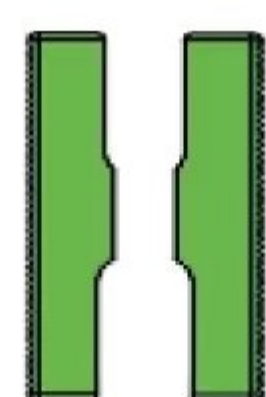


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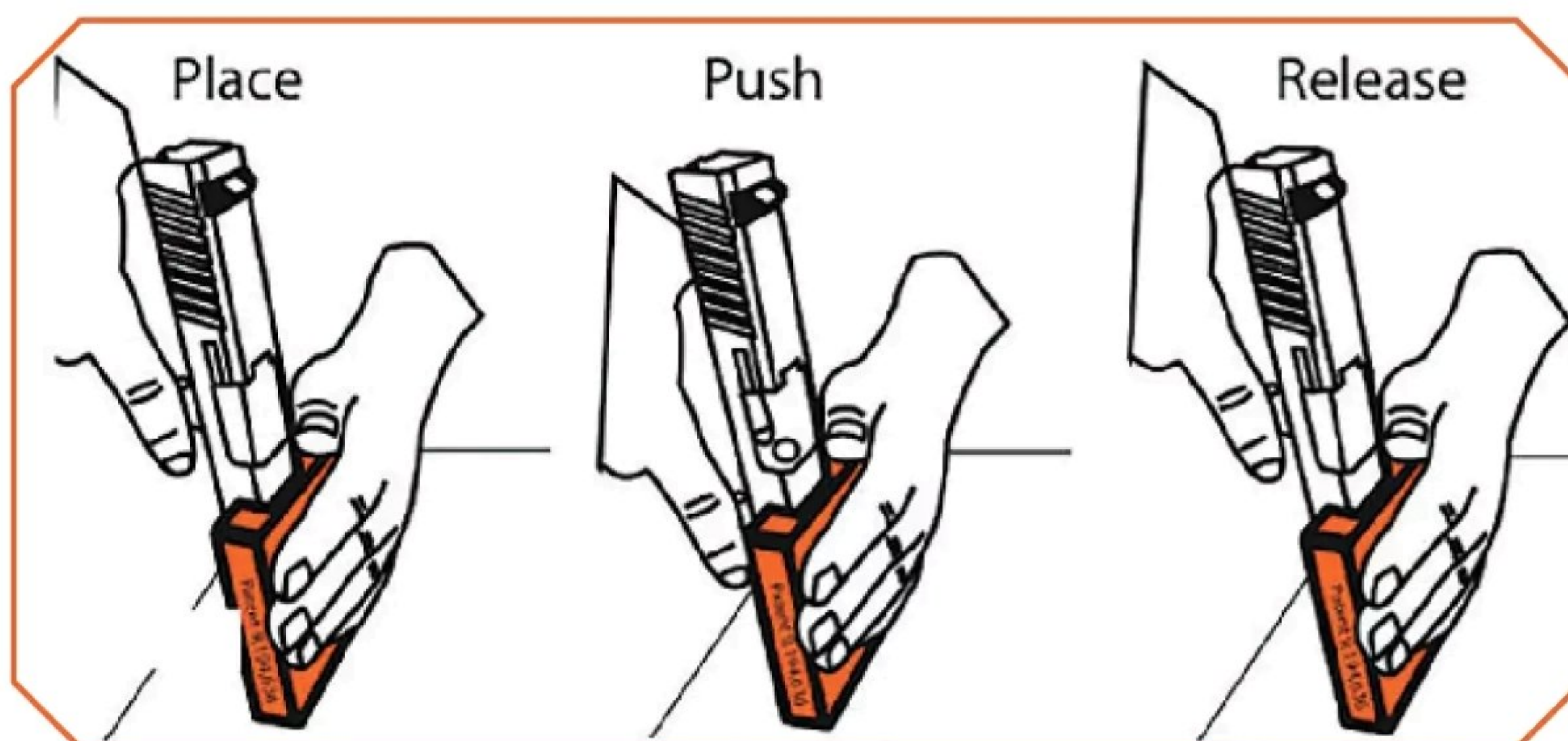
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[Cont. from page 12]

HARTFORD CITIZEN PATROL PRESENTS DILEMMAS FOR GUN-GRABBING DEMOCRATS

By David Codrea

“A predominantly Black neighborhood in Hartford, Connecticut, hoping to fend off violent crime, has turned to an armed group of citizens to patrol their streets by land and by air,” Fox News reports. “The so-called ‘Self-Defense Brigade’ — made up of about 40 legally armed citizens — are voluntarily patrolling the streets of Hartford’s North End wearing body cameras mostly on nights and weekends, according to the group’s founder, Cornell Lewis.”

“The Democratic machine in Hartford is either unwilling or unable, incapable of doing it, and people are paying their tax dollars, and they’re not really getting any kind of service,” Lewis explains. “So, we want the people to understand, number one, self-defense is not a dirty word.”

So naturally, as Breitbart notes, “Mayor Arunan Arulampalam (D) is denouncing residents of a predominantly black community for arming themselves to fight violent crime.”

Who better to criticize American citizens for a community cooperative tradition older than the Republic than an immigrant beneficiary of chain migration, one born in Zimbabwe who fled to this country as a refugee from Sri Lanka? Especially when their efforts demonstrate for all the world to see the utter, incompetent failure of his.

The Self-Defense Brigade, organized “at the behest of Archbishop Dexter Burke of the Walk in the Light Church of God,” is reminiscent of an effort from the middle of the last century, one remembered and honored by Amendment advocates with long memories, but for the most part ignored by Democrats and self-designated “civil rights leaders,”

none of whom, if they even know about him, are keeping the example set by Robert Hicks alive, to be reflected on today and passed on to the next generations.

Who?

He was a “lion in the Louisiana civil rights movement,” whose 1981 obituary recalled the personal risks that meant for him and his loved ones from decades before:



“The Hicks family opened their home to white civil rights workers and national figures such as entertainer Dick Gregory and Congress of Racial Equality head James Farmer,” the memorial recalled. “Because of that, the family was targeted by the Ku Klux Klan, which in turn motivated the formation of the Deacons for Defense and Justice, an armed band of African American men who stood guard at the Hicks’ home and protected civil rights workers in the city.”

Lewis and his Brigade reflect that spirit of determination and resolve, and for their efforts are being smeared by the Democrat establishment as “vigilantes,” with the implication that they’re dangerous, undisciplined, and in Arulampalam’s words, “trying to take the law into their own hands.”

Lewis, and counters that he and his 40 volunteers “are all trained in

discipline legal security... have legal permits to carry concealed weapons and the purpose is self-defense,” adding “I’m a fourth-degree black belt, and I trained everybody in hand-to-hand combat.”

In other words, they’re “well regulated.”

They’re also “illegal,” at least as far as the Democrat tyrants running the oxymoronically named “Constitution State” are concerned.

Georgetown Law’s “Fact Sheet: Unlawful Militias in Connecticut” explains.

“Groups of armed individuals that engage in paramilitary activity or law enforcement functions without being called forth by a governor or the federal government and without reporting to any government authority are acting as unauthorized private militias,” it notes. “The Connecticut Constitution forbids private military units from operating outside state authority... Connecticut law makes it illegal for groups of people to organize as private militias without registering with the state.”

“Does the Second Amendment protect private militias?” it asks. “No. In fact, the Supreme Court decided in 1886—and repeated in 2008—that the Second Amendment ‘does not prevent the prohibition of private paramilitary organizations.’”

“Is it legal to act as a private militia in Connecticut?” it asks again, and again the answer is “No.”

The bottom line: The national government has been deliberately indifferent to its Constitutional duty to organize, arm and discipline the Militia, the state governments have been derelict in their obligations to provide officers and training, and participation by an armed citizenry, which the Founders deemed “necessary to the security of a free

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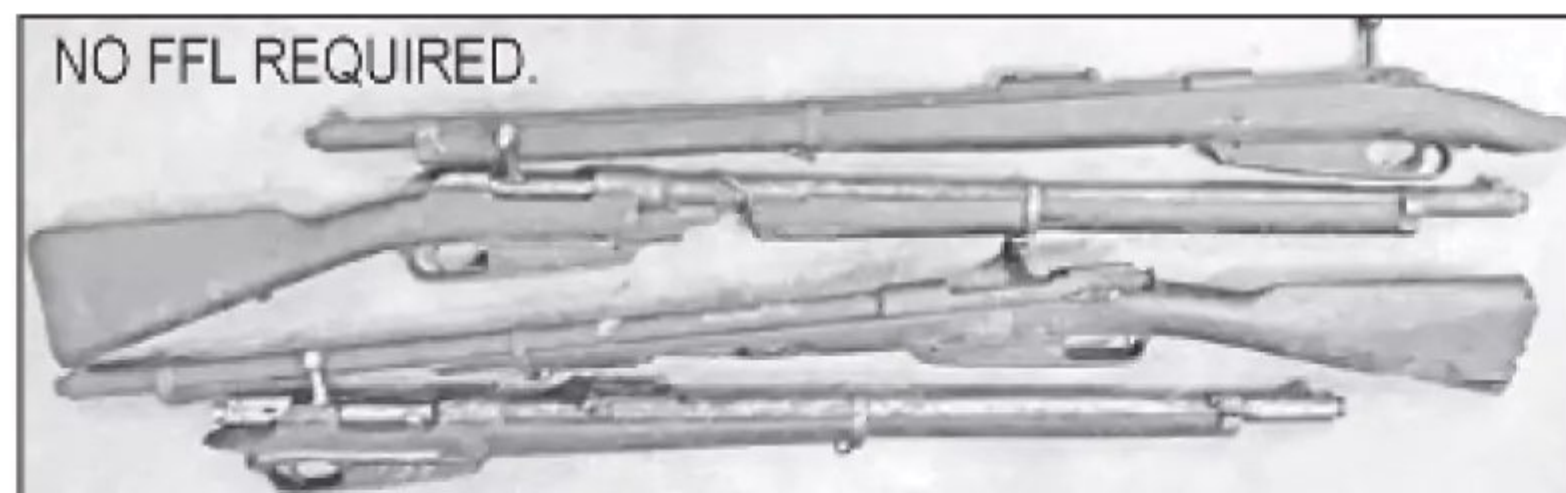


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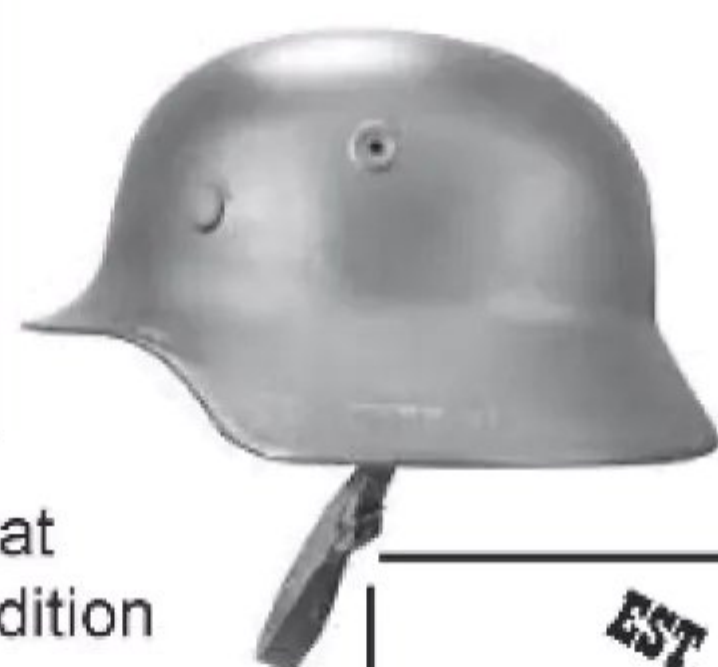
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State,” has been deliberately excluded, dependent on a professional law enforcement “standing army” that has no legally enforceable duty to protect it (See *Dial 911 and Die* from Jews for the Preservation of Firearms Ownership).

And they’re not “allowed” to organize, train, and bear arms as a group to protect themselves.

Still, the existence of Hartford’s Self-Defense Brigade presents a couple of dilemmas for the Democrats who smear them as “vigilantes” and want them to stop.

First, it exposes a lie often hurled at gun owners and treated by those who promulgate it as true, that if you want to see Second Amendment advocates

suddenly demand gun control, just start arming blacks. Wrong. We’re fighting for the right of all peaceable citizens to keep and bear arms. It’s the prohibitionists who are against this.

Second, it makes stopping Lewis and his followers problematic: One of the narratives being parroted and exploited to the benefit of criminals and detriment of the communities they victimize is that urban minorities are “overrepresented in the justice system.” It’s not like the Brigade are Oath Keepers or Proud Boys or some other “right wing” group easily demonized by the media. Arulampalam doesn’t dare sic his enforcers on Lewis & Co., who are well known and respected

in the very constituent communities Democrats rely on to elect them.

The paradox is, if Hartford residents are really interested in seeing violent crime go down, they need to stop electing Democrats.

About David Codrea:

David Codrea is the winner of multiple journalist awards for investigating / defending the RKBA and a long-time gun owner rights advocate who defiantly challenges the folly of citizen disarmament. In addition to being a regular featured contributor for *Firearms News*, he blogs at “The War on Guns: Notes from the Resistance,” and posts on Twitter: @dcodrea and Facebook. **FN**

BIDEN CONVICTED ON ALL COUNTS! HUNTER CANNOT OWN GUNS, SHOULD WE BE PLEASED??

By Will Dabbs, MD

Every now and then you see a headline that just stops you in your tracks. Stuff like, “Congressman Smedlap Credibly Accused of Molesting Farm Animals” and “Feds Spend Seven Trillion Dollars on Sex Reassignment Surgeries for Illegal Transgender Taliban Immigrants” are just background clutter these days. However, today’s news report about Hunter Biden’s having been found guilty of lying on a BATF Form 4473 genuinely shocked me. I honestly don’t know if I should rejoice or weep.

The Charges

There were three specific charges of which the First Son was convicted. These included lying to a federally-licensed gun dealer, making a false claim on the BATF Form 4473 stating that he was not a user of illicit drugs, and being in illegal possession of a firearm for eleven days. After a contentious trial, the jury deliberated a grand total of three hours to reach its unanimous verdict.

In case you’ve never bought a weapon at a licensed gun shop before, the 4473 is the form you fill out when you purchase a gun from a licensed dealer. It includes fourteen specific questions concerning a person’s eligibility to own a firearm. Question 21F states, “Are you an unlawful user of, or addicted to, marijuana or any depressant, stimulant, narcotic drug, or any other controlled substance?”

These questions are all pretty stupid, to be honest. Unless the buyer is known to the dealer, there’s no way to verify any of them. For instance, question 21E asks, “Are you a fugitive from justice?” I would speculate that not a lot of fugitives from justice would check “Yes” to that. However, the form itself becomes a legally-binding document. It is not intended to stop illicit buyers. It is intended to convict criminals later.

The likelihood of any administrative gun violation, to include lying on a Form 4473, ultimately leading to a meaningful conviction is quite



low. According to the Government Accountability Office, in 2017, there were 8,606,286 NICS (National Instant Check System) transactions. 112,090 of those were denied. 12,710 of those denials were actually investigated. Those investigations produced 12 prosecutions for all causes. Not all of those were convicted.

That seems like a pretty low yield given the resources expended. The obvious reason is that actual criminals don’t typically buy their guns at gun stores. Ironically, there has been a greater emphasis placed on these sorts of prosecutions by the Biden administration.

The punishment for these offenses is up to ten years in prison per count.

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However, most convictions resulted in probation or community service. Gun dealers prosecuted for record-keeping violations are lumped in there as well.

What's Next for Hunter?

In cases like this, the sentencing hearing typically takes place about 90 days after conviction. The judge in Hunter's case estimates 120. Curiously, that will put the sentencing mere weeks before the Presidential election.

While there are those who claim that Hunter Biden will be treated just like any other felon, that is not the case. He can't be. He's the son of a sitting president. In this case, having his Dad in the White House might actually work against him. Given the incredible scrutiny to which this process has been and will be subjected, any leniency will invariably be weaponized for political gain.

Charges of lying on the form are typically adjuncts to nastier things like felon in possession or straw purchases. It is the drug angle that makes Hunter's case so peculiar. That prosecution is vanishingly rare. Whether he goes to jail or not is dependent upon Judge Maryellen Noreika, and there aren't many precedents upon which to draw.

Because a conviction on this standalone drug addiction charge is so uncommon, legal experts are struggling to predict what the sentencing outcome might be. As this is Biden's first conviction, we can likely expect some significant moderation. Think perhaps thirty days in a minimum security facility if that, followed by a couple of years' probation with an ankle monitor.

However, many legal commentators have stated that a year or more behind bars would also not be an unrealistic outcome. Nobody reasonably thinks Hunter will be subject to the maximum penalty of 25 years in prison and a \$750,000 fine. The 25 years comes from the fact that the max sentence for the drug charge is five years, the other two carry ten. Regardless, as a felon he will not be allowed to vote for his father come November in Delaware. As an aside, they're fine with such in California.

It is within President Biden's power to pardon his son. He has publicly stated that he will not do so. At the time of this article being posted online, according to a poll conducted on AR15.com, almost 80% out of 422 voters believe that Biden will pardon his son. Time will tell.

What Does It Mean for a Gun Owner to be a Convicted Felon?

Once convicted of a felony, an American is no longer eligible to purchase, own, or possess a firearm. Question 21d on the 4473 specifically addresses that. There is technically a legal process by which one might regain one's firearms rights at the federal level. This involves a BATFE committee which decides on a felon's application to restore their gun privileges (they don't use the word "rights").

In 1992, Senator Chuck Schumer successfully spearheaded a legislative effort to permanently defund that committee. Applications still exist but BATFE is prohibited from spending any funds to process them, so they sit in a file. Short of a Presidential pardon, there is no practical way for someone convicted of a federal felony to have their gun rights reinstated. Before you blow that off, appreciate that it is also shockingly easy to become a felon in "Information Age" America. Curiously, while a felon cannot realistically expect to get his or her firearms rights restored, they can potentially regain the right to legally purchase and possess explosives (and yes, that includes high explosives like C4). It's a funny old world.

Prior to his recent conviction, President Trump was rumored to own some firearms and hold a New York Concealed Carry Warrant (CCW). As a convicted felon, he is no longer legally eligible for any of that. Prominent firearms attorney Alan Gottlieb, himself a convicted felon who had his gun rights restored under this very program back in the 1980's, has stated that he may assist Trump in attempting to get his gun rights returned as well.

Ruminations

We're all boiled frogs. If you're not familiar with that analogy, Google is

your buddy. Encroachment on our gun rights has been so inexorable and relentless over time that we just assume that filling out a 4473 and waiting on an instant background check, that is often not quite instant, is an okay thing. Realistically, the founders of our nation would be horrified to find that purchasing a firearm in America has become such a regulated nut roll. That convoluted process also seldom actually keeps guns out of the hands of genuine criminals.

Even among die-hard gun geeks, there is often reticence to accept the notion of free and unfettered trade in firearms. However, reality is that in our nation of 328 million people there are already somewhere around 400 million guns in circulation. That ship has sailed. Gun laws like these have not and never will have a substantive impact on the actual criminal use of firearms.

Hunter Biden seems a fairly despicable person. However, I am way more concerned about his business dealings in China than I am about what blocks he checked on his Form 4473 when he bought his .38-caliber Colt Cobra revolver. Statistically speaking, real criminals do not buy their weapons from store front gun dealers. They steal them or acquire them on the black market.

Ironically, President Biden headlined a speaking engagement at an Everytown for Gun Safety event mere hours after his son's conviction for gross violation of some pretty basic gun control laws. Standing underneath a banner that read, "Gun Sense University," Biden extolled his administration's efforts to enhance the penalties for those who violate America's myriad gun regulations. He altered his published schedule to travel straight from that event to Wilmington, Delaware, so he could encourage and support his son in the aftermath of his conviction for violation of these very laws. Later he stated, "I will accept the outcome of this case and will continue to respect the judicial process as Hunter considers an appeal." It is a funny old world indeed. **FN**



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“Nothing I Can Do!” Pt 2

If you’re one who’s agog at what’s happening in this country, you can’t help it — you want to DO SOMETHING about it. (I assume, of course, that you are a normal, everyday American, right? Sometimes, it doesn’t seem like there’s very many of us left...)

Last time I suggested you take action — effective action — by hosting a backyard cookout — nothing fancy, for Heaven’s sake — simply hot dogs, chips and soft drinks.

Your aim: to wake up your fellow Americans, build some bonds, and thereby start to clean up your little corner of the county. All for the price of a few hotdogs, bags of chips, and soft drinks. How’s that for doing it on the cheap?

You stay away from any current politics, by telling the story of the beginning of the country — the first day of the Revolutionary War, when your forebears took up smooth-bore, single-shot muskets and took on the mighty British Empire.

Don’t know the history? There’s a book on 4/19/1775 right there in your local library. If you don’t know the story already, you need to learn it. (Note: You can invite any Appleseed instructor as a guest; they’ll be happy to tell the story!)

Here’s a good way to start: Ask your attendees “Did you know that, at one point in our country’s history, the ENTIRE FUTURE OF THE COUNTRY revolved around — A SINGLE RIFLE SHOT?”

Wow! You’d have to be dead not to be astounded and interested to know all about that answer!

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Listen to me: The story needs to be heard by our fellow Americans. A simple recitation of the facts of 4/19 — the basic outline — is enough. And if you don’t tell it, who else will tell it to them? I’ll take you thru the basics in the next few columns. And make you an expert on 4/19! Promise!

Understand: The purpose of telling the story is NOT to encourage people to take up arms today. The purpose is to inspire them by the examples of the founding generation’s dedication to liberty. To make them aware of a debt they owe those founders, a debt they can never completely repay.

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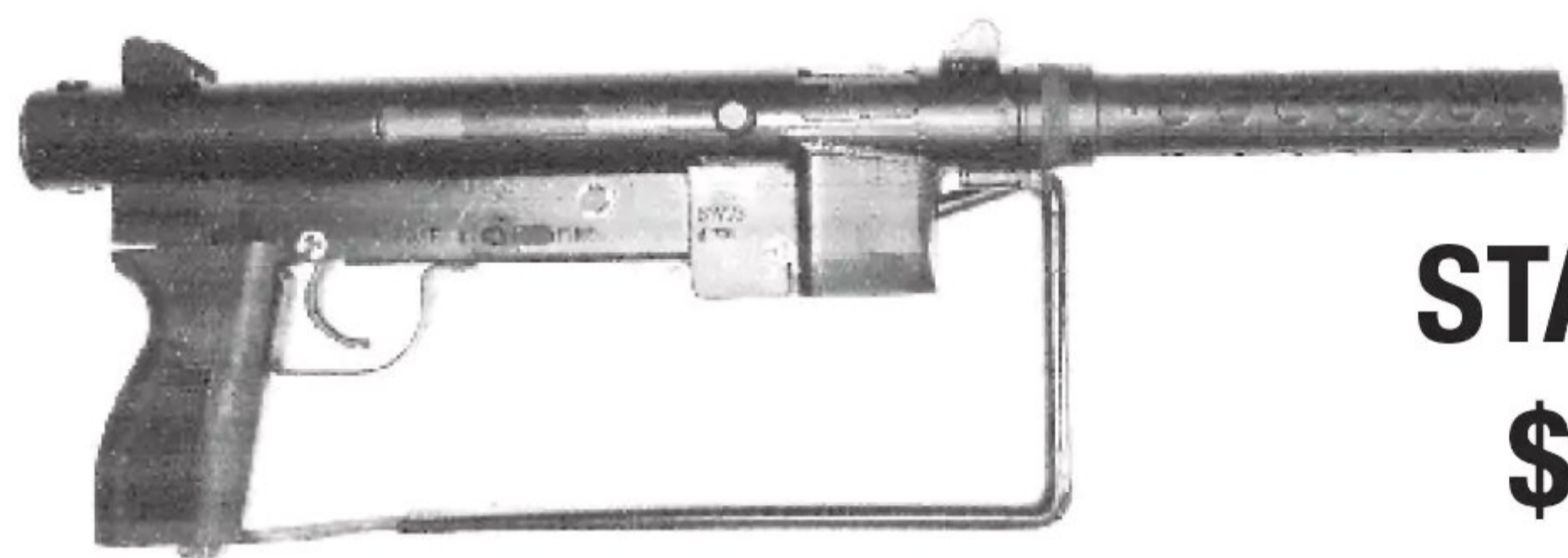
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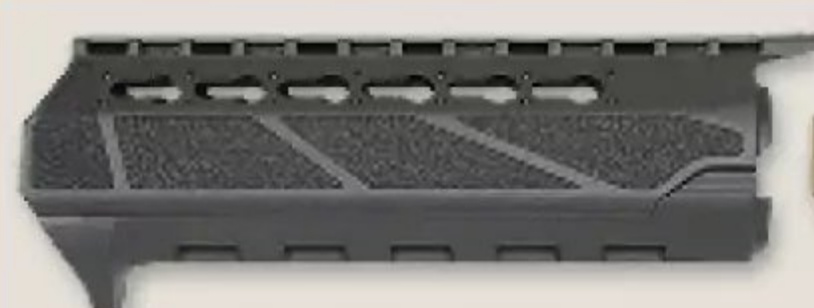
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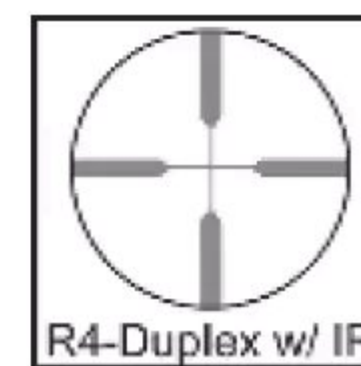
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