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## THE TABUK:

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AND

#### THE GWOT:

AN 11-INCH FAL SHORTY AND THE ARMY MARKSMANSHIP UNIT

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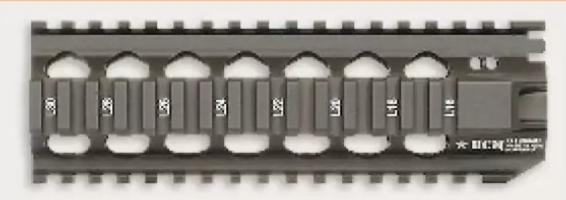
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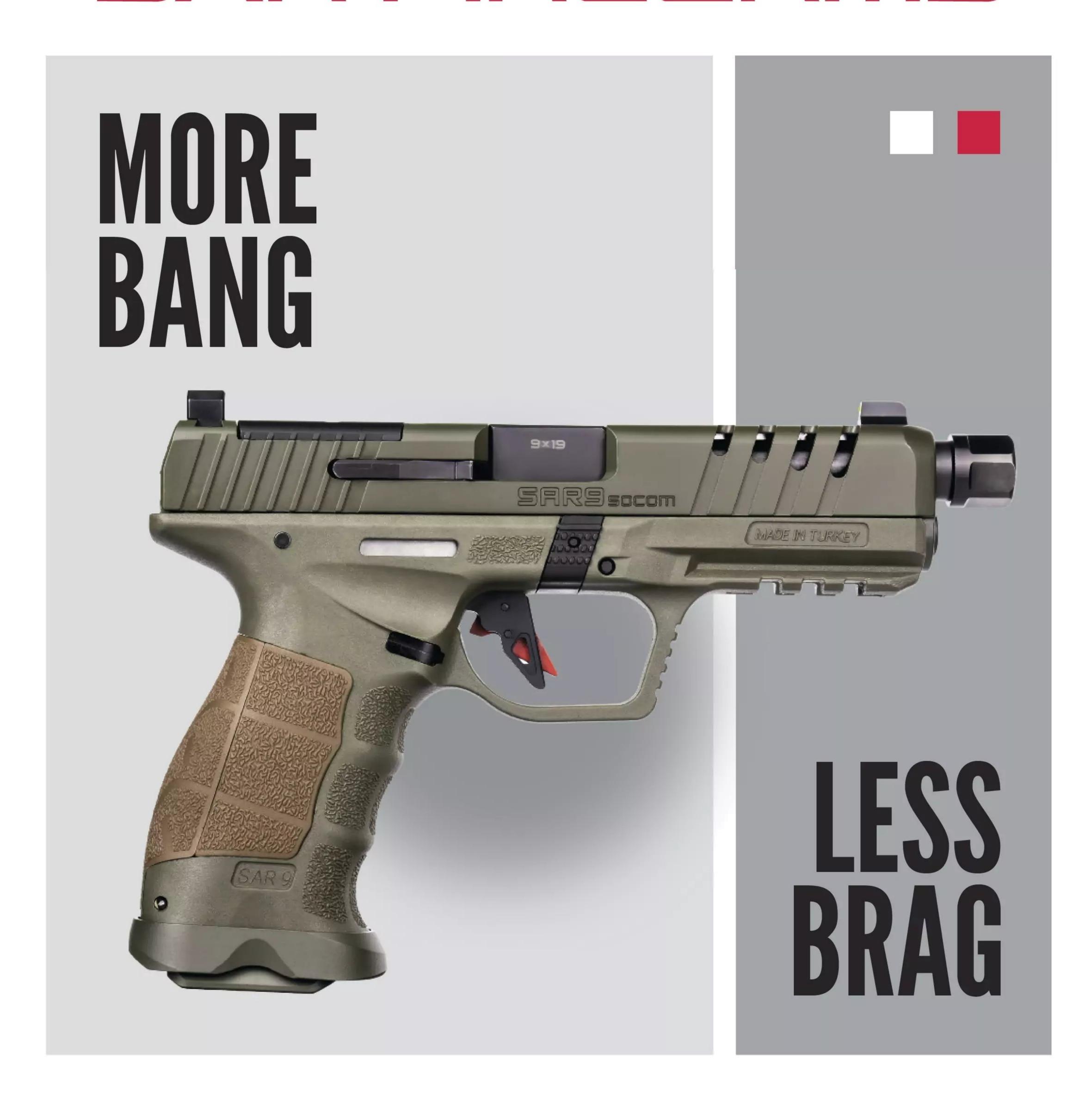
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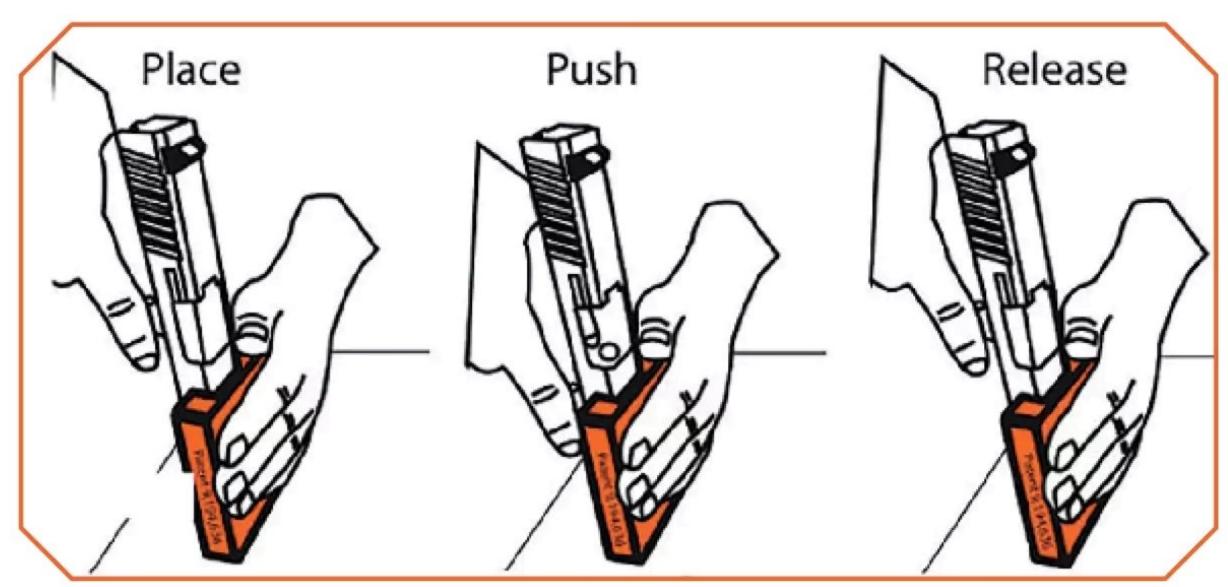
Submachine Gun to the Stars Will Dabbs, MD

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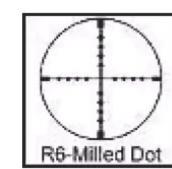
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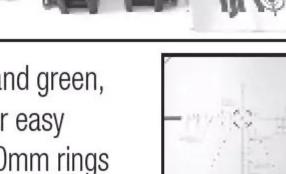




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## TRUMP ADDRESSES CONGRESS:

## ONE HUNDRED MINUTES AND NOT A PEEP ABOUT THE SECOND AMENDMENT

How Much of a Priority Are Your Gun Rights? By Darwin Nercesian, News Field Editor

llow me to preface what I am about to say with a confession. I confess to being an unwavering and unapologetic defender of the founding principles in the Constitution of the United States. I confess to standing firm on those ideas that made this nation great and to being unforgiving towards those within our borders who stand in opposition to our freedom and liberty. I confess that I hold these values above any allegiance to a party or politician, no matter who they are or what else they stand for. That is why I write about the President, a man I voted for three times, holding his feet to the fire.

On Tuesday, March 4, President Trump addressed Congress and the nation in a speech themed "Renewal of the American Dream." The President's speech included highlights such as Speaker of the House Mike Johnson banging his gavel and firmly imploring Democrats to cease their petulance and maintain decorum, followed by his directive to the House Sergeant at Arms to remove Texas Democrat Al Green from chambers due to excessive heckling. I will admit to being entertained as it always seems to be an affair with President Trump, but I remind myself that the ill behavior within our government comes at a cost to all Americans and that many of these parasites are not working in our best interest as they swore but are instead playing out their own self-serving agendas on our dime.

The substance of the speech

covered a variety of topics, focusing on President Trump's second-term accomplishments thus far, his contributions to the US economy, a renewed push for Congressional border funding, and his plan to secure peace around the globe. I don't mean to diminish the importance of any of these subjects, however, for a speech about renewing the American dream, a conspicuously absent mention of the Second Amendment gives me pause as I wonder where such a fundamental Constitutional guarantee falls within this administration's priorities. I heard First Amendment accomplishments mentioned within eleven minutes of commencement, so naturally, I looked forward to hearing plans for the Second Amendment, which never materialized.

Now, I know what you're going to say, and yes, Pam Bondi will be providing her autopsy of the Second Amendment soon, given the 30-day executive order, and you can read all about that in my article, *Trump Issues Executive Order: Protecting Second Amendment Rights – Where are we now?* As I noted when writing that piece, I want to be wrong. I welcome it. However, the unwillingness to include or promise the restoration of American gun rights in a speech about the renewal of the American dream leaves me very discouraged.

As I write this, Colorado is set to ban all magazine-fed semi-automatic firearms, New Jersey's Bolshevik Governor Phil Murphy is proposing



punitive taxes on guns and ammunition, Rhode Island, the Union's oompa-loompa, is getting ready to ban most firearms under a deceptive definition of an assault weapon ban, and Massachusetts, California, and New York... I'll leave it there before I give my editor a heart attack. I get it; the comrade states will do what comrade states do, but this is supposed to be the United States, where inalienable rights are guaranteed to all citizens. Under the Tenth Amendment, powers not granted to the federal government are reserved for states and the people. The Second Amendment falls under the purview of the federal government, and they are obligated to defend that right, especially against rouge states.

Look, I'm happy that we're getting rid of DEI and placing value on merit. I'm relieved at the recognition that we exist as men and women rather than the whims of our imaginations, although now I'll have to stop identifying as an Apache helicopter when I'm asked. I'm thrilled that women will not have to face off against men in sports, and I'm certainly fine with the Gulf of America, but an empire without a solid foundation will crumble just as any structure, and the Constitution is America's foundation. There is no such thing as "America First" if the country stands on unstable ground.

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It's time to call in those promises made to American gun owners, of which there have been many. For too many years, the Republican Party has paid lip service to the Second

Amendment while gun rights have been eroded, not just on the state level but at the hands of federal agencies and activist judges. These betrayals cannot be reversed through some form

of consolation prize or positive words spoken about our Bill of Rights. Winning back the White House is not the finish line in our fight for liberty as Americans. It is the starting line. **FN** 

## BABYLON VILLAGE, NEW YORK By Darwin Nercesian, News Field Editor

#### Let's Test This Against the First Amendment

pproximately twenty-five miles from the Queens border of New York City lies Babylon Village, a town seeking to earn its infamous name by throwing its hat into the seditious ring of anti-Second Amendment policy. Operating in the shadows of a state that has made it clear it is no friend to American values or the country's Foundation, these modern-day Babylonians have imposed a ban on gun stores in defiance of the inalienable rights enumerated in the Constitution.

Deputy Mayor Frank Seibert sees the ban as a safety concern, however, with so many laws regulating Federal Firearms Licensees (FFLs), it's hard to imagine any threat posed by the opening of a gun store in town.

"For safety reasons, I think this is a good policy," said comrade Seibert

I think there should be a greater concern for the drivel this smoothbrained mammal is pedaling versus the existence of a store that supports the exercising of American rights. But nobody is being fooled here, as we all know the measure has nothing to do with safety and everything to do with the left's petulant pursuit of authoritarian rule and anti-Second Amendment agenda.

Mayor Mary Adams tried to justify the idea of a threat by referencing the illegal sale of marijuana behind a marijuana shop that had opened on Deer Park Avenue, apparently clueless to Babylon's implied endorse-

ment of getting high while rebelling against the Bill of Rights. Why not do tution against other rights protected something about the illegal activity if you know it's taking place? And what in the world does this have to do with American's right to bear arms?



You won't find any gun shops here. (Shutterstock/Jaclyn Varnace)

This is yet another form of gun control by proxy. Pennsylvania has been at this lately by way of zoning restrictions. While some citizens in Babylon Village objected to this new measure, that didn't stop the Politburo of Trustees from approving the ban unanimously. Playing dumb to the logic that possession of firearms requires the right to purchase them is no excuse for the lawless violation of American civil rights perpetrated by anti-gun extremists, with Adams stooping to the shallowest depths of intelligence to defend the gun store ban by stating that other areas allow them.

I'd like to personally challenge conservative lawmakers to finally test the left's irreverence for the Constiin the Founding documents. Isn't it exhausting having to play by the rules while the other side runs roughshod over the country with a treasonous sense of rebellion? Let's see conservative states and municipalities ban liberal newspapers and demonstrations by groups promoting LGBTQ, pro-choice, pro-Palestinian, and pro-undocumented migrant agendas. Perhaps predominantly Christian and Jewish areas could ban mosques. Of course, exceptions could be made through some form of additional tax. Why not? If it isn't an infringement on the Second Amendment, surely it can't be an infringement on the First. You can't have it both ways. And according to Mayor Adams, the fact that you can still partake in all those things in other areas should have us covered.

It should go without saying that I don't wish for an America without the freedom of expression, just as I find the many infringements upon the right to bear arms unacceptable. But it's high time we level the playing field, whether it's to make a point or set a judicial precedence on what actions amount to a violation of the Constitution. I do find it a shame that this is what things have come to, but unrelenting attacks on a free people's liberty can lead to far more undesirable results. **FN** 

[Cont. to page 107]





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#### **GUN POLITICS**

By David Codrea | Political Field Editor

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.

## TRUMP'S 'ROYAL ROAD' TO CITIZENSHIP LEADS IN WRONG DIRECTION FOR 'GUN RIGHTS'

rump touts \$5 million 'gold card' as new path to citizenship," *Fox News* reported in early March. "It's like the green card, but better and more sophisticated,' says Trump."

It's actually a variation, or mutation, if you will, of the existing EB-5 program established by Congress in 1990, that, per *Newsweek*, is "one of many job-based visas offered by the U.S. It requires applicants to create or preserve at least 10 full-time jobs for U.S. workers with their investment, and they have to first prove they have the capital."

"EB-5 holders get a two-year Green Card and can apply for an extension. Beyond that is the chance to apply for U.S. citizenship," the analysis elaborates. But that program, according to Commerce Secretary Howard Lutnick, has resulted in fraud and bureaucracy. And curiously, fraud is what the director of the Heritage Foundation's Border Security and Immigration Center, Lora Ries, has warned Trump's "gold card" could invite, asking "How is this going to be different? Are you just inviting wealthier fraudsters and corrupt people to exploit this?"

Now might be a good time to ask, "What does any of this have to do with the right of the people to keep and bear arms?" After all, this is *Firearms News...* 

Patience. Before we get there, we need to build on some fundamentals.

"These are vetted people," Lutnik told Fox's Brett Bair. "These are going to be great global citizens who are going to bring entrepreneurial spirit,



(Shutterstock/Lyonstock)

## BUT SURELY, FOREIGN INVESTORS RICH ENOUGH TO AFFORD THE "GOLD CARD" WILL BE "GREAT GLOBAL CITIZENS," RIGHT? NOT "GREAT AMERICAN CITIZENS"?

capacity and growth to America. If one of them comes in, think of the jobs they are going to bring with them, the businesses they are going to bring with them, and they are going to pay American taxes as well, so this is huge money for America."

When have we heard that before?

"...I am very disappointed in the xenophobic response from governors across the country today who vowed to keep Syrian families who have passed rigorous background checks from entering their states," Democrat Senator Tim Kaine complained back in 2015. Left unsaid: What's the source for those "rigorous background checks?" Where do the records come from and what audits have been performed to ensure system integrity

and that they are comprehensive and uncompromised? The Assad regime's filing system? Something else? And isn't baksheesh (bribe) a way of life with administrators there? And no one else has any interest in falsifying or just plain omitting records, assuming any exist in the first place? Curiously, while Kaine was making this claim, a *New York Post* headline was warning, "Syrian community leader: ISIS is already in America."

But surely, foreign investors rich enough to afford the "gold card" will be "great global citizens," right? Not "great *American* citizens"? Like Alexander Soros, son of naturalized billionaire George, who told the *Financial Times* he is "a committed European"? And if it's not available





to all nationalities, expect lawsuits. I'll bet the bin Laden's could afford to pay to play.

The thing is, not everybody wants to.
"These successful businessmen,
entrepreneurs, they do not simply
want to just pay money and lose it,

Most are opposed to anyone outside of the government bearing arms, and it's safe to assume once granted citizenship, they'll vote that way. *The New York Times* even bragged about it in its 2019 article "How Voters Turned Virginia from Deep Red to

electorate-padding Democrats over gun owners who put him in office.

This also gives a pass to Democrataligned teachers unions and administrations. Why is it that countries like India can somehow churn out employees with superior technical

## MOST ARE OPPOSED TO ANYONE OUTSIDE OF THE GOVERNMENT BEARING ARMS, AND IT'S SAFE TO ASSUME ONCE GRANTED CITIZENSHIP, THEY'LL VOTE THAT WAY.

complained Ashok Adusumilli, originally from India, arrived on an EB-5 from Dubai in 2019 [who] now helps others looking to bring their money and business ideas to the U.S. through the EB-5 program." That existing program and "chasing the American dream" has been great for him, his fortune, and his wife and children, and he admits, "That is why I spent the money."

That, of course, presumes that's what the American dream is supposed to be about, as opposed to freedom — allow that to flourish and prosperity will follow. Limit it to the politically connected and you end up with millionaire congressmen, and laws written to protect the interests of the elites. It brings to mind John F. Kennedy's admonition, "Ask not what your country can do for you. Ask what you can do for your country."

You can be forgiven for presuming headlines like "Rich Indians scramble to apply for EB-5 Visa" appearing in *The Economic Times* mean they're looking out for themselves. And it's understandable if that raises questions about where ultimate loyalties really lie, particularly with oxymoronic "dual citizenship" options and a 2015 change from the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services regarding the oath taken by naturalization candidates: They are no longer required "to declare that they will 'bear arms on behalf of the United States' and 'perform noncombatant service in the Armed Forces of the United States."

Solid Blue": "Guns, that is the most pressing issue for me,' said Vijay Katkuri, 38, a software engineer from southern India, explaining why he voted for a Democratic challenger in Tuesday's elections."

Okay, but that's an anecdote.
What about "pro-gun" Republicans
like Vivek Ramaswamy and Kash
Patel? First, their willingness to make
substantive changes has not yet been
tested, but even if their actions end up
matching their rhetoric, they're excep-

abilities on a pittance of what we spend per capita on students while a significant number of U.S. schools produce functional illiterates, and we're then told the only solution is to bring in more foreign nationals?

It's all reminiscent of the story of Greek mathematician Euclid, commissioned by Egypt's Pharaoh, Ptolemy I, to teach him geometry. Impatient with the prerequisites of having to first understand and then build on basic concepts, Ptolemy com-

## TRUMP WITH HIS "GOLD CARD" PROPOSES MAKING CITIZENS OF FOREIGN NATIONALS WHO WILL HAVE SUBSTANTIAL RESOURCES TO IMPOSE THEIR POLITICAL PREFERENCES ON THEIR HOST COUNTRY.

tions to the rule. While there are great patriots of all heritage backgrounds who are ardent Second Amendment defenders, they are in the extreme minority. Per *India Currents*, "A 2022 Asian American Voter Survey, AAPI Data found that 83% of Indian Americans believe the U.S. needs stricter gun laws."

Trump with his "gold card" proposes making citizens of foreign nationals who will have substantial resources to impose their political preferences on their host country. And he's doubled down on a "pathway to citizenship" for Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) "Dreamers," prioritizing "cheap labor Republicans" who ally themselves on immigration with

Plained that the process was too slow. Yes, of course, commoners needed to first master the painstaking detail work, but surely as a privileged exception there had to be a shortcut to understanding the grand conclusions without having to subject himself to such frustrating drudgery.

"There is no royal road to geometry," Euclid is said to have replied, highlighting the reality that basic truths apply to all, regardless of station in life.

Trump's "royal road" *may* be paved with good intentions but without new citizens who understand the fundamental founding principles of what it should mean to be an American, we know where such roads lead.



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#### By Darwin Nercesian | News Field Editor

Darwin Nercesian is a long-time gun rights advocate and shooter of targets far, far away. As the News Field Editor at Firearms News, Darwin writes about the Second Amendment, firearms, and related gear. Follow him on Instagram, X, and YouTube @DTOE\_Official.

## EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW WITH POTENTIAL NRA REFORMER, CHARLIE BROWN OF MKS SUPPLY

Can the NRA Be Revived, or Is It Time for an Autopsy?

ith the National Rifle Association's 2025 Board of Directors election on the horizon, a group of twenty-eight reform candidates are hard at work campaigning for what they call "NRA 2.0," proposing to change and revive what was once the beacon of Second Amendment advocacy. The group's website, ElectANewNRA.com, cites restoration of trust and a return to the NRA's original mission and core values as a fundamental priority to the defense of American gun rights and the development of programs to support firearm safety, education, and shooting sports.

I had the opportunity to spend time with one of the reformers, Charlie Brown, third-generation steward of a family tradition in the firearms industry, NRA lifetime member, and President of Ohio-based MKS Supply, which is the exclusive distributor for Hi-Point Firearms and Inland Manufacturing. Hoping to inform readers directly from a source within the movement, the conversation started with Brown explaining why he feels it's time to overhaul NRA leadership.

"The NRA board needs to change because we are all aware of all the past issues and mismanagement and that type of thing that NRA went through. Financial, the lawsuits, all that type of thing from their mismanagement. And, at the end of the day, the board of directors could have stopped that or changed the trajectory, and they didn't. So, the board needs to change to what we call the reformers," Brown said.

I asked Brown to tell me in his own words who the reformers are and what



Charlie Brown holding a Hi-Point carbine in the MKS Supply booth at SHOT Show.

the group intends to achieve if they succeed in earning a majority vote on the NRA board.

"The reformers are the people that feel like the NRA needs to get back to the original mission, you know, of, of responsible gun ownership, public safety, firearms training, and watching out for the NRA or the Second Amendment for its members. So, that's what the reformers are bound to do and we're going to do it. It's just a matter of when it's going to happen," says Brown.

Having lived long enough to see the NRA fall from grace as a formidable force behind the Second Amendment, I can't argue with the sentiment. However, a strong sense of history can oftentimes help us understand where our predecessors were drawn off course, prompting me to ask Brown why he thinks the old guard adopted a direction that has ushered in the current state of the NRA.

"Well, I mean, a lot of it had to do with Wayne and his power over them. There's a lot of people that were brought on and put on the board by Wayne, by one way or the other, they had allegiance to Wayne. I think Wayne did a really good job for many many years but unfortunately, he became tainted, much like a lot of politicians do, and did not, was not looking out for the NRA and was looking out more for himself and his cronies, and it just went bad," Brown explained to me.

Digging deeper, I was curious about Brown's perspective on whether those previous decisions were more financially or politically motivated.

"I think that there was a lot of politics that went into play there. I think that we all remember NRA as the 800-pound gorilla in the room. They had all the power, which was good for its members when it was powerful. I don't know how long you can remember back, but probably 12 to 15 years ago, I, as a member, saw the NRA changing because they weren't as hard-core political. They didn't stand up for our rights. They caved on several issues with the White House. And, that change was pretty obvious to me. I'm standing on the sidelines as a life member going, 'What the hell is going on?' I mean, that's not what the members want," according to Brown.

Brown went on to explain to me his connection with and empathy for the membership's discontent regarding the NRA's direction and leadership, going so far as to question whether he would maintain his status with the organization if he were not already a lifetime member.

"Fortunately, I'm a 35-year exhibiter at the NRA Show, and I get to feel and



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take the pulse of the membership on a very personal basis, and generally, the membership was thinking like I was, thinking, 'well, where's the transparency?' Why aren't the NRA putting the members first? You know, why aren't they dedicated to our mission like it used to be? And so, I was disheartened, and to be honest with you, if I wasn't a life member, I probably would have stopped being a member for a while," Brown admitted.

With so many options for gun rights advocacy these days, like Gun Owners of America (GOA), Second Amend Foundation (SAF), Firearms Policy Coalition (FPC), and more, I wondered why not throw support behind one of those groups instead, which Brown later explained to me that he does, but also spoke about a deep-seated philosophy on commitment passed down through several generations of his family.

"I was raised in the firearms business and, you know, my father and grandfather used to tell me, 'If you don't like the way something's going, either walk away from it or get involved and make a change, you know. So, that's kind of — I didn't want to walk away because I still think it can be a great organization again doing the things that the members want it to do... The NRA is composed of 76 members, right? I mean, the board is. By having a voting majority of the reformers, we will be able to move the NRA back to what it should be. It should be a member's organization," said Brown.

Brown went on to explain his choice, after such a steep decline in the NRA's power, popularity, and influence, to finally get involved in the organization's leadership and try to implement the changes he feels are necessary to right the ship.

"That feel changed, you know, the proudness and the feel changed at some point, and I think that's when Wayne went rotten. I mean, it happened. Everybody saw it happen. And I mean, I was approached five years or so ago to become a board member by one of the very early reformers, and I told him there's no

way in hell I'm going to get involved until Wayne's gone because he has too much power over everybody else," Brown said.

Now that the proverbial path is clear of what sounds like a major roadblock, I began to ask Brown about details the reformers might prioritize if they do become a voting majority.

"The first and foremost thing we have to do at the NRA is show the members transparency and accountability and spend their money like they want it spent, you know. That's the number one thing we need to get back to our roots on, you know. We have to prove to them, which is going to be a marketing effort and a 'show me' effort, the 'show me' state. We all know that quote, 'Don't tell me, show me.' So, we're going to have to prove to them that we're on a mission to make a

Amendment community for much longer than the last decade and a half. Specifically, I asked for Brown's thoughts on addressing the National Firearms Act of 1934 (NFA) and the Gun Control Act of 1968 (GCA).

"Well, I mean, the Gun Control Act, it — it. I think there are great — we can't abolish those, okay? I don't think you can, like, abolish them because that's a little bit, in my opinion, a little too radical of an ask. But we can certainly go in and right size those and make sense of some of the ridiculous things that might be in them like suppressors. Why can't they be part of the firearms community that you can go into a gun shop and buy it on a 4473 and walk out the door with it? Why do you have to pay a \$200 tax stamp to buy a[n] accessory for a firearm?"



Firearms News
Executive Editor,
David Fortier, firing
the Hi-Point Yeet
Cannon, while
Charlie Brown
watches, at the 2019
Outdoor Sportsman
Group Editorial
Roundtable.

change and show them the changes that we're making, and then a lot of people, I think, will rejoin the NRA and it will become a more powerful organization like it once was. That's really the first step, just showing the members that we're steering the ship out of the storm. And the NRA has had a credibility issue for many years, and I mean, that's something that has to be addressed. We've got to show them that our heart is in it, and we're not going to waver, and we're going to go fight the politicians that want to take our firearms, and show them that we have their best interest in mind," Brown answered.

Speaking of getting back into the fight, I wanted to drill down on particular issues that predate Wayne LaPierre and have plagued the Second

From here, Brown began to explain the various committees within the NRA board and the professional demographics of many of those board members, from businesspeople and NRA instructors to local politicians and attorneys. Brown highlighted the talent pool, emphasizing the reform as needing to be at the "epicenter" of what must be done. I found myself unsatisfied by the idea that suppressors could become a consolation prize while the abolition of an infringement expressly forbidden by the Constitution could somehow be perceived as "radical," and pushed back on the arbitrary nature of restrictions placed on short-barreled rifles (SBR) and shotguns (SBS).

"I certainly feel that the, what we call SBRs, which are rifles with barrels shorter



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INSTITUTE FOR LEGISLATIVE ACTION

VOLUME 13, NUMBER 13, AUGUST 15, 1986

#### NRA to Fight Machine Gun Ban



opealing the machine gun amend-ment tacked on so the McCharesaid National Rifle Association Institute for Legislative Action Rescutive Director Wayne LaPierre Jr. The NRA and the newly formed National Fireness Association are actively secicing legislarive and legal remedies to the anti-gan amendment offered by Rep. William Hughes (N.J.) in the warring moments of the debate on the McClure-Volkmer Firearm Owners Protection Act. Already, the NRA is involved in several iswsuits, that have been brought in federal future transactions of automatic firearms. (See related Halbrook article on page 7.) The machine gon amendment restricts the fistero transfer of mechine guns to those fincarms registered with the U.S. Treasury Department on or before May 19, the day President Ronald Reagan signed the McCluse-Volkmer legislation.

group of licensed collectors and owners of reaching gures and other items regulated by the National Firearms Act of 1934, anyciled plans for future membership. legislation, public education and adminignative committees at its first-over meeting held June 13 in Houston. The association was founded to help repeal the machine gun amendment and to educate the public about automatic firearms.

**Wayne LaPierre** 

vowed to reverse

the machine gun

ban in the 1986

**Firearm Owners** 

was almost 40

still stands.

years ago and it

**Protect Act – that** 

and the NRA

NRA Governmental Affairs Director James J. Baker said that legislation has been drafted to repeal the amend As a prelude to the introduction of machine gun amendment repeal bill, the

NRA has released its stated position on automatic firearms. Said the 3 million member association: "The National Rifle Association supports the right of lawabiding individuals to choose to own any firearm, including automatic firearms. The individuals who make such a choice, and

than sixteen inches, could certainly be a transferable item via a 4473 without a tax stamp. I mean, as a lot of things we talk about, the devil is in the details. And, what battles do you want to pick to go after and what kind of money do you want to spend on that when it comes to the NRA's part? Not being a board member, I don't know — I can't speak for the board or the reformers coming in, but, NFA items like SBRs and any other weapons, in my opinion, would certainly have to be looked at and just like suppressors, looked at and just, been like, this is a firearm, like you said it's not easily concealed. Do we want to? There would have to be some parameters, I think," Brown said.

As the Second Amendment does not mention parameters, I explained my position as a Constitutional originalist and my belief that words like "parameter" and "regulation" are euphemisms for infringement. Do we have a Second Amendment, or do we have this other thing? The words in the Constitution must have a fixed and objective meaning as understood when adopted. If this is not the case, and lawmakers and judges instead choose to adhere to whims of influence and corruption, the words have no meaning, and the country loses its core values and foundation. Naturally, my next stop was the Hughes Amendment, added to the Firearm Owners Protection Act by New Jersey Democrat William Hughes and signed into law by President Ronald Reagan in 1986. This measure made it illegal to transfer or possess a machine gun manufactured after May 19, 1986.

"I really haven't played in the whole full auto realm a whole lot. I certainly think we should be able to be approved to own full auto if we wish. Like all firearms, I do think that there should be some type of background, check as we have it. I think that's a pretty efficient — I think it's a pretty efficient system that we have. I think it could get better, you know, by merging mental health records in but that walks way out on a, on another high dive per se, because you know there's a lot of possibility for infringing on other rights there. Personally, my personal feeling is, I'm kind of like you. I'm a Constitutionalist and I believe that the Constitution allows us to have access to pretty much any firearm that we want. There's a lot of full autos out there, and legal full autos, and none of those are ever involved in any kind of bad acts. I think the biggest, the bigger problem would be, let's try to push our lawyers and judges to use the laws that we have currently to put the bad actors away, so they don't commit more crimes and make honest gun owners like you

At this point, I transitioned to a discussion of the resources that could be available if the government would stop spending tax dollars to criminalize Constitutionally protected behavior. This is followed by more taxes to fight us in court when we sue, dragging even more of our money through the system. When they are defeated, they begin the cycle all over by ignoring the ruling or finding a creative way to circumvent it. Without

and I look bad," says Brown.

this purposeful abuse of tax revenue, good laws that don't infringe on civil liberties could be upheld, and law enforcement could be equipped with the technology and intelligence to focus on the real criminal element.

At this point, however, there is no claim to an inadvertent blind eye, as the criminalization of law-abiding behavior has become an intentional tool in the agenda to disarm Americans. I asked Brown why he thought that was and where he thinks it came from.

"Wow, well, I think a lot of our judges are lawyers, right? They have to be a lawyer to become a judge, typically. So, unfortunately I think that is handed down through the good old boy network of, 'Hey, we'll keep them in the system, and we'll all make money on this deal,' you know? I hate to say that, but I think that has happened in our system."

I agree that this mentality plays a role in long and drawn-out proceedings where the only ones who win are those charging by the hour, but I brought it back to the disarmament agenda itself, and the motivating factors behind it that should worry all Americans. Brown continued.

"Well, we all know the term, firearms' two greatest enemies are rust and politicians, right? So, yeah, I do believe that a lot of politicians are trying to disarm the American public, and whether that's for more devious purposes or more deeply rooted, I don't know. I think that's above my pay grade."

I was reluctant to push further on the matter as neither of us had a crystal ball handy, but I pointed out that putting it into context means applying history as a barometer and looking closely into governments that have disarmed their citizens, which ultimately exposed unspeakably undesirable ends. As much as people make reference to tin foil hats when we discuss this, the history speaks for itself.

Next, I wanted to discuss the NRA having made endorsements on both sides of the aisle in the past, handing down ratings that were perhaps unfitting for politicians who ended up demonstrating a clear anti-Second

## THEY SAID A WILDCAT CARTRIDGE CAN NEVER BE MAINSTREAM.

## WE RESPECTFULLY DISAGREE.



HORIZONFIREARMS

Amendment bias. A great example would be New York's rabidly anti-gun Governor, Kathy Hochul, who in 2012 received an A rating and an NRA endorsement preceding her race for the 27th Congressional District seat. I asked Brown what he thought about the vetting process and if anything could be done to improve the accuracy of information disseminated to voters.

"Personally, I think that, when you have a national campaign, like a Presidential campaign, or you know that type of caliber, I think the NRA can certainly rate those candidates but, in my opinion, the best people to rate those candidates are state organizations. Everybody has state organizations. We've Buckeye Firearms Association in Ohio and that type of thing. Those people in their states know how their politicians are voting much better than anybody else. So, whenever I need information on a Senator or Congressman or whatever with regard to voting rights, I always try to tap the state firearms organizations for that information because they're a little bit more in tune with what they actually do rather than what they say. And I think maybe in the past, the NRA might have been influenced by, again, we're talking about the old NRA, Wayne's NRA, right? And I think maybe there was some, you know, 'Pat my back, I'll pat your back' things going on there, you know, with some of the candidates that got endorsed," Brown surmised.

I asked Brown if he thought the NRA should spend more time in the vetting process, perhaps withholding endorsements until certain actions or deadlined commitments have been made.

"That's hard to say. I think we could probably get at least a good feel for most of them, and you know, I don't know. I haven't given that particular thing very much thought, to be honest with you. I think it can be done, but whoever's doing it has to obviously send out questionnaires, and if they're returned — a lot of them don't get returned —if they get returned then somebody's got to back-check with,

like we were talking about before, with a state or local people that know more about that person's actions, because I think actions are definitely way more powerful than words in that case. Show me that you're a Second Amendment supporter, not just tell me," Brown said.

To this, I suggested the NRA make ratings and endorsements specific to some form of compliance by incumbent politicians while keeping ratings



In addition to being a lifelong supporter of gun rights, Charlie Brown is also a lifelong hunter.

fluid for challengers based on the commitments, they are willing to make and stripping them of their ratings the moment they don't follow through. For those who do not respond to the questionnaire, I suggested an automatic category be applied that reads, "I simply don't think the Second Amendment is important." Of course, I am one to hold feet to the fire on the subject, as conservative gun owners practically live with their feet to the fire of anti-Second Amendment rhetoric and attacks from the left daily. I find myself lacking any sympathy on the matter nor giving quarter.

With perhaps our best offense being an investment in the future, I turned to youth education and involvement in shooting sports, asking Brown what his thoughts were on the subject and what plans he may have for the NRA to welcome new shooters and the next generation.

"Yeah, I think that has to be a focus because unfortunately the old guys like me, I mean, we're not going to be around a whole lot longer. We'd like to think we are, but, you know, I think we have to utilize the technology that we have now in front of us to be able to reach out to younger people and energize them, you know? Hunting has kind of slowed down a little bit because it's not such a traditional type thing anymore," Brown stated.

We agreed that outdoor activities like hunting and fishing are more prevalent in rural America. However, I am not sure it has slowed down significantly in those areas so much as it has been overshadowed by the rapid growth in shooting, a subject that Brown addressed.

"On the other hand, going to ranges and shooting targets is way up in activity. So, we need to promote what people are doing now and encourage people to get out to the range, and for older people to take a younger person that might be interested to the range and that type of thing. I think there can be a lot done there to welcome new shooters into our sport. I definitely think that needs to be on the table with the NRA, for sure," says Brown.

There was a time when politicians feared the NRA, and as it represented the voice of the people, I know that is how the Founders meant things to be. Times have changed and now American citizens live in fear of what the ruling class may impose upon their lives and liberty. We have come a long way from our Founding values, a journey that has seen the diametric reversal of that power dynamic that so many sacrificed to guarantee this nation. Whether we are past the point of no return remains to be seen, but the future of the NRA lies in the hands of its voting members, and it is up to them to decide if the organization is worth saving, what that looks like, or if it will serve an alternate purpose, reminding future organizations of the inevitable death rattle that occurs when the people lose their faith.

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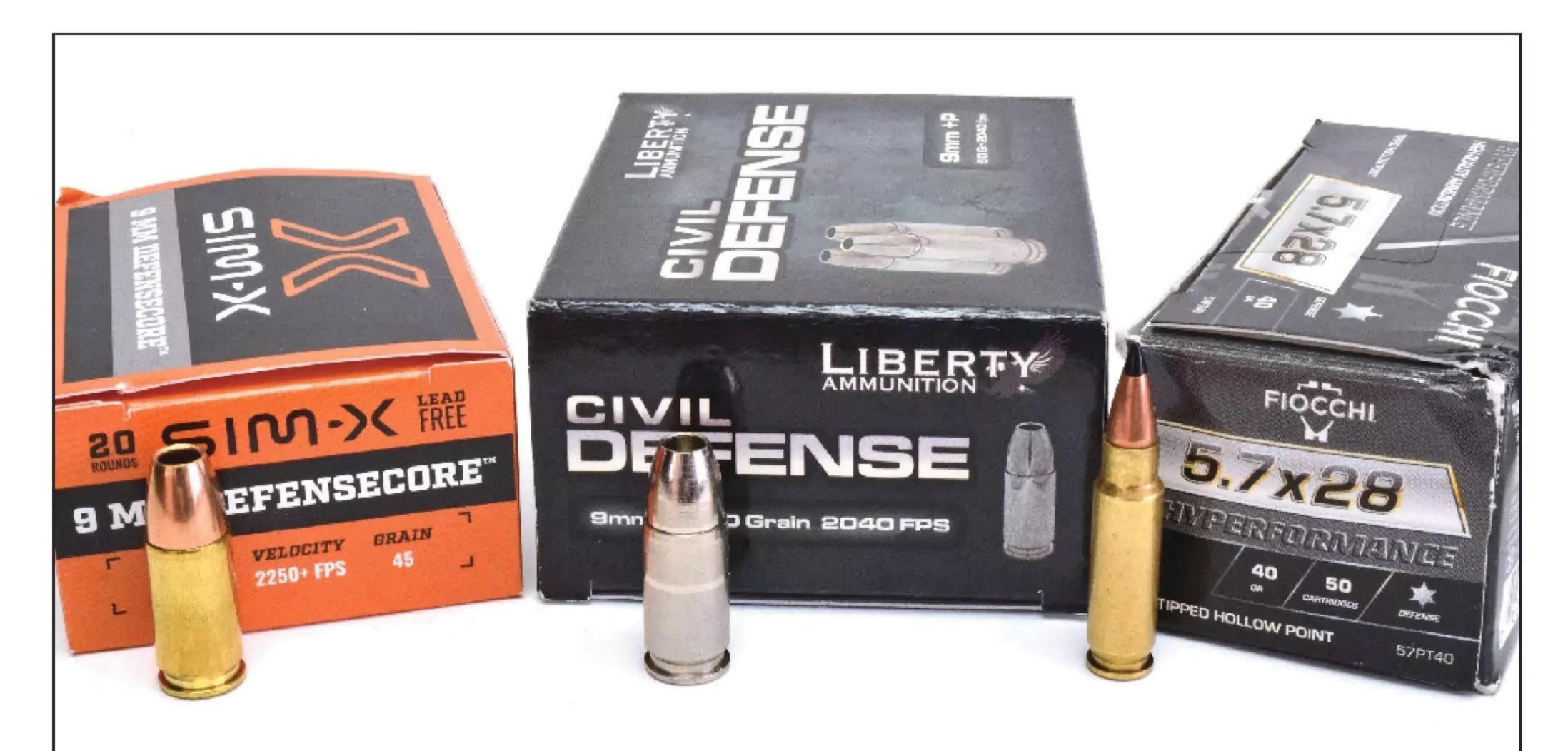
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## HYPERVELOCITY HANDGUN AMMO



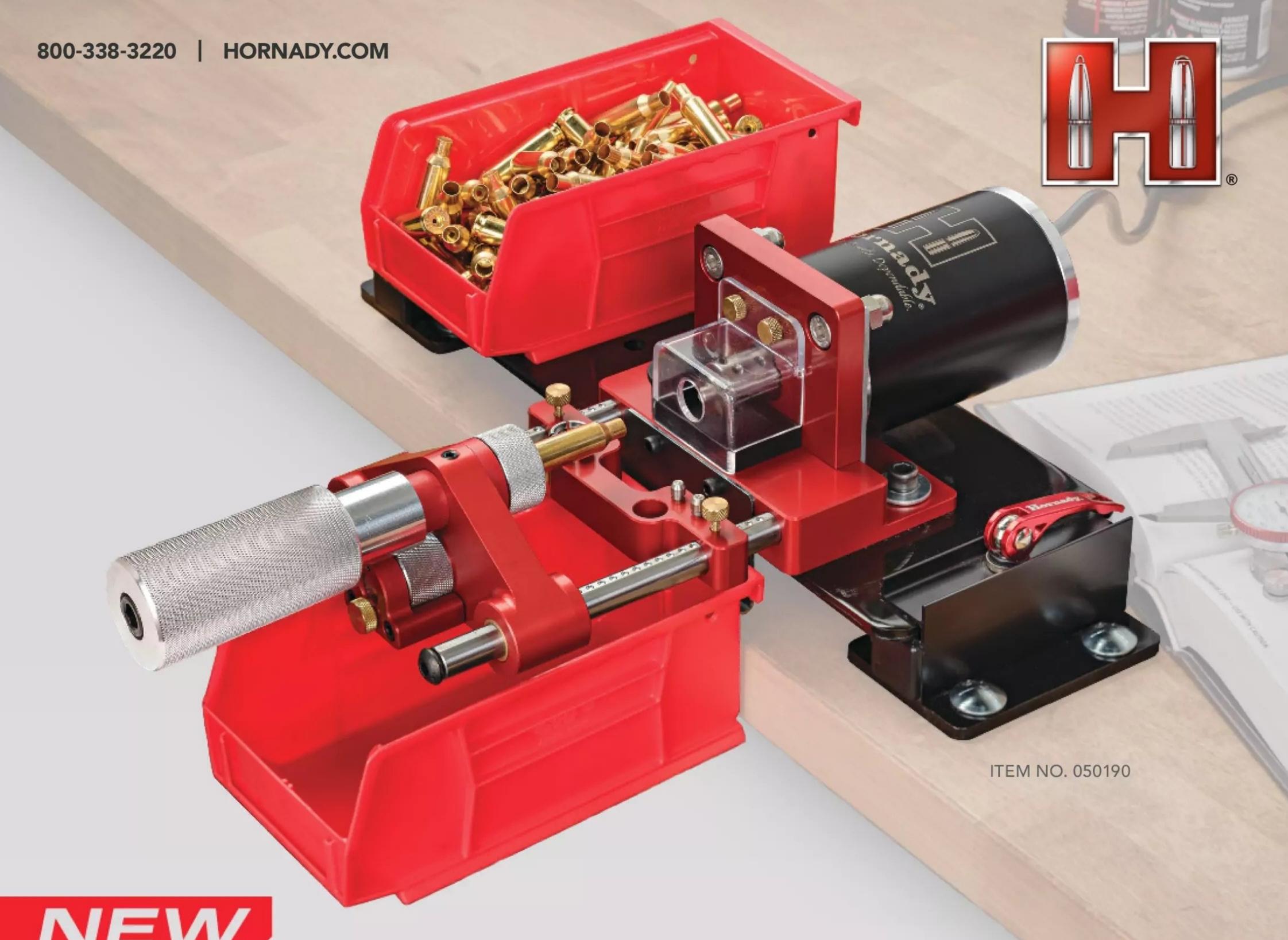
Hypervelocity handgun rounds—which send bullets downrange at near-rifle velocities—might be the next big thing, and while they have their limitations, what they can do they seem to do very well. From left: SIM-X 45-grain 9mm at 2,250 fps, Liberty Ammunition Civil Defense 50-grain 9mm at 2,040 fps, and Fiocchi 40-grain 5.7x28mm which will do roughly 1,700 out of pistol-length barrels.

hen it comes to rifle ammunition, the technology has been mostly stagnant for the past few decades, with a few incremental improvements to bullet performance. However, in the last few years the possibilities of cases capable of handling drastically higher pressures (SIG's hybrid case for the .277 Fury, Federal's peak alloy in the 7mm Backcountry) have redefined our knowledge of the possible.

On the handgun side, the sea change happened with the widespread adoption of the FBI Ammunition Testing Protocol, which grew out of the famed 1986 FBI Miami Gunfight. That tough protocol has made modern handgun ammunition perform much better, but now we might be on the cusp of "the next big thing" in handgun ammo, hypervelocity.

We've had "+P" (extra pressure=extra velocity) ammunition for decades, but what I'm talking about is something relatively new, pistol ammunition that sends bullets heading downrange at carbine velocities—roughly 2,000 fps. And that's where things get interesting.

Bullets can wound/incapacitate through three mechanisms—temporary wound cavity, permanent wound cavity, and hydrostatic shock. First, you have to remember that human flesh is elastic, and has a very high-water component. The temporary cavity happens when the bullet first impacts, and the flesh expands and stretches. Slow-motion footage of gel blocks shows sometimes fist-sized cavities occurring at the moment of impact, but then they instantly close up. Permanent cavities are the actual wound channel through flesh caused by the bullet cutting and



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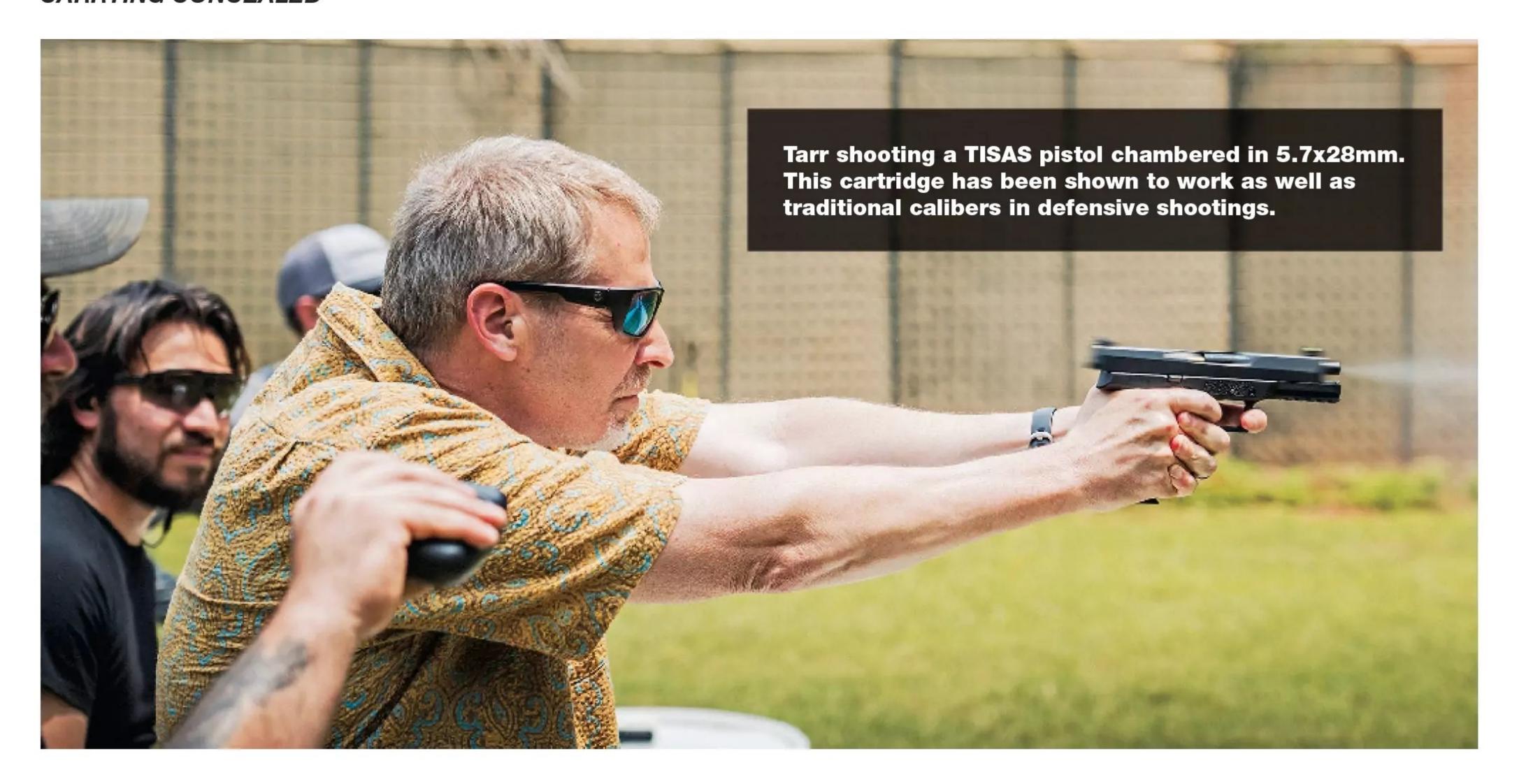
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tearing skin, muscle, organs, etc. With a handgun bullet, that permanent wound cavity is usually a narrow tunnel. Pistols are poor stoppers because they simply aren't that powerful, and so there's not much energy transfer when their bullets hit bad guys, but now we get to hydrostatic shock.

Rifle bullets are no bigger or heavier than pistol bullets, but they are far more effective due to their increased velocity. People are basically just collections of very watery organs. Think of the difference between poking a puddle with your finger, and slapping it as hard as you can with your palm, and you'll start to understand hydrostatic shock, which is basically a pressure wave travelling through flesh. An energy transfer between the bullet and the bad guy that tends to disrupt the human central nervous system.

Interestingly, if that bullet just zips through the bad guy, there is less energy transfer. You get more of a pressure wave, more energy transfer, more hydrostatic shock, when that bullet is forced to decelerate in the bad guy. You only start seeing the effects of hydrostatic shock when bullets are 1,800–2,000 fps and faster. Which brings us to hypervelocity handgun ammunition.



5.7x28mm ammunition features 35–40-grain bullets travelling between 1,600–1,800 fps. They expand rapidly and don't penetrate deeply but seem to incapacitate as well as traditional handgun rounds.



KelTec's new PR57 is the smallest pistol now available chambered in 5.7x28mm, small enough for CCW.





Two hypervelocity 9mm loads—SIM-X's 45-grain offering on the left, which features a polymer core, and Liberty Ammunition's Civil Defense load on the right, which is a copper solid with a huge hollowpoint. Both will do over 2,000 fps.

Previously in this column, I've discussed the increased popularity of 5.7x28mm ammunition. This odd, bottlenecked cartridge sends bullets of 35–40 grains in weight downrange at 1,600–1,800 fps. In shootings, it has proven to be roughly as effective as standard hollowpoints, and likely that is due to at least some imparted hydrostatic shock, although it is at the very bottom end of the velocity range for that. KelTec just introduced the smallest 5.7 pistol yet, well-suited to CCW, but let's talk traditional calibers. Currently, there are two players on the scene that I'm aware of, Liberty Ammunition's Civil Defense rounds, and SIM-X, which is a new company.

Liberty's Civil Defense 9mm+P load is a 50-grain JHP at an advertised 2,040 fps, and that's not BS, I've found it will do 2,010 fps out of the four-inch barrel of a Glock 19. The bullet is homogenous copper, with a very large cavity and thin base.

Upon impact, the hollowpoint tends to fragment into several petals which fly off in various directions. The thin base, which is shaped like a coin, continues on into the bad guy. The high velocity of these bullets causes a large (for a pistol) temporary cavity, and may—depending—transfer the kind of hydrostatic shock you normally only get with rifle ammunition.

SIM-X ammunition (SimxAm mo.com) is new, and really leaning

hard into the science of how and why hypervelocity handgun bullets work. They've done a lot of testing under high-speed cameras, and have captured what they think are cavitation bubbles in gel blocks caused by the pressure wave of the impacting

bullets. Their DefenseCore 9mm features a 45-grain JHP bullet at an advertised 2,250 fps.

Modern manufacturing technologies are allowing companies to do things that simply weren't possible just a few years ago, and that includes projectiles. If you look closely at the 45-grain SIM-X bullet in the photos, you'll see that it's longer than the 50-grain Liberty Ammo bullet. That's because the Liberty Ammo bullet is a traditional copper-solid JHP, just very short and with a huge cavity. The SIM-X bullet is basically a homogenous copper shell with a polymer filling. There is a cavity at the front to form a traditional hollow point, but upon impact the hollow point doesn't expand; instead, the base of the SIM-X bullet collapses forward and the sides of the bullet blow out. It hasn't

been used in any defensive shooting yet that I'm aware of, but on hunts it has worked very well.

There is no such thing as a free lunch—these very light, very fast bullets don't penetrate gel blocks/bad guys as deeply, as they arguably don't need to. However, they also don't penetrate barriers (drywall, auto glass, etc.) well, if at all. This drastically reduces the chances of overpenetration, but if you're hoping to shoot through the kind of intermediate barriers traditional bullets have little problem with, these bullets might not be for you.

We are just starting to explore hypervelocity handgun rounds, and it makes me wonder... I wonder if the high-pressure cases we're currently seeing on the rifle side are going to make their way over to the pistol side, providing even more velocity to these light-for-caliber loads.



An expanded SIM-X DefenseCore bullet on the bottom, compared to a traditional JHP with a lead core. They perform very differently upon impact.

#### **SOURCES**

Fiocchi Ammunition, Fiocchi USA.com

Liberty Ammunition, Liberty Ammo.com

SIM-X Ammunition, SimxAmmo.com



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## 出300 WINCHESTER H M G M U M

Winchester's Belted Magnum Remains Hugely Popular With Both Hunters and Long-Range Shooters Decades After

Its Introduction!

t's interesting watching how the tastes of long range shooters and hunters evolve as technology changes and new cartridges are introduced. Advancements in bullet design, case construction, and propellants all continue to deliver improved performance and exterior ballistics. New cartridges like Federal's 7mm Backcountry, Hornady's 7mm PRC, SIG Sauer's 277 SIG Fury, and Winchester's 6.8 Western all compete to catch the attention and favor of shooters and hunters, with the intent to replace existing popular cartridges. It is, after all, the circle of life. Cartridges are developed, become popular and then over time are edged out by newer designs. Some older cartridges may fall to the wayside due to more modern cartridges having an edge in performance or simply better marketing.

There are certain rifle cartridges though which stubbornly refuse to fade away. One of these is the popular old .300 "Win Mag." A .30-caliber belted magnum, the .300 Winchester Magnum was introduced by Winchester Repeating Arms Company some 62 years ago way back in 1963. Winchester had previously introduced three new magnum rifle cartridges in 1958: the flat shooting



While there are plenty of cartridges to consider for big game hunting and long range use, the old .300 Win Mag remains hugely popular.

.264 Win Mag, the hard hitting .338 Win Mag and the big-bore .458 Win Mag. While all three of these new offerings would be successful, the .338 Win Mag would become the most popular of the trio.

Winchester based their new magnum rifles cartridges on a modified .375 H&H Magnum case which was both blown out and shortened to 2.500 inches. Why the 2.500 length? This was important as it allowed the

new cartridges to function through a standard length rifle action. This was a lesson gleaned from Roy Weatherby. Fifteen years earlier, in 1943, Weatherby had introduced his .270 Weatherby Magnum and popularized this length. Winchester astutely followed his lead when they developed their own line of magnum cartridges. It was the right decision and all three designs grabbed the attention of riflemen and hunters.

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These three magnum rifle cartridges provided a good performance spread, but Winchester recognized they were missing something. They needed a design to cover the hugely popular .30-caliber bore size. Americans in the 1950s and 1960s loved their .30 calibers, and a properly designed cartridge in this bore size would be both an effective hunting cartridge and useful for long range target shooting. So, they put their engineers back to work.

While the new cartridge was based on the same parent case, they decided to move the shoulder forward 0.156 inch to further increase powder capacity. Doing so gave the new cartridge a distinctive feature it is known for, a relatively short neck. The belted-magnum case has a length of 2.62 inches. Rim diameter is .532 inch while base diameter is .513 inch. Shoulder diameter is .489 inch, and overall cartridge length is 3.34 inches. Maximum SAAMI recommended pressure is 64,000 PSI.



The Cross Magnum is chambered in the .300 Win Mag seen here with some other popular cartridges (L to R): .308 Win, .260 Rem, 6.5mm Creedmoor, 6.5mm PRC, 6.5x55mm, and .300 Win Mag.

Winchester's new .300 Winchester Magnum cartridge not only proved to be an instant hit, but it would eclipse all the other various magnum rifle cartridges in the .30 caliber bore size. Why did it become so popular? Winchester's new design was embraced by hunters and shooters for a variety of reasons. Firstly, it offers a practical brute performance advantage over standard rifle cartridges like the classic .30-'06, but without being too hard kicking. It will take any game animal in North America; yet will still fit in a standard length action. On the rifle range, it gained a reputation for both its accuracy in 1,000-yard competitions and its exterior ballistics, but, perhaps most importantly Winchester designed it with the working man in mind. Unlike certain other magnum cartridges, loaded ammunition and reloading components are relatively affordable.

The US military also took note of the virtues of Winchester's magnum. It soon became popular with the various rifle teams for use in competition. In addition, the Navy in particular took an early interest in the Win Mag as a means to extend the range of their snipers. They originally began using a 185-grain Lapua FMJ-BT, but eventually switched to a 190-grain Sierra MatchKing. Target velocity was 2,950 fps. During development of what came to be known as the A191 load (type classified as the Mk 248 Mod 0), much work was done on the chamber design (headspacing off the shoulder, not the belt) as well as maintaining a consistent velocity over a wide temperature range.

The result of this work was a sniper cartridge with extended reach compared to the 7.62x51mm M118. Combat performance of the .300 Win Mag has been very good. The US Army eventually decided to retain their M24 rifles by converting them to .300 Win Mag. With the US military embracing the .300 Win Mag, work was undertaken to further improve it. The A191/ Mk 248 Mod 0 was refined and a new Mk 248 Mod 1 load introduced. This new load was developed to stretch the .300 Win Mag's reach even further. The traditional 190-grain Sierra MatchKing was replaced by a 220-grain MatchKing. Doing so bumped the G1 ballistic coefficient (BC) from 0.533 to 0.629. Muzzle velocity remained very similar despite



The .300 Win Mag remains popular due to its performance, accuracy potential, and its economical nature. (Photo by Ashley Jaderborg)





The .300 Win Mag is drastically more economical to shoot and reload than some other magnum rifle cartridges like the .338 Lapua Magnum.

the increase in projectile weight. This was accomplished through a very heavy charge of H1000 powder which is pushing pressures slightly above SAAMI levels. As the Mk 248 Mod 1 is loaded to a longer OAL than SAAMI specifies it may not be safe in some commercial rifles. The end result is an effective long range sniper load well-suited to the US military's particular needs effective to 1,500+ yards.

If you are interested in the .300 Win Mag, loaded ammunition, dies, and components are all readily available. Ammunition, even match loads, is significantly less expensive than its Finnish rival, the .338 Lapua Magnum. Brass is plentiful from a variety of domestic and foreign manufacturers. Federal, Remington, Nosler, Hornady, Norma and Winchester all offer brass. Winchester

.300 WIN MAG ACCURACY CHART SIG SAUER CROSS MAGNUM WITH 24-INCH BARREL Bullet Muzzle Standard Load Average Velocity (fps). Deviation Weight (gr). Group (in.) SIG Sauer OTM 2,857 8. 190 17.6 Winchester Accubond 3,058 180 Winchester XP3 3,336 21 1.5 150 Handload AMAX 2,655 .75 208 14.3 TACTICAL RIFLES CHIMERA MAGNUM WITH 24-INCH BARREL

 Handload AMAX
 208
 2,655
 14.3
 .75

 TACTICAL RIFLES CHIMERA MAGNUM WITH 24-INCH BARREL

 Hornady AMAX
 178
 2,978
 8
 .6

 Winchester SilverTip
 180
 2,932
 6
 .8

 NGMTU MatchKing
 190
 2,832
 13
 .3

Notes: Accuracy results are averages of four five-shot groups fired from a rest at 100 yards. Velocity figures are 10-shot averages recorded with a LabRadar Doppler chronograph at the muzzle at an ambient temperature of 35 degrees F at 1,030 feet above Sea Level.

brass is relatively inexpensive while
Norma brass has earned a reputation
for excellent quality. Just keep in
mind that brass will vary in weight
and volume from manufacturer to
manufacturer. It can also vary
depending upon the lot and date
of manufacture.

When it comes to powder, there are a number to choose from. IMR 4350 is a traditional favorite while Hodgdon's H1000 and Retumbo both have their followers. If you are a fan of VihtaVuori powders, one I recommend trying is N560. RL-22 is also an excellent powder to consider. Just remember, the faster the load the better the exterior ballistics, but the harder it will be on your barrel.

Seeing as the Win Mag utilizes standard 0.308-inch diameter projectiles, there are a host of fine choices available. Sierra's 190-grain MatchKing (0.533 BC) is the traditional choice, but it's hardly the only choice. Sierra's 210 (0.670 BC) and 220-grain (0.629 BC) MatchKings also deserve consideration. Hornady's 208-grain ELD Match (0.690 BC) in particular has earned an enviable reputation. While on the heavy side, Hornady's 225-grain ELD Match (0.777 BC) has a very impressive claimed BC. Berger Bullets has a wide assortment of Match projectiles to consider and Lapua should not be forgotten. In my experience, Sierra's 190-grain MatchKing is well-known for being relatively easy to get to shoot well. Many of the VLDs can be a bit touchy regarding OAL, and can take a bit more effort to dial in.

Is the .300 Win Mag perfect? No, the belt is a hold-over from times long past and the neck is indeed short. Plus, if you want to go fast you've got to pay the piper. Do not expect to stuff copious quantities of slow burning powder down a .30-caliber hole and have Methuselah-like barrel life. Even with all its faults, the old "Win Mag" remains very popular and is certainly one to consider for big game hunting and long-range shooting.

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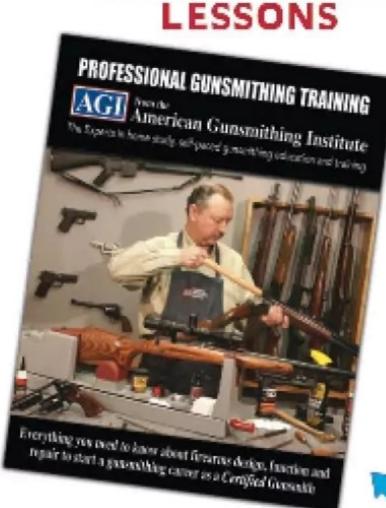
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Light and Simple, the Way We Like It!

sors is that they add weight, and not just dead weight, but weight added to the reciprocating mass. So, they "stall" pistols. In order to keep them from malfunctioning it became necessary to use a booster, aka a Linear Inertial Decoupler, or Nielsen Device. This stores energy generated by recoil and adds it back into the cycling parts. The problems with this are many: It adds even more weight; with the spring, slider tube and rear cap. The extra parts all need enough clearance to slide, and this means there might be some droop, so the baffle clearances have to be larger. And the moving parts can shift the point of impact.

That is all old now that Silencer Central has the Banish 9K to offer. How'd they do that? Simple: titanium, 3D-printed titanium. By building up the Banish 9K in the latest industrial metal-printing machines, they can solve several problems at once.

First, it is light enough to not need a booster. At 2.7 ounces, the complete Banish 9K is as light as some booster and rear cap assemblies I have on the shelf, and it is complete, one piece, just a pistol suppressor you thread onto our barrel. The second problem is how to make such a short suppressor as quiet as possible. Well, 3D printing solves that problem as well. Short of cutting it open (and I'm sure someone, somewhere, will do that, if only a competitor

he big problem with pistol suppresto see how Silencer Central has done it), we don't know what the internal structure is like, but 3D printing lets you (well, the manufacturer) craft baffle designs that cannot be machined. The spec sheet that Silencer Central handed me back when the Banish 9K was first unveiled speaks of eight baffles in a four-inch-long suppressor. There's magic going on in there, folks, and it is just 1.3 inches in diameter as well. So, despite being a mere 4.1 inches long, the Banish 9K drops the decibel level to the shooters ear down to 132 dB.

> As a unitary piece, the rear of the Banish 9K is direct-thread, and here they offer both the American ½-28 and the metric M13.5x1LH for those of you who have a Euro-pistol that came threaded wrongway backwards. (Yep, I've got one around here someplace....) The direct-thread aspect means that you don't have to rebuild or lock out your booster in order to

put the Banish 9K onto your PCC or SBR/subgun. Just thread it on.

Ratings? The Banish 9K handles all 9mm loads; sub and supersonic, any .380 you might have on hand with a threaded barrel, the various 5.8x28 pistols and PCCs you might have in the rack and even .300 Blackout. Not to leave anyone out, the Banish 9K is also listed as being suitable for the .38 Special and .357 Magnum, the .38 Auto (I have to assume this also includes the .38 Super), and the .30-30. So, if you want to use a lever-action rifle for hunting (where hunting with a suppressor is allowed) then you can put the Banish 9K on the muzzle of a whole host of hunting-suitable leverguns. It is fullauto-rated for 9mm and .300 Blackout subsonic loads.

Now, the Banish 9K, being threaded ½-28 means it will fit onto a .22LR. My advice would be not to use it on a rimfire. .22LR ammunition is so



■ Since the Banish 9K doesn't need a booster, it can be a simple direct-thread mount. And so it is.

► The front cap is simple, because it is 3D printed and not disassemblable, so nothing to service. Just keep it clean.



To some, sunglasses are a fashion accessory...

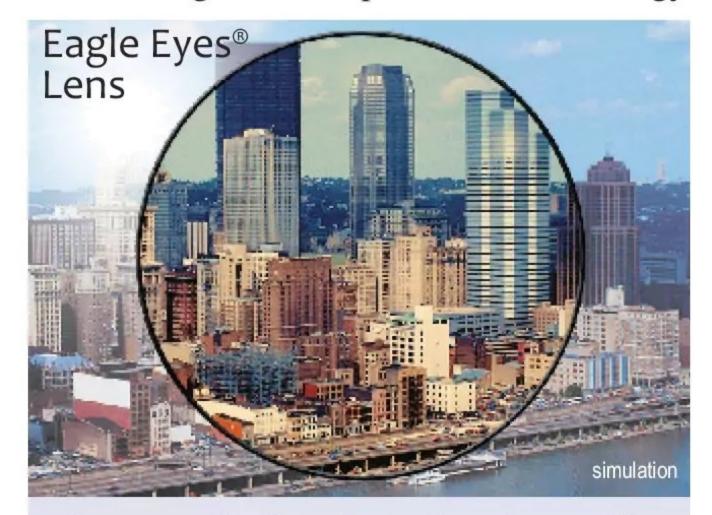
But When Driving, These Sunglasses May Save Your Life!

**Drivers' Alert:** Driving can expose you to more dangerous glare than any sunny day at the beach can... do you know how to protect yourself?

The sun rises and sets at peak travel periods, during the early morning and afternoon rush hours and many drivers find themselves temporarily blinded while driving directly into the glare of the sun. Deadly accidents are regularly caused by such blinding glare with danger arising from reflected light off another vehicle, the pavement, or even from waxed and oily windshields that can make matters worse. Early morning dew can exacerbate this situation. Yet, motorists struggle on despite being blinded by the sun's glare that can cause countless accidents every year.

Not all sunglasses are created equal. Protecting your eyes is serious business. With all the fancy fashion frames out there it can be easy to overlook what really matters—the lenses. So we did our research and looked to the very best in optic innovation and technology.

Sometimes it does take a rocket scientist. A NASA rocket scientist. Some ordinary sunglasses can obscure your vision by exposing your eyes to harmful UV rays, blue light, and reflective glare. They can also darken useful vision-enhancing light. But now, independent research conducted by scientists from NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory has brought forth ground-breaking technology to help protect human eyesight from the harmful effects of solar radiation light. This superior lens technology



Slip on a pair of Eagle Eyes® and everything instantly appears more vivid and sharp. You'll immediately notice that your eyes are more comfortable and relaxed and you'll feel no need to squint. The scientifically designed sunglasses are not just fashion accessories—they are necessary to protect your eyes from those harmful rays produced by the sun during peak driving times.

was first discovered when NASA scientists looked to nature for a means to superior eye protection—specifically, by studying the eyes of eagles, known for their extreme visual acuity. This discovery resulted in what is now known as

The Only Sunglass Technology Certified by the Space Foundation for UV and Blue-Light Eye Protection. Eagle Eyes® features the most advanced eye protection technology ever created. The TriLenium® Lens Technology offers triple-filter polarization to block 99.9% UVA and UVB—plus the added benefit of blue-light eye protection. Eagle Eyes® is the only optic technology that has earned official

recognition from the Space Certification Program for this remarkable technology. Now, that's proven science-based protection.

Eagle Eyes®.

The finest optics: And buy one, get one FREE! Eagle Eyes® has the highest customer satisfaction of any item in our 20 year history. We are so excited for you to try the Eagle Eyes® breakthrough technology that we will give you a second pair of Eagle Eyes® Navigator™ Sunglasses FREE—a \$59.95 value!

That's two pairs to protect your eyes with the best technology available for less than the price of one pair of traditional sunglasses. You get a pair of Navigators with stainless steel black frames and the other with stainless steel gold, plus one hard zipper case and one micro-fiber drawstring cleaning pouch are included. Keep one pair in your pocket and one in your car.

Your satisfaction is 100% guaranteed. If you are not astounded with the Eagle Eyes® technology, enjoying clearer, sharper and more glare-free vision, simply return one pair within 30 days for a full refund of the purchase price. The other pair is yours to keep. No one else has such confidence in their optic technology. Don't leave your eyes in the hands of fashion designers, entrust them to the best scientific minds on earth. Wear your Eagle Eyes® Navigators

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(NHTSA) show that most (74%)
of the crashes occurred
on clear, sunny days

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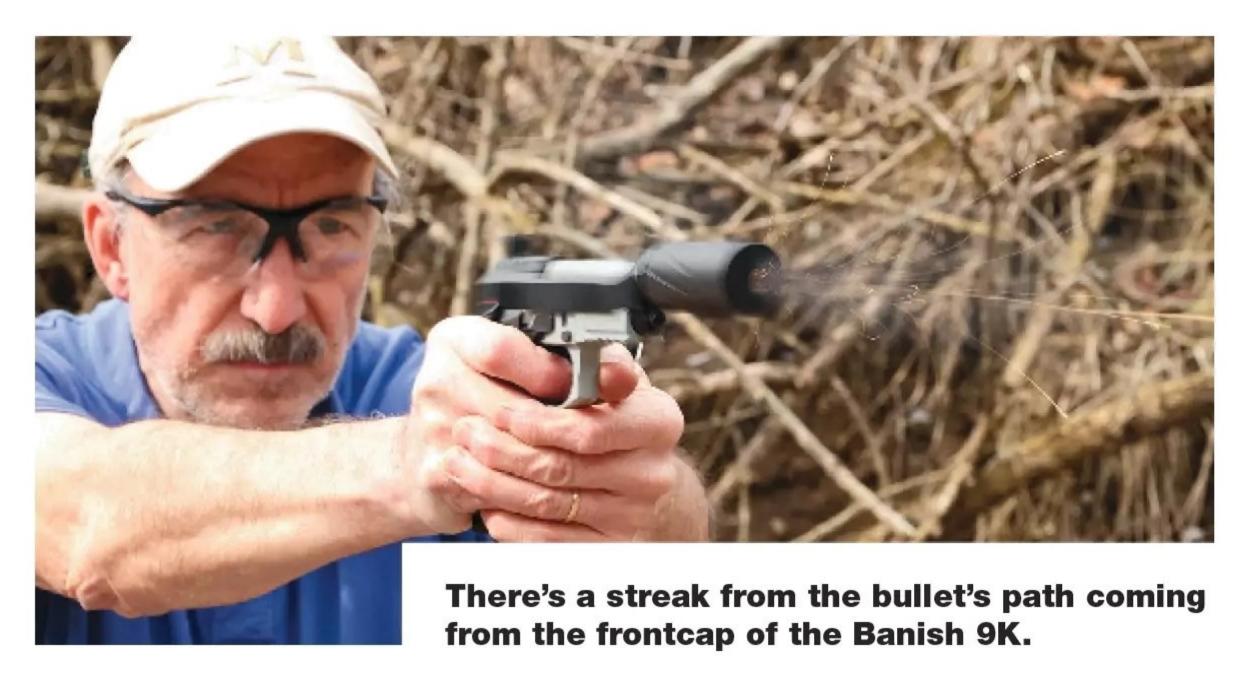


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The Banish 9K never stalled any of the three pistols tested. Here the Beretta chugs right along.

incredibly dirty that you risk gunking up your Banish 9K, and cleaning would be difficult at best. This would also apply to using it on a lever action rifle and ammunition with lead bullets. You'll want to be using jacketed bullets in your .38 Special, .357 Magnum and .30-30 loads, when the Banish 9K is installed. You can't shoot enough supersonic 9mm through it to burn out the gunk, as you can easily do with a suppressor built for 5.56. Various chemical and ultrasonic cleaners might get it clean, but I'd hate to find out they can't quite handle the task. No, leave the rimfire work to your rimfire suppressor, of which Silencer Central has many to offer you, including a Banish 22.

The exterior of the Banish 9K, since it is manufactured by way of the additive process, has a certain non-slip texture anyway. Silencer Central adds to this by including spiral flutes on the body, so you can get a good grip on it when you install or remove it. Now, the direct-thread aspect of the Banish 9K does create some limitations. If your .300 Blackout or .30-30 is threaded 5/8-24 then you will need two things: an adapter muzzle device, and an alignment rod to check that things stay straight when you put the muzzle device on and then the Banish 9K. Such an adapter, threaded ½-28 on the inside and 5/8-24 on the outside, needs to be a precision-machined part. It can't be a "close enough" that came off of a hobbyist lathe from the guy down the block who machines things as a hobby. (Well, it might be straight enough, but the alignment rod will tell you yes or no.)

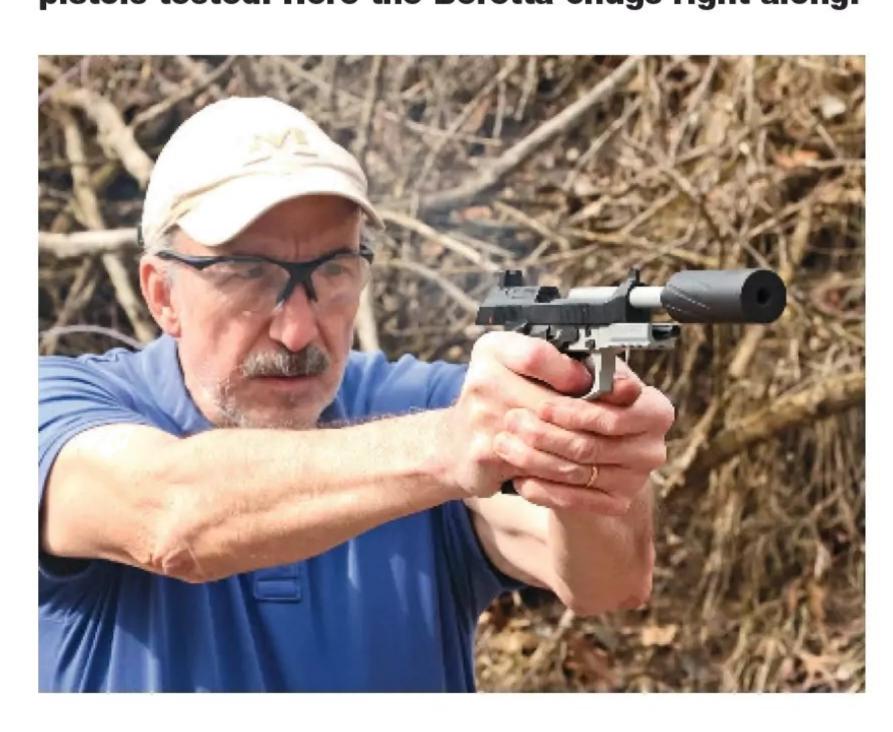
In testing the Banish 9K on three different pistols, it worked as advertised. None failed to cycle, and all locked open when empty, so the supermodel-class weight of the Banish 9K clearly didn't bother these pistols. That said, I'd bet there is some pistol out there, one fed with the softest 9mm factory ammo to be had, that will demonstrate recalcitrance at getting with the program. If that's the case, then don't use that ammo. Quiet? Oh

yes. Not Hollywood quiet, no-one can deliver that, but quiet enough that an afternoon shooting unprotected would be enjoyable. And if you want it to be really quiet? Put the Banish 9K onto your pistol-caliber carbine. The sixteeninch barrel drops a bunch of decibels off of the muzzle blast just for starters, and the Banish 9K scavenges more off of that. You'll hear the bolt slapping back and forth, and the rest of the noise will be a contest of "how loud?" between the bullet hitting the backstop or the brass hitting the ground.

You get all this, and the envy of your fellow gun club members for a mere \$699 MSRP. There was a time when merely hearing the word "titanium" spoken of suppressors would make shooters blanch. It was expensive.

Well, no more. The use of additive manufacturing has taken the expense of titanium-fabricated parts and made them common, and at common prices.

So, what are you waiting for?



All three of the pistols tested cycled reliably, and they all locked open after the last shot was fired.

## SILENCER CENTRAL BANISH 9K SUPPRESSOR

| DAILIOII SIL OU       | I I IILOOOII                           |
|-----------------------|--|
| Caliber:              | 9mm                                    |
| Caliber Range:        | .380, 5.7x28, 9mm,<br>and .300 BLK     |
| Full-Auto<br>Rated:   | 9mm supersonic & 300 BLK Subsonic      |
| Length:               | 4.1 in.                                |
| Diameter:             | 1.3 in.                                |
| Number of Baffles:    | 8                                      |
| Weight:               | 2.7 oz                                 |
| Material:             | Titanium                               |
| Self-Service:         | No                                     |
| Finish:               | Black Cerakote                         |
| Sound Reduction:      | 26 dB                                  |
| Mount Style:          | ½-28 direct thread                     |
| Lifetime<br>Warranty: | Yes                                    |
| MSRP:                 | \$699                                  |
| Contact:              | SilencerCentral.com,<br>(888) 781-8778 |
|                       |  |





# RAIL-MOUNTED BIOMETRIC

## **GIVES ARMED** PARENTS RAPID **ACCESS TO** THEIR FIREARMS

### By Yonatan Stern

s a parent of several young children, I know first-hand how important it is to keep firearms inaccessible to them. But as a father, I am also aware of my responsibility to keep my family safe from any potential threat, and this requires immediate access to a loaded firearm. These seemingly contradictory needs have often left armed parents with having to choose between having a usable firearm at

the ready, or keeping their kids safe (at least from accessing firearms). However, a new product known as B.O.S. Lock has now made it possible to have the best of both worlds.

B.O.S. Lock is a revolutionary biometric locking device that mounts on to a Glock's picatinny rail in much the same way that a flashlight or laser would. The lock screws on to the rail using a proprietary hex screw that can only be attached or removed with its accompanying proprietary hex wrench and can not be removed by using any type of tools that one might buy at Ace Hardware or Home Depot. In fact, it's almost impossible to remove using anything other than B.O.S. Lock's patented hardware, and if it was forcefully

removed using hammers, saws, etc; the weapon would be so thoroughly damaged in the process it would most likely become unusable. The battery lasts up to several months while not being used, and is recharged via a standard USB cord.

The way it works is once the lock is attached to the pistol, the slide is locked back and an integral locking bar is engaged forward on the slide, rendering the weapon inoperable. Directly below the picatinny rail and just forward of the trigger guard is the biometric



saved. When the designated user touches the scanning

pad with his/her index finger, the locking bar immediately disengages and the slide locks forward. If a loaded magazine is present in the mag well, the slide will strip a round from the magazine and load it into the chamber, making the weapon immediately ready for use.

If any person aside from those who's prints have been entered into the lock attempt to disengage it, a red flashing light will appear indicating that the print has been rejected and the lock will not disengage.





The B.O.S. Lock features a secondary picatinny rail under the device so users can still mount a flashlight or laser.







One important fact to mention about the B.O.S. Lock is that it is California DOJ approved. Meaning that California residents are allowed to travel in a vehicle with their firearm and will not have to worry about fumbling around looking for a key for their gun lock in case of need.

The author while putting the B.O.S.

Lock through live-fire testing.

The author personally torture-tested this lock with cooking oil, dirt, mud, and sand through dozens of revolutions and firing hundreds of rounds, and the lock functioned flawlessly. The only thing that did seem to effect it was sub-zero cold. After several hours on the range on a frigid late-December day in Upstate New York, the battery did eventually start to lose power. This is a common problem with lithium batteries that those of you who live in northern climates will likely be all too familiar with. Considering that the primary use of this lock is bedside self-defense in a room-temperature house, or vehicle travel in balmy California, this seems unlikely to be much of a problem for most users.

The B.O.S. Lock MSRP's at \$299 and can only be purchased directly from the manufacturer. For more info visit BosLock.com.

### **ABOUT THE AUTHOR**

Yonatan Stern, is an IDF veteran and professional firearms instructor. He is the director of Cherev Gidon Israeli Tactical Training Academy in Honesdale, PA. Yonatan can be reached at: mefaked@cherevgidon.com





# THE REGISTERED HK TRIGGER PACK

The Golden Ring of Transferable Machineguns

steel box, yet the BATFE considers it a machinegun. Once you get the tooling sorted, any competent manufacturing facility could churn these things out by the thousands for a couple of bucks apiece. There are some distinctive holes here and there, but it really isn't anything special. Why, then, might anyone be tempted to dump upwards of \$50,000 for such a trinket? It's all about supply and demand.

This is a registered transferable HK trigger pack. Mechanically speaking, there's not much to it. This thing is just stupid expensive, but it will do some of the most amazing stuff.

Prior to the National Firearms Act of 1934, there was no federal gun control in America. Anybody with a little money could pick up a full auto Thompson or a Colt Monitor BAR cash and carry without so much as a signature.



There is a fixed number of these things in the national firearms registry that can be owned by individuals. With each passing year they all get predictably more expensive.



A transferable M16 receiver like the one used to resurrect this HK416 parts kit is an exceptionally versatile machinegun in civilian hands. However, HK still does it one better.

In the aftermath of Prohibition, newsreels were fat with lurid depictions of machinegun-wielding motorized bandits. Congress subsequently crafted the 1934 NFA. This fetid piece of unconstitutional offal established the current regulatory scheme governing machineguns, short-barreled weapons, sound suppressors, and destructive devices like cannons and grenades. The most onerous bit was the \$200 federal transfer tax. In 1934, that would have been around \$4,700 in today's money. Most Americans would recoil at the thought of taxing a Constitutional right. However, apparently the Second Amendment doesn't carry quite as much weight as the rest. Who knew?

The 1934 NFA shut down commerce in machineguns. That was the point. However, over time, inflation gradually began to take the teeth out of that \$200 tribute. By the early 1980's, the market for legally-registered machineguns was beginning to gather a little steam.

In 1986, Reagan signed the ludicrously-titled Firearms Owners Protection Act. The FOPA made the further manufacture of automatic weapons for sale to civilians illegal. For the first time in American history,





the government outright banned an entire class of firearms.

Previously-owned weapons were grandfathered. However, that fixed the supply. There are currently about 179,000 legally transferable automatic weapons in circulation. With each passing year, more young Americans turn 21 and become eligible to buy a transferable machinegun. The end result is basic economics—supply and demand. In fact, there have been some scholarly papers written about this weird artificial market.

The practical result is that the prices of those 179,000 transferable machineguns have steadily and methodically skyrocketed. The full auto M16 I bought in 1987 for \$600 would take the better part of thirty grand to replace today. This means that shooters interested in taking the full auto plunge want their NFA purchases to be as versatile as possible.

#### **Financial Flexibility**

An M16 receiver or registered dropin auto sear is actually a really good option. That single transferable M16 could become a pistol-caliber subgun, an assault rifle, or a belt-fed machinegun simply by mixing and matching upper receiver assemblies. However, the real top of the heap came from HK.

There were three routes to get there. The first was a registered receiver HK conversion of a semi-auto HK94 carbine done prior to the 1986 machinegun ban. These were specific individual firearms that were papered as machineguns. If done well, registered receiver conversions can be almost factory perfect. However, these conversions were committed to the one single chassis. An MP5 cannot become an HK23. As a result, they are, counterintuitively, usually a bit cheaper than the next two conversions are today.

A registered receiver MP5 can be made to approximate something that was issued to the US Navy SEALs. However, a registered receiver gun cannot be legally remanufactured into other models in most cases.

These roller-locked HK weapons were designed from the outset to be modular. While the receivers were unique to each caliber, the trigger packs were common across everything from the diminutive MP5K all the way up through the belt-fed HK21 and HK23. As a result, a single registered trigger pack would allow you to coax full auto fire out of all of those sexy HK weapons. That versatility made these conversions ludicrously expensive.

Arguably, the simplest was a registered HK sear. These little stamped steel trinkets sold for around \$35 apiece back before the ban. They're \$54,000 now. A registered sear can be installed in any HK trigger pack. The down side is that this takes a little fitting for reliable operation, and the sear can potentially wear over time.

The final alternative was to serialize the trigger pack itself—that simple steel box. The up side there is that you can

swap out the entrails as needed. The pack itself is essentially indestructible. That thing will still be running when the sun burns out. As investments go, the pack is the most stable of the lot.

## So, What Can You Actually Do with It?

The fire control housings on the MP5K, the G3, and the standard MP5 are all different. However, the internal trigger pack is common across all of these legacy HK platforms. It takes a little mill work to get the housing to fit around the oversized front mounting lug on semiauto guns, but you can undertake that with a Dremel tool in a pinch.

To convert most HK-style guns using a registered trigger pack, you need only swap out the bolt carrier and mount up the pack. Semi-auto bolt carriers lack the trip ramp that activates the full auto mechanism in the pack. Relatively speaking, GI-surplus bolt carriers are not terribly expensive, at least by HK standards. Modern HK clones that have the front fire control housing pushpin intact will also have an additional internal block to contend with. For the most part, however, a registered trigger pack is plug and play.





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What Do They Cost?

The good news is that there's never

been a better time to find HK clone

host guns. Century Arms (Century

Arms.com) some simply magnificent

Turkish-made MP5 variants. Zenith

makes them on this side of the pond

as well. HK also sells a few, though

they are really expensive and not ac-

tually as close to the original factory

Arms.com) and SDS Arms (SDS

A registered trigger pack or sear can even be used to convert a belt-fed beast like this MM23E (an HK23E re-manufactured by Michael's Machines) to full auto with the appropriate trigger housing.



The fire control housings for the MP5

guns as are the Turkish versions. Regardless, the host gun is no longer the limiting reagent. (left) and the MP5K are I hope you're sitting down. different. However, the According to Machinegun same trigger pack fits in either one. PriceGuide.com, as of the first quarter of

> Once you have secured a registered trigger pack or a transferable sear, it is a fairly simple thing to swap that out among various fire control housings. Four-position rigs take a little extra effort.



Turkish-made hosts like the ones from Century Arms are about the closest you can get to factory HK guns on this side of the pond. Their quality is unimpeachable.

2024, registered receiver conversions averaged around \$45,000–50,000. Sear conversions were running around \$54,000. Registered fire control boxes are relatively unusual and subsequently difficult to assess with any accuracy. They typically cost about what sear conversions might.

I have a friend who is a long-time NFA dealer. He bought about 100 HK sears right as the law changed back in 1986 and then sold them incrementally as he needed cash. He has one left today.

According to the Internet, here is a breakdown of the known HK sear and trigger pack conversions. I cannot vouch for the accuracy of these numbers, but I found them nonetheless thought-provoking.

An HK sear weighs 0.062 oz. At \$54,000 that makes HK sears worth \$870,968 per ounce. That's 317 times more valuable than gold by weight. If you find yourself with a time machine and are looking for a hot investment opportunity, HK sears and trigger packs are tough to beat. **FN** 

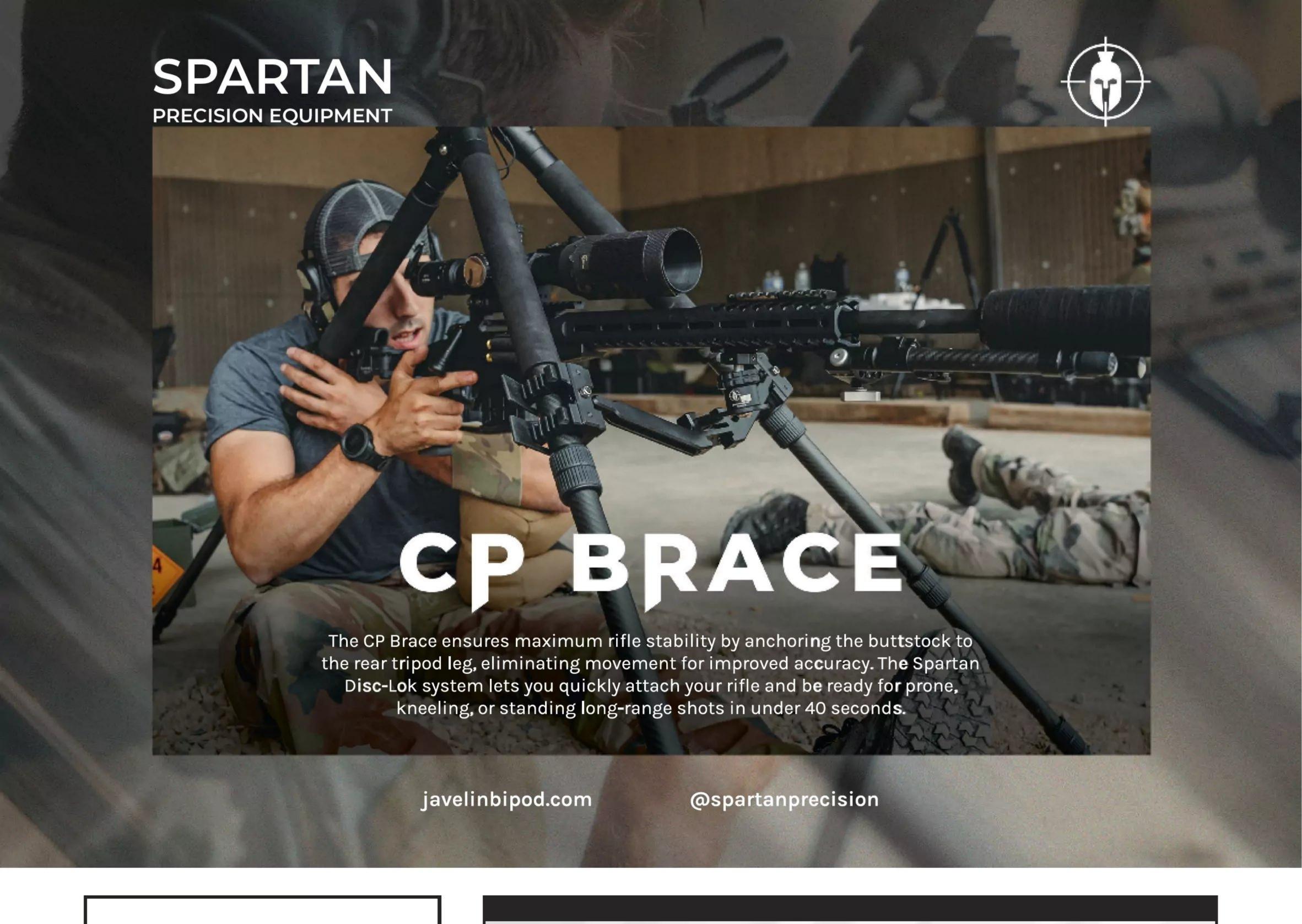
#### MANUFACTURER/NUMBER PRODUCED

## TRIGGER PACKS **LaFrance:** 138 +/-**DLO:** 50+/-**Alltec:** 30 +/-C-Ray Systems: 18+/-Ozark Mountain <10 Arsenal: **RDTS**: 6

#### DECICTEDED CEADS

| REGISTERED SEARS |       |       |  |
|------------------|-------|-------|--|
| Fleming Firea    | rms:  | 3,500 |  |
| 5                | 3&H:  | 2,000 |  |
| Quali            | fied: | 1,500 |  |
| Jonathan Cie     | ener: | 250   |  |

NOTE: The number of all of the registered trigger packs, sears, and fire-control housings were not available to the author from the following manufacturers, which also made them: ACP Arsenal, DLO, Group Industries, Hard Times Armory, Jonathan Arthur Ciener, Knights Armament, Neal Smith, S&H Firearms, Weapons Specialties, Wilson Arms, and others.





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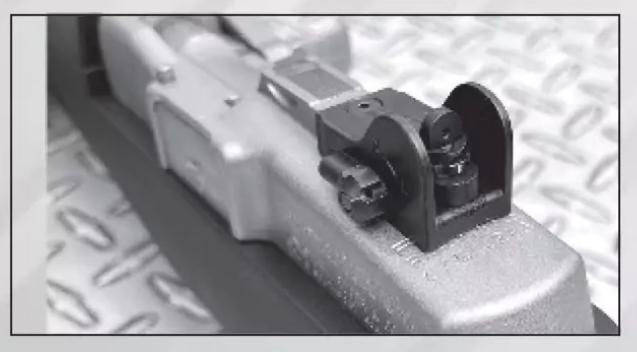
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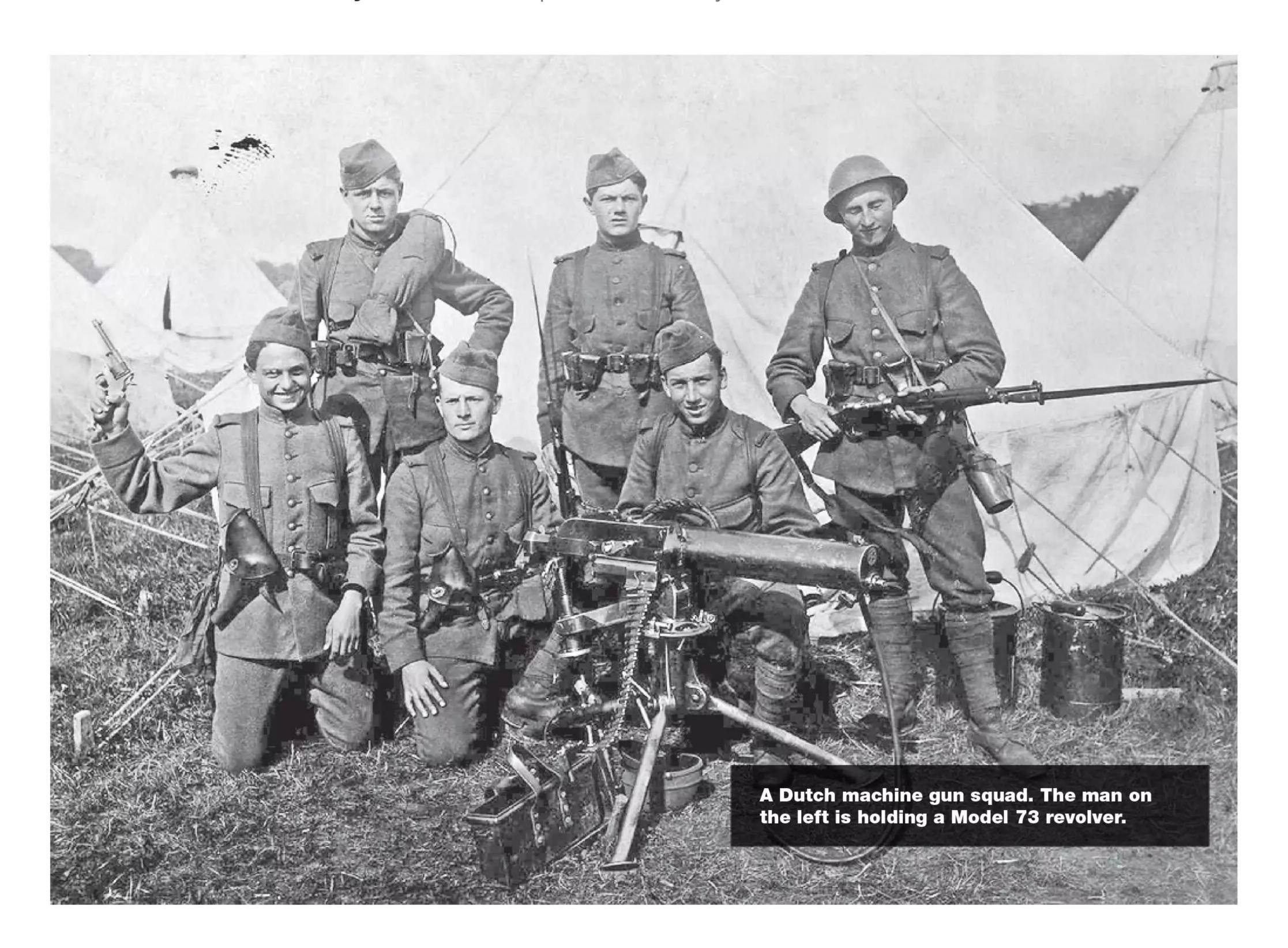
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## THE MILITARY REVOLVERS OF

Photos by Michael Hughes & James Walters (unless otherwise indicated)

## THE NETHERLANDS

## Unique & Obsolete

hile it is not common knowledge nowadays (a result of our history and geography deprived educational system), at one time the Netherlands, or the United Provinces as it was once known, was one of the world's major colonial, mercantile and naval powers.

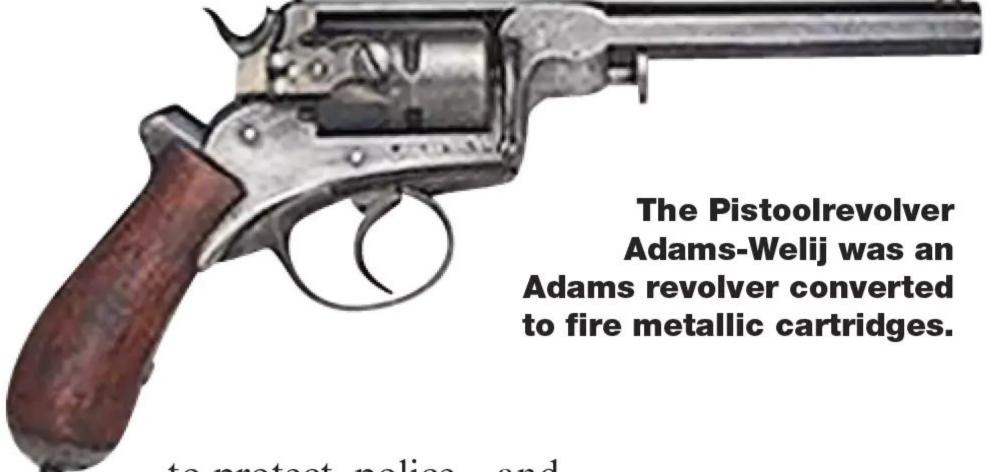
In the 17<sup>th</sup> century, Dutch mariners and merchants embarked upon a

series of dynamic expeditions that led to the establishment of colonies in Africa, India, Asia, South America, the Caribbean and the Pacific.

In 1602, the Vereenigde Oostindische Compangnie (Dutch East India Company or VOC) was created to control the lucrative trade from the Indies. They established trading posts on South Africa, Borneo, Sumatra,

Java, Timor, Celebes, Bali, Malacca, India, Ceylon, the Persian Gulf, Japan and Taiwan.

The present-day Kingdom of the Netherlands was formed by the victorious allied powers in the aftermath of the Napoleonic wars. In 1830, the Koninlijk Nederlands-Indisch Leger (Royal Dutch East Indies Army or KNIL) was established



to protect, police—and expand—their colonies. It was separate from the regular forces, the Koninlijk Landmacht (Royal Army) and the Koninklijke Marine (Royal Navy).

The Dutch Navy felt revolvers would be very practical weapons for arming boarding and landing parties, and in the late 1850s, they purchased a quantity of Lefaucheux pinfire and percussion revolvers from Belgian firms. The KNIL followed suit and ordered numbers of Adams revolvers. Beginning in the 1870s, the navy and KNIL converted many of their revolvers to fire an 11.4mm metallic cartridge (Pistoolrevolver Adams-Welij), some of which remained in service well into the 1890s.<sup>1</sup>

In 1868, the Dutch artillery captain, J. J. Bergansius, presented a prototype of a revolver to the army trials board. It had been made in Maastricht by the firm of P. Stevens and utilized a solid frame with a spring-loaded ejector rod on the right side of the barrel and fired a 12mm pinfire cartridge. It featured a SA/DA trigger mechanism that combined features of both the Lefaucheux and Chamelot-Delvigne. As

The Pistoolrevolver
Model 73 had a rather
unique silhouette with a
long, octagonal barrel, tear
dropped shaped grips and
prominent hammer spur. Note the flat,
V-shaped spring that retained the cylinder pin.

The right-hand view of the Model 73 shows the loading gate, lanyard ring and screwed on trigger guard.

usual, the army felt the revolver needed a number of "improvements."

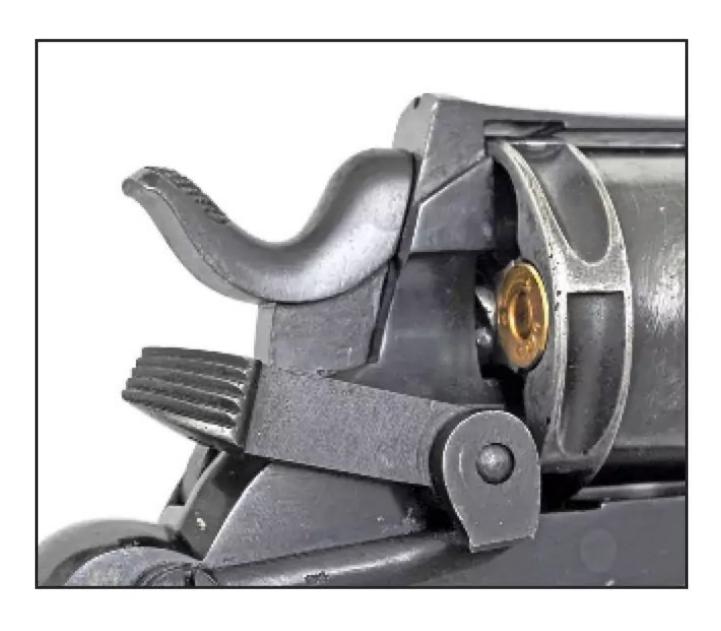
First of all, it was modified to accept a 9.4mm cartridge. The original Bergansius used a Lefaucheuxstyle loading gate that was replaced with one that swiveled to the rear. To reduce bulk and weight, the ejector rod unit was removed, and the task of unloading was performed with a separate rod that was carried in a pocket in the holster.<sup>2</sup>

The Bergansius' heavy, ribbed barrel was replaced with a slightly shorter octagonal tube with a bead front sight that mated with a U notch at the rear of top strap. To remove the six-round cylinder for cleaning, you placed the hammer on half cock, depressed a flat, V-shaped spring on the left side of the frame in front of the cylinder and pulled the cylinder pin forward. Opening the loading gate then allowed the cylinder to be removed from the frame.

The cylinder had recessed chamber mouths to fully support the cartridge case head—a feature more commonly associated with today's Magnum revolvers.

The left-hand side plate could be removed exposing the lockwork for cleaning and/or repairs. It was fitted with eardrop shaped wooden grip panels and a large lanyard ring adorned the bottom of the grip frame.

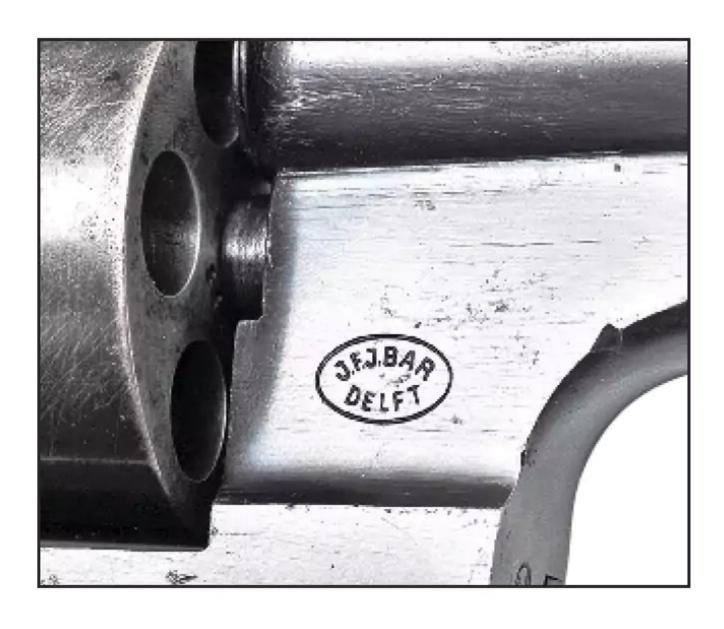
After extensive trials, the revolver was adopted as the Pistoolrevolver Model 73 and over the next two decades, orders were placed with a number of firms including P. Stevens and Edouard de Beaumont both of



The loading gate was rotated to the rear to load or unload the revolver.



A rather massive hammer and heavy mainspring insured reliable cartridge ignition. Note the U notch rear sight.



This revolver was made by J.F.J. Bar in 1892.

#### THE WAR GUNS



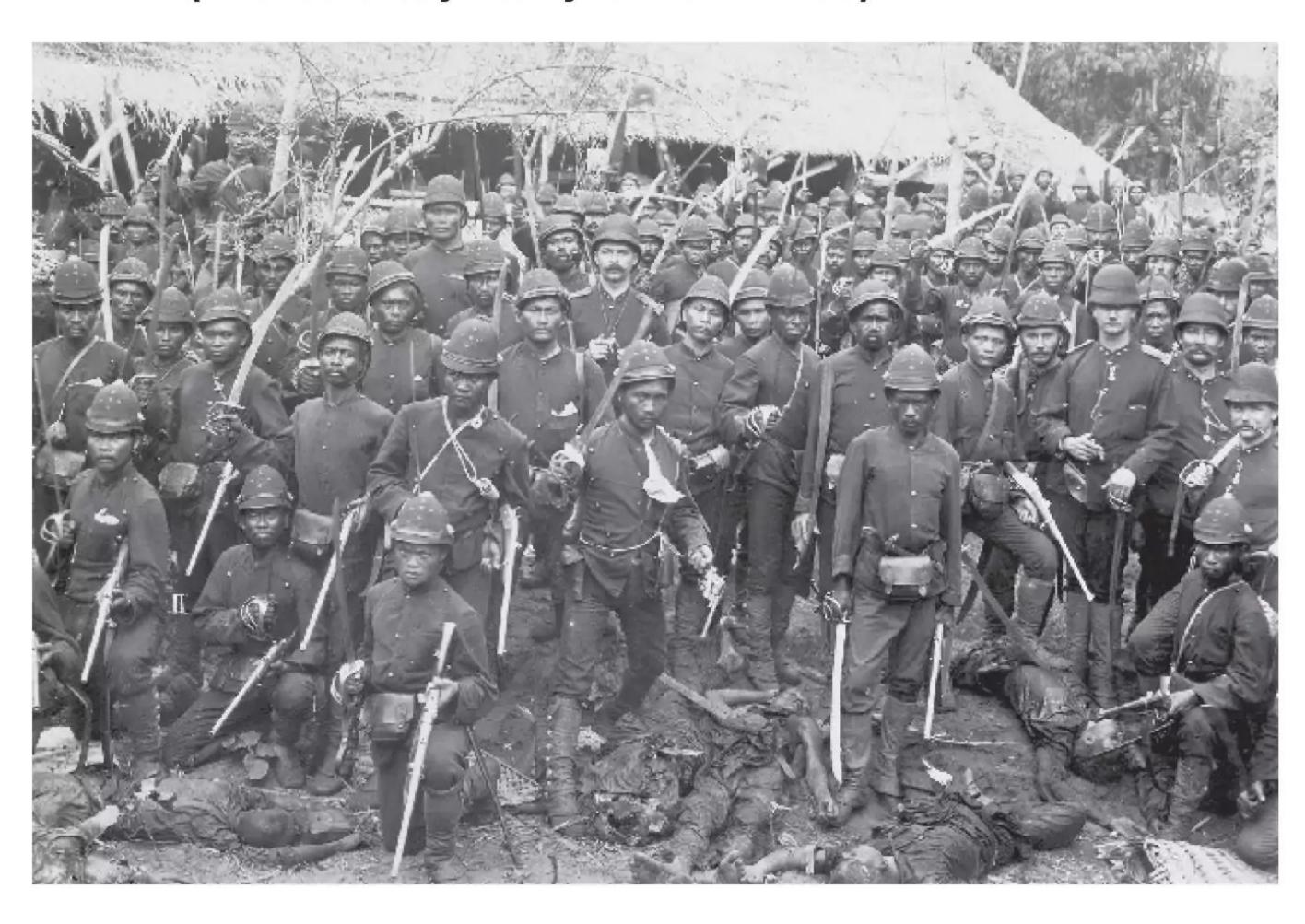
The left-hand side plate could be removed for cleaning or repairs. Note how just about every part is marked with the serial number.



The cylinder had thick walls and recessed chamber mouths for full support of the cartridge head.



A group of Dutch officers pose for a photo. Several of them are holding Model 73 revolvers. (Netherland Army Military Historical Section)



Maastricht, J.F.J Bar in Delft, and the government facility Werkplaats voor Draagbare Wapenen in Hembrug.

Revolvers with slightly shorter barrels were made for sale to officers who wished to purchase their own sidearm. These featured a finer finish and were known as "Officierrevolver" or the "Klein Model."

In 1875, the KNIL placed an order with P. Stevens for 1,200 revolvers known as the Pistoolrevolver M.75. The KNIL insisted upon a few changes, the most noticeable being a round barrel with a rib along its top.

The issue cartridge, the Scherpe patroon No. 11 (Loaded Cartridge No. 11) consisted of a slightly tapered, rimmed case 20.7mm long, loaded with a paper patched 9.4mm round-nosed lead bullet weighing 188 grains that 9.3 grains of black powder propelled to approximately 610 fps. In European parlance it is known as the 9.4x21R. Beginning in 1900, the smokeless Scherpe patroon No. 5 with an FMJ bullet of the same weight and velocity was adopted.

While the Model 75 revolver saw wide service with the KNIL in the East Indies, the Landmacht never fired their Model 73s in combat.

Needing new handguns to replace their aging Model 73 revolvers, the Landmacht decided to resume revolver production. The Revolver Model 73 Nieuw Model (New Model–N.M.) differed primarily in having a round, lightweight barrel with the front sight mounted on a sleeve near the muzzle.

Production began at the state arsenal, Artillerie-Inrichtingen in Hembrug, in 1909, and by 1915, approximately 6,200 revolvers were completed. Those Model 73 revolvers still in service were re-designated the "Oude Model" (Old Model–O.M.) and both remained in use concurrently.

Members of the KNIL Korps
Marechaussee pose in the gory
aftermath of a battle of the Aceh War
(1873–1901). The Dutch officers and
native non-com in the middle of the
photo are armed with Model 75 revolvers.



Out in the East Indies, the KNIL had never been completely happy with the Model 75 revolver and began looking for a replacement and settled on a revolver designed by Captain W. H. Kuhn.

The Indische revolver Model 91 utilized a solid frame with a DA/SA trigger mechanism and a spring-loaded ejector rod on the right side of the barrel. It featured an Abadie–style loading gate which, when opened to the rear, retracted the hammer to half cock position and locked it in place to

prevent an accidental discharge when loading or unloading the revolver.

The Model 91 revolver fired the Scherpe patroon No. 3 which was a 9.4mm round consisting of a rimmed case 26mm long topped with a 172-grain flat-nosed, lead bullet moving at 700 fps. This cartridge was produced both in the Netherlands and at the Pyrotechniche Werkplants Soerabaja (present day Surabaja, Indonesia), and it appears that with the introduction of smokeless powder some ammunition was loaded with cases 23mm in length.



A pre-WWII Dutch soldier armed with a Model 73 revolver.



1944. A German soldier with a captured Model 73 revolver.



Landmacht officers practicing with their Model 73 revolvers.

J.F.J. Bar produced the Model 91 parts, which were finished and assembled at Artillerie- Inrichtingen. The first guns were delivered in 1895 and total production was 3,754 units. In 1909, it was found that more guns were needed, but as J.F.J. Bar no longer produced firearms, a contract was placed with L. Wittich in the Hague for 2,200 revolvers.<sup>3</sup> Small numbers of Model 91s were also issued to police in the Dutch West Indies (Suriname, Aruba and Curacao).

The last official version of the Model 73 revolver was the M.73/19 Gaspatroonrevolover. These had their barrels cut down even with the front of the frame and cylinder chambers modified so they could only chamber "gaspatronen" which contained a



An example of Scherpe patronen No. 5 9.4x21mm ammunition. (Collectie.nmm.nl)



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Pg.1

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#BM59047-3Pack



Thompson 1928 50 rd. Drum \$195. #TMP146 Thompson 1928 100 rd. Drum \$450. #TMP198

AR15 .556mm Complete w/sight, lug, handguard retainer, slip ring & waffle spring 16 inch. \$160. #AR426

U.S. WW2 M1A1 Bazooka -Replica

(Non-Firing) steel w/wood stock M1A1 Assembled Bazooka in steel, \$345. #MISC502

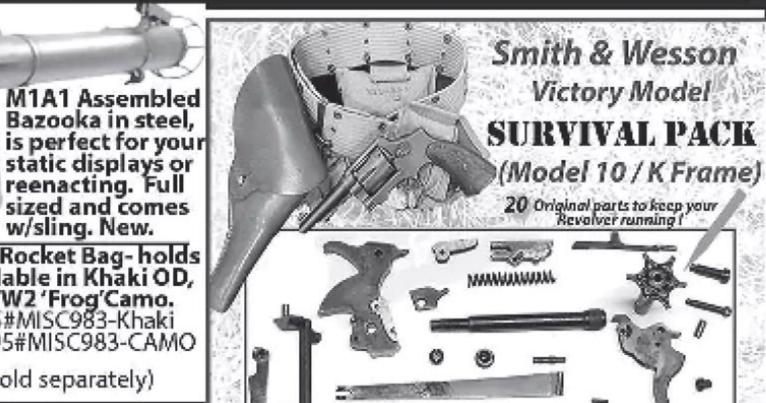
sized and comes w/sling. New. WW2 Bazooka Rocket Bag-holds 3 rockets. Available in Khaki OD, and USMC WW2 'Frog'Camo. OD Bag \$34.95#MISC983-Khaki Camo Bag\$34.95#MISC983-CAMO

reenacting. Full

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Also the M1A1 Bazooka is sold as a parts set KIT, for you to assemble. Some welding is recommended, but other adhering methods can be used. Save bucks w/the kit! \$255. #MISC533-KIT

KIT - see details on the Web Site SARCOINC.COM



Survival Parts Pack for the Smith & Wesson Model 10/K frame pistols. 20 original parts in a convenient pack. Worth their weight in gold when parts break or wear out! \$59.95 #SW042

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parts except magazine, barrel, and receiver. Great for replacement parts, a build, or for making a static display. \$150.#MAD073

Set of M8 Grenade Launcher and the M15 siaht set

M6A3 Bazooka

Rocket- replica in wood ,w/steel fins

clip and markings.

Standard M6

steel rockets

coming soon



WW2 Model 38/44 Italian SMGs were converted in many cases to the Model 38/49 series with improvements such as a cross bolt safety. This is the Model 4 version and the parts set comes with a cut receiver & cut barrel as required, no mag, but with the rest of the internals, sights & stock. A great basis for a 'build' project, We have mags available separately. # 638020 \$199.99

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Grenade: Inert New Steel and Brass construction with safety clip. Full Size & Hefty!

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Replica of the WW1 U.S.
Trench warfare handguard that
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\$595.

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Brand New in Walnut

USGI

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Exc. Cond.

AR15

Too!

M15 U.S. M8 Grenade Launcher for the M1& M2 Carbine M8 Grenade Original USGI Grenade auncher for the Launcher Sight .S. M-1 Carbine. Newly made and omp<u>l</u>éte with tension spring. Fastens quickly to the Carbine barrel. \$89.95 #GL004

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Builders Kit'.... all parts except for the receiver. This kit can be assembled on an M1 Garand receiver and only

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M3 .50 cal. Tripod, New w/T&E & Pintle. \$1,495. #MNT153

Browning

1919A4

Parts Kit

.30-06 Cal.

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Very few remain!

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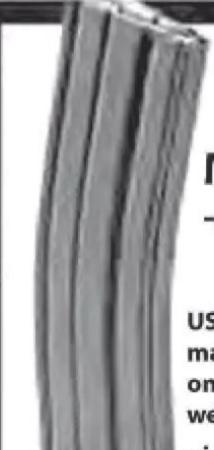
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French Chatellerault M24/29 LMG Magazine 20 rd., Exc condition. Almost gone! \$40. ea. #RM27

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Ammo Box w/

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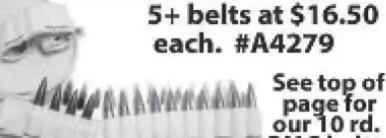
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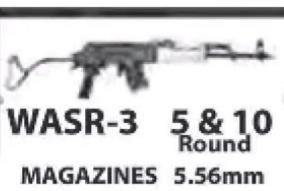
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Smith & Wesson Victory holster for Model 10 Pistol. Available for right hand draw.. \$29.95 #HOL107 Right hand draw **Brown Leather** NEW German Ingbert' Police 'Featherweight' Shoulder Holster Holster. Extremely lite & For Makarov, low profile. No bulk with PP, & similar ergonomic comfort. Fits sized pistols. Large frame pistols like \$\$24. #HOL207 Beretta 92, Model 1911, Hi-Power, etc. \$19.95 ea. New\_ Beretta 1934 Marked U.S. #HOL150 Holster Marked USMC #HOL058 Classic (Black, Synthetic, Right holster. Hand Draw, New) \$24.95 **#HOL223** Luger Snail Drum Holster Available in Black or prown Leather. **BROWN Holster** \$32. #HOL185 BLACK Holster \$32. **#HOL061** Mauser Broomhandle Holster New & 2 German Kriegsmarine C96 Mauser HOLSTER #HOL215 \$34.95 1940s HardShell uger Holster Roman Pilum Traditional spear of the Roman Legions. Wood shaft with iron shaft w/tapered spear head. 7 feet long. \$80. #SWRD45 Prices Subject U.S. M1916 HIP HOLSTERS to change

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Holster.

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Rhodesian modified

Hip Holster in grass

pattern camouflage.

Large frame pistols like

SIG320, Hi Power, Beretta

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Japanese

Type 94

Shoulder Holster

New canvas WW2

model holster.

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on back. Front has spare

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Basket weave

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leather holster

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Mauser C96 Holster pouch & bullet loops on the shoulder strap. Used during the Chinese Civil War. New \$39.95 #HOL097 \*comes w/2 8rd. stripper clips

Style holser Wood WW 1 design. New

For the Auto. Mag. Fed C96 \$275. #MSR667B Chocolate Brown

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Classic P08 Hardshell Holster w/ <u>marking</u>s Black Leather \$24.95 #LGR078

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M7 Shoulder

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Holster in

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Hegyy Duty WW1 holster. \$29.95 #HOL039 comes with shoulder strap Sleek Low Profile Luger olster acts almost like a base pad to securely attach your Luger to. Attaches to belts. \$12.95 #LGR169 Japanese Nambu

WW1 WW1 Canvas Luger Holster. Khaki color,New

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German Navy Luger **Hip Holsters** Military hardshell style BROWN- \$29.95 .....#HOL154 BLACK- \$29.95 #HOL184

'Belly Band Synthetic Holster in Black.... Fits snuggly around your waist .holding .a compact .pistol, spare mag. cell phone pouch & zipper secure pouch. Fits up to a 42" waist and downward. Very comfortable! \$24.95 **#HOL248** 

Swiss Luger Holster with shoulder strap. and extra magazine pouch. Heavy duty just like the Swiss Luger! \$39.95 #HOL164

(belt loops on back too)

Type Hip Holster - clam

shell design holster of WW2 . New. \$40. #HOL001

\$55. #HOL085 Walther P-38 'Afrikakorps' Brown. W/ WW2 markings.

markings. \$18.95 #P38054

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> Holster w/ WW2 #HOL080

**Shoulder Holster** Revolver holster 1913 Artillery Luger Stock & shoulder strap. As used in WW1, this stock has a compartment for the gun, cln. rod, and luger tool. (tool & rod are included!) A very rare stock. Hardshell Holster Comes with leather holster. \$295. #LGR203



В. M1916 Hip Holsters for the Government Model 1911 Pistol - Several Variations

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C. Natural color, Right Hip \$22.95 #HOL176 U.S. marked.

D. Natural OILED, Right Hip, U.S. marked \$20. #HOL211

Skeletal Low Profile Leather Brown, new. \$16.95 **#HOL109** 

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holster for the P08 Luger & P38 pistols as well as similar sized pistols. Designed to be a German Paratroop holster, is truly a 'minimalist', and very secure style holster w/ no bulk... just simiplicity!

Extensively

Finn & China's Civil War.

used in WW2, Russo

Japanese Type 26 Shoulder holster in Frog

New Mnfr.\_

'Savoy 7' Compact Hip Holster- can be worn on the vertical or at

an angle. Canvas & leather. Very versatile. (For Right & Left hand draw)

clamshell holster. \$34.95 #HOL062 Browning M1935 Hi Power **Holster Stock** 

russet brown leather VG condition w/strap, and indivual \$26.95 #HOL029 bullet loops in pouch. Beautifully crafted

P08 Luger Hip Holster Afrikakorps

Brown Compact

#HOL221-Brown

Khaki Compact

#HOL221-Khaki

Pg 3

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HOLSTER

Original

leather

Czech

Holster

\$29.95

\$29.95

WW2 holster issued up to 1943. Comes w/ German markings. New. \$29.95 #HOL026

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w/ belt frog.

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Skorpion SMG Original Military Hip Holster in good condition. Works well with 'Desert Eagles' too. \$29.95 #HOL160

\$44.95 #GRD382 U.S. M1 Carbine Holster Rugged leather ww2 gun scabbard

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scabbard

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P38 Softshell Markings \$18.95

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SPF349 Lower Band Screw, New 1903A3

SPF371 Rear Sight, Complete Assembly

SPF094 Rear Sight, Compete w/o Windage

SPF370 Rear Sight, Perfect Repro 1903A3

SPF294 Rear Sight, GI, Used 1903A3\_\_\_\$60.00

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SPF067 Spring Band Retainer (Milled) \_\_\$14.50

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SPF366 Stacking Swivel and Band Assembly

SPF367 Stacking Swivel 1903A3, GI New\_\$6.00

Sight. Perfect for Drill Rifles \_\_\_\_\$5.95

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SPF382 Trigger Guard 1903A3 - Reparked

SPF117 Trigger Guard 1903 Type, Milled

SPF079 Trigger Guard (Stamped) 1903A3

SPF083 Upper Band (Stamped) 1903A3

SPF081 Upper Band Used (Milled) 1903

SPF--- Trigger Guard 1903, Orig GI

Reproduction\_1903A\_

1903A3, GI Used\_

Not Included) 1903\_

OIL016 Oil and Thong Set (Plastic) Used\_\$8.50

w/Base & Windage Screw (Barrel Ring

Screw w/o Barrel Ring VG to Exc. 1903

OIL015 Oil and Thong Set (Metal)

SPF046 Mainspring

SPF053 Safety Lock

SPF055 Sear\_

\$10.00

\$6.00

\_\$1.50

\$6.00

\$5.00

\$12.95

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\_\$2.00

\$2.00

SPF072 Sear Pin\_

SPF062 Sear Spring

New, GI

3 for

SPF090 Striker

SPF052 Striker Rod

SPF077 Trigger Pin

SPF075 Trigger, Plain\_

1903 Handguard, walnut,

new, unstained.

\$35. #SPF377WS

903A3 Handguard, walnut

new, stained \$35.

1903A3 Synthetic Drill Rifle Hand-

guards available in black, brown,

1903 & A3 Springfield

**Buttplate Collection** 

1903A3 Trigger Guard Assemblies

trig.guard,spring,2 screws,follower \$42.50 #SPF375

As above, but original surplus in used exc condition.\$49.50#SPF376

Brand new condition assembly:

See Our Web Site

or white...your choice. \$15.

#SPF043

#SPF377WS

SPF051 Striker Sleeve

SPF076 Trigger Grooved

SPF113 Stock Cross Bolt & Nut

SPF054 Safety, Low Scope Type

SPF086 Screw Buttplate, Large

SPF085 Screw Buttplate, Small

SPF092 Screw Stacking Swivel, 1903\_

SPF056 Screw Triggerguard, Front

SPF057 Screw Triggerguard, Rear\_

SPF074 Screwdriver, Three Blade\_

|   |        | KITIE Parts  |  |
|---|--------|--|--|
|   | SPF001 | Band Front Sight 1903  | _\$13.50   |
|   | SPF002 | Band Front Sight 1903A3  | _\$12.00   |
|   | SPF253 | Band Lower, New GI, Blue 1903  | _\$25.00   |
|   | SPF011 | Band Lower (Milled) 1903   | \$20.00  |
|   | SPF012 | Band Lower w/Swivel (Milled) 19  | 03   |
|   |        |  | _\$23.95   |
|   | SPF014 | Band Lower w/Swivel (Stamped)  | 1903A3   |
|   |        |  | _\$17.50   |
|   | SPF018 |  | \$3.00   |
|   | SPF019 | Band Screw Upper Band 1903A3   | _\$3.00  |
|   | SPF263 | Band & Hardware Set, Milled 19   | 03   |
|   |        |  | \$84.95  |
|   | SPF265 | Band & Hardware Set, 1903A3_   | _\$49.95   |
|   | SPF003 | Base Rear Sight (Not Sleeve)   | \$12.00  |
|   | SPF306 | Bolt,Smooth Body,Bent Handle   | \$125.00   |
|   | SPF004 | Bolt Late (Complete)   | _\$69.95   |
|   | SPF005 | Bolt Late (Stripped)   | \$20.00  |
|   | SPF008 | Bolt Sleeve (Stripped)   | \$19.95  |
|   | SPF009 | Bolt Sleeve Lock   | _\$4.75  |
|   | SPF010 | Bolt Sleeve Lock Spring  | _\$1.75  |
|   | SPF024 | Cutoff Spindle   | \$3.50   |
|   | SPF022 | Cutoff Spring  | _\$1.50  |
| SPF342 Die Cast Buttplate assembly for 1903 |        | 1903   |  |
|   |        | Springfield-Looks Like a Milled B  |  |
|   |        | (New Orig) Super Rare Collector  |  |
|   |        |  | \$39.95  |
|   | SPF309 | Early '03 Bolt Stop, New Orig. GI  |  |
|   |        |  | \$16.00  |
|   | SPF028 | Ejector  |  |
|   | SPF029 | Ejector Pin  |  |
|   | SPF025 | Extractor  | \$14.95  |
|   | SPF027 | Extractor Collar   | \$10.00  |
|   | SPF026 | Extractor w/Hole   | \$16.50  |
|   | SPF033 | Floorplate (Milled) 1903   |  |
|   | SPF034 | Floorplate Catch Assembly  | _\$8.75  |
|   | SPF031 | Follower (Milled) 1903   | \$7.00   |
|   |        | A STATE OF THE PARTY OF THE PAR | AND ASSESSED OF THE PARTY OF TH |

SPF030 Follower (Stamped) 1903A3\_

SPF032 Follower Spring

SPF036 Front Sight Base Pin

SPF044 Front Sight Cover\_

SPF035 Front Sight Blade 1903\_

SPF333 Front Sight Blade 1903A3

| COLUMN CONTRACT | Troncolor Control               |                          |
|-----------------|---------------------------------|--------------------------|
| SPF093          | Front Sight Key 1903A3          | \$2.25                   |
| SPF037          | Front Sight Pin                 | \$1.50                   |
| SPF039          | Front Sight Screw 1903          | \$2.75                   |
| SPF038          | Front Sight w/Stud 1903         | \$9.95                   |
| HNGD0           | Handguard 1903, (New) GI        | \$13.00                  |
|                 | Handguard Clips (Two Pieces)    |                          |
|                 | Handguard Plastic (New) 1903.   |                          |
|                 |                                 | _\$15.00                 |
| SPF049          | Handguard Ring to Receiver 19   | 03A3                     |
|                 |                                 | \$6.00                   |
| SPF3843         | Bolt Sleeve w/Lock Spring _     | \$19.95                  |
|                 | Bolt Smooth Body, Early Straig  |                          |
|                 |                                 | A comment of the comment |
| SPF352          | Bolt Stripped & Welded in Firin |                          |
|                 | 1903A3                          |                          |
|                 | 5 for                           |                          |
| SPF351?         | 1901 Era Springfield Bolt Body  |                          |
|                 | Not Best, Treated?              |                          |
| SPF357          | Bolt, R Marked for Early Remins |                          |
|                 | 1941-42 Stripped                |                          |
| SPF358          | Bolt BF (Bonney Forge) Springfi |                          |
|                 | 1941-42 Stripped                | \$45.00                  |
| <b>CLN172</b>   | Bronze Bore Brush .30 Cal1      | 0/\$9.95                 |
| SPF091          | Butt Swivel (Milled) 1903       | \$12.95                  |
| SPF061          | Butt Swivel (Stamped) 1903A3    | \$6.95                   |
| SPF016          |                                 |                          |
| SPF015          |                                 |                          |
|                 |                                 | \$18.95                  |

More 1903/A3 Parts on Web Site

SPF121 Buttplate Milled, Fine Checkered \$35.00

SPF020 Cutoff

SPF021 Cutoff Plunger\_

SPF023 Cutoff Screw \_

| 1903A3 Pin & Spring Kits              |
|---------------------------------------|
| All the pins & springs for the rifle. |
| 03 & A3 included\$9.95                |
| or 3 kits for\$24.95 #SPF341          |

#### M1903 Trigger Guards Milled (Not Stamped 03A3 Type)

Absolutely beautiful repro of 1903 Springfield milled trigger guard. Can't really tell from original. Replace the stamped 'A3 guard to your rifle with one of these beauties. Finished in matte black, stripped, no floorplate \$49.95 ea. SPF117. Complete assy - trigger guard with floorplate & catch assy \$69.50

#SPF343

#### Springfield 1907 Leather WW1 & WW2 Slings-new

WW1 model sling with brass hard-ware. Model 1907, WW1 Dated \$16.95 #SLNG024

WW2 model sling with steel hard-ware, Model 1907, WW2 dated \$10.95 #SLNG025



**MODEL M73 SCOPE** 

w/ MOUNT New, 2.5 power Steel Mount, 3/4" rings



\$365. #SCP039

1907 Leather Sling Classic WW1 sling is rugged and will last a lifetime. Comes with marking and brass hardware. \$16.95 #SLNG024

\$1.95

\$5.00

\$35.00

\$74.95

\$49.95

\$39.95

\$8.00

\$22.14

\$2.50

\$1.75

\$2.00

\$3.00

\$3.00

\$9.95

\$7.50

\$2.00

\$2.00

\$6,95

\$15.00

\$14.95

\$9.65

\$7.40

\$6.00

\$3.00

\$13.95

\$1.50

\$9.95

\$39.00

\$49.95

\$99.00

\$16.00

Kerr Canvas Rifle as originally issued on the 1903 Rifle. Uses the 'NoBuckl' hardware made famous by the Kerr Company. New. Also used on the Krag Rifle. \$22. #SLNG104

Kerr Leather Sling The early 20th century sling of choice for hunters and shooters New \$24. SLNG115

Pederson Device Pouch unissued. \$24.00 #SPF395

Original canvas pouch, virtually Front Sight Cover USGI. \$12.95 #SPF044

1903A3 Rifle From the HBO Series The Pacific'. We still have a few in stock. \$895. ea. #GUN369. See Web Site for

Details. 1903A3 C&R Rifles - See our Web Site for these and many other military firearms!

1903 Straight Stock: Original reworked and without handguard. Very limited While they last! \$250. #SPF116-SS

NEW **BRAND NEW!** 1903A3 Springfield 'C' Stock - full pistol grip, walnut , with handguard, unstained. Precision fit for the 1903, 1903A1,& 1903A3 barreled receivers. Will work with A4 Sniper as well with a little inletting around the bolt handle. \$199. #SPF278



Springfield Trigger Guard Casting Set- 5 pc new casting set of parts for your finishing. See the set on the Web Site. \$19.95 #SPF393

## Springfield 1903A3 Rifle

Springfield 1903A3 Rifle rebuilt using a new 'old stock' USGI barrel. Any worn parts have been replaced and receiver professionally reconditioned by our gunsmith with experience on thousands of Springfields. Stocks are original GI in used 'good condition'. See Web Site for more info. Get one while we have them because they never stay in stock for long!

C&R Elegible \$1,495. # GUN941



Springfield Rifle Cartridge Belt Olive drab cartridge belt, adjustable.

Springfield 1903A3 Rear Sight, new. \$39,95 #SPF370 Also a few Original available. \$100. ea. -#SPF065



1903A3 Springfield Parts Kit

All parts except for the barrel, receiver, & stock set. All USGI parts, new or like new condition. Use this kit to maintain your existing Springfield Rifle or for completeing your own Springfield Rifle

project. \$219.95 #SPF126

Springfield Bayonets Available - See Page 8 of this Sarco ad.

## 1903 Springfield Rifle 10 Round Magazine

10 rd. steel magazine for .30-06 ammunition... Fits the 1903 trigger guard and looks great on the rifle!

\$87.59 #RM84

See Our Web Site for all M1 & M2 Springfield .22 Parts

## Complete New Screw Set for 1903 & 1903A3 Springfield

Includes: Upper band screw Rear guard screw Swivel screw Front guard screw Stacking swivel screw Cut off screw Lower band screw Large & Small buttplate screws

1903A3 set \$9.95 #SPF378 (this set also includes the sight screw)

1903 set \$9.95 #SPF379

## Springfield Rifle Bag

U.S. Pattern \$24.00 SPF392



Springfield 'Put Away' Kit (1/2 price) Trigger, 2 sears, 1 milled follower, 2 ejectors, 2 strikers, 1 mainspring, 2 trigger pins, JPER PRICE \$15.80 #SPF095

## Extra Long Rear Guard Screws For 1903A3 Receivers

The standard guard screw only goes up part way on an A3 receiver. This screw will fill the hole the entire way. Have not had these in 20 years! The GI screw only engages a few threads! \$3.95 ea. of 3 for \$9.95

#SPF360

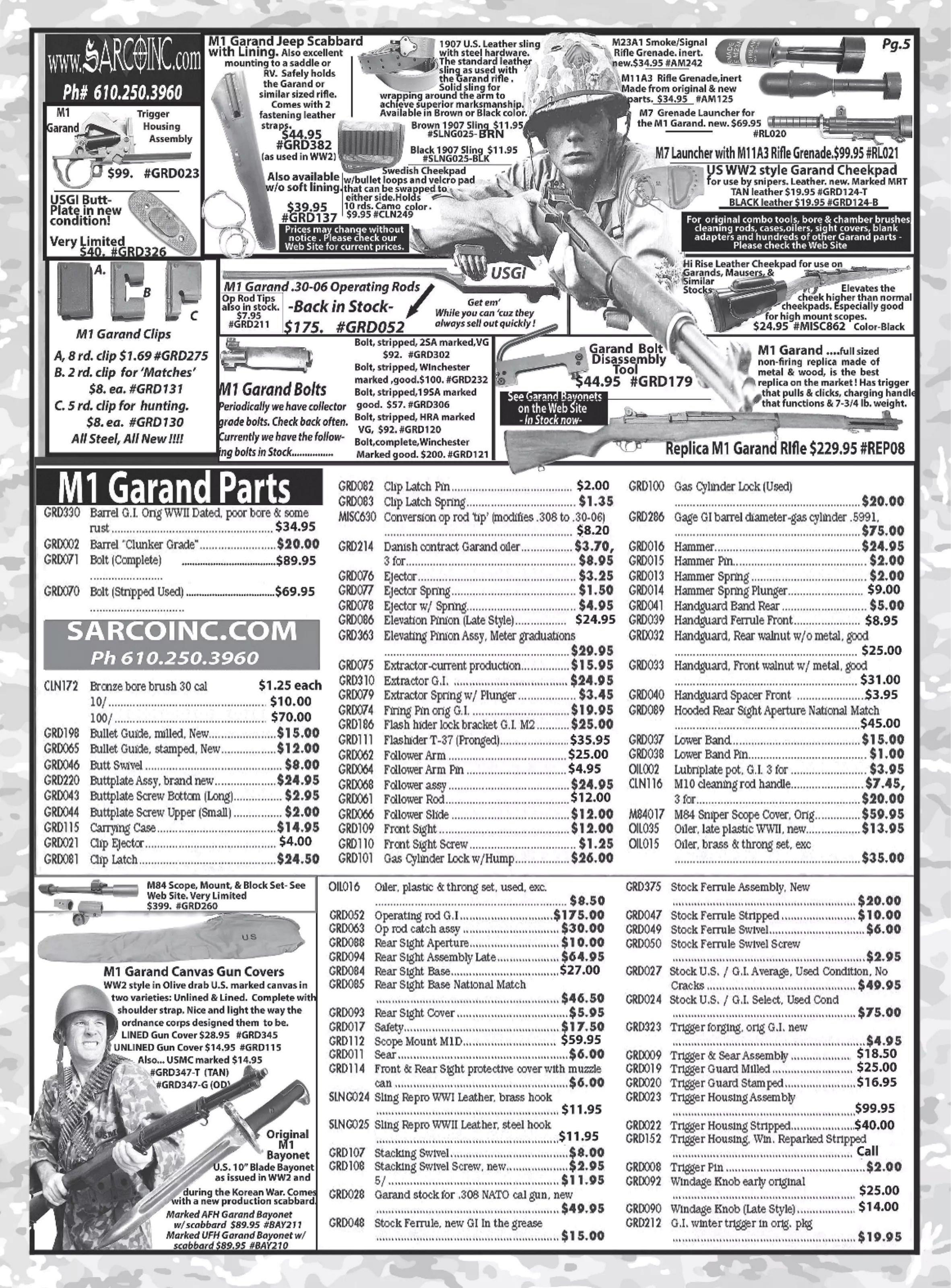
## 1903 & A3 Springfield Spring Kit

A 'put away' for the future! All springs in the gun-bolt sleeve lock, main, cut-off, sear, floor plate catch,& magazine follower spring.

A \$15. Value! Only \$4.95 each

or.... 3 for \$11.45



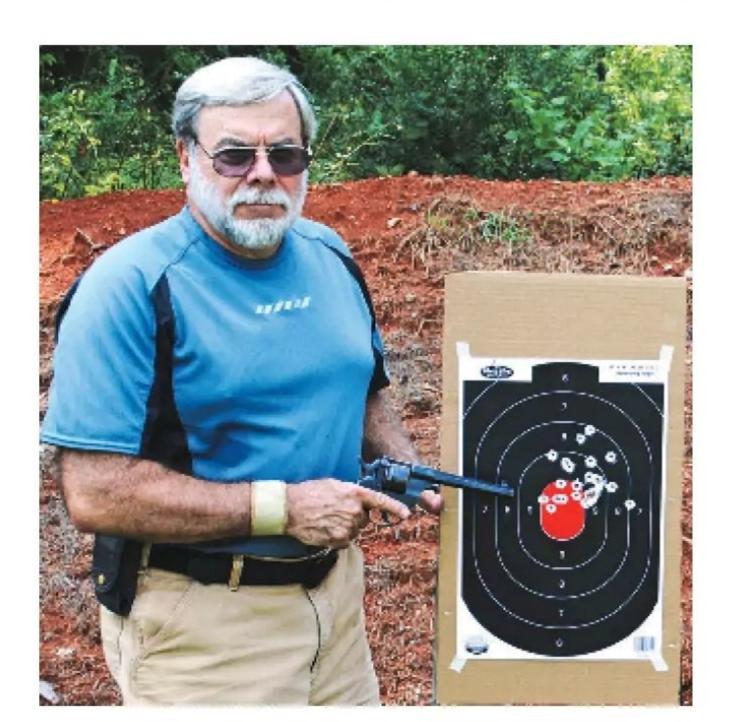


THE WAR GUNS FIREARMSNEWS.COM



Sample targets fired with the Model 73 and Police revolvers.

Offhand shooting at seven yards showed that the M.73 revolver was capable of putting rounds just where I wanted them.



charge of tear gas. While some sources claim they were issued to prison guards to subdue unruly inmates, they were in fact used for training. Soldiers would enter a gas chamber and gaspatronen would be fired so they could learn (quickly!) the proper way to put on their gas masks.

In 1924, the FN Mle. 1910/22 pistol was adopted as the Pistool M.25 No. 1, but numbers of Oude and Nieuw model revolvers remained in service with army reserve units up until the outbreak of WWII.

Model 73 and 91 revolvers remained in service in the East Indies until the region was conquered by the Japanese in 1941 who used large numbers of captured weapons. Some saw service with guerillas fighting the Japanese occupiers while others were used by Indonesian nationalists during the post-war fight for independence.

The Wehrmacht overran the Netherlands so quickly that it is unlikely any reservists' model 73 revolver were fired in anger. Some captured revolvers were issued to German occupation troops while others were used by the Dutch resistance fighters.

## Test Firing the Model 73 **Model Revolver**

My good friend Tim Hawkins provided me with a Model 73 Oude Model revolver to photograph and test fire for this report. It was made J.F.J. Bar in 1892 and is in excellent mechanical condition with about 90% finish. The DA trigger pull was long

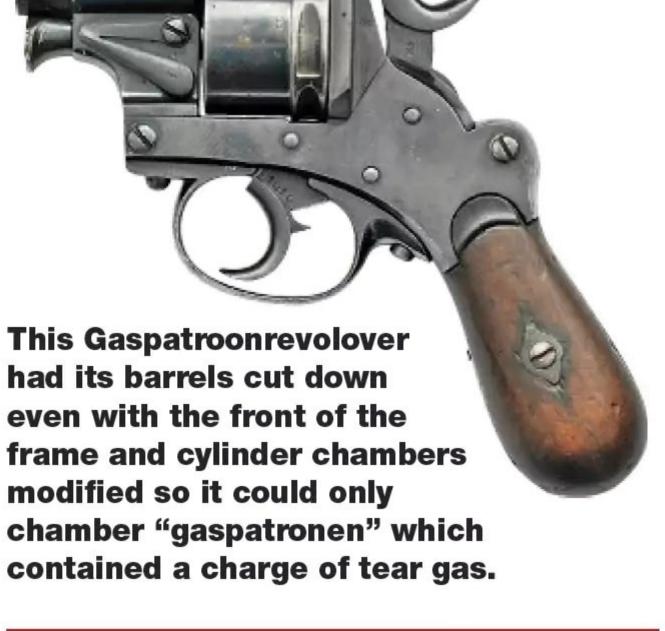
and heavy and the SA rather stiff, but the bead front and U notch rear sights provided a fairly decent sight picture. Despite my preconceptions, the tear drop shaped grip was comfortable and it was well balanced and pointed naturally. Test firing was performed with custom made Scherpe patronen No. 5 provided by the late Bob Shell.

I fired the Model 73 from a rest at 25 yards and, despite its heavy trigger pull, produced a series on nicely centered five shot groups in the three-inch size. I then set up a target and proceeded to send 9.4mm projectiles downrange from a distance of seven yards.

The Model 73's rather decent handling qualities resulted in a respectable group, printing a bit high and to the right. Recoil was negligible and my only real complaint was punching spent cases out of the cylinder one at a time with a brass rod.

In conclusion, I found the Dutch Model 73 revolver a rugged, well built, decent handling revolver although considering the rather sedate ballistics of the Scherpe patroon No. 5 it was obviously a case of over engineering. **FN** 

1 www.bonhams.com/auction/14956/lot/231/a-raredutch-naval-officers-54-bore-adams-patent-five-shotsingle-action-welij-conversion-centre-fire-revolverrevolverpistool-a/



## PISTOOLREVOLVER MODEL 73 (A.K.A. MODEL 73 O.M.)4

| Caliber:           | Scherpe patroon No. 11       |  |
|--------------------|------------------------------|--|
| Overall<br>Length: | 11 in.                       |  |
| Barrel<br>Length:  | 6.3 in.                      |  |
| Weight (Unloaded): | 42 oz.                       |  |
| Capacity:          | 6                            |  |
| Sights:            | Front: Bead<br>Rear: U notch |  |
| Grips:             | Wood                         |  |

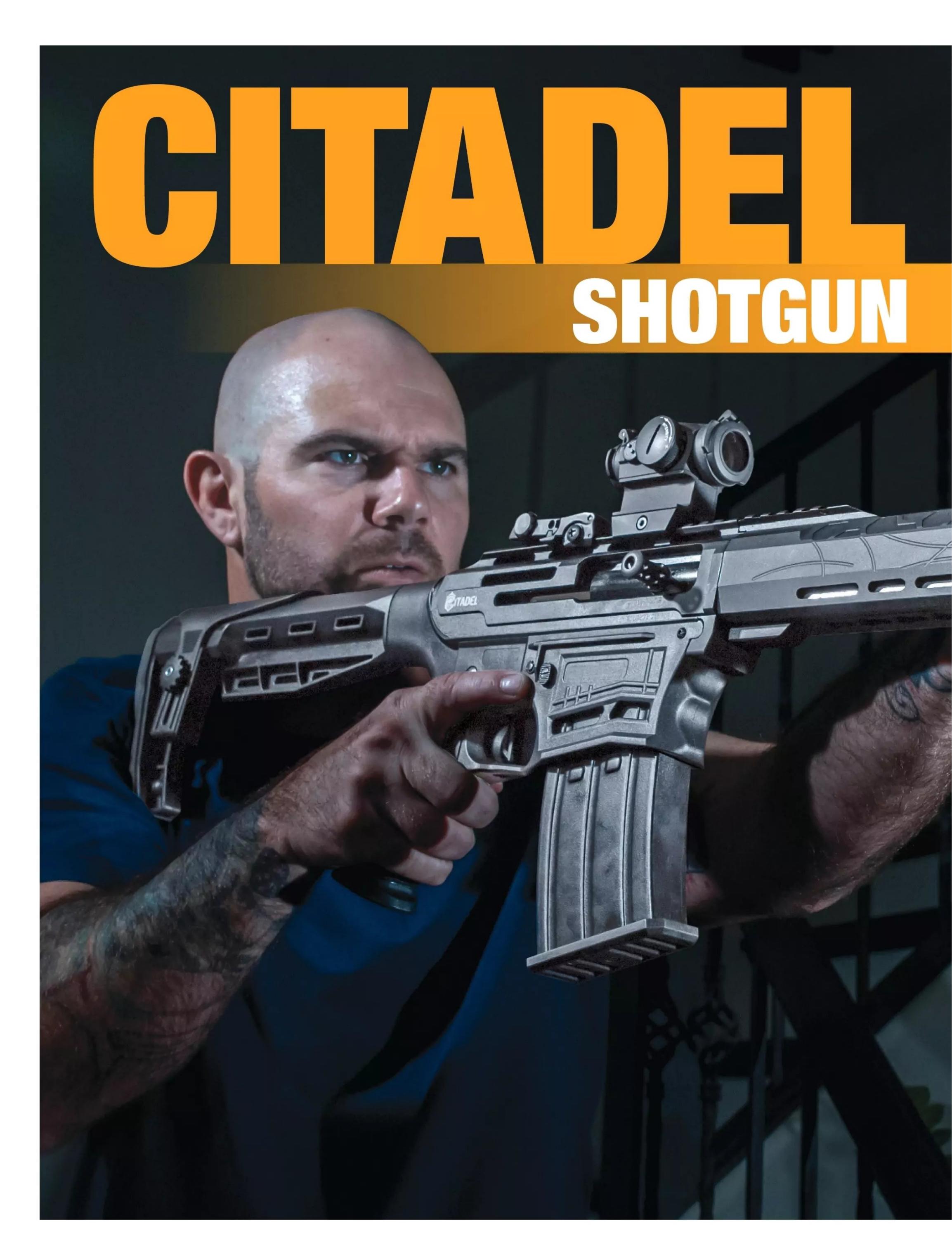
#### **INDISCHE REVOLVER MODEL 91**

| Caliber:           | Scherpe Patroon No. 3        |  |
|--------------------|------------------------------|--|
| Overall<br>Length: | 9 in.                        |  |
| Barrel<br>Length:  | 4.5 in.                      |  |
| Weight:            | 29 oz.                       |  |
| Capacity:          | 6                            |  |
| Sights:            | Front: Bead<br>Rear: U notch |  |
| Grips:             | Checkered wood               |  |
|                    |                              |  |

<sup>2</sup> This was also a feature of the German Reichsrevolvers M.79 and M.83.

<sup>3</sup> www.gunboards.com/threads/dutch-east-indiesrevolver.417044/

<sup>4</sup> Specifications for the Nieuw Model were identical except it had a weight of 40.9 ounces.



# BICS 25 FROM LEGACY SPORTS

By Patrick Sweeney Cover and lead photos by Sean Utley



f you have grown up as an AR-15 shooter, handling a shotgun built in the traditional pattern can be an awkward experience. Where's the pistol grip? The magazine? The safety is *where*? And why does the stock have that funny bend to it? No, you want an AR-15 layout, and since this is America of course you can (unless you live behind enemy lines in states like California and New York). Well, you could for a long time, but the Citadel BOSS25 is a smoking deal and a neat setup.

Okay, the basic layout. The BOSS25 looks like an AR-15 that vacationed near a nuclear reactor, and grew to Godzilla size. Except, it doesn't feel as bulky in the hands as it might appear it would be in photos. When I opened



the box, I thought, "*Oh, this will be a brick*" but it wasn't. Now, an eight-pound 12-gauge shotgun could be good, could be bad, depending on the power level of the rounds



The BOSS25 controls are not ambi, but that is nothing out of the ordinary. If you want ambi controls, then go over to the BOSS30.

you feed it, and your recoil sensitivity. The BOSS25 is a gas gun, with a piston that operates under the same principles as other gas-operated shotguns, but with a difference. On the traditional shotgun, one with a magazine tube under the barrel, the piston, carrier, action spring, all that rides on the magazine tube. As in, under the barrel and as a result making the whole assembly taller and bulkier. Us old-timers grew up with that and just accept it. But new shooters haven't, won't, and don't. As a gas-operated shotgun, it will have less felt recoil than an inertia-powered one of the same weight. Forward of the aluminum upper receiver, the aluminum handguard has a short section of pic rail on the top front, and a matching section on the bottom. The sides and the lower panels of the octagonal cross-section of the handguard feature rows of M-LOK slots. And as if that wasn't enough, the six o'clock panel of the handguard features a row of Keymod slots. If you have



Nothing says "this is fun" like a load of 00 buckshot. That's one of the advantages of the AR-15 like stock design.



system as your AR-15, so if you have a particular pistol grip that you favor, you can simply swap off the BOSS25 grip for yours. The safety is the same, a rotating lever on the left side (if you want an ambi setup, then move on over to the BOSS30, which has ambi everything) and the bolt hold-open and magazine button are also the same as on your AR-15, they might be located just a bit differently.



Since the BOSS25 is fed by means of box magazines (it comes with two five-rounders, and you can buy more five-shot mags on the Legacy page or jump up to the ten-shot mags if you wish). So, the gas piston, the carrier, and the action spring are all around the barrel itself. This allows the handguard to be so slim you might not notice it, you might not be thinking "where's the parts?" as you handle it. I know I didn't at first.

The layout is familiar. The magazines insert just like an AR-15, and they are "straight up" not "rock and lock" like an AK has. The pistol grip uses the same attachment

After all, the 12-gauge shell takes up more space than a 5.56 round does, so things have to shift a bit to accommodate its bulk. The reinforced polymer lower receiver, because of the need for a 12 gauge-sized magazine is more along the lines of an AR-10 than an AR-15, at least in size. But all the controls are where you'd expect.

The charging handle is not like that on an AR-15, the one big divergence. Instead of a charging handle on the



The handguard has M-LOK slots on the sides, and KeyMod on the bottom. If you can't mount your favorite accessory, perhaps you don't really need it.



The barrel shroud both keeps your hands and carry case from a hot barrel and is the first step in disassembly. Read the manual, you'll need it.



- The charging handle
  is on the bolt, not at
  the rear of the receiver
  like on the AR-15.
  - ➤ The magazine button is right where you expect it to be but lacks a fence. The trigger is straight, one of the latest things that are the new normal.





rear of the upper, the BOSS25 uses a handle attached directly to the bolt, protruding out the right side. It reciprocates along with the bolt, so make sure you keep your hands inside the vehicle at all times. (Again, old-timers know the drill, new shooters might not.)

Above the ejection port, on the upper receiver there is a half-length Picatinny rail. This is a useful place to mount optics (make sure your glass is rated to take 12-gauge recoil) or BUIS (back-up iron sights), lights, etc. The BOSS25 comes with a set of Magpul flip-up sights, on this shotgun they came in black, contrasting with the FDE the BOSS25 shipped has. (Very cool, at that.)

The last of the neat things on the BOSS25 is the stock. While it is not adjustable for length, there is an adjustable cheekpiece, so you can raise or lower where your face rides. This is important if you plan on using optics, either reddot or magnifying. The back end has a rubber recoil pad on it, always a useful item on a shotgun.

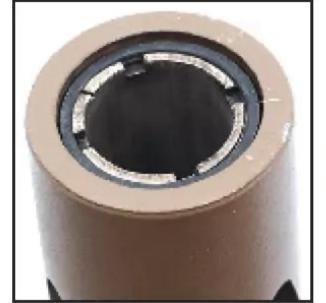
The barrel is eighteen and three-quarter inches long, it has the last section forward of the handguard covered by



The cheekpiece is adjustable for height, but not fore-and-aft for location.

a slotted shroud, (the shroud extends back underneath the handguard for another couple of inches) and the barrel is threaded for screw-in choke tubes. The BOSS25 comes with five choke tubes, one of which is a muzzle brake. The four choke tubes fit flush, and offer various constrictions to control pattern. The muzzle brake is also a choke tube, but it is a modified constriction. So, if the load you want to use works and patterns well in the modified choke tube then you can add that recoil reduction to the gas system reduction and be comfy. If your desired load works best with one of the other choke tube, you'll have to forego the muzzle brake. Them's the breaks. Curiously, the owner's manual parts list refers to the shroud as a "muzzle break" but since there's no way for gases to reach it, it clearly isn't and can't be. In the disassembly section, it is described as a shroud, so that part is clear. And, the shroud is the first step in disassembly. It is involved, so I won't go into it here but it does take up more than a dozen steps in the owner's manual. My

suggestion is to read the manual, as disassembly is not intuitive.



The chokes screw in at the muzzle, which you might not notice at first because of the barrel shroud surrounding the barrel.



One of the chokes, with a Modified constriction, also incorporates a muzzle brake.



Federal ForceX2 delivered more-open patterns, and you can always change choke tubes to adjust pattern size.

CITABLE DOCCOR CHOTCHIA

| CHRONOGRAPH AND ACCURACY DATA    |                   |                         |  |
|----------------------------------|-------------------|-------------------------|--|
| Ammunition                       | Velocity<br>(fps) | Pattern<br>(Avg.) (in.) |  |
| Hornady Critical Defense 00 buck | 1,561             | 4                       |  |
| Federal Force X2 00 buck         | 1,239             | 5                       |  |
| Sellier & Bellot 00 buck         | 1,224             | 6                       |  |
| Winchester Super X 00 buck       | 1,319             | 6.5                     |  |

Pattern results were to be averages of four shots at 10 yards off a Champion shooting rest. Velocities are averages of five shots measured on a Labradar chronograph set to read 15 feet from the muzzle.

In testing, I ignored the break-in schedule that Citadel posts for the BOSS25, partly because I'm a gun writer and can't be bothered, and partly to see what would happen. In a word: nothing bad. (Okay, two words.) The BOSS25 break-in process involves starting with shells of 1,450 to 1,500 fps and then only using shells with one ounce of shot or more, and 1,300 fps or more. Citadel includes a heavy



You get the tools for disassembly, and a special piston for use with heavy loads.



Hornady Black delivered patterns, a good thing with buckshot. Those gaping holes in the cardboard are from the wad.

gas piston in the box with the BOSS25, for use with the top-end loads. (1 ounce slugs at 1,600 fps anyone?) After a quick look at the disassembly procedure, I left the regular piston in and went to the range, leaving the 1,600 slugs ammo behind.

There, I of course started with plain old regular skeet loads, and on a sunny but slushy day (ankle deep, my gun club ranges flood when it thaws) and through several boxes of shells had no problems. I also included the use of buckshot, since this is one of the options for defense, and finished with some "low-recoil" slugs. (No such thing in the 12-gauge world, but some do recoil less than others.)

The BOSS25 is chambered for both 2<sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub>" and 3" shells, but since I am not a glutton for punishment I did not try any of the big magnums. Those of you who simply must use the "biggest and best," regardless of return on



The BOSS25 comes with four regular chokes, the extra three in their own case with the tool to remove or install them.



the slush (besides "Why?") was on the five-shot magazines. "I can get eight in my old shotgun, why settle for only five?" I agreed, and when I told him there were tenshot mags to be had, he was happy. So, why a box magazine? Reloads and payload changes are fast is why. One thing we found out right away back in the earliest days of 3-Gun competition was that the fastest shotgunner was the fastest reloader of shotguns. Shoot fast and reload slow, and you'd lose. If you have birdshot, or even buckshot in your shotgun, and need a slug, getting a slug chambered is a multi-step minuet. If you needed more than one slug you were in a world of hurt. With the BOSS25, just swap mags and work the charging handle and you've got five. Or ten, or stuff a drum full and you've got twenty rounds of 12-gauge goodness to call upon. I had a package arrive from Centerfire Systems (Centerfire Systems.com) with a Global Defense skeletonized drum magazine inside. The loading procedure does require that you read the owner's manual, but once you know how, it loads easily. And if

You can get ten-shot magazines for the BOSS25 as well, but they are noticeably longer than the five-shot ones are.

you thought shooting a shotgun was fun, shooting one with a twenty-round magazine in it is even more fun. I reverted to the days when I was shooting at the range with Dad: no going home while there was still ammo to be fired.

The big deal with the BOSS25 is that with the top rail you can install optics, magnifying or red-dot, so I took advantage of that opportunity to clamp on one of the EOTech holosights I keep on hand for just that sort of use. One big reason to go with the EOTech is that the 65 mil circle gives you a good reference guide to your group size. You'll have to test the chokes and your favorite buckshot load, but you can get a good idea of group size to target size, through the circle. And since there's a central dot, you have your group center impact point.

The EOTech does add a bit of weight to the BOSS25, and a light adds more, but they are what, a pound and a

half at most, to the eight pounds of the BOSS25? As I remarked in the beginning not an anvil. And with the slim handguard, not a too-big-to-grab handful either. So, you have a shotgun that handles like an AR-15. (Or AR-10, given the size.) You have magazines for a fast reload, and since it is



The top rail is the perfect place to mount optics, be they magnifying or red dot. Or in this case, holographic.

## RUBEN MENDIOLA

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Capacity: 5+1 rounds

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Overall Length: 37.75 in.

Weight: 8 lbs. 1 oz.

Finish: FDE (Black Tactical Gray and American flag

also options)

Furniture: Adjustable stock, pistol grip

Sights: Magpul BUIS, top Picatinny rail

Trigger: 5 lbs. 9 oz.

MSRP: \$339 as tested (color choices range the

price from \$309 to \$399)

Contact: CitadelFrearms.com, (775) 828-0555

gas-operated the recoil is manageable. There are choke tubes included, as well as a muzzle brake on one of them. And you can have it in various colors and even an American flag coating. The best part? The starting price for the plain model is a listed \$309, which as we all know, will be less than that at your local gun shop. Hard to get a better combo than that.

### **SOURCES**

Federal Ammunition, FederalPremium.com, (800) 831-8100

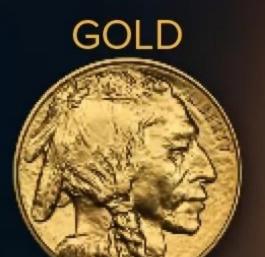
Hornady Ammunition, Hornady.com, (800) 338-3220

Sellier & Bellot Ammunition, SellierBellot.us

Winchester Ammunition, Winchester.com



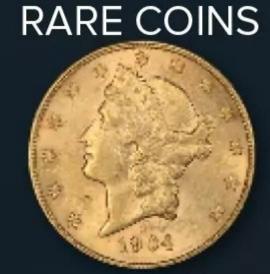
















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# SPRINGFIELD ARMORY'S TRP CARRY CONTOUR AOS PISTOL The 1911 Just Keeps Getting Better!

By Patrick Sweeney

he TRP grew out of the FBI requirement for a pistol for their SWAT teams. That was back in the 1990's, and the result was a pistol that had all the hallmarks, and the good stuff, of the era. Springfield Armory is not a group to let the grass grow under their feet, so the TRP has evolved since then. And boy, is it ever a great 1911. With the extras just added, it is even greater.

The basic (as if there is such a thing) TRP is a single stack 1911A1-based pistol, with cocking serrations fore

and aft, and a rounded-top but grooved slide. The grooves down the centerline aid in acquiring the front sight, and those sights have a tritium front cell on the blade, and the Springfield Armory U-notch steel sight on the rear. The thumb safety is an ambi, the frontstrap is checkered, and the frame has an accessory rail on it. The rail extends back onto the frame past the join of the dust cover to the frame and adds support to the slide stop pin. That's where the barrel bears when it locks up, so more is better. It is also





overlapping the point where high-mileage (50,000 rounds or more, often much more) frames can crack, where the dust cover meets. With the extra metal there, that should not be a problem. The grips are aggressively machined G10, and if you find them slippery you really need to see a doctor, because your hands can't be that wet and still be healthy. But wait, the TRP is now more.

Now the upper rear of the slide has the Springfield Armory AOS (Agency Optic System) so you can mount a red-dot optic there if you wish. When it became readily apparent that a red dot could actually survive riding on a slide, the gathered multitudes had to have it. (For many years before then, we used frame-mounted systems to attach a red-dot to our pistols. This was a competition-only approach.) However, this meant, in the early days (not that long ago, really) that every 9mm striker-fired pistol got some sort of extra work first so it could accept a red-dot optic. The 1911 was not first in line to get that treatment. But Springfield Armory, working with Agency Arms, has figured out how to manage that and now we have the AOS



Now with AOS, the TRP is even better. Add in the lightweight frame, compact size and ambi controls and you have an excellent daily carry pistol.





All the goodies: solid rear sight, grip safety with beavertail, ambi safety, skeletonized hammer.

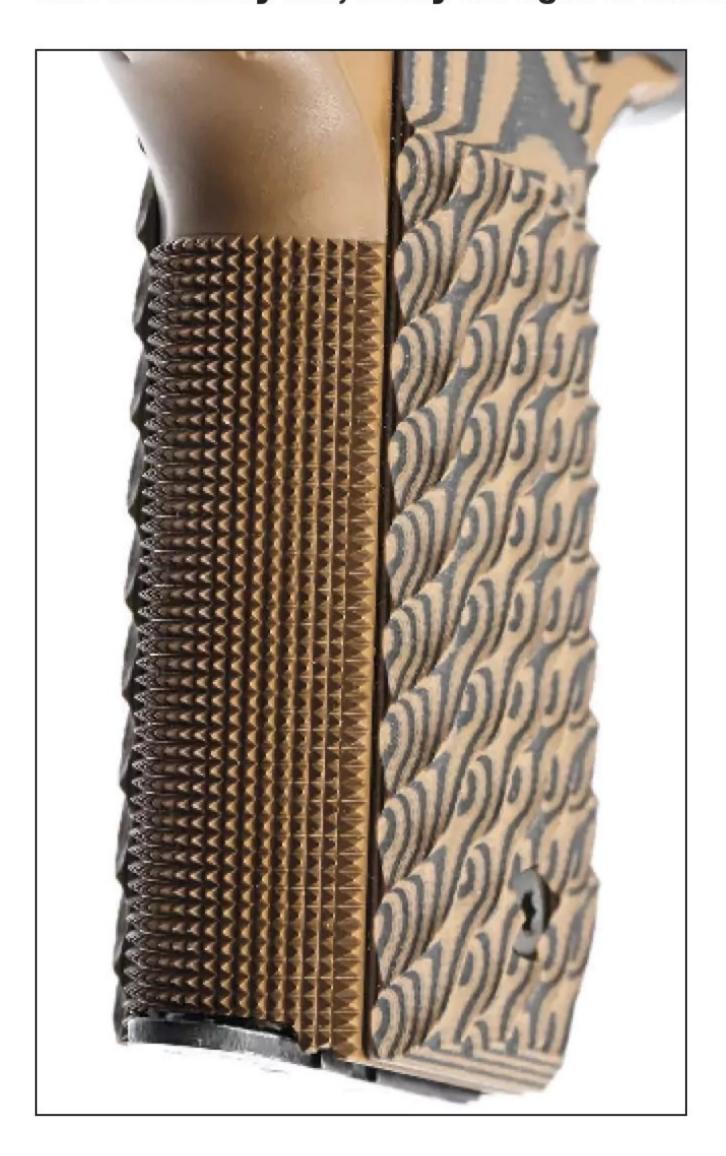


The frame rail addition also adds metal at the frame where the dust cover joins it, a problem sometimes in very high-mileage 1911s.

### SPRINGFIELD ARMORY'S TRP CARRY CONTOUR AOS PISTOL



The accessory rail, ready for light or laser, Mr. DeMille.



The frontstrap has 20 LPI checkering, aggressive and ready to keep the TRP from slipping.



The Carry Contour cut on the mainspring housing. This reduces the chance of the TRP printing when you are doing your daily carry tasks.

for many 1911s in the Springfield Armory lineup. Well, now there are eight more TRP pistols that can be had with the AOS, ready for the red dot of your choice, including this one.

The TRP pistol that arrived here came with a four-pack of adapter plates so I could mount the red-dot of my choice on it. (That's what diligent gun writers get. Well, at least until I have to send it back.) The regular TRP will come to you with the cover plate and its sight installed, as well as a coupon to purchase the mounting plate of your choice, a coupon for a plate at a discount. Instead of \$129, the discounted price will be \$49. (Don't lose the coupon

code.) Now, most of you who want to mount a sight will already have your favorite. Or the recommended one the best shooter in your club uses. So, you need that one plate. Us grubby scribes have a shelf of sights and rotate through the inventory. (Don't hate us.) So that's why the clever people at Springfield Armory sent me all four plates. I used it to mount a Defender-ST for some of the testing, using plate number A15B. Yep, it works, just as you'd expect a red-dot optic to work, and the mounting plate also has a built-in iron sight just in case the battery died. However, I had a match coming up that would require iron sights only, so I took advantage of the clever aspect of the Springfield AOS. That is, I swapped the Iron-sight plate and the Defender-ST back and forth as testing and practice required. And didn't lose my zero at any time. That's why you go Springfield Armory, and you go AOS where it can be had.

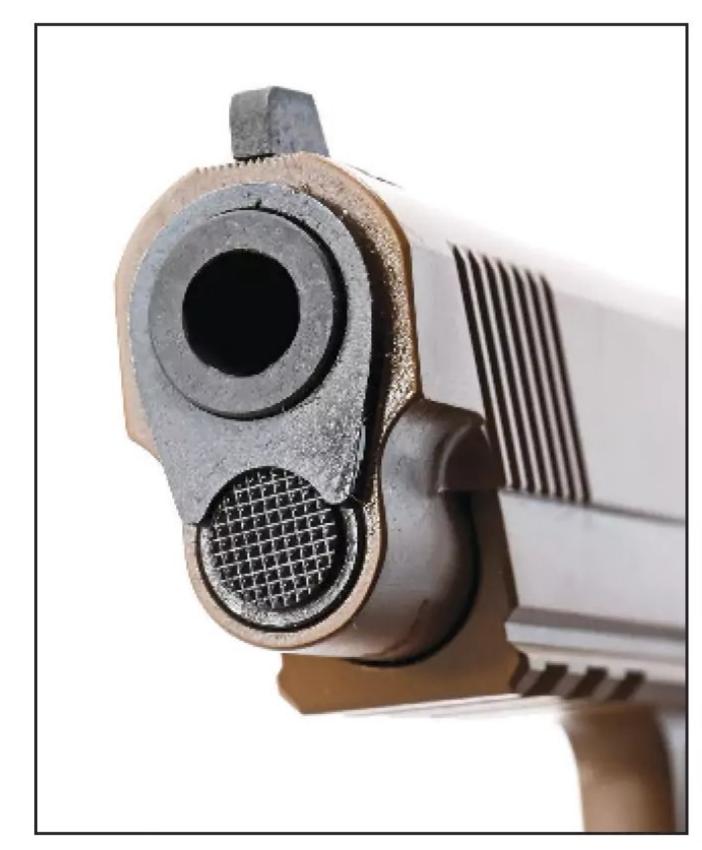


Using XTP bullets the Wilson Combat load was brilliant for accuracy.



The TRP CC has the magazine well beveled a bit, as much as it can be. It comes with three magazines, and they are already drilled for bolting on a magazine base.



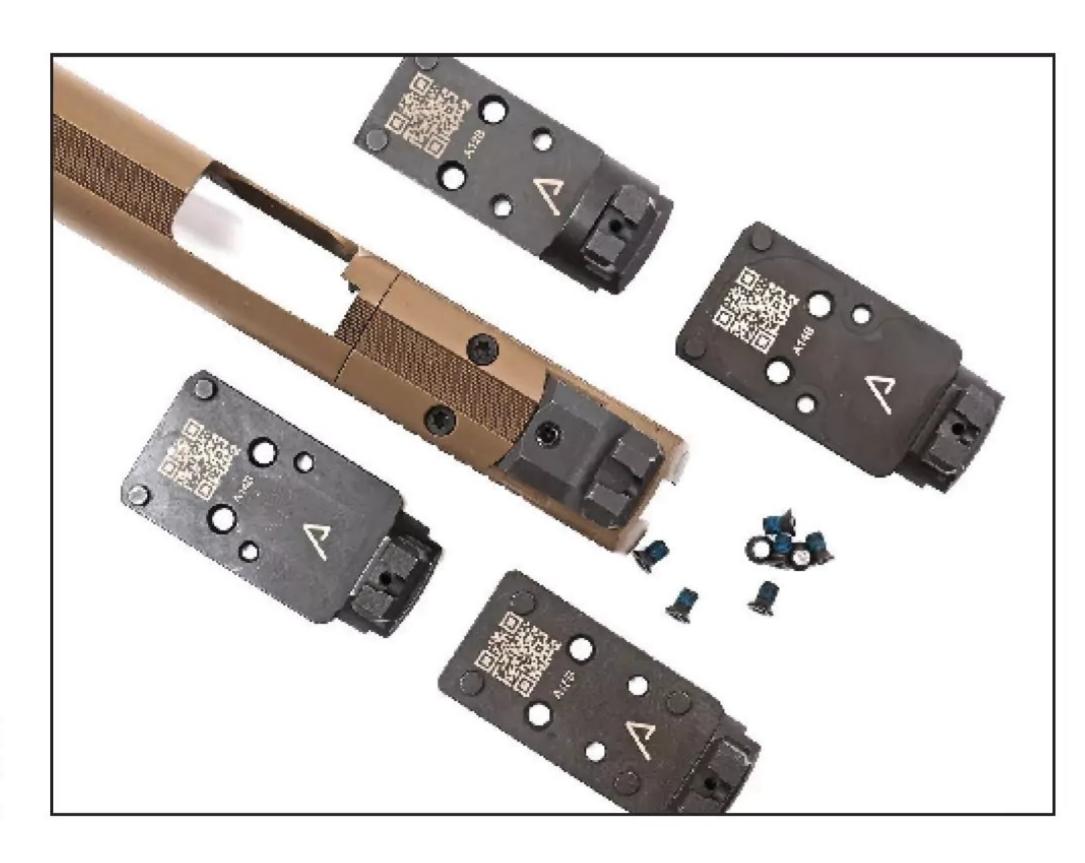


Now this particular TRP is the Carry Contour model, meaning it has all the other TRP details, plus more, but minus one. So, it has the ambi safety and dual cocking serrations of the other TRPs. It has the slide top grooves front to back, to line up the sights. It has the Gen 2 speed trigger, 20 LPI checkering on the frontstrap and VZ Grips Hydra grips. Back in the old days we'd slave over checkering, trying to make the tiny pyramids line up in a semblance of regularity. Springfield Armory produces them with precision. The VZ Grips Hydra pattern starts out with G10 scales and then they are machined with an aggressive set of depressions. Except for the left side, where there's a groove leading to the magazine button, to make reloads faster and easier. G10? A synthetic material that is tougher than a two-dollar steak and impervious to all known solvents, including New Jersey tap water.

Now, the TRP CC also has some extra features, at least in some models, but they have to give up one of the features of the regular TRP and that is the two-piece magazine well funnel. You see, the frame of the TRP CC in the 4.25" barrel models is made of aluminum to shave some weight off. And the mainspring housing is machined to a new curve, bobbed is the term, to make it a bit easier to carry in your daily routine. The bottom of the frame can't accommodate the two-piece mag well funnel, but Springfield Armory does bevel the edges of the mag well opening to make reloads easier. That is the nature of life: to get something you often have to give up something. If you want the Carry Contour, you can't have the two-piece funnel. The bobbed frame provides a surface at an angle to your clothing that reduces the likelihood of your jacket,

► For the review, Springfield Armory sent all four mounting plates, just in case. You'll get a coupon for a discount to buy the one you need.





### SPRINGFIELD ARMORY'S TRP CARRY CONTOUR AOS PISTOL







The TRP with a red dot on top is a superb carry pistol, and even a competition pistol, which is good practice for defense.

Here is the process. Remove the cover plate and its sight. Use the adapter plate, and then mount the red-dot, in this case a Defender-ST.

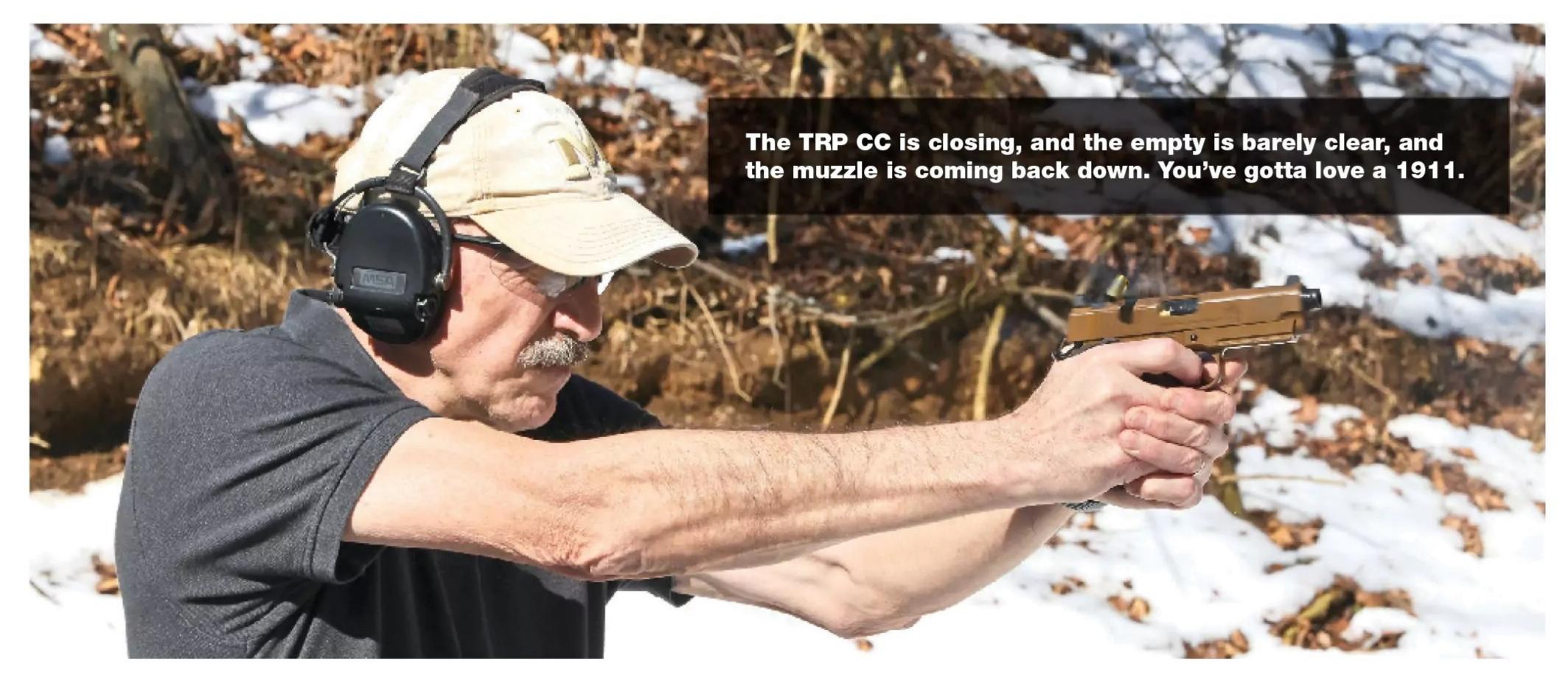
whatever, of catching and "printing" when you are carrying concealed. Light weight and easier to keep concealed? Sign me up.

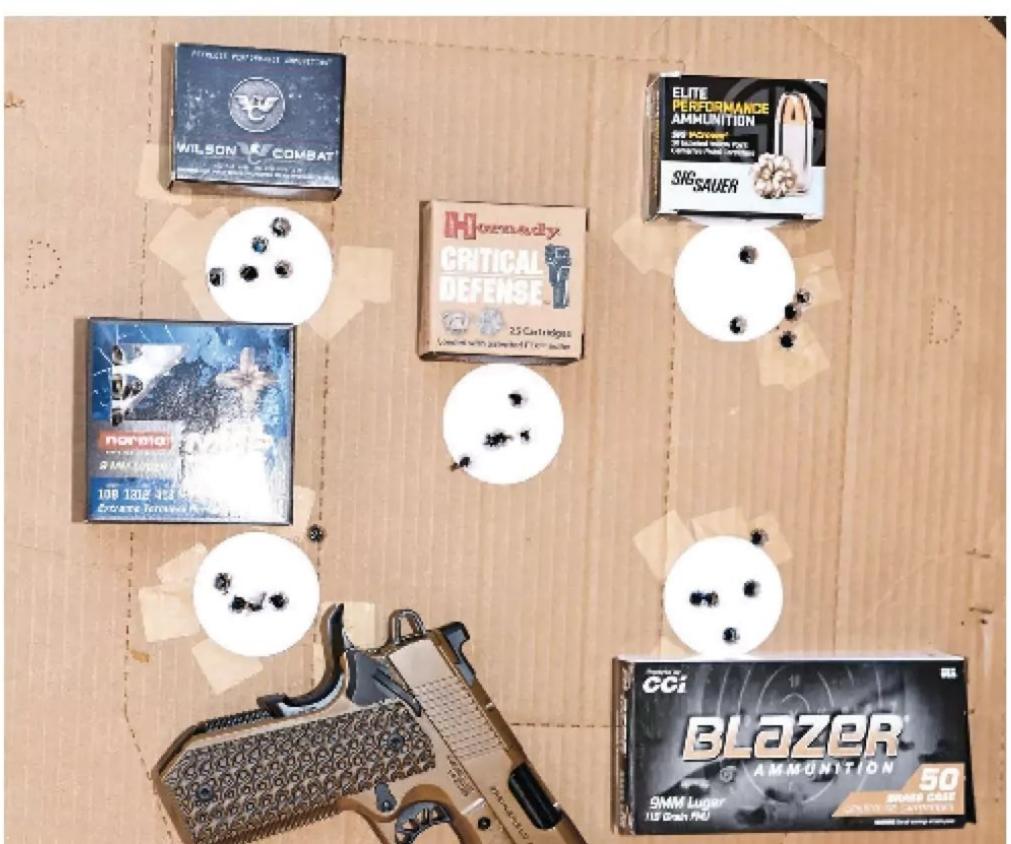
So, we have a lightweight, compact, single stack 1911 that can have a red-dot optic mounted or be left with iron sights. How can it get better? 9mm. (A little, historic, bit of me winced when I wrote that.) Yes, a single-stack 1911 in 9mm, with a barrel three-quarters of an inch shorter than government size. Oh, and the 9mm barrel is integrally-barreled, that is the feed ramp is not part frame, part barrel. It is one piece, extending down below the pickup point of the cartridge nose (that aids reliable feeding) and at an angle to allow for complete case support. So, should you decide that the suitable carry ammo for you is something in the +P range the 9mm TRP CC AOS barrel will give the case all the support that any case can be given in a pistol.

To help in that, Springfield armory includes three maga-

zines with the 9mm TRP CC AOS. That means you can walk out the door in classic style: pistol, loaded, and two spare magazines. For a total of 28 rounds of 9mm emergency-addressing rounds at your disposal, and the magazines are already drilled for you to bolt on a base pad if you wish. That was another classic step we took, to make reloads faster. No, they aren't there to soften the drop (but they can, and do, sometimes) but the old nickname of "slam pads" should make it clear. So, go retro and attach some pads to your magazines.

As a daily carry item, the commander-size in the lightweight version was what we all asked for back in the day. In fact, the day I could shelve the all-steel government model I had been carrying and slip on the lightweight was joyous. That one was in .45 ACP, which wasn't all that much fun to shoot. (however, it was easy enough to shoot that it earned me an E ticket at Gunsite), but today the world is a 9mm world, and the TRP CC is ready for that. I tested it with some zippy 9mm loads, and despite the lighter-than-steel weight, the recoil was easy. Not like nothing, but nothing like a .45 (Which you can have in a TRP CC, should you wish, even an AOS. Springfield Armory is nothing if not accommodating.) You might look at the trigger pull weight and think to yourself "I want something lighter." Perhaps you do, and perhaps you don't. Were I using the TRP CC AOS solely as a competition pistol, yes, I'd want something lighter, but as a daily carry pistol, having a clean trigger pull of that weight





The typical groups the various loads produced.

is not a hindrance. In fact, it is an asset. Cold weather, nerves, tension, all work to make your fingers less sensitive, and having a bit more weight on the trigger is not a bad thing there. As long as it is clean, and this one is. (In fact,



Hornady always shines in accuracy testing, and the Critical Defense load did not pull down the average.

all Springfield's are, as I think back over the many I'd tested.) If you really have to have something a bit lighter, tuning a half-pound or so off of it is a simple task for any competent pistolsmith.

| SPRINGFIELD ARMORY 9MM TRP CARRY CONTOUR AOS CHRONOGRAPH AND ACCURACY DATA |                     |                |    |      |                               |
|--|---------------------|----------------|----|------|-------------------------------|
| Ammunition   | Bullet Weight (gr.) | Velocity (fps) | ES | SD   | Avg. Group / Best Group (in.) |
| Norma MHP  | 108                 | 1,096          | 43 | 19.8 | 1.8 / 1.5                     |
| CCI Blazer FMJ   | 115                 | 1,114          | 45 | 19.5 | 1.8 / 1.6                     |
| Hornady Critical Defense   | 115                 | 1,163          | 15 | 8.0  | 1.6 / 1.3                     |
| SIG V-Crown JHP  | 115                 | 1,229          | 39 | 19.4 | 1.7 / 1.5                     |
| Wilson Combat XTP  | 147                 | 1,047          | 27 | 10.8 | 1.5 / 1.3                     |

Accuracy results were to be averages of three, five-shot groups at 25 yards off a Champion shooting rest. Velocities are averages of 10 shots measured on a Labradar chronograph set to read 15 feet from the muzzle.

### SPRINGFIELD ARMORY'S TRP CARRY CONTOUR AOS PISTOL



trousers, the wings will hook your belt and keep the holster in place.

The TRP comes in two colors, not counting the California compliant version (stainless, that one is) where your choices are Cerakote in Black, or Cerakote in FDE. With each you get matching-color VZ grips Hydra grips, and on the FDE versions the sights and small parts are black. Now, I'm not a make-it-colorful kinda guy. I just recently admitted to liking nickeled guns, and stainless was okay as long as it wasn't buffed up. Hard chrome was cool, but that was the fashion when I started IPSC competition back when the late Jimmy Carter was President, but I have to say that I'm really liking the looks of this TRP in Cerakote FDE. The contrasting

| S |   | 2 | H | ₹ | 3 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
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Black Hills Ammunition, Black-Hills.com, (605) 348-5150 DeSantis Gunhide, DeSantisHolster.com Hornady Ammunition, Hornady.com, (800) 338-3220 Norma Ammunition, Norma-Ammunition.com **SIG Sauer, SIGSauer.com**, (603) 610-3000 Wilson Combat, Wilson Combat.com, (800) 955-4856

The DeSantis holster holds the TRP CC securely and has clearance for the Defender-ST optic. Adjust the tension as you feel the need.

black parts, and the really effective VZ Grips Hydra grips also add to the effect.

Accuracy? Reliability? Really, you have to ask? Alright, I had no problems usually keeping all my shots on or touching the two-inch pasters I use as aiming dots, except for the group photo. (You can see why I wanted to use the TRP CC AOS as a practice pistol for the upcoming match.) It worked with all ammunition, and I would have been more than surprised had it malfunctioned. In fact, had it, I would have phoned Springfield Armory right there on the range to find out what was up. That didn't happen, nor do I expect it to, ever.

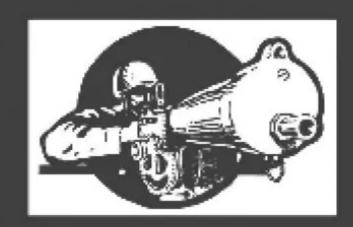
For a holster I went to the holster shelves and found a perfect setup: DeSantis Cazzuto. This is an OWB kydex holster with tension adjustments. It comes as a paddle holster, so there is a hooked flap on the back that catches on your belt when you properly insert it between belt and trousers. If that isn't your thing, it comes with an adapter to make it a belt mount. It is

cant adjustable, and it is cut to accept pistols that have optics mounted. So, the perfect combo to go with the TRP.

### SPECIFICATIONS SPRINGFIELD ARMORY TRP CARRY CONTOUR AOS PISTOL

| Туре:           | Hammer-fired semi-automatic            |
|-----------------|--|
| Caliber:        | 9mm                                    |
| Capacity:       | 9+1 rounds                             |
| Barrel:         | 4.25 in.                               |
| Overall Length: | 7.9 in.                                |
| Height:         | 5.5 in.                                |
| Weight:         | 27 oz.                                 |
| Finish:         | Coyote Brown                           |
| Grips:          | G10                                    |
| Sights:         | Fixed front (tritium) & rear           |
| Trigger:        | 4 lbs. 10 oz.                          |
| MSRP:           | \$1,999                                |
| Contact:        | Springfield-Armory.com, (800) 680-6866 |

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# DESIGNATED

By David M. Fortier, Executive Editor

The Tabuk: A Kalashnikov-Based Designated Marksman Rifle

I began to shuffle things around in my search. As I moved the top layer of "stuff," my hand suddenly stopped on a black zippered case. My digging came to an abrupt end. This was not what I was looking for, but it suddenly brought back memories leading me to pause my hunt. The plain looking black case had sat forgotten for years in a drawer of assorted Combloc binoculars and scopes. This Russian scope was different from the others though; it had gone to Iraq, served on a Tabuk 7.62x39mm DMR and then come home.

The Russian 6x42mm PSO scope shipped by Fortier to McCormick in Iraq to aid testing back in 2006 as it is today. (Photo by David Fortier)



Walking out of my gunroom I sat on my couch and looked inside the case. A note from LTC Kendrick McCormick was folded on top:

Dave,

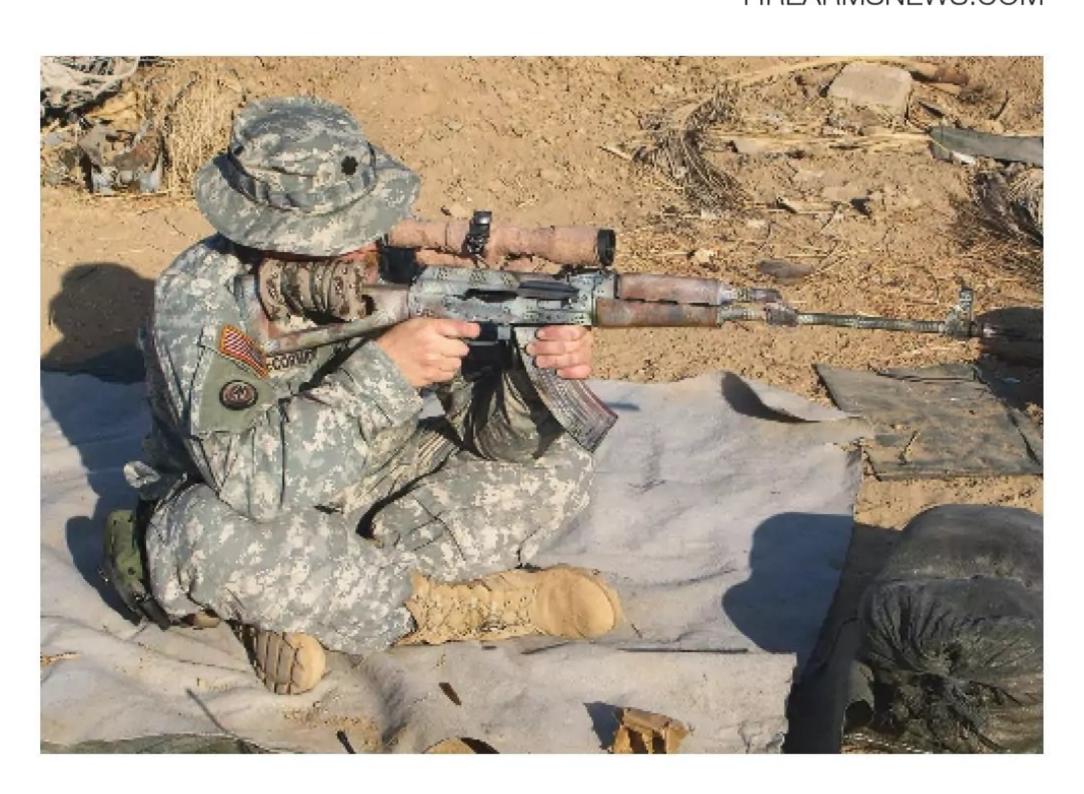
Thought I would throw in a few extras with this box to thank you once again for helping me out with the training over in Iraq....The decal is the marking 5<sup>th</sup> Brigade, 2<sup>nd</sup> National Police Division used on their gun trucks. It has "POB" on it because they used to be known as the Public Order Brigade. Seems they didn't see the need to change their vehicle markings with the name change. But then, they didn't see the need to change a bunch of things....

Thanks again for the help.

Good Luck and be careful over there this summer. Let me know how it all goes.

Sincerely, Kendrick McCormick

Beneath the note was a Russian 6x42mm PSO type scope in a medical wrap to camouflage it. The wrap was old and dirty but the scope itself is still in excellent shape. Looking out my office window the image has the typical yellowish tint older Russian optics are known for. The reticle is the SVD style, but it has a split choke rangefinder delineated for a .5- and 1.5-meter height targets indicating it was made for the commercial sporting market. So, what is its story?



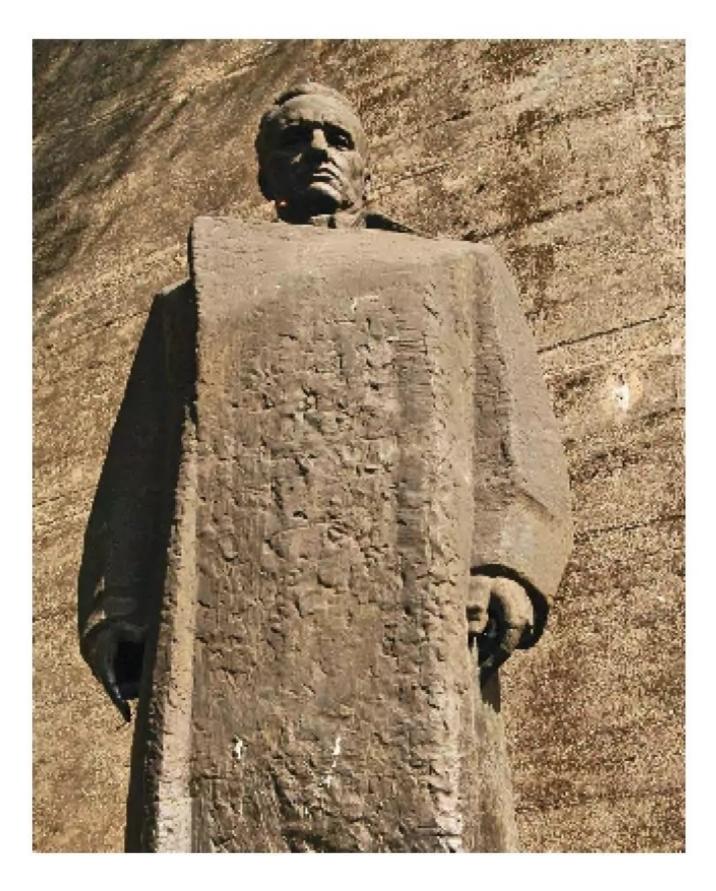
LTC Kendrick McCormick is seen during testing of the Tabuk in Iraq on 6 October 2006. (Photo by LTC Kendrick McCormick)



Many think of 7.62x54mmR sniper systems but insurgent snipers in Iraq also fielded 7.62x39mm Tabuks. (Photo by David Fortier)



The Iraqi Army fielded the domestically built Al Kadesih (seen here) in 7.62x54mmR as well as the 7.62x39mm Tabuk DMR. (Photo by David Fortier)



A monument to Josip Broz Tito in Serbia, a major economical partner to Iraq. (Photo by David Forter)

### **IRAQI DESIGNATED DMR**



Tito, seen here, together with Egyptian President Gamal Abdel Nasser, and Indian Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru, laid the foundations for the Non-Aligned Movement.

It's amazing how fast time goes by. It has been almost 20 years since LTC McCormick first contacted me. He was deployed to Iraq as things grew progressively worse there prior to "the Surge" in 2007. He and his men were tasked with working with the Iraqi

Police (IP) and while equipping and training them he came across a number of "long barreled" AK rifles. He recognized these to be Iraqi-built Tabuk designated marksman rifles (DMR) chambered in the standard 7.62x39mm.

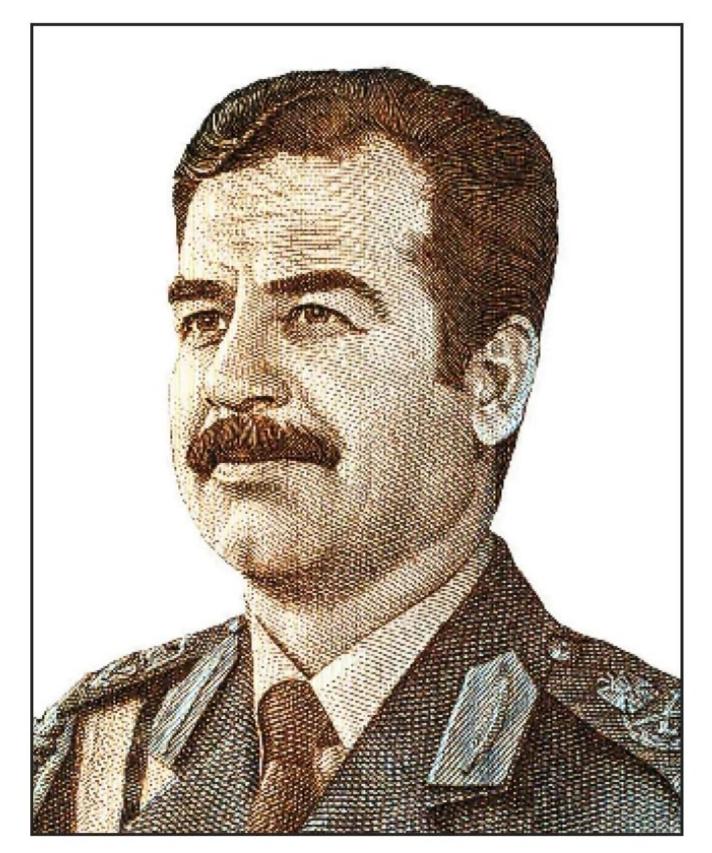
McCormick decided to do some testing to check their performance to see if they were suitable for fielding by the Iraqi Police he was working with. He had one problem though, they lacked optical sights. For a variety of reasons, sourcing the proper optic locally was not possible. I had



Serbian President Slobodan Milosevic, on right, sold Zastava equipment to Saddam's government for producing the Tabuk and other small arms. (Photo courtesy Central Intelligence Agency)



Zastava Arms of Serbia provided equipment, tooling and manufacturing technical data to produce the Tabuk. The author, on left, stands in front of Zastava Arms during a visit in 2005. (Photo by David Fortier)



When Saddam Hussein took power, he expanded trade with Yugoslavia. (Shutterstock/FotograFFF)

written a bit about Kalashnikovs and SVDs at the time, so he contacted me and we exchanged ideas and information. I shipped a 6x42mm PSO scope to him in Iraq, and he mounted it up and got to work.

If you are not familiar with Iraq's Tabuk DMR, let me pause our story and delve into this interesting mem-

ber of the Kalashnikov family. We have to turn the pages of time back to the Global War on Terror and travel to turbulent Iraq. During this dangerous time, US troops and Coalition Forces faced a variety of threats including Improvised Explosive Devices (IEDs), Vehicle-Borne Improvised Explosive Device (VBIEDs), suicide bombers, and snipers.

When most people think of sniper/DMR type rifles fielded by insurgents in Iraq, during this time period, rifles like the Soviet SVD, Romanian PSL, and domestic Iraqi Al Kadesih come to mind. While these 7.62x54mmR models were certainly prolific, there was another designated marksman rifle encountered, the Tabuk. Little known in the US, what makes this particular weapon interesting is the fact that it's a 7.62x39mm Kalashnikov-based DMR produced in Iraq.

The Tabuk is a long-barreled Kalashnikov DMR variant of the Yugoslav M72 RPK produced at the Al-Qadissiya Establishments. The Al-Qadissiya Establishment is located on the road between Doura and Mussayeb, north of Baghdad in what was the Diyala Governorate. The sprawling facility covers some eight square kilometers. A quick visual examination of the Tabuk though reveals it was not a product of Iraqi small arms engineers. The obvious Yugoslav influence is due to the fact the Tabuk was produced in Iraq on Zastava Arms machinery. There is a definite link

between this Iraqi rifle and Serb engineers in Kragujevac.

If we look closer, we note Iraqi-Yugoslavia relations dates back to 1958 when Iraq's first president, Muhammad Najib ar-Ruba'I, established relations with the Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, then under the rule of Josip Broz Tito. Tito first visited Iraq in August 1967, and then again in February 1979 while Ahmed Hassan al-Bakr was President of Iraq. The two countries signed bilateral relations agreements on trade, economic and technical cooperation.

It should be understood that Tito, together with Egyptian President Gamal Abdel Nasser and Indian

Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru, laid the foundations for the Non-Aligned Movement of countries not allied with either the East or West. Tito looked for non-aligned thirdworld countries to do business with, and Iraq became an important partner. At its peak, mutual trade between the two countries reached 4 billion in US dollars.

Yugoslav companies built Iraq's only deep water port, the Umm Qasr Port, which was founded in 1961, and reduced Iraq's dependence on the disputed Shatt al Arab waterway that marks the border with Iran. In 1977, al-Bakr ordered the construction of a large munitions and explosives factory 15 kilometers south of Yusufiyah. This was built by Yugoslav and German companies and completed just before the Iran-Iraq War began on 22 September 1980. Prior to this, on 16 July 1979, Saddam Hussein became the fifth President of Iraq and he expanded their trade. To give an idea of the scale of Yugoslav help, some 100,000 Yugoslav workers had to leave the country when the war began. Later in the 1980s, Yugoslav engineers also built large numbers of deep underground bunkers, which would later be used during the Gulf War.

Returning to our story, the equipment and tooling to produce the Tabuk is believed to have been purchased from

Zastava Arms by Saddam Hussein's government while Slobodan Milosevic was in power in Serbia. The design was obviously manufactured with assistance from the engineers at Zastava. I believe it is possible they were even assembled using some Zastava components.

The cheek weld of the skeletonized stock is less than adequate so a field expedient cheek rest was added for testing. (Photo by LTC Kendrick McCormick)





The Tabuk is fitted with an optical rail on the left side of the receiver. It is seen here with a Russian 6x42mm scope mounted. (Photo by LTC Kendrick McCormick)

The rifle itself is based upon the Yugoslav M70 series, and here I must note the Yugoslavs marched to the beat of their own drum. The M70 is not a Soviet pattern Kalashnikov design. Due to this, the Tabuk features a heavier RPK (Ruchnoy Pulemyot Kalashnikova or Kalashnikov's handheld machine gun) type receiver and trunnion. So, the Tabuk can be considered an RPK,



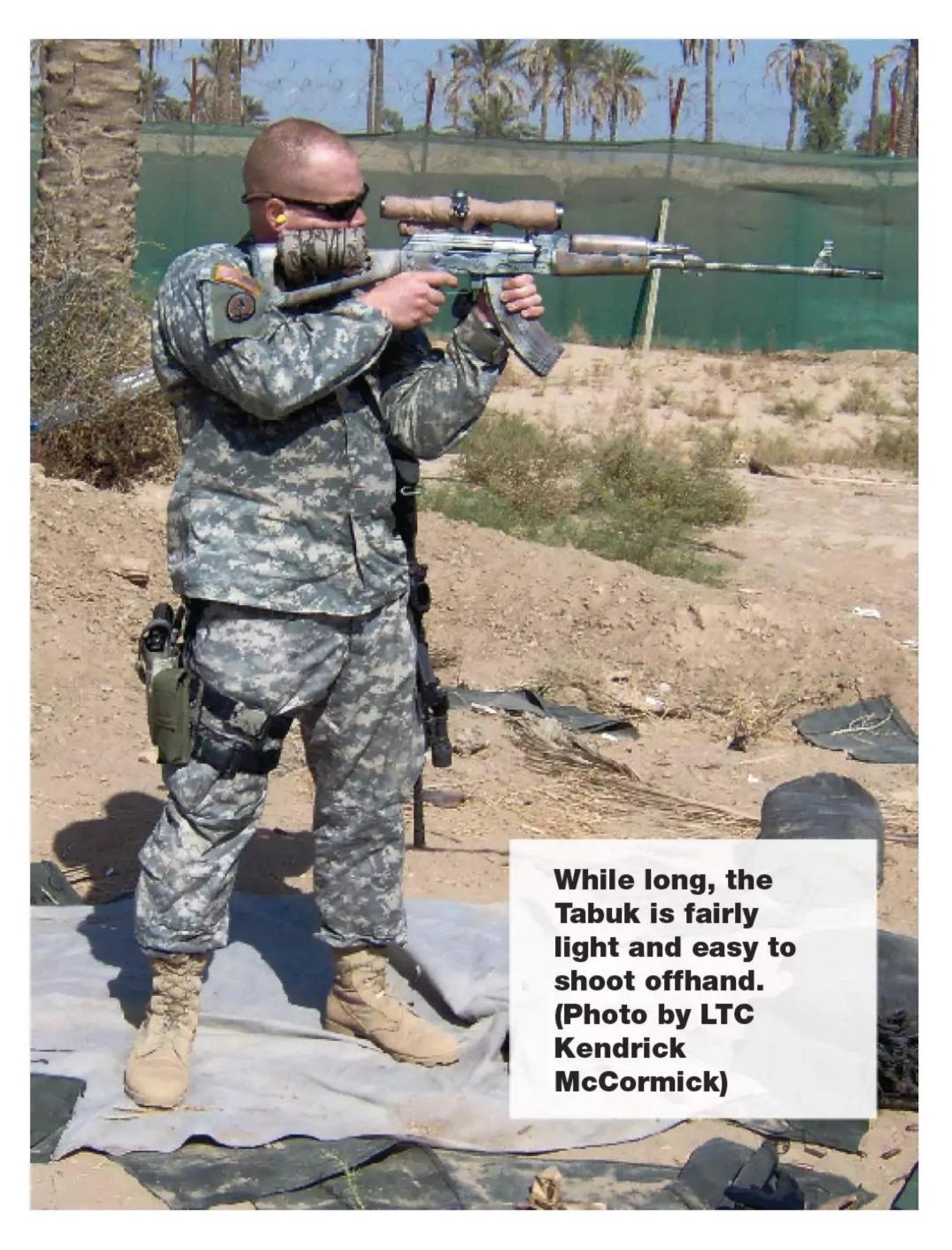
### **IRAQI DESIGNATED DMR**



Reliability was not 100% during testing probably due to the poor quality of available ammunition. Also note the RPK style rear sight. (Photo by LTC Kendrick McCormick)

not AKM (Avtomat Kalashnikova modernizirovanny or Kalashnikov's Automatic Rifle Modernized), variant. Due to its M72 RPK "squad automatic" heritage, the Tabuk is built on a 1.5mm thick stamped steel receiver with a reinforced trunnion area. This is noticeably heavier compared to the standard 1mm thick receiver as utilized on the AKM.

It's also important to note the fire control parts in the Tabuk are slightly different. Due to its DMR role, it has a two-position selector (safe and fire) and fires in the



semi-automatic mode only. There is no full-automatic position. This was done to prevent a rifleman from damaging the barrel with full-automatic fire. It also shows this rifle was intended for aimed fire, not spray and pray.

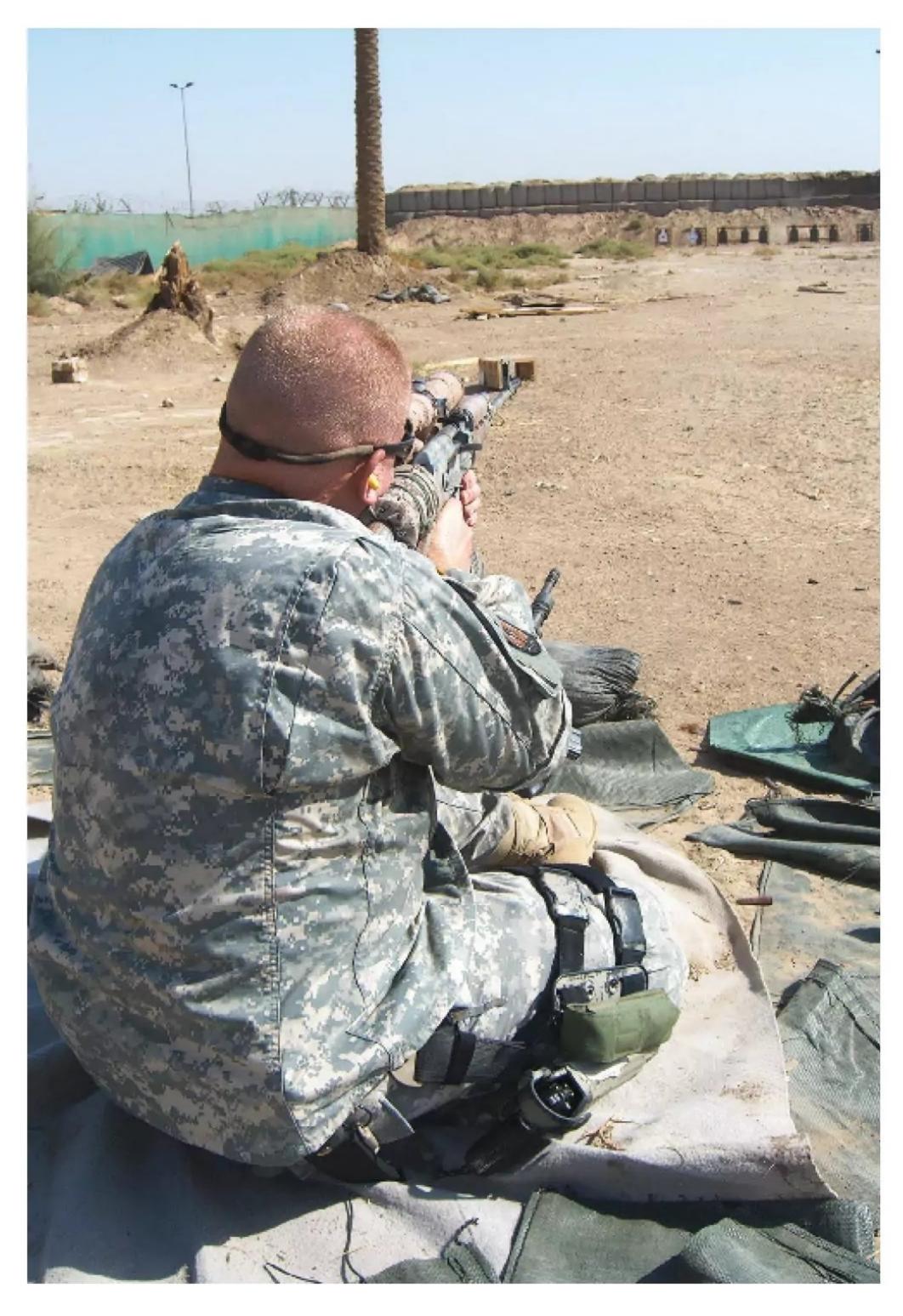
The Tabuk is fitted with a fairly light profile barrel which, including the flash suppressor, is 23.6-inches long. Although not as handy as a shorter barreled AKM, the longer barrel does have an advantage in this role. Muzzle velocity is boosted from approximately 2,330 fps from a 16-inch barrel AKM, to a listed 2,427 fps for the Tabuk. The result is a slightly flatter trajectory and slightly less wind drift. The barrel is not chrome-lined and has a one turn in 9.4-inches rifling twist.

Pinned onto the barrel is a front sight block with a standard AK type sight post. The front sight is adjustable for windage and elevation when zeroing the weapon. The muzzle features the standard Soviet left-hand 14x1mm-thread pattern. The muzzle device is a long birdcage-type flash suppressor, which looks identical to that used on the 7.62x54R Al Kadesih sniper rifle. A standard RPK type tangent rear sight is mounted. The RPK sight differs from an AKM sight by being easily adjustable for windage corrections.

Furniture consists of a wood fore-end, upper handguard, and a skeletonized buttstock. To lighten the weapon, the center section of the buttstock is cutout. The stock is notched to accept an SVD type removable cheekpiece. Plus, a thin rubber buttpad is mounted. The pistol grip is a black plastic piece similar to that used on the Zastava M70 series. Overall length of the weapon is 43.7 inches and it weighs 9.9 pounds with optic and an empty magazine. Feed is from standard 7.62x39mm Kalashnikov magazines. Although a 20-round magazine would allow a rifleman to assume a lower prone position, the Tabuk will accept 30- and 40-round magazines as well as 75-round drums. In doing so, it allows anyone in the rifle squad to provide spare magazines to the designated marksman.

As this model is intended to be utilized primarily with an optical sight, a scope rail is riveted and welded to the left side of the receiver. This allows any day/night optic with a standard Combloc-pattern side mount to be easily affixed. Commonly encountered scopes include the Romanian IOR 4x24mm six-degree Type 2s, Russian and Chinese 4x24mm PSO-1s, and Yugoslav ZRAK ON-M76s. These are all fairly similar in design, operation, as well as performance, and perform acceptably well at the relatively short ranges this rifle is most effective at. However, as all these scopes feature an elevation turret with a bullet drop compensator (BDC), it is important to have the correct 7.62x39mm-calibrated scope. If a standard 7.62x54mmR calibrated scope is utilized, the BDC will not match the trajectory of the less powerful round.

A true designated marksman rifle, the Tabuk was designed to complement a 7.62x39mm AKM armed rifle squad/platoon. It was intended to put a longer barreled optically sighted weapon in the hands of a rifleman with advanced marksmanship training. In doing so, it would



Dust kicks up from behind the silhouette targets as the Tabuk is fired from the sitting position. Note the offset scope. (Photo by LTC Kendrick McCormick)

allow the designated marksman, with his magnified optic, to locate and identify targets that were hard or impossible to see with the naked eye. He could then engage targets with aimed (rather than precision) fire at greater distances than the average rifleman was capable of.

Rather than acting as a sniper, the designated marksman would act in a fire support role, similar to the RPK gunner, during both attack and defense. His optically sighted rifle would give him an advantage when spotting, identifying and engaging targets at medium ranges. Typically, Eastern Bloc-trained designated marksmen received marksmanship training out to 400 meters. They were then expected to refine their skills once at their unit.

To see just what a Tabuk is capable of, LTC Kendrick McCormick conducted testing while serving in Iraq. The rifle was in unfired condition, but as was common, it was missing both its scope and cheekpiece. To make the rifle serviceable, I shipped him a Russian 6x42mm scope. Once he had the scope, he proceeded to fabricate a simple, yet effective, cheek rest. He then conducted accuracy testing prone off sandbags at 100 meters.

Test ammunition was Chinese-produced steel core ball ammunition manufactured by Factory 9141 in 1979. He specifically selected Chinese ammunition over Iraqi, or any other Middle Eastern-produced ammunition, as it is usually both more accurate and reliable. Middle Eastern-produced ammunition encountered in Iraq, in this time period, was typically of very poor quality in my experience.

Although members of the Kalashnikov family don't have a reputation for being particularly accurate, he found this individual example capable of posting consistent two-inch five-shot groups at 100 meters. Testing was also performed in various positions including sitting and offhand. After familiarizing himself with the weapon, he felt hitting a man-sized target at 400 meters would be well within its capabilities. It should be noted that during testing, this older lot of ammunition did not perform with 100% reliability. Due to this, extraction and ejection were not completely reliable. In reviewing a video he taped and sent me, it was obvious some fired cases barely made it out of the weapon.

### **Design Strengths Include:**

- 1. Operates the same as any member of the AK family, so very easy to train on.
- 2. Reliable when fed quality ammunition.
- 3. Very robust.
- 4. Capable of acceptable accuracy for urban fighting.
- 5. Feeds from a standard 7.62x39mm AK pattern magazine.
- 6. Utilizes common 7.62x39mm ammunition.
- 7. Fast recovery time between shots.
- 8. Capable of laying down aimed fire at a high rate to suppress enemy fire.



The main advantage the Tabuk had over standard Kalashnikov rifles was its optical sight. (Photo by LTC Kendrick McCormick)



A 100-meter five-shot group fired by the Tabuk using 1979 vintage Chinese ammunition manufactured by Arsenal 9141. (Photo by LTC Kendrick McCormick)

| IRAQI TABUK RIFLE 100-METER ACCURACY                            |               |  |
|---|---------------|--|
| Load  | Average (in.) |  |
| Chinese M43 PS ball   | 2.0           |  |
| Average is four five-rounds fired supported prone using Chinese |               |  |

### **Weak Points Include:**

1. Poor accuracy at extended distances.

ammunition produced at Factory 9141 in 1979.

- 2. 7.62x39mm cartridge possesses poor exterior ballistics.
- 3. No match- or sniper-grade ammunition available in this caliber.
- 4. Poor penetration at extended distances.
- 5. Unable to penetrate Level III hard plates even with AP loads.
- 6. Stands out indicating the marksman as an important target.

LTC Kendrick McCormick returned safely. In July 2007, I went to Iraq as an embedded journalist during "The Surge," when President Bush deployed more than 20,000 soldiers to Iraq in his "The New Way Forward." There, I had the chance to see US AMU (Army Marksmanship Unit)-built 5.56x45mm squad designated marksman rifles (SDM-R) in action. 240 of these were provided to the 3<sup>rd</sup> Infantry Division and were informally known as the "AMU rifle."

Looking back today, almost 20 years later, the AMU built SDM-R is long out of service and the Tabuk is a relic of the past which makes for an interesting piece for collectors to clone. The scope which now sits on my desk? It is a reminder of days of high adventure from long ago.

Acknowledgments: Thanks to LTC Kendrick McCormick for making this article possible.



One downside to the Tabuk is the poor exterior ballistics of its 7.62x39mm cartridge and its inability to penetrate hard plates, even with armor-piercing ammunition. (Photo courtesy USMC)

| SPECIFICATIO               | ONS TABUK RIFLE   |
|----------------------------|---|
| Operation:                 | Kalashnikov long stroke gas system with rotating bolt, semi-auto only     |
| Caliber:                   | 7.62x39mm   |
| Barrel Length:             | 23.6 in. including flash suppressor                                       |
| Overall Length:            | 43.7 in.  |
| Weight:                    | 9.9 lbs. with optic and empty magazine                                    |
| Feed:                      | Standard 7.62x39mm AK detachable box magazine                             |
| Front Sight:               | AK post, adjustable for elevation/windage when zeroing                    |
| Rear Sight:                | RPK rear tangent calibrated from 100–1,000 meters, adjustable for windage |
| Day Optic:                 | ZRAK 4x ON-M76 most common  |
| Velocity:                  | 2,427 fps with Iraqi ball   |
| Practical Effective Range: | 500 meters  |
| Manufacturer:              | Al-Qadissiya Establishments   |

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By David M. Fortier, Executive Editor

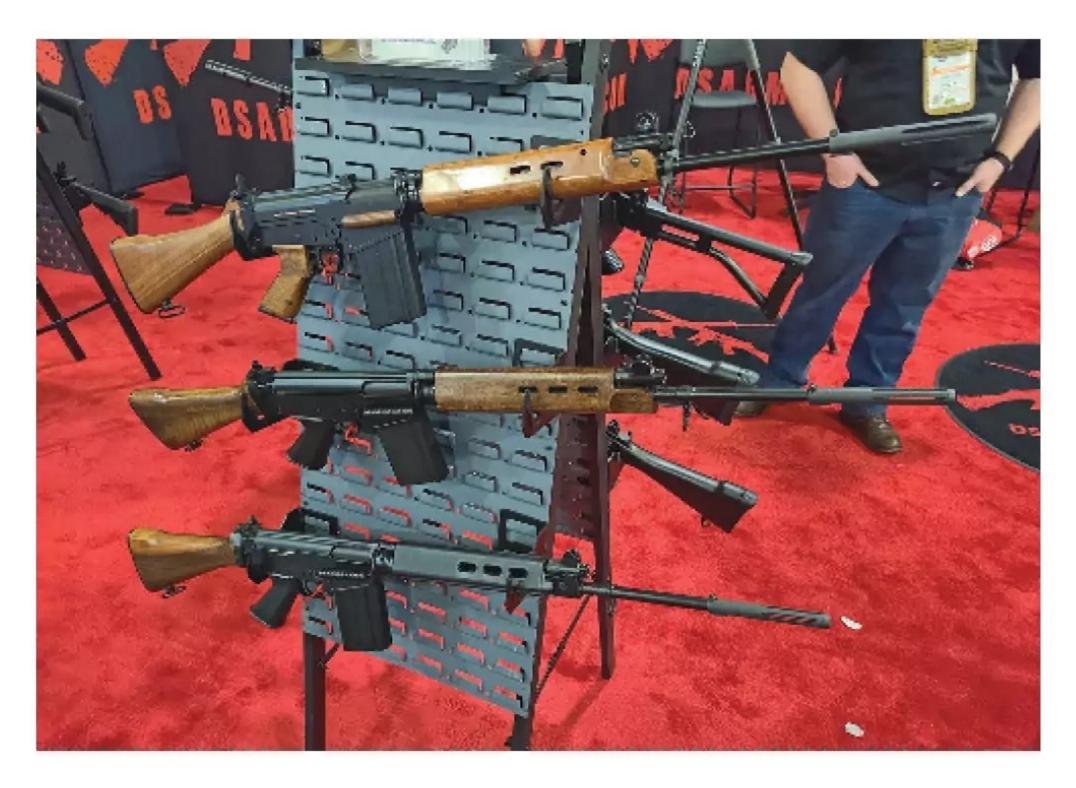
### AN 11-INCH FAL SHORTY AND THE AMU

Fortier Remembers Back to 2006 When the Army Marksmanship Unit Was Testing DS Arms' Operations Specialist Weapon!

I came through the doorway and immediately found myself at the DS Arms booth. I had literally just stepped in the door when I noticed a FAL rifle out of the corner of my eye. Its wooden furniture had initially caught my attention, but it was the stripper clip guide on its top-cover which drew me to it. A closer examination revealed it to be a clone of the Harrington & Richardson T48 FAL rifle produced for the US Army's post-World War II rifle trials. Produced under license from Fabrique Nationale, Harrington & Richardson of Worcester, Massachusetts produced a quantity of what was known as the "Rifle, Caliber .30, T48." These US made FAL rifles were tested head to head with the T44 rifle to find a modern Atomic Age combat rifle for America's soldiers.

The story of the T48 rifle is fairly well-known among history buffs and collectors, but I'm glad to see DS Arms' clone leading to more shooters learning about how a US manufactured FAL rifle almost became standard issue with the US Army. While DS Arms is manufacturing this rifle as a historic "clone" for the Harrington & Richardson brand of Palmetto State Armory, DS Arms actually has their own history with both FALs and the US Army which is perhaps even more interesting than Harrington & Richardson's in the 1950s.

I unexpectedly came face to face with a 7.62x51mm FAL rifle, seeing limited use with US troops during a visit to the US Army Marksmanship Unit at Fort Benning, way back in March of 2006. It was a bit of a surprise when I was handed a 7.62mm SA58 OSW, built by DS Arms of Lake Barrington, Illinois, while we were shooting on the range. I will readily admit this was no ordinary FAL infantry rifle



This flashback began when Fortier spied a T48 clone (top) at DS Arms' booth at the 2025 SHOT Show.

though. At just 32.5 inches long with the stock extended the Operations Specialist Weapon was DSA's most compact model. Measuring just 3.8 inches longer than an AKS-74U "Krinkov," it was a very short and handy 7.62mm package. As it was intended to be a specialized tool it featured MIL-STD 1913 rails on the fore-end and top cover to allow mission specific accessories to be easily mounted. It was an eye-catching piece in 2006.

However, why would the Army Marksmanship Unit (AMU) be testing a short-barrel 7.62x51mm FAL variant when the US Army had chosen the T44, which became the M14, back in the 1950s? M14 rifles had served during the war in Vietnam, the Cold War, and had been dusted off to serve once again during the Global War on Terror (GWOT). Why not just use M14s? Well, this gets a bit

### **THE GWOT**





▲ An interesting piece of history is Harrington & Richardson produced a quantity of FAL rifles, dubbed the T48, for testing by the US Army in the 1950s.

■ A look at the T48 clone reveals Harrington & Richardson markings and the distinctive stripper clip guide.



Although the 7.62x51mm NATO (L) offers certain advantages over the 6.8x43mm Remington SPC (center) and 5.56x45mm, it does so at the price of increased weight and recoil.

Shi'a Islam, the al-Askari Mosque on 22 February 2006. This violence would grow throughout 2006 and lead to "the Surge" of US Army troops in Iraq in 2007.

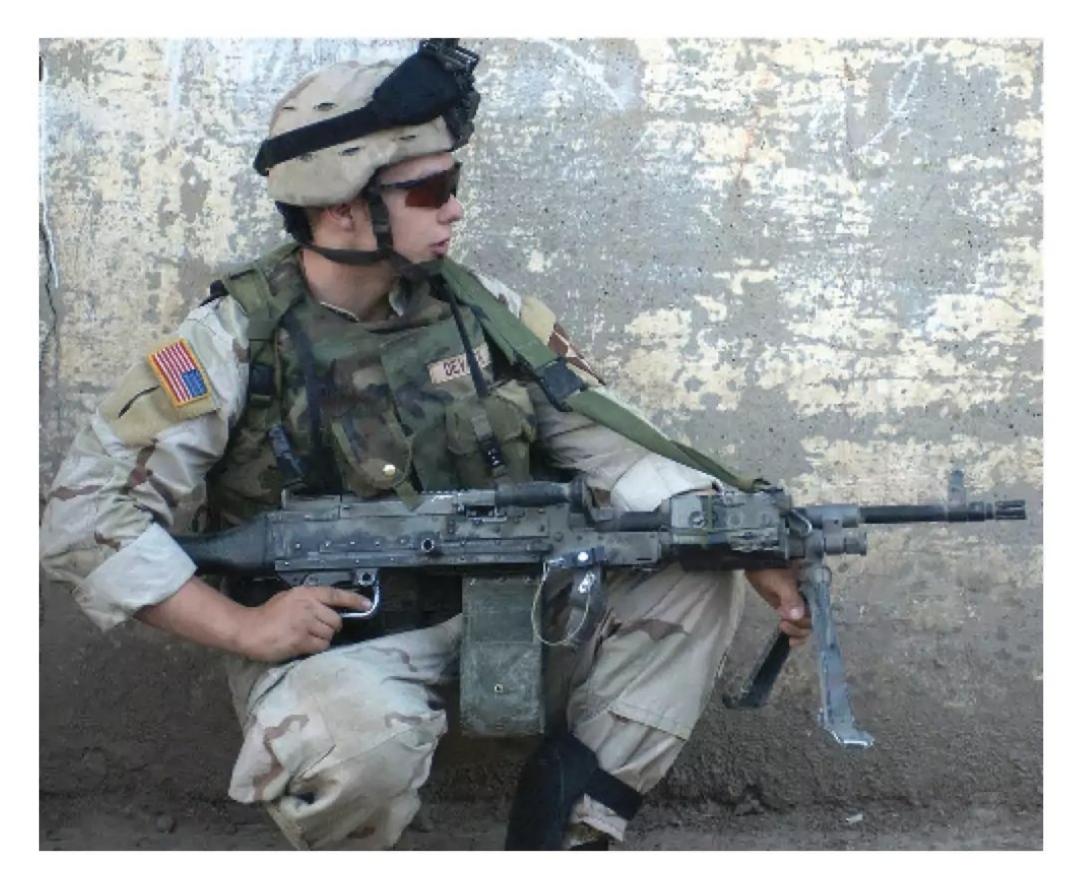
Earlier in the war, there had been concerns by certain specialized

units regarding terminal performance of the US Army's standard issue 62-grain M855 ball load, especially after penetrating intermediate barriers. AK-armed insurgents often wore Chinese pattern chest pouches filled with steel 30-round 7.62x39mm magazines loaded with steel cased ammunition. There were concerns hits which had to penetrate through these magazines, or a car windshield, especially at distance, could reduce the terminal performance of M855 ball.

An earnest desire to give US troops a more effective cartridge led to the development of the 6.8x43mm Remington Special Purpose Cartridge by US Special Forces Master Sergeant Steve Holland and Chris Murray, who was an AMU gunsmith. Steve Holland is a legendary figure among US Special Forces who I highly respect. Their 6.8x43mm Remington SPC cartridge performed as intended and provided a noticeable step up in terminal performance and penetration through intermediate barriers at the distances typically encountered in urban combat. Field reports of its performance in combat were positive. However, it was not optimized for the longer ranges

As the OSW fires the same ammunition as the M240, resupply is not an issue like it would be if it fired a non-standard caliber. (Photo courtesy of the US Army)

complicated. You have to remember things were starting to boil over in Iraq and were heating up in Afghanistan during this time frame. The beginning of 2006 was marked by government creation talks, growing sectarian violence, and continuous attacks on coalition forces in Iraq. Sectarian violence expanded to a new level of intensity after al-Qaeda detonated a bomb in one of the holiest sites in





The traditional 7.62x51mm battle rifle for American troops was the M14, but by 2006 parts were in short supply. (Photo courtesy of the US Army)

encountered in Afghanistan. In 2007, both the US SOCOM and USMC decided not to field 6.8x43mm Rem SPC weapons for a variety of reasons, including logistical and cost issues associated with adding an entirely new cartridge into the supply chain.

What was readily available in the supply chain though was 7.62x51mm NATO ammunition, which was fired in the M240 series of General Purpose Machine Gun and various sniper rifles. A carbine-sized 7.62x51mm platform could provide increased terminal performance, enhanced penetration and a greater effective range, but the question for certain units became, what 7.62x51mm rifle could be shortened into a handy carbine?

The M14 is many things, but it's not short. It was designed as an infantry rifle, and it has the overall length of

a 1940s infantry rifle. This is far from ideal when operating from vehicles and fighting in close quarters. Cutting one down into a drastically shortened carbine is possible, Ron Smith proved this many years ago with his M14K, but it's not a simple undertaking. Plus, although the M14 was a good battle rifle when it was adopted in the 1950s, by 2006, it had certain crippling drawbacks. Chief among these was simply the lack of spare parts, a shortage of magazines, and most importantly qualified armorers which are required to maintain this design.

Although the Brugger & Thomet suppressor adds length to the weapon, it's still quite manageable.



DSA's OSW is a very compact 7.62x51mm NATO carbine thanks to a stubby 11-inch barrel.

The FAL is a very different animal compared to the M14, and it is much easier to reduce in overall length while maintaining its reliability. So, let's take a closer look at the DS Arms model I handled at the AMU and how it was manufactured back in 2006. The foundation of this rifle is its receiver. Each OSW started life as a 19-pound solid forged billet of 4140 steel. When this was ejected from a CNC controlled milling machine, it had been transformed into a 2.25-pound upper receiver. DSA then mated an 11-inch double stress relieved and cryogenically treated 4140 carbon steel Badger barrel to it. The barrel featured broach cut rifling, was lapped by hand, and had an 11-degree target crown. Fitted to the muzzle was a simple yet effective A2-type flash suppressor. This both served to reduce the weapon's muzzle flash and acts as a mount for a Brugger & Thomet sound suppressor.



### THE GWOT



Controls are straight FAL and easy to manipulate. Note it takes a conscious decision to rotate the selector to the full auto position as seen here.

Although the OSW utilized a shortened gas system, it was still the traditional FAL short-stroke piston system with an adjustable gas valve. By being adjustable, a properly trained rifleman could set the gas system to cycle reliably with a wide range of ammunition, compensate for an extremely dirty weapon, or the addition of a sound suppressor. Surrounding the barrel was an aluminum fore-end with MIL-STD 1913 rails at 12, 3, 6 and 9 o'clock. This

Sights on the example I handled consisted of a protected front post adjustable for elevation, and a simple "L"-shaped dual aperture rear sight, adjustable for windage via an A2 type knob. To facilitate mounting day/night optics, DSA replaced the standard sheet metal FAL top cover with one of their SA58 Para scope mount top covers. Machined from 6061 T6 aluminum alloy, this robust mount featured a MIL-STD 1913 rail along its top. The example

allowed accessories, such as a vertical foregrip, white light

or IR illuminator/laser to be easily mounted.



The OSW's top cover sports a MIL-STD 1913 rail to allow a variety of optical sights, such as this EOTech, to be easily mounted.

I handled had an EOTech Holographic Weapons Sight mounted to it.

The barreled upper was mated to a lower receiver CNC machined from a solid billet of 7075 T6 aircraft grade aluminum alloy. A black synthetic pistol grip similar in profile to that mounted on a M249 SAW was fitted. Above this was a three-position selector (safe, semi and full auto). A side-folding stock was fitted with a 14.25-inch length of pull, which was overly long in my humble opinion. The weapon fed from standard FAL 20- and 30-round box magazines. Finish was an anodized hard coat on aluminum parts, and a Mil-Spec phosphate finish on steel parts. Overall weight of the rifle, without optic or suppressor, was a fairly beefy nine pounds. So, even though it's short DSA's OSW was still relatively heavy.

After examining the carbine, I was then given the chance to test fire it. Loading a round into the chamber I fired a few rounds just to get a feel for it. With the sound suppressor



To allow accessories to be easily mounted to the weapon the aluminum fore-end features MIL-STD 1913 rails.



The OSW's stock folds neatly out of the way for storage drastically reducing the weapon's overall length. Downside? Length of pull is long for use with body armor.



With the stock folded and the suppressor removed, the OSW becomes very short, but still weighs a hefty nine pounds.

attached, the report was a muffled hiss. I did note some gas fumes being blown back out of the action towards me, due to the suppressor being mounted.

Handling the OSW, I noted the action operated smoothly, and the controls were easily manipulated. It had a somewhat heavy, single-stage trigger. Standard metric 20-round magazines inserted and ejected smoothly, and the bolt release operated easily. In the hands, the OSW felt and handled extremely well. With the suppressor removed and the stock folded to the side, it became very short. Unsnap the stock and you had a handy carbine. The downside

though, is the length of pull was long, especially with body armor. In addition, the straight-line stock, originally intended for use with iron sights, was a bit low for a decent cheek weld with the EOTech.

Next, my AMU hosts asked if I'd like to put a few magazines into a pick-up truck. Naturally, this was a silly question, and I was quickly locking a magazine loaded with 175-grain M118LR into the OSW. Opportunities like this don't come along every day, so I thumbed the OSW's selector past semi to full auto. Leaning into it, I cut loose a short burst which pounded through the driver's side door of a blue imported pick-up. After perforating the door, the heavy 175-grain MatchKing projectiles then proceeded on through an IPSC target, before exiting through the passenger side door.



A Brugger & Thomet sound suppressor was being tested with the OSW, and it performed well.

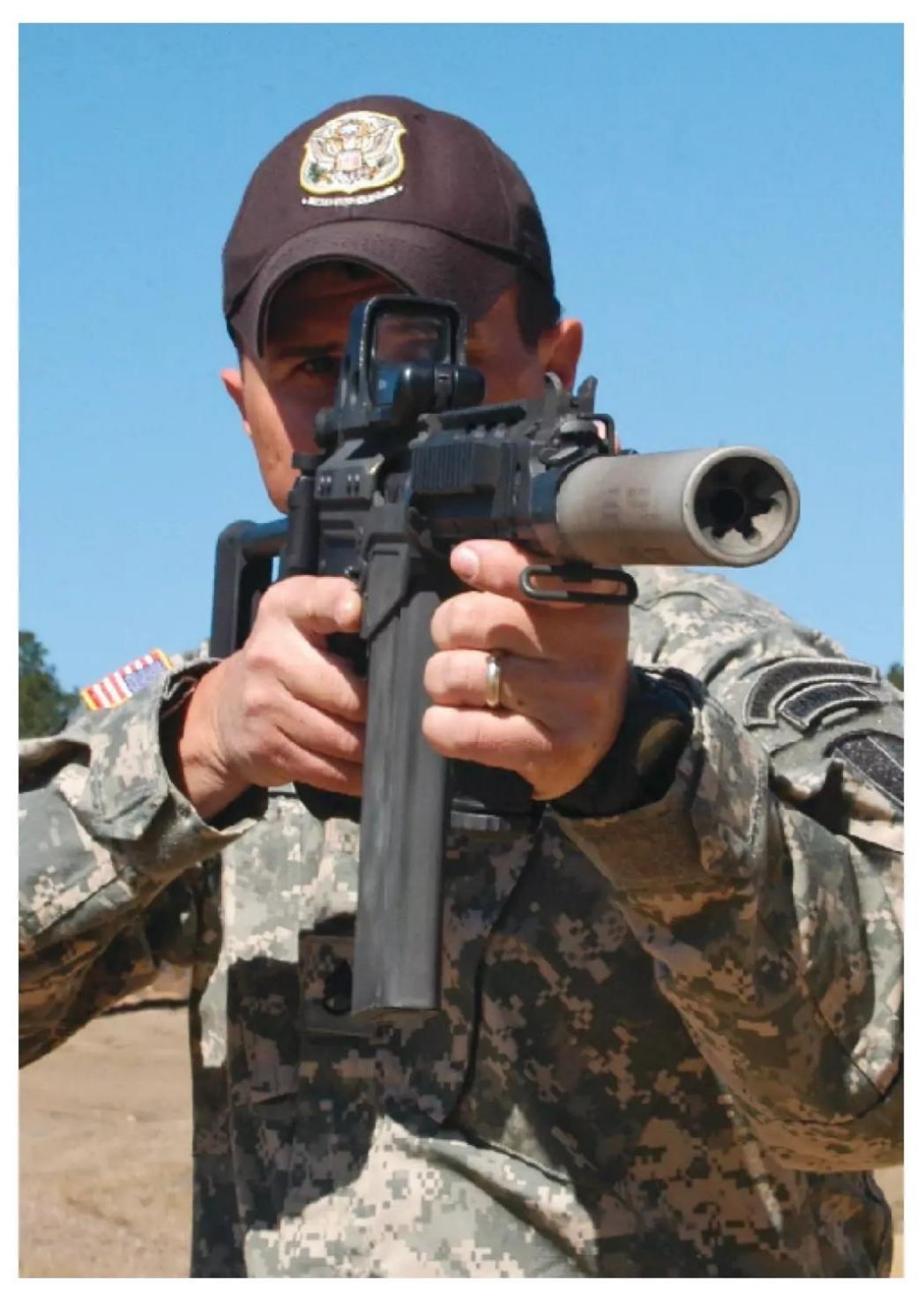
Impressed by the controllability of the short 7.62x51mm, I proceeded to run half the magazine through the cab in a long burst. This sent chunks of Japanese pick-up truck flying. After changing mags, and goaded by my hosts, I fired a long burst into the bed of the truck, stitching a row of holes across the gas fill. When the bolt finally locked back and the fun came to an end I was grinning from ear to ear. It was apparent that even with the short barrel the 7.62x51mm OSW was capable against intermediate barriers.

Although I did not have the opportunity to properly review the OSW during my visit to the AMU, do not fear, I am not going to leave you wondering. I have also tested a semi-automatic DSA SA58 with an 11-inch barrel. So, to show the accuracy and exterior ballistics a short barrel FAL like this is capable I am including that test data here. I tested the piece off the bench at 100 yards with the aid of a 3.5x ELCAN optical sight. Loads from Black Hills

|      | AND VELOCI |        | ART |
|------|------------|--------|-----|
| Load | Bullet     | Weight | Muz |

| Load             | Bullet               | Weight (gr) | Muzzle<br>Velocity (fps) | Average<br>Group (in.) |
|------------------|----------------------|-------------|--------------------------|------------------------|
| Radway Green     | Ball                 | 147         | 2,419                    | 3.1                    |
| Hornady          | Spire Point          | 150         | 2,379                    | 3.6                    |
| Remington        | Ballistic Tips       | 150         | 2,390                    | 3.5                    |
| PMC              | OTM                  | 168         | 2,209                    | 1.5                    |
| Sellier & Bellot | OTM                  | 168         | 2,190                    | 1.6                    |
| Winchester       | Ballistic Silvertips | 168         | 2,262                    | 2.2                    |
| Black Hills      | Match                | 175         | 2,180                    | 2.0                    |

Groups are an average of three five-shot groups fired from an 11-inch DSA SA58 off sandbags at 100 yards. Velocity readings recorded 12 feet from the muzzle with an Oehler 35P at an ambient temperature of 87 degrees F at 100 feet above Sea Level.



Practical accuracy and controllability of the OSW proved quite good and it was great fun firing on full auto.

Ammunition, Hornady, PMC, Radway Green, Remington and Sellier & Bellot, weighing from 147 to 175 grains were used during testing. Best accuracy was obtained using PMC's 168-grain Match load, which averaged five shots into 1.5 inches at 100 yards. Right on PMC's heels though was Sellier & Bellot's 168-grain Match load which averaged 1.6 inches. Black Hills 175-grain Match load came in at two inches while surplus Radway Green 147-grain ball averaged a still acceptable 3.1 inches. So, accuracy was more than adequate for what this weapon was intended for.

Although accuracy was quite good, as expected there was a considerable drop in muzzle velocity due to the very short barrel. As an example, Black Hills Ammunition's 175-grain Match load averaged 2,523 fps out of a standard 21-inch FAL but dropped to 2,180 fps from the OSW. Radway Green manufactured 147-grain ball averaged 2,419 fps from the OSW. Now, if I had tried a 130-, 120- or 110-grain load, velocity would have increased while recoil would have decreased.

The question I had, and I'm sure you are interested too, was, "Why was the Army Marksmanship Unit playing with DS Arms 11-inch FAL shorties?" Apparently, back in 2006 certain units had the need for a very compact and

reliable 7.62x51mm NATO rifle. They wanted something with proven reliability, acceptable accuracy and which could be easily configured to meet their specific needs. Why 7.62x51mm? That should be obvious. The US Army Marksmanship Unit, thanks to the expertise of their weapons shop, had been able to test and provide feedback to DSA allowing them to refine the basic package. The OSW was refined and a small quantity was fielded in combat.

How they fared in service I cannot say, but it was certainly interesting to see a DS Arms American manufactured FAL in the hands of US troops. Is that the end of my story? Yes, for me it was just a flashback to a time 19 years ago. I wrote this article 19 years to the day from when I shot that OSW at Fort Benning. However, it's not the end of the story for DS Arms' OSW, it is still available in a slightly updated semi-automatic form with a 12-inch barrel. DS Arms also offers other 12- and 13-inch barreled FAL models along with 16-inch carbines. If the idea of a FAL intrigues you, visit DSArms.com for more information.

If you have any thoughts or comments on this article, we'd love to hear them. Email us at FirearmsNews@

OutdoorSG.com. FN

### **ABOUT THE AUTHOR:**

David M. Fortier has been covering firearms, ammunition, and optics since 1998. He is a recipient of the Carl Zeiss Outdoor Writer of the Year award, and his writing has been recognized by the Civil Rights organization JPFO. In 2007, he covered the war in Iraq as an embedded journalist.

| CURRENT SPECIFICATIONS DS ARMS SA58 FAL OSW |  |  |
|---|--|--|
| Action:                                     | Tilting bolt via short-stroke gas          |  |
| Caliber:                                    | 7.62x51mm                                  |  |
| Barrel:                                     | 12 in. 4150 Mil Spec barrel steel          |  |
| Rifling:                                    | 1 turn in 10 in. twist                     |  |
| Overall Length:                             | 23.25 in. with stock folded, 32.5 in. ext. |  |
| Trigger:                                    | Single-Stage                               |  |
| Feed:                                       | 20-round detachable box magazines          |  |
| Sights:                                     | Front blade, Dual Aperture Para rear       |  |
| Stock:                                      | Side-folding                               |  |
| Length of Pull:                             | 14.25 in.                                  |  |
| Weight:                                     | 9 lbs. w/out mag                           |  |
| Finish:                                     | Matte Black Duracoat                       |  |
| MSRP:                                       | \$2,275                                    |  |
| Contact:                                    | (847) 277-7258, DSArms.com                 |  |



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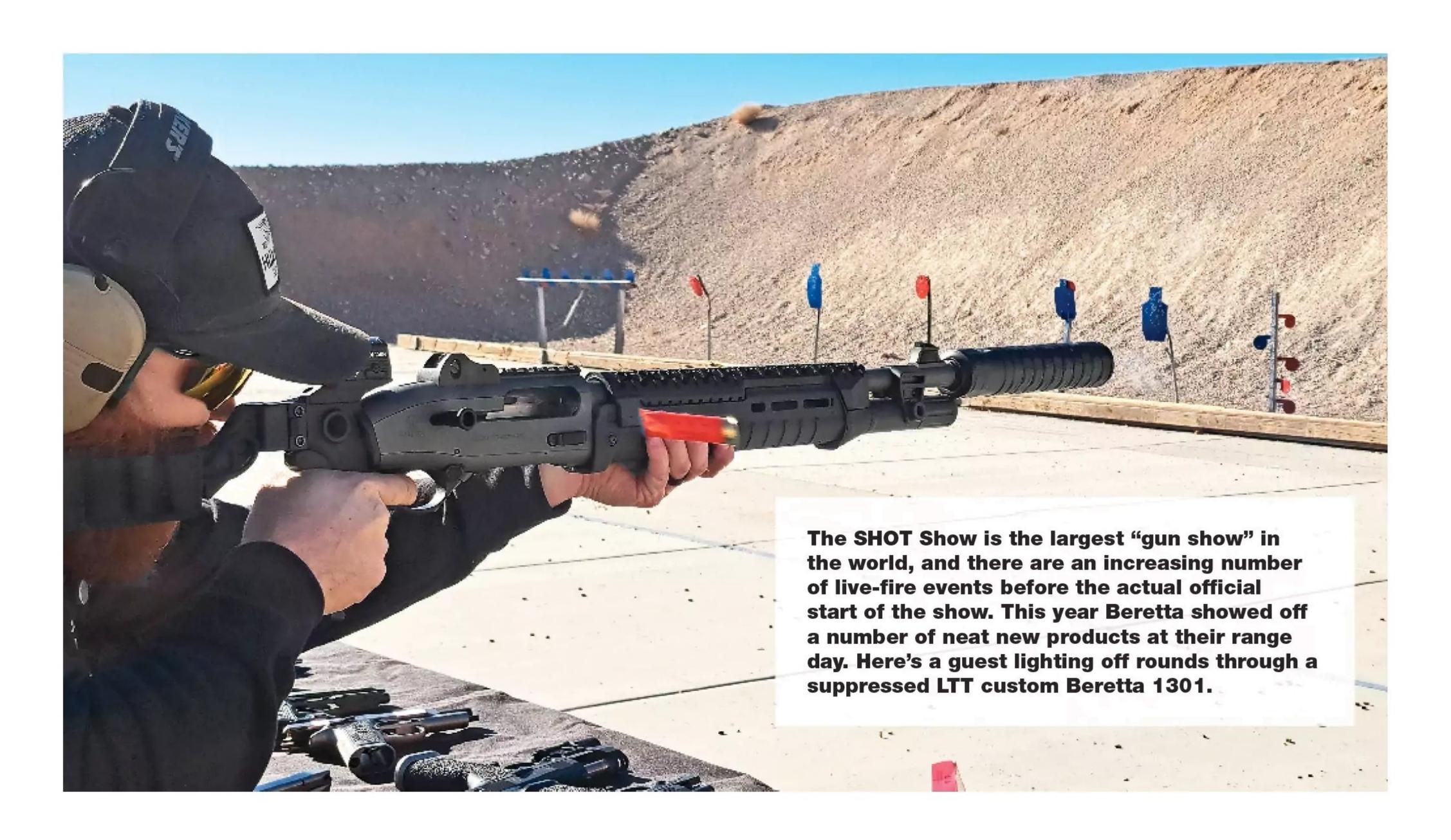
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# SHOT SHOW 2025 ROUNDUP

James Tarr Gives a Tour With Products From: Armament Technology, Century Arms, Elite 2A Pay, EOTech, Eylar, Harrington & Richardson, Hi-Point, Infinite Product Solutions, KelTec, Magpul, Mec-Gar, Meprolight, PSA, Recover Tactical, and Taylor Freelance!

By James Tarr

he SHOT Show is the world's largest gun show, and it's going to be in Las Vegas for the foreseeable future, so if that combo is at all interesting to you, I suggest you try to make it someday. It's not open to the public, so if you're not in the industry you might have to finagle a badge from a friend of a friend, but it's a great time. For those of

us in the industry, not only is it perhaps the best place to get eyes and hands on cool new products, but every year there are surprises that you just don't get anywhere other than a huge convention in Las Vegas filled with guns.

This year, I saw a surprising number of real dogs wearing tactical goggles. A demonstration of robot dogs that

made me understand the Army's interest in the armorpenetration capabilities of the new 6.8x51mm cartridge. My son, just home from the Army, accompanied me for part of the show, and he laughed at the sight of a surgically-enhanced booth babe. I had to explain to him that SHOT used to be full of them, resembling a Hooters with guns, but it was much tamer these days. Maybe Trump can Make Booth Babes Great Again. I ran into a veteran industry marketing guy who was bemoaning the fact that he'd been unemployed for a year and a half and couldn't find a gig. I'm no expert, but I suspect his lunatic left-wing posts on his public social media account might have something to do with that. 2+2=poor. Reap, sow, FAFO, etc.

Some years, truthfully, sadly, I've struggled to find anything interesting at SHOT. This year, perhaps because of the election, I arrived at the show with an upbeat attitude and was not disappointed. I saw perhaps a record number of really cool and interesting things. Weirdly, though, few of them were actual firearms, instead they were everything else. Here, in no particular order, is a very quick and incomplete list of things you might want to watch out for:

### EOTech (EOTechInc.com)

EOTech Vudu 3-9X scope—this was a shocker for me. 3-9X scopes for a long time were the most common variable-power rifle scopes in the country. What is shocking about this product is its size—the Vudu 3-9x32mm is just 6.8-inches long. A 3-9X that's basically as long as your outstretched hand. That's inches shorter than most of the other 3-9X scopes on the market. It's so short it uses a mini-ACOG mount. At 16-ounces it's not really lighter than the competition, but that shortness shows a definite breakthrough in lens tech, and I'm excited to see what they can do with a 1-4X LPVO, which I've now begged them to make. MSRP is \$1,059.

### **Armament Technology (Armament.com)**

SAI10—since we're talking small scopes, I should give a shoutout to the SAI10, a 1-10X LPVO (low-power variable optic) that is the size and weight of the average 1-6X scope, with amazing clarity. I believe they said they expected an MSRP of \$1,800, which will make this the 1-10X scope to beat. SAI is part of the Armament family of companies which includes ELCAN and Tangent Theta, and they make great stuff.

### Meprolight (Meprolight.com)

Mepro MCO PRO—Meprolight surprised me by debuting five new products at the show, including traditional variable-power riflescopes. The one which most caught my eye was the MCO (Mepro Carbine Optic) PRO. This is a compact but boxy enclosed optic—think of an oversized Aimpoint ACRO—that comes with a flattop AR mount that's meant to cowitness at iron sight height. It uses a



Improvements to manufacturing and components have allowed EOTech to create a 3-9X scope that's just 6.8 inches long. It uses a mini-ACOG mount.



SAI came out with one of if not the smallest 1-10X scope on the market. LPVOs these days are now low power only at the one end.



Meprolight's MCO is an enclosed optic meant for carbines with a sizable window. This mount puts the circle/dot reticle at cowitness height, and a taller 1.93-inch mount is available.



Harrington & Richardson have been doing a lot of retro ARs, and their newest is this pistol version of the 7.5" SMG Colt designed for the Department of Energy.



Palmetto State Armory's Mixtape is an homage to the original Honey Badger. This version is chambered in .338 ARC, with an eight-inch barrel.

unique footprint, and Meprolight will also be selling a tall 1.93-inch mount as well if you like your optic a little higher. Circle/dot reticle, aluminum housing, great glass, 25,000 hours of battery life with a 24-hour sleep/shake awake feature, and a competitive price point.

### Harrington & Richardson/PSA

### (PalmettoStateArmory.com)

PSA H&R Retro DOE—Harrington & Richardson (part of Palmetto State Armory) has been killing it with



their retro ARs that are cool even if you're not into clones, and their newest is the DOE model. This is an uber-short barrel version of the 9mm AR Colt SMG originally made for the U.S. Department of Energy. It has an A1 carry handle upper, very distinctive truncated handguard, and folding front sight above a 7.5-inch barrel. This is a pistol with a brace designed to look like an old CAR stock. I love the historical aspect to this product. Personally, I think it's perhaps the ugliest AR ever made, but I know PSA/H&R probably won't be able to make them fast enough to keep up with demand.

### PSA (PalmettoStateArmory.com)

PSA Mixtape—since we're at PSA, let's talk about their Mixtape. PSA introduced a huge number of new products at the show, both intended for production and some prototypes meant to gauge public interest. One production gun is their Mixtape, built to look like the original Honey Badger. This pistol has an SB Tactical PDW brace and while they also plan to offer it in .300 AAC Blackout, the one on display had an eightinch barrel and was chambered in .338 ARC using Magpul's new ICAR magazines. These magazines are just a bit larger than standard AR magazines and follow the pattern of Magpul's earlier 6.8 SPC magazines, and are now being built for the 6

ARC cartridge, which is hugely popular right now with our special forces. Both the 6 ARC and the .338 ARC have the same 6.5 Grendel parent case. The Mixtape has ambi controls, dual ejectors on the bolt, a Reptilia Corp handguard, stainless steel barrel, and a light tan Cerakote on the receivers meant to mimic the look of the original Honey Badger's clear anodizing. They're hoping to have these out before the end of 2025, and guess the MSRP will be around \$1,000, which means they'll sell 10 gazillion and single-handedly keep the .338 ARC alive if nothing else does.

### KelTec (KeltecWeapons.com)

KelTec PR57—this pistol probably got the most attention of any gun at the show, interestingly enough. It's chambered in 5.7x28mm, with a 4.64-inch barrel and a capacity of 20 rounds. It is the smallest and lightest 5.7 pistol on the market for a lot of reasons, including the fact that it does not have a detachable magazine but instead is fed by proprietary polymer stripper clips through the top when the slide is locked back. KelTec hopes this will make it legal in certain states with magazine capacity restrictions, as it has no magazine. To get the bore as low as possible (and thus reduce felt recoil/muzzle rise), the barrel rotates to lock up and has no real locking block on the bottom, and instead of one thicker recoil spring guide rod directly underneath the barrel there are two much narrower rods to either side. Because there's no internal magazine, the grip



Magpul's new Breslau folder has a MIM (metal injection molded) blade that is reportedly equal in quality to standard steel.

is noticeably smaller, which has been an issue with 5.7 guns as the cartridge is so long. MSRP is \$399.

### Elite 2A Pay (Elite2APay.com)

Elite 2A Pay—as I write this, the new Trump administration has turned their attention to lending companies acting in bad faith toward conservatives. Bank of America has specifically denied "debanking" conservatives...even as FIFTEEN state Attorneys General are currently investigating them for doing EXACTLY that. I'm told that credit card processing companies do a little bit of the same, charging gun companies very high rates/fees as if your local FFL is selling black market kidneys out of the back of a van. Elite 2A Pay is a credit card processing company out of Texas run by/for shooters and gun owners, specializing in the firearm industry, charging competitive realistic rates. If you're a merchant, check them out.

### Magpul and Blade HQ (BladeHQ.com)

Magpul MIM knife—metal injection molding had a bad reputation when the parts made that way first became widespread, as the quality was inconsistent. These days, MIM parts are everywhere, including in space. At the show, Magpul announced their new Breslau folding knife with a 2.94-inch Wharncliffe MIM blade that is reportedly equal in quality/functionality to CPM S35VN, a traditional premium knife blade steel, which is fascinating, and opens up new avenues of the possible for MIM products. Expected MSRP is \$199, and at the moment it is available exclusively through Blade HQ. Interestingly, I was told by someone else at the show that Kershaw already had a patent on MIM knife blades, and I wonder if Magpul's product evades that patent or if cease & desist

### **Recover Tactical**

### (RecoverTactical.com)

Recover Tactical Modular Compact Pistol Stabilizer—kits which keep pistols legally pistols, but make them much easier to shoot at distance are more popular than ever—you've

letters will soon be hitting mailboxes.

Eylar's RAGAR modular foam inserts for various cases allow you to create custom cutouts for your guns/cameras/computers at a very affordable price.



Recover Tactical's S-PRO modular chassis system for handguns is scalable. This version for the SIG P365 has all the options, from a cheek rest to forward magazine holder to muzzle guard and scope mount.

probably heard of the CAA RONI/Micro RONI, and the FLUX Raider. Recover's newest take on the concept is their S-PRO modular and scalable kits, which smaller than most of its competitors, and they've got versions meant for a number of different pistol models, from Glocks to the SIG P365 and others, with plans to offer versions for new pistols all through 2025. It doesn't require any modification to your pistol, seems very well made, and truly hovers somewhere between smart and ingenious. Prices start at \$100, but you'll probably spend more than that once you add on some extras.

### Eylar (Eylar.com)

Eylar RAGAR customizable foam gun case inserts—I'd never heard of Eylar gun cases before, but their new RAGAR customizable foam inserts seem ingenious, and much cheaper than some other options on the market. They sell inserts cut to fit a lot of the popular cases on the market (Pelican, etc.) as well as their own cases with the RAGAR layer. The interlocking foam system allows you to pluck out the shape you need for your gun/camera/electronics. The foam is nicely stiff, and





Hi-Point now has pistol versions of their carbines. They mounted a shovel handle as a brace/stock on this one, because why not? Tarr told Dave Kiwacka to show off his war face.





Taylor Freelance has blackened brass backstraps for various small pistols that significantly improves the feel and balance of the guns. This is for a Canik MC9.



▲ Infinite Product Solutions specializes in thread adapters, and this one mounts to the barrel/front sight of a Ruger 10/22.



it's reusable. A two-inch-thick insert big enough to fit the average rifle case is just \$80.

### Hi-Point (Hi-PointFirearms.com)

Hi-Point carbine pistols—honestly, I'm shocked it's taken them so long to do this, although the fate of arm braces was up in the air for a while. Hi-Point is now offering pistol versions of their 9mm and .45 ACP carbines (the 995P and 4595P). They have 13½-inch barrels and either come with a brace mounted on a standard AR buffer tube or sport a picatinny rail on the back. At the show, they had one with a shovel handle mounted as a brace/stock, in true Russian/Mad Max fashion. Because, why not? Prices start at \$399.

### **Taylor Freelance**

### (TaylorFreelanceStore.com)

Taylor Freelance Canik MC9 brass backstrap—trust me, this is one of those products that seems like a "Who cares?" until you get it in your hand. A lot of subcompact polymer guns are both oddly balanced (top heavy) due to their construction, and often have grips just a hair too short. Taylor Freelance has been making grip accessories for less common pistols (HKs, Caniks, etc.) for a while, and their blackened checkered brass backstrap for the subcompact Canik MC9 completely changes the feel of the gun in your hand. Not only does it make the gun a tiny bit longer, so it fits your hand properly, but the added weight balances it so that it feels so much better. It also includes a small magazine guide/funnel. I'm told the one for the CZ P10C does the same thing. MSRP is \$54.99.

### Infinite Product Solutions (InfinteProductSolutions.com)

Infinite Product Solutions—IPS has been making thread adapters for a while, and are most well-known for converting whatever you've got on your barrel to 13/16" threads. They had a lot of new products at the show and here are two—first, they've got a new golf ball launcher that threads onto their new Gen3 muzzle brakes/flash hiders (all nitrided stainless steel) that seems like it would be a heck of a lot of fun. Those muzzle devices have external 13/16

■ Infinite Product Solutions makes a number of muzzle devices with exterior 13/16 threads, like this very effective compensator, and are now offering this golf ball launcher which threads right onto it.





Century Arms is now importing a semi-auto pistol version of the iconic HK53. The Turkish MKE-made AP53 is chambered in 5.56 NATO and has an 8.3-inch barrel. On the left is how it is sold, and on the right is what it looks like once it's been SBR'd with a proper stock.

threads. Load a blank and start launching those Titleists. They also make thread adapters for various firearms that don't have threaded barrels—their slip-on one for the Ruger 10/22 seems very well designed and attaches via set screws around the front sight (no permanent modification). All of their stuff is well made (I'm a long-time customer) and priced very affordably.

### Century Arms (Century Arms.com)

Century Arms AP53—there were a lot of really neat products at the show, but I don't think that any of them excite me more than this. Century will be importing MKE-made HK53 clones in pistol form as their AP53. Think of the HK53 as an MP5 chambered in 5.56 NATO (a shortened version of the HK93), and they really haven't been available in this country with any barrel length in decades. MKE is a Turkish company making these on HK-licensed tooling, and their HK-pattern guns are excellent. Objectively the AP53 is inferior in controls/handling/recoil to a modern AR SBR/pistol, but it pretty much pegs the cool factor, and these days you can find a lot of accessories for them—stocks, optics mounts, etc. MSRP should be \$1,799. Century is also offering an AP51 in .308 with an identical 8.3-inch barrel, which sounds like a concussion with a convenient handle.

### Mec-Gar (Mec-Gar.com)

Mec-Gar Glock magazine—honestly, while it might not seem like it, this is a big deal. Mec-Gar has developed a steel 9mm magazine for the Glock 17, and it's been in development for two years. This flush-fitting magazine (smartly and importantly) uses the standard factory magazine release in your pistol. There's no sharp-edged hole in the magazine, just a rounded indent to keep from chewing up your polymer mag catch. It's got a bright green follower, numbered index holes in the back, and INCREASED CAPACITY. Eighteen in this magazine, and 16 in the planned flush Glock 19 magazine. At the show, Staccato introduced their new "budget" (starting at \$2,500) 2011 which takes Glock-pattern magazines, and those guns are coming with these magazines. Mec-Gar is the king of OEM magazines and it's a testament to their reputation that everyone I know in the business (and that includes me) just automatically assumes these mags will be 110% reliable. MSRP is \$29.00.



Century's MKE AP53 was Tarr's favorite gun of the SHOT Show. This gun has been basically unobtainium in the US forever.

There were a number of other cool items at the show I plan on covering in articles/columns later in the year (LTT's Labyrinth rail covers, SIM-X ammo) simply because I ran out of space here.

This year the underlying theme of the show seemed to be improving and emerging technologies. Metal 3D printing is all the rage in suppressor manufacture, Federal developing their "peak alloy" cartridge case which can take much higher pressures (the possibilities in 5.56 seem to promise carbine/

rifle velocities out of SBR-length barrels), Magpul coming out with a MIM-blade knife, etc., etc. The ironic thing was Kel-Tec going completely old-school, introducing a new pistol fed by stripper clips, and yet it seemed to be one of the most talked-about guns at the show. Whatever you're interested in, you can always find something at the SHOT Show...that makes you wish you made more money.

While it may not seem like it. Mec-Gar's new steel extra capacity magazine for the Glock 17 which uses the factory mag release is a big deal. Your G17 can now be 18+1.





## THE MADSEN M50

## Submachine Gun to the Stars By Will Dabbs, MD

enny Parker was disgruntled. His mother had begged him to go to law school. However, after three semesters in college he had studied way more girls than pre-Law. As an alternative to returning home broke and humiliated, Benny answered a classified ad for work with an exciting multinational corporation.

The job description was, "Security Specialist." Once his cursory training was complete, Parker found himself on a remote oil rig off the coast of Baja, California. Unlike what the brochures had claimed, the work was hard, hot, and tedious. There was also a tragic dearth of women. That, and the uniforms were patently ridiculous—blue coveralls with red belts and matching plastic hard hats with little lightning bolts on the front. It was then that Benny Parker realized that he was not actually a security specialist. He was a henchman.

The company name on the letterhead read, "SPECTRE," and his boss, whom he had only met once during new-employee orientation, was some unhinged lunatic foreigner named Ernst Stavro Blofeld. The company offered a decent health plan, but the SPECTRE dentist was a legit actual ex-Nazi. He had overheard the guy talking about it in the lunchroom.



Its use in movies like the 1971 James Bond classic *Diamonds* are *Forever* made the Madsen M50 recognizable to a generation of gun nerds. If you can see past the ever-lovely Jill St. John, note the SPECTRE henchmen's ridiculous uniforms. (MovieStillsDB.com)

Tragically, he was committed now. The rig was an hour by helicopter from the mainland. It wasn't like he could just quit.

One week into his monthlong rotation on the oil platform, Parker was bored out of his gourd. With nothing to do but police up trash on the rig, he began longing for college classrooms. This job was just the worst.





Here we see Burt Lancaster wielding a slightly modified Madsen M50 in the otherwise-forgettable 1977 Cold War film *Twilight's Last Gleaming*. Burt needs to mind that left hand lest his fingers get snipped in the ejection port. (MovieStillsDB.com)

The weapons were indeed cool. His training officer had issued him with an antiquated M1911 pistol in a garish red leather holster along with a weird Danish 9mm submachine gun. Training consisted of field stripping the pressed steel weapon and firing off a few magazines into the Pacific.

It all seemed superfluous. If anybody actually attacked them...countless miles out in the middle of shark-infested ocean...Parker was sure he would be ready. He shook his head in disbelief at his sordid circumstances. However, the frustrated young man's reverie was broken by the sound of helicopters approaching in the distance and an ominous accented voice over the intercom beginning a countdown...

### **Big Screen Cred**

There's really no reason any of us should recognize the Madsen M50 submachine gun. Introduced in—you guessed it—1950, the M50 was an obscure, weird, rare weapon. Had it not been for a handful of high profile movies like the 1971 James Bond classic *Diamonds are Forever* referenced above, the weapon most likely would have been lost to history.

As it was, the M50 earned inordinate exposure on screens both large and small. At a time when actual Combloc weapons were essentially unobtainium, the M50 stood in arming the Bad Guys in a variety of Cold War blockbusters. Examples include *Ice Station Zebra, Beneath the Planet of the Apes, The Godfather, Battle for the Planet of the Apes, Raid on Entebbe, Black Sunday, The Wild Geese,* 





For the schlocky sequel *Beneath the Planet of the Apes*, movie armorers encased the Madsen M50 in a curious wood-grained fiberglass shell. (MovieStillsDB.com)

Missing in Action, and the underappreciated Blaxploitation parody Black Dynamite. The gun also featured prominently in such TV classics as McHale's Navy, Mission Impossible, Hawaii Five-O, and Star Trek. However, not all screen-use of M50 SMGs was just in the 1960s through the 1980s. Firearms News' Editor-in-Chief, Vincent L. DeNiro, used one in the martial arts action movie The Cutoff, which was shot at Screen Gems Studios in 1997 (Vince worked as a theatrical weapons armorer for many years).

In the case of the *Beneath the Planet of the Apes*, the M50 submachine guns were encased in a custom fiberglass shell to make them appear more otherworldly. In *Star Trek*, the M50 armed Roman security officers in the episode *Bread and Circuses*. It was also featured as a background prop (on a rack with other weapons) in such



The Madsen M50 was an effective pistol-caliber submachine gun that was thoroughly optimized for mass production.

### **THE MADSEN M50**



The generous steel tab located behind the magazine release is the grip safety. I hate that thing.



Everything about the M50 is utilitarian and austere. The controls are effective though small.



The sliding safety tab seems like an afterthought.

### **Origin Story**

The M50 was made by the Dansk Industri Syndikat of Copenhagen, Denmark. The Danes were hardly the international arms-making juggernauts that the Germans or Americans might have been. However, because of its widespread use in movies, the M50 actually became fairly familiar to American audiences, particularly those of us of a certain age.

The first prototypes were built in 1946. Erik Saetter-Lassen was the primary designer. The original factory designation of the weapon was the P16. Initial production versions were designated the Model 46. Early adopters included the Danish police along with Thailand and a couple of countries in South America.

Four years later, the design was tweaked into the Model 50. The Danes then embarked upon an aggressive marketing campaign to sell the piece internationally. Military attaches from the US, the UK, Canada, and India all received formal demonstrations. The British were legitimately interested and procured several examples for review in the early 1950's. They eventually ended up with the domestically-produced Sterling instead.

The British trials resulted in an improved version of the weapon called the Mark II that eventually was further upgraded into the M53. Most of the changes involved the gun's barrel and a new curved magazine. Danish guns did eventually see

some modest commercial success, and the weapon was also produced under license in both Brazil and Thailand.

### **Mechanical Particulars**

The Madsen M50 was a unique design. Developed at a time when the world was already covered in a thin patina of surplus pistol-caliber SMGs left over from World War 2, the M50 represented a fairly radical departure from convention. While the basic layout with the magazine located ahead of the pistol grip was conventional enough, the specifics were unlike anything seen before or since.

The M50 is an otherwise unremarkable straight blow-back design that fires from the open bolt. Curiously, there is a grip safety built into the magazine well at the front of the gun. For the weapon to fire, the gun must be firmly gripped with both hands. Many real world operators supposedly wrapped this steel tab in rubber bands so they could fire the weapon one-handed if needed.

The tubular steel buttstock folds to the right. Original guns featured a leather cover over the stock tube, but many of these have deteriorated and been removed over time. Much like that of the M1A1 paratrooper carbine, the stock of the M50 is not positively retained. To extend





■ The fire control components are permanently mounted in this internal pressed steel tray.

► The M50's double-column, single-feed magazines are fairly awful.

tab that you operate by slipping your thumb underneath it and pressing outward. This operates in reverse of more conventional designs and takes a little getting used to.



the stock just give it a snatch. Folding it simply involves pushing hard enough to overcome the detent.

The top-mounted charging handle is small-ish and reciprocates with the bolt. There are two sling swivels riveted to the left side of the receiver. The sights are small and fixed. The safety is a sliding tab on the left side of the receiver that is not terribly convenient. The gun is full auto only.

The most remarkable aspect of the design is the way you take the gun down for cleaning and maintenance. The receiver is comprised of two pressed steel halves that pivot at the back of the pistol grip. To strip the gun, you remove the barrel collar and then open the two receiver clamshells from the front. Once the trunnion opens, the barrel falls free. The bolt and recoil spring assembly are then easily removed. Reassembly demands a little body English. The trigger and fire control components are built into a tray of sorts permanently attached to the inside of the receiver.

The 32-round box magazines are patently horrible. A double-column, single-feed design, they are impossible to load to capacity without a loading tool. There is a dedicated tool that is supposed to ride inside the pistol grip. However, my example does not fit and, regardless, it doesn't work very well. Loading magazines is both onerous and time-consuming. Oddly, the magazine release is a steel

### **Trigger Time**

The most redeeming aspect of the M50 is its rate of fire. The gun runs at around 550 rpm, comparable to that of a German MP40 or British Sten. This makes it eminently controllable and not unduly profligate in its ammunition expenditure.

I despise the grip safety. If nothing else, unless you have three hands, there is no way to drop the bolt over an empty chamber other than just pointing the gun in a safe direction and squeezing the trigger. Much like magazine disconnect safeties in certain handguns, I see no practical benefit.

The steel stock rates a solid decent. However, pressure to the side will tend to let the stock slip a bit past center in either direction. This can happen unexpectedly when running the gun quickly.

That's all the bad stuff. The Madsen M50 is an other-

wise solid design. The manual of arms is easily mastered, and the gun shoots straight for its genre. Once you have invested a couple of magazines taking its measure, the M50 shoots well. Like most SMGs of this sort, I find that the gun runs best if you just sight grossly over the top and



The Madsen M50 is an efficient close combat tool. Maintaining control of the gun on full auto is no great chore.



The M50 offers perfectly acceptable combat accuracy. This is a typical 12-meter burst.



Lots of period submachine guns utilized this same magazineforward architecture, but nobody did it quite like the M50.

remain conservative with your trigger finger. It was an easy enough chore to keep my bursts on a man-sized target at across-the-room distances.

### **Ruminations**

Overall, the Madsen M50 is an interesting historical footnote. It never was destined for greatness, and there is little of substance that might set it apart from its contemporaries. Considering the M50 was trying to compete with the Uzi and the Swedish K, it is surprising the gun did as well as it did.

A few M50's ended up seeing combat use in a lot of different places. The gun was used by state actors of eighteen different nations to include American Green Berets in Vietnam. The M50 saw action in a variety of modest brushfire wars across the globe. However, it was the gun's exposure in movies that really made it recognizable.

The M50 would benefit from a double column, double feed magazine, and that forward grip safety is the Devil. However, the gun still has much to commend it. In the era before the HK MP5 and countless rifle-caliber carbines, the M50 did transiently represent the state of the art.

Most of the M50's available on the American gun market are pre-86 dealer samples. These are Law Enforcement-restricted imported machineguns that were brought into the country prior to the accursed 1986 machinegun ban. However, a recent ruling by the BATF has reclassified about 4,000 of the pre-86 dealer sample pool as transferables. That is out of around 17,000 total pre-86 dealer samples. This ruling has put quite a few Madsen M50's into circulation, but the prices have gone up commensurately.

The Madsen M50 is a weird, ugly gun, but it is also a movie star. The M50 was at the right place at the right time to build a modest Hollywood career. Nowadays,



A few Madsen M50's turned up in Vietnam. (Public domain)



For gun nerds of a certain generation, the Madsen M50 is a fistful of nostalgia.

thanks to the BATF's recent ruling, a few of those old classic guns are available to normal folk as well. That is if you have \$24,000 lying around for one.

### TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS MADSEN M50 SUBMACHINE GUN

|               | ~ ~ ~ ~ · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·          |
|---------------|--|
| Caliber:      | 9mm Para   |
| Weight:       | 6.9 lbs.   |
| Length:       | 31.3 in. (stock extended)                        |
| Action:       | Blowback, full-auto only                         |
| Rate of Fire: | 550 rpm  |
| Feed:         | 32-round double-column, single-feed box magazine |
| Sights:       | Fixed post front, peep rear set for 100 meters   |

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[Cont. from page 12]

## UNDERSTANDING COLORADO'S NEW ANTI-SECOND AMENDMENT LEGISLATION

Attorneys From the Richards Carrington Law Firm, in Denver, Shed Light on the Restrictions.

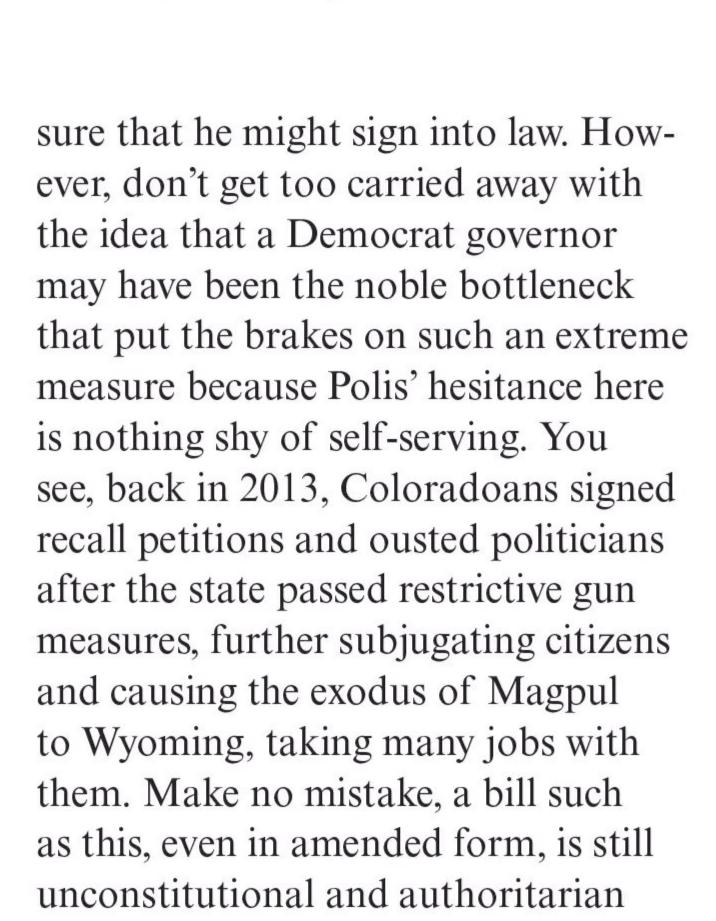
By Darwin Nercesian, News Field Editor

nti-Second Amendment legislation can be confusing and convoluted, perhaps intentionally but more likely due to the inept nature of those who draft it. Just ask the average gun owner in any of the highly restrictive oblasts still masquerading as American states. It's hard to know what's legal and what will send you to prison and wreck your family forever. Nice places to live, right? While I can't bring sense to lawmakers who have chosen totalitarianism to let their constituents know where they stand, or I should say kneel, I was able to speak with attorneys from the Richards Carrington law firm located in Denver to see if I could shed some light on Colorado's latest round of seditious gun laws.

One of the first perspectives brought to my attention is that Senate Bill 25-3 will, in effect, mandate a type of backdoor permit-to-purchase scam. That was not its original intent, and the bill does not use language describing a firearm-purchasing license so much as it bans most modern firearms in existence while containing amendments that carve out a path for exemption based on a licensing scheme. The bill was initially introduced with the hope of an all-out ban on semi-automatic firearms that feed from a detachable magazine. So, what happened?

Colorado's Governor Jared Polis is somewhat reluctant when facing sweeping firearms regulation, and the amendments altering SB 25-3 from its original form were meant to appease his discomfort while crafting a mea-

A woman takes aim with an AR-15-type rifle at a shooting range in Colorado Springs, Colorado. (Shutterstock, Jim Lambert)



Amendments to SB 25-3 carve out a provision for buyers to obtain a license that exempts them from the bill's restrictions and allows them to knowingly manufacture, distribute, transfer, sell, or purchase a specified semi-automatic firearm. The only other exception I am aware of in the law is that an individual may transfer a specified semiautomatic firearm to an heir, an individual residing in another state, or a federal firearms licensee (FFL).

and will damage, if not destroy, many

Colorado businesses.

To be clear, Colorado defines a "specified semiautomatic firearm"

as a semi-automatic rifle, shotgun, or gas-operated handgun with a detachable magazine, and the magazine limit has been 15 rounds (for any magazine purchased after July 1, 2013, with the exception of .22-caliber tubular magazines). Exclusions include certain hunting guns and any firearm chambered in .22 caliber or less. Per the definition, this bill would not only apply to all often-scrutinized rifles labeled as "military-style assault weapons" but common handguns as well such as those made by Glock, SIG SAUER, and Smith & Wesson.

The process to obtain a "Firearms Safety Eligibility Card," or FSEC, begins with providing two sets of fingerprints to your county's sheriff, one of which will be kept on file and the other sent to the FBI for a background check. Of course, there will be fees as well. Why wouldn't there be? It's not like the right to bear arms is a Constitutionally enumerated guarantee, right? A non-refundable firearms safety course eligibility card extortion fee will be paid to the sheriff, and upon a positive background check, the sheriff shall issue the mark of the beast, i.e., the FSEC, which is valid for five years.

Colodadoans can then take their FSEC to a "verified firearms instructor" and pay another fee set by and remitted to Colorado Parks and Wildlife, meaning the state is taxing the class, and additional costs for tuition will apply. This blatant attempt to disrupt, tax, and discourage semiautomatic purchases in Colorado will create a labyrinth of requirements involving multiple agencies that will be expensive and cumbersome.

Firearms safety classes will vary in length depending on whether the individual holds a Colorado Hunter's Safety Card in the state. If they do, they are required to take a four-hour in-person class, but if they do not, that class time increases to twelve hours and likely a higher fee. The Division of Wildlife will administer the curriculum and all processes and procedures for the classes, which require a score of 90% or higher on a final exam to pass.

A permanently attached magazine clause does create exemptions allowing manufacturing, distribution, transfer, sales, and purchasing without an FSEC. Additionally, the bill exempts a list of guns by name.

- AG42 Ljungman
- Benelli Argo E Pro
- Benelli R1 Big-Game Rifle
- Browning BAR MK 3
- Browning BAR Longtrac Rifle
- Browning BAR Shortrac Rifle
- Fabrique Nationale Model 49 (FN49)
- Fusil Automatique Modele 1917 (RSC M1917)
- Gewehr 43
- Globco Mohawk
- Hakim Rifle
- H&K SL6
- H&K SL7
- M1Carbine
- M1941 Johnson Rifle
- Marlin Camp Carbine
- MAS49
- Remington Model 4
- Remington Model 8
- Remington Model 740
- Remington Model 742

- Remington Model 750
- Remington 7400
- Ruger Deerfield Carbine
- Ruger Mini-14 Ranch Rifle
- Ruger Mini Thirty Rifle
- Ruger Model 44
- Springfield Armory M1A Standard Issue Rifle
- Svt40
- Valmet Hunter M88
- Vz.52
- Winchester Model 100
- Winchester Model 1905
- Winchester Model 1907
- Winchester Model 1910

SB 25-3 also prohibits the possession of "rapid-fire devices," creating a statute that classifies them as dangerous weapons (bump stocks, trigger cranks, binary triggers, etc.). "Rapid Fire Devices" are defined as any device, part, kit, tool, accessory, or combination of parts that has the effect of increasing the rate of fire above the standard rate for the firearm when it is not otherwise equipped.

The bill does not prohibit the possession or importation of these specified semiautomatic firearms, however, which will benefit gun owners in that it appears they are free to obtain long guns out of state. The same applies to banned firearms already owned by residents, as they are still legal to own and possess. Because of this, SB 25-3 will negatively impact Colorado's firearms industry and small business owners, likely shuttering many dealers within the state.

For out-of-staters concerned with matters of reciprocity, the SB 25-3 limitation to manufacturing, distributing, transferring, selling, or purchasing should not impact carrying while visiting or passing through the state. This would also apply to those who travel to Colorado with a semiautomatic hunting rifle. Keep in mind that since the bill does criminalize possession of "rapid-fire devices," I'd leave binary and FRT triggers back home in America. At this point, I don't see why any American would want to visit unless, of course, a trip to the Kremlin is out of their budget.

In the unlikely event that a visitor should choose to purchase a long gun from whatever shops survive that Marxist playground, they would be required to comply with the licensing scheme to do so, another hit to dealers who will surely miss out on those sales.

A final issue I spoke with the Richards Carrington law firm on was the possibility of SB 25-3 creating a back door firearm registry. They were optimistic about the bill being geared more toward burdensome roadblocks than being used as a back door registry. I disagree and feel that a person who will steal your car would also rob your home and should not be trusted on any front, giving me no doubt that the state is making lists. Guess who else made lists back in the 1940s.

It's exhausting telling my conservative friends day in and day out to pack it up and dump commie toilets like California, Colorado, Oregon, Washington, Illinois, New York, New Jersey, Massachusetts, and the like. If you can't swing it now, start planning. California has been trying to find ways of charging income tax to those who flee the state and even issues an exit tax in certain instances due to mass exodus over the past decade. This absurd and lawless effort tells us something. We can hurt these economies and leave these places to waste so anti-American agenda-minded leaders and their sycophants can bask in the totalitarian utopia they've produced while being subject to the criminal element they've nurtured. It is what they created and what they deserve. Meanwhile, the consolidation of conservatives in free America will serve to fortify those states with overwhelming voting power, a form of secession we have at home.

Darwin Nercesian is a long-time gun rights advocate and shooter of targets far, far away. As the News Field Editor at Firearms News, Darwin writes about the Second Amendment, firearms, and related gear. Follow him on Instagram, X, and YouTube @ DTOE\_Official.

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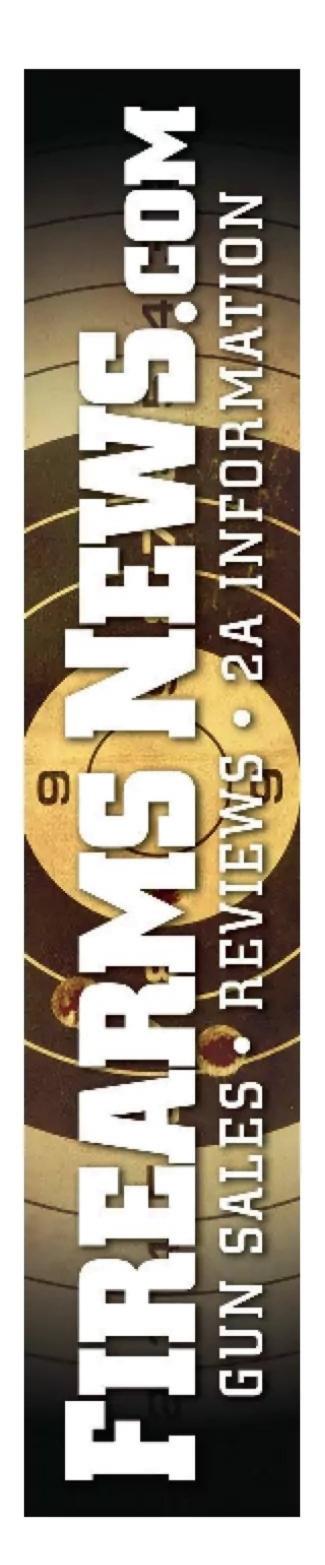
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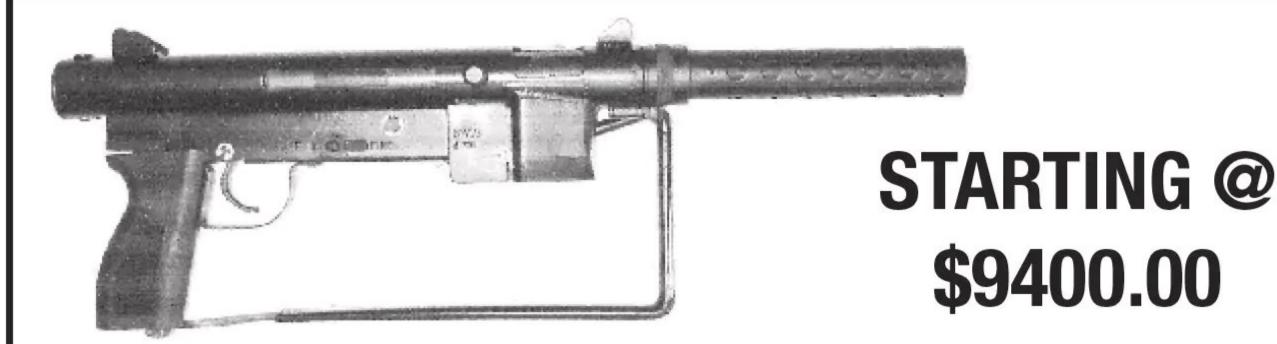
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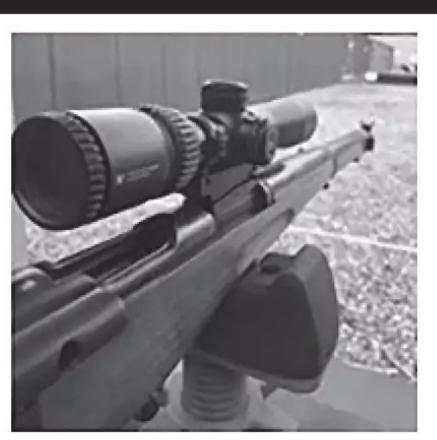
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