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Spring 2009

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TACTICAL GEAR

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Your Baton Is More Than An Impact Weapon

If you've never been on the receiving end of a control hold applied by an International Level Instructor of the Monadnock training program, you don't really know the meaning of the word "humility."

Chuck Martin was throwing me around like a rag doll. Every once in a while he would say, "This is just slow for form." Then he would shove my elbow into my ear and I'd scream like girl.

His response was always the same. "You're OK," he'd say. "Let's do that again and show the rest of the folks." As you'll read in the story on page 12, Martin was in town to teach members of the Waupaca County Sheriff's Department, Reserve Unit, the ins and outs of the Monadnock Metal Expandable Baton program.

Regardless of what you think of Reserve Officers, the truth of the matter is that in our rural county the Reserves are often left alone or in pairs to provide special event security at locations that mix large crowds with carbonated malt beverages. What do you think happens at the rodeo's annual "Tough Enough To Wear Pink" night? You put 200 cowboys in a dance hall with 150 cowgirls, several gallons of beer and a themed event asking guys to prove how tough they are and, as they say up along the bucking chute, "Somebody's fixin' to scrap."

So I was elated when both the sheriff and my boss agreed to bring in a Monadnock instructor for training and a story. Chuck Martin is THE guy when it comes to using and teaching others to use a baton.

The personal injuries he inflicted on me aside, Martin, a veteran of the USMC and a retired police officer, conducted one of the finest training seminars I have ever had the good fortune to be a part of. Every element was top-notch, easy to understand and explained to the point that each deputy in the room was given a thorough understanding of what was expected and what the end result would be.

Top that off with the fact that the techniques were eye-opening and it's easy to see why there were so many "Oh yeah" moments over the course of our abbreviated training program.

The best testimony for the Monadnock training program was given by the fact that every officer present was there on unpaid time and would have gladly stayed in that training room for as long as Martin was willing to keep passing along information.

At the end of the night, the lieutenant stepped up and asked for information on how to become a Monadnock instructor.

A special thanks goes out to Chuck Martin and everyone at Monadnock and to the Waupaca County, Wis., Sheriff's Department.



Kevin Michalowski

Editor, *Tactical Gear* Magazine

*You don't pick the day.
The day picks you.*

The Sig

556

‘Swat’



**GOOD NEWS FROM EXETER,
NEW HAMPSHIRE! SIG SAUER
IS PRODUCING A COPY OF
THE MODEL 550, FOR THE
AMERICAN MARKET.
THE AMERICAN VERSION
IS THE SIG 556.**

by Frank W. James

The first piece of good news is the price is much lower than the Swiss model because Sig doesn't have to deal with the exchange rate between the currencies of the two countries. Second, the vast majority of the components in the gun are manufactured in the United States, so many of the problems involving importation of foreign semi-auto assault rifles are avoided.

Third, because of the misery created during the 10-year ban on normal-capacity magazines, the engineering staff at Sig Sauer has wisely adapted the design to utilize the widely available and commonly encountered AR-15/M-16 style of magazine. While the design features of the AR-15/M-16 magazine are not as good perhaps as the original Sig 550 magazine design, everyone — citizen or police officer — knows these magazines are readily available and not “sole-sourced” from an off-shore supplier.

The Sig quality built into the Sig 556. The basic design is still the best damn 5.56x45 service rifle on the planet. The heritage continues.





The Sig 550

Years ago I toured the Sig compound at Neuhausen near the Rhine Falls in Switzerland. Manufacture of the locomotives used in the cross-English Channel “Chunnel” was just being completed, and Sig was deep in the production of the then-new Swiss service rifle, the Sig 550.

I was given a thorough tour of the manufacturing process as well as a tour of the testing procedures each gun went through before final acceptance by the Swiss military. I came away with the firm belief that if money was no object, the Sig 550 was the absolute best 5.56x45mm service rifle on the planet. However, cost often becomes a deciding factor when purchasing a rifle like this for national armies, police agencies, and for individuals searching for the best value in a semi-auto self-defense rifle.

The Sig 556 ‘SWAT’ Model

For testing, we received a sample of the Sig 556 ‘SWAT’ rifle (two, actually — more on that in a moment) and this gun just comes packed with extra features.

The Sig 556 ‘SWAT’ rifle is not a rifle intended solely for sales to law enforcement agencies. It will certainly serve that purpose, but because it features a 16-inch barrel, a semi-auto action, and U.S.-made components, it is legal, by federal law, for

civilian sales in most areas.

The rifle is of the traditional a detachable-box-magazine, semi-auto design. It’s gas-operated, but it employs a “long-stroke” piston to open its action upon firing as opposed to the “gas impingement” system used in the AR-15/M-16 series of rifles and carbines. While Sig calls the lower receiver a “trigger housing” instead of a “lower receiver,” it still serves the same purpose and it even follows the design of the original Swiss-built rifle, but with a difference. The US-made rifle sports a “trigger housing” machined from forged aluminum and accepts all standard AR-15/M-16 magazines — a vital design feature in light of recent comments made by Attorney General Eric Holder.

Sig provided two different versions of the “SWAT” rifle because the first was an early version that didn’t have the folding-stock seen on the “SWAT” models in Sig brochures and their website. Unfortunately, you can’t add the Swiss-made folding stock or mounting bracket to the lower receiver on the guns like the one first received for testing. Trigger housing on the fixed-stock rifle and trigger housing and the folding-stock rifle are completely different at the rear and are non-compatible.

During preparation of this report, however, Sig shipped a folding-stock ver-

sion and it’s included in the review and photos here. All of the firing tests involved both models. As far as I can determine there is absolutely no performance difference between either of the two models in terms of accuracy or handling. (I admit a natural bias toward the folding stock model, especially when vehicles are involved!)

How It Operates

The hot topic in military and law enforcement circles is the attention being paid to gas-piston designs in rifles and entry team carbines. The AR-15/M-16 rifle employs a gas impingement system that operates without a conventional piston. The gas system of the Sig 556 follows that of the Sig 550 and is more traditional. It employs a piston which is connected to the bolt carrier.

Additionally, the Sig 556 design features a “gas valve” that is completely absent in the AR-15/M-16 series. The gas valve located above the barrel (but below and in front of the front sight) has two positions; should the gun be fired to the point that a fouled gas system inhibits performance, this valve can be opened to the second position to minimize malfunctions. This second setting can also be employed when the rifle is exposed to extreme environmental conditions like freezing temperatures or other difficult weather conditions. (As the Sig 550’s home country contains the Alps mountain range, extreme climate was an early consideration in its design.)

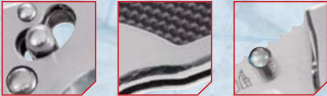
The barrel is hammer forged and the trigger mechanism is equipped with ambidextrous safety/fire selector levers. The trigger is protected by a pivoting trigger guard that can be folded either to the right or the left to allow operation while wearing thick winter gloves. The ergonomic controls mimic the American M-16 service rifle because the bolt remains open after the last shot has been fired and the bolt release is found in the same location. The major difference is the bolt release on the 556 requires a push upward for release as opposed to the M-16’s inward push.

While the rifle was designed from the beginning for use with standard AR-15/M-16 type metal magazines, both sample rifles came equipped with polymer magazine with the same profile and dimensions as American military magazines. The major difference is their ability to be coupled together through the use of a molded-in plastic bracket on both sides of the flat tube body that allows connection of two or more magazines without need of any accessory mechanism.



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To comply with federal regulations, the barrel length is 16 inches and it features a 1 turn in 7-inch rate of twist. There is a flash suppressor with six long elliptical slots surrounding its circumference. The flash suppressor has a slot directly on its bottom so it is possible for dust to be a problem when working from the prone position on dry ground. The flash suppressor is mounted to the barrel through the use of a .5x28 TPI ACME thread pattern, so the gun is compatible with many sound suppression devices on the market.

Forward of the upper receiver and surrounding the barrel is the vented tactical quad-rail system, which is machined from aircraft alloy aluminum and hard coat anodized for durability. Naturally, each rail conforms to the standard set for Picatinny rails (M1913 compatible) and is capable of mounting a wide variety of accessories. The rail slots are numbered and lettered from position 1 to 21 and lettered "T" for top, "R" for right, and so on.

The earlier fixed-stock version of the Sig 556 "SWAT" came with a vertical foregrip and an integral tactical lamp. The fold-down "emergency" rear sight fits (when folded down) completely within the rear portion of the top rail. On this model the elevation is adjusted on the rear sight leaf while the windage adjustments are made to the front sight. The front sight consists of a blade that also

folds down.

The later folding-stock version had a different set of iron sights consisting of Sig's new accessory rotary diopter drum sight on the rear and a rigid front sight blade that was protected by a substantial ring-style hood. The rear sight unit mounts directly to the rear of the top rail and is fully adjustable for both windage and elevation. In many ways it copies some of the design details first seen with H&K's Model 91 and 93 semi-auto rifles. I found it was easy to co-witness a red-dot sight with this diopter sight system.

The rotary rear sight has four sight positions (called "stations" in the factory literature). The first is an open V-style notch that works like the standard U-notch rear sight and is obviously intended for short-range CQB target engagements. The remaining three positions consist of 100-, 200- and 300-meter target settings. I didn't have the time to test the 300-meter setting, but the small aperture 100-meter position soon proved to be my favorite of all the iron sight options. These sight settings are optimized for M855 and M193 type ammunition.

If I have a criticism of the rotary diopter rear sight system, it's that the rear drum will randomly rotate or will rotate too easily when brushed against anything. When this happens vision is blocked if the drum rotates to a point between apertures.



Operational Controls Of The 556

As mentioned, the major controls for the Sig 556 follow the AR-15/M-16 — but there are some differences, both good and bad.

The trigger and handgrip positioning are almost exactly alike those found on the AR-15/M-16 series. If there is a dimensional difference between the two designs, I can't tell it.

The trigger is a good example of a two-stage military trigger: The first stage consists of take-up, and then some resistance followed by the final let-off. While the trigger scaled consistently at 6.0 pounds on my RCBS trigger pull scale, it felt far lighter after first taking all the slack out of the first stage. The Sig 556 comes straight out of the box with one of the best factory triggers found on a semi-auto rifle of this type. I realize there are target-grade rifles out there featuring some incredible trigger actions, but this is a service-grade rifle with a great trigger.

The safety lever is in the same location as found on the AR-15/M-16. The bonus is it is ambidextrous. This may not be a big point for 90 percent of the population, but the left-hand and left-eye dominant shooters forced to shoot long guns left-handed will certainly appreciate this standard feature of the design.

If I have a complaint with these controls, it's that my thumb was too short to operate the safety lever when the rifle was mounted to the shoulder. When I was at the low ready position, there was no problem and it was convenient to move it to either On or Off Safe. Once

THE SIG SAUER 556 'SWAT'

Manufacturer:

Sig Sauer Inc.

18 Industrial Drive

Exeter, New Hampshire 03833

Tel: 603-772-2303

Fax: 603-772-9082

Web: www.sigsauer.com

Model: 556 SWAT

Available Calibers: 5.56 NATO, and is compatible with .223 Rem.

Receiver: The upper receiver is considered the "receiver" and manufactured from high strength carbon steel while the lower receiver is considered the trigger housing

Barrel: Cold hammer forged and 16" in length; 1 in 7" rate of twist

Flash Suppressor: Six elliptical slots, secured to the barrel with 1/2x28 TPI thread pattern threads

Buttstock: Folding

Handguard: Sig quad-rail conforms to Picatinny rails (M1913 compatible)

Operating System: Long stroke gas piston

Standard Finish: The receiver is coated with Nitron finish and the trigger housing is hard coat anodized

Magazine: Shipped with one 30 round synthetic AR-15/M-16 style magazine





The magazine release button is located in approximately the same location as the AR-15, but the author noted it was protected by a 'fence' on only two of its four sides. Additionally, he felt it did not stand 'proud' and he sometimes experienced problems in getting the magazine to release from the firearm if he didn't hit the button perfectly during his test reload drills.

mounted to the shoulder, however, I had to shift my firing hand for my thumb to reach the lever to both pull it Off Safe or to push it On Safe.

The magazine release is the same push-in button arrangement found on the AR-15/M-16 series and is located in the same general area. There's a "fence" protecting the button on its top and front sides; it remains "open" on its lower and rear sides. The button mag release is somewhat subdued in that it does not "stand proud." That's probably a good thing to avoid the unintentional release of the magazine, but I found while attempting rapid mag changes I sometimes had to hit the magazine release button two or three times to guarantee I had, in fact, released the magazine. (I'm not condemning the rifle when I relate these experiences but if others experience the same problem then there may be a pattern here. If not, then the old fat guy writing this is just having trouble and remains somewhat physically behind the power curve.)

After years of struggling with a forward assist assembly and the occasional reluctant bolt group on the AR-15/M-16 series of rifles, it was a great relief to work with a gun featuring a cocking handle that was attached directly to the



The front sight is rigid and does not fold down on the folding-stock version of the Sig 556 'SWAT' unlike the earlier version that did not feature a folding stock. This rigid front sight blade is protected by a substantial ring-style hood.



The gas system on the Sig 556 is designed to disassemble to insure the operator can clean the gas tube as well as the piston that drives the mechanism.

bolt group. This makes operation of the Sig 556 simple and direct.

Testing of the two rifles coincided with the ammunition drought being experienced in the United States, so I had to work with some of my own handloads of questionable quality. The result was far more positive than if the gun had been one of an AR-15 type design because it was easy to both force the bolt closed and to open it when there was a failure to fire. The overall result is the Sig 556 gets extremely high marks for this feature of its design.

As for the accuracy of the Sig 556, I fired the folding-stock version from the prone position for a long square range test session at paper targets 100 yards distant. The average for five rounds with a variety of ammunition was less than 1.5 inches for group sizes, with the best five-shot group measuring slightly more than an inch with Winchester 69-grain hollow-point Match ammo. This was all accomplished with the factory iron sights — no optical add-on sights. Obviously,

many of the five-shot groups were larger in size, but then the overall quality of some of these loads was also lower.

Summary

Although the Sig 556 at 7.8 pounds is noticeably heavier than any comparable AR-15 design, it comes from the factory with a superlative gas piston design. It works. Additionally, the overall quality of the arm is among the highest available.

The "SWAT" version of the Sig 556 is a rifle that any emergency response team member could use without trepidation. It's a rifle that follows the heritage established by its European brother for quality, reliable performance, and accuracy that few could ever hope to match or even attempt to surpass.

In short, the Sig 556 "SWAT" is a sure winner in a field filled with pretenders.

TACTICAL GEAR



A MOST USEFUL



Monadnock International Instructor Chuck Martin (left) prepares to apply an arm lock to the author. This will quickly be followed with a takedown to put the subject into a handcuffing position.



TOOL

A BATON, USED PROPERLY, IS MUCH MORE THAN JUST A STICK

If there is one piece of gear on a duty belt that is underutilized, it might be the baton. Maybe it has to do with Taser envy. Perhaps it is the chilling effect of the Rodney King video. Indeed, discussion in the DAAT training segment at the Wisconsin Law Enforcement Recruit Academy included a warning about baton use that included the line, "...you don't want to make it appear as though you are administering a beating."

But the baton as an intermediate weapon offers plenty of advantages to the trained user. OC has diminished effects on drugged-up or drunk subjects. Tasers are fine, but not all officers carry them and even that technology is not 100 percent effective. The baton gives you several options; from blocks and strikes to control holds and leverage not available with empty-hand techniques. It is a tool that should not be overlooked when the situation calls for the use of force.

The key element to the paragraph above is the reference to the "trained user." The days of the old Irish cop simply wailing away with a nightstick are long gone. To use a modern baton effectively, you need to be trained. That's where Chuck Martin comes in. Martin is an instructor for Monadnock batons. But he's not just any trainer. Of the roughly 48,000 instructors, Martin is one of only about 60 International Instructors, the highest level attainable through the program.

But what can you really do with a baton? That's what Martin fought his way through near-blizzard conditions to teach members of the Waupaca County Sheriff's Department, Reserve Unit. Because of time constraints and weather conditions Martin was able to provide only an abbreviated version of the Monadnock training system, but even with a shortened training cycle the deputies described the training as some of the best they'd ever received.

The program, said Martin, is built around the stance and patterns of movement that allow blocking, striking, control and retention techniques.

"We teach it compartmentalized then link it all together so you can use the baton all the way through the arrest," Martin said.

Most Law Enforcement Recruit Academies teach drawing, loading and the basic baton strikes to the upper leg and upper arm. That's pretty much where Martin started, but with more of an edge to it. Monadnock produces an outstanding chart outlining target areas and the resultant level of expected trauma from a strike to the area.

"The degree of resistance of the suspect dictates the type and location of the strike," said Martin. "We don't decide where to strike. The subject dictates where we strike."

And it doesn't stop there. The strike, as Martin explained, is a means to open the door for a control hold.

"The use of a baton is not just about striking. At some point you are going to have to put handcuffs on the person," Martin said.

With that said, Martin began the instruction of guiding a resistive subject to the ground, under control, using the baton as a means of controlling and applying leverage to the arm. This is where the deputies got a taste of the real-world potential of the baton.

There is really no adequate way to summarize the techniques on the pages of a magazine. No matter how vividly one describes the action of controlling the wrist and using the baton to lock the elbow and guide the subject to the ground, the action must be seen, practiced and repeated to really be understood and appreciated. What was amazing to see was the speed and ease with which even the smaller officers could bring a subject to the ground and move to handcuffing. At the same time, that cuffing position allowed total control of the subject and a level of security for the arresting officer.

"You know if you have to do this in a bar or a crowd, there's always the potential of a second subject trying to come to his buddy's rescue," Martin said. "This system helps give the officer an advantage."

As deputies worked in pairs to practice the skills Martin demonstrated, you could see the confidence level rise with each block, strike and takedown.

BY KEVIN MICHALOWSKI



The empty-hand techniques of the Monadnock training program employ the same basic movements and techniques as used with the baton. One system; the same results.



TOGETHER WE SAVE LIVES

Opening for business in 1958, Monadnock is the oldest police baton company in the United States, and as you would expect, started out making turned-wood straight batons. The introduction of the PR-24 side-handle baton in 1972 was a quantum leap forward in baton technology and many people still consider this tool one of the finest intermediate force options available. This is thanks in large part to Monadnock's dedication to superior training in the use of its products. Over the years, the company continued to make changes to keep up with the demanding requirements of law enforcement professionals. Not only does Monadnock offer a full line of products, but their training program is internationally recognized.

Monadnock is now under the Safariland corporate umbrella. The firm was called Armor Holdings, but has moved to adopt the stronger brand name of Safariland. This group brings together 19 of the world's best manufacturers of law enforcement and safety products. During an announcement of the rebranding efforts at the 2009 Shooting, Hunting and Outdoor Trade Show, company president Scott O'Brien introduced a new slogan: Together We Save Lives.

At the training seminar, instructor Chuck Martin summed up this sentiment and Monadnock's dedication to that idea. "Our new slogan is, 'Together we save lives,'" he said. "That's what Monadnock has been doing for years."

"These are linking skills," Martin told the assembled deputies. "We show you the principles and the system lets you make the call with the tool. Of course, you will always use the baton to the level that is justified. By learning this system you get a lot of flexibility to use the baton within your department's use of force model."

A typical four-hour training module consists of learning and practicing blocks and strikes, allowing the officer to transition quickly from a defensive posture to subduing and taking control of the subject. The eight-hour training program teaches the same elements as the four-hour class, but also adds control holds. All of Monadnock's training classes — empty hand, expandable baton and side-handle baton — use the same motor skills so officers can transition quickly and easily to the proper level of force.

When asked what baton in Monadnock's extensive line he likes the best, Martin gives the nod to the PR-24 side-handle baton because of the force you can generate and the control options available. But he admits, "The best baton to have is the one you carry with you."

Officers had a habit of leaving the long, solid PR-24 in their cruisers, where it did no good at all. The shift to expandable batons makes it more likely that an intermediate weapon is available on the duty belt when needed.

"Sure, you can generate more force and have more control over a subject (with the side-handle baton), but not if you leave it in the car. You have to have it right with you," Martin said.

And you have to be trained and practiced in its use. The Monadnock training system offers outstanding skill-building techniques, but any skill will fade without practice. To that end, Monadnock offers an instructor training program that has certified some 48,000 instructors, each a valuable asset to their department as they continue to practice and train within the program.

In this case, seeing is believing. The skills taught by Monadnock trainers, when applied properly, are almost certain to give a tactical advantage to the officers employing those skills. The baton in trained hands is a most useful tool and should not be overlooked.

TACTICAL GEAR

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Veteran Police Officer uses the SDTS to Stay Safe

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Wayne, NJ**

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A LOOK AT NIGHTFORCE
NXS AND NXS COMPACT
PRECISION RIFLESCOPES

Success by

FORCE

BY SCOTT WAGNER



In the world of functional tactical gear, there are “real deal” products and there are the posers.

Some people, including law enforcement officers, stake their lives on lithium-powered “tactical” flashlight knockoffs that cost less than a genuine Surefire, Streamlight, Insight Technology, or Inova light that has far more value and reliability.

There’s much more at stake for police officers and soldiers than, say, in the sporting firearms arena. A knockoff of a name-brand riflescope with failed optics or poor quality, for example, may at worst cause a missed opportunity at a deer or other game animal.

Even in the “sport tactical” world, guys buy much of their tactical gear for the “chicks dig it” or coolness factor; the weapons that these scopes, red dots or other optical device are mounted on are used for plinking or fun shoots or maybe informal competition. In these pursuits, there’s nothing wrong with saving some bucks using low-priced or bargain add-ons. Often it is done as a stop gap measure until the more expensive genuine item can be afforded — I use an inexpensive red dot optic on one of my “play around” AR-15s.

But when lives are at stake in a law enforcement or military weapon situation, you need products you can

count on. Nightforce rifle scopes are the real deal.

Nightforce, headquartered in Orofino, Idaho, is a relatively new name in the field and has entered the tactical arena with rave reviews.

One Special Forces shooter, an instructor on my 727-Counter Terror Training Unit Team, said the 19th Special Forces had just adopted Nightforce scopes for its Designated Marksmen rifles. The scopes are extremely rugged, reliable, precise and have an illuminated reticle system. These operators will be using the scopes in Afghanistan in an ultra-harsh environment.

We’ll look at two Nightforce scopes: its 3.5-15x50 Variable, the NP-R1 (classified as a field tactical/varmint/long-range hunting) with illuminated reticle, a top-of-the-line scope for mounting on my Sun-Devil Custom 5.56mm precision rifle system; and the NXS 2.5-10x24 Compact Scope with illuminated Mil-Dot (field tactical) reticle.

Other reticles available for various models are classified for hunting, CQB, 1,000-yard benchrest, standard benchrest, and high-power competition. This versatile scope system is applicable for a wide range of tactical uses from CQB in a pinch to precision work inside of 100 yards or so for an LE precision marksman.



A Nightforce scope mounted on Stag Arms Model 7 (right hand) 6.8 S&W Hunter Rifle, potentially a great law enforcement precision marksman system.



Thanks to its solid aluminum construction, the Nightforce 3.5-15x50 has that “emergency impact weapon” feel.

The Nightforce has a solid heft and feel — the 3.5-15x50 could be used as an emergency impact weapon, thanks to its solid aluminum 6061-T6 bar stock construction. Its weight is two ounces shy of two pounds. The bar stock makes the scope tube two to three times thicker than a standard tube for that “emergency impact weapon” feel.

When you look through the scope for the first time, there’s a startling clarity of the optic. What makes the glass so bright is the broadband lens multi-coating that also exceeds Mil-Spec abrasion tests. All Nightforce scopes have lenses that are matched and aligned by hand to ensure high performance. The objective lenses (front end) that determine resolution and light transmission capability are of a multi-element design normally found on high-end telescopes. This design also contributes to the exceptional clarity and color accuracy of the Nightforce scopes.

A precise reticle is a must on any scope, and Nightforce uses a glass-etched illuminated reticle in all its designs and the precision stands out. That precision is important when you add the illumination to keep the lines of the reticle as sharp as possible even under full power illumination.

Both scopes feature turret adjustment, utilizing a system of titanium springs, hardened metals, and advanced dry film lubricants. The turrets also feature “ZeroStop elevation setting technology,” an internal system that allows you to determine and fix your zero, then make any elevation adjustments during a course of shooting, and return to your original zero just by feel. Each click is ¼ MOA with a total of 400 elevation clicks available.

On the NXS Compact, a left-side turret controls the illumination adjustment.

On the full-size NXS scope, this control serves as a parallax adjustment (I call it “focus”) as well as the illumination control. Pulling the knob out and dialing for intensity activates it. The Compact features no parallax adjustment. Both knobs contain the battery compartment and both utilize the standard CR2032 watch-calculator batteries. The control knob on the compact model is somewhat different than the full-size models — it has graphic markings to indicate light intensity and settings.

Both scopes come with the Nightforce Unimount and Ultralight rings designed to remain on the scope at all times and be moved to any rifle with Mil-Std. 1913 rail mounts. The mounts have been designed with a 20 MOA taper to maximize its long-range use. It’s not a requirement for police sniper use in which the average shot is around 64 yards, but it would sure be handy for the military user where it might be mounted on .308, .338 or larger caliber weapons for shots in the 1,000-yard range.

The mount is constructed of 7075-T6 hard anodized aluminum and titanium crossbolts and jaws. The mount comes with nuts that should be torqued to manufacturer specs (which is the ultimate way to make sure that the precision quality of the scope reaches its pinnacle) but I prefer mounts that are quick-release, such as an ARMS mount system, if you will be dismounting the scope on a regular basis, in an emergency or to move it from weapon to weapon.

For testing purposes I mounted both scopes on my Sun-Devil Custom 5.56 precision rifle system, and then on a Stag Arms 6.8 SPC Model 7 hunter. The Stag 6.8, in my opinion, would make a great

law enforcement precision marksman rifle. The Stag rifle features a free-floated forend tube, a two-stage match trigger, and stainless steel match barrel. The 6.8 SPC cartridge falls somewhere between the 5.56 and 7.62 NATO in terms of power (rarely is the full-power 7.62 needed in U.S. law enforcement sniper operations).

The standard NXS would probably be the preferred scope for a dedicated precision rifle for deploying overseas, and works well for the longer range/power capabilities of the 6.8 SPC over the 5.56. The NXS compact would be great for a standard AR with a lighter configuration and a multi-purpose, multi-mission platform.

As a side note, on some flattop ARs an additional high-rise rail mount base is needed to accommodate the large size of the front objective lens. This is a small consideration indeed for this scope system.

You can’t go wrong with either scope.

Scott Wagner is a police academy commander at Columbus State Community College in Columbus, Ohio, and commander of the 727 Counter Terror Training Unit. A 29-year law enforcement veteran, he is the designated marksman for the Union County (Ohio) Sheriff’s Office SRT.

THE RUGER

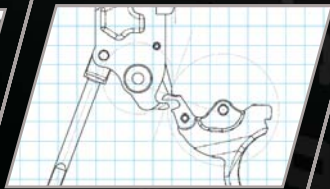
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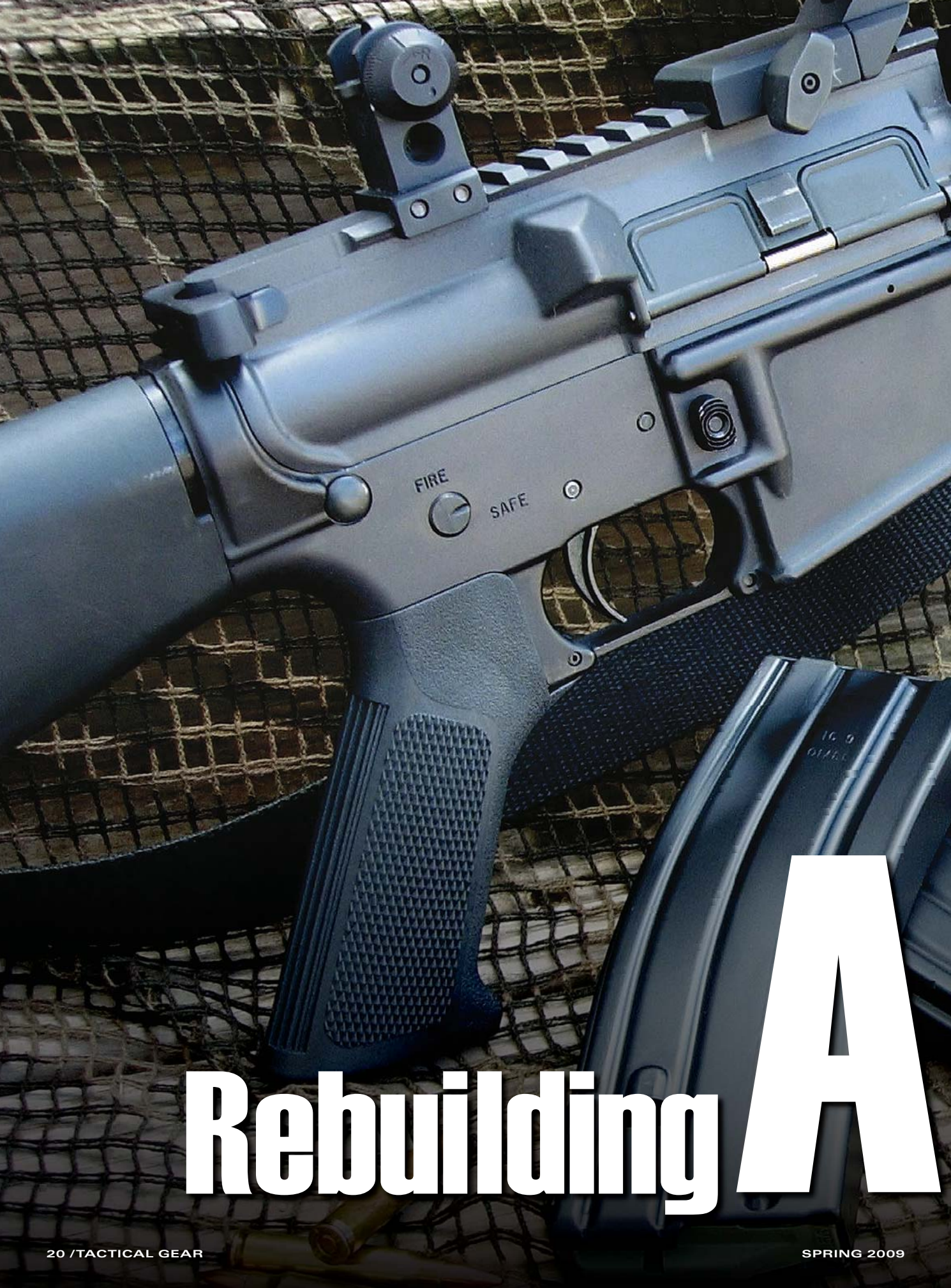
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Rebuilding **A**



Why rebuild AR magazines? Even though there are new versions of AR magazines available, the original magazine with its aluminum body and anodized finish is still popular and reliable.

If you're like most AR owners, you have several magazines that have seen a lot of use. It's a good idea to refurbish these mags to bring them back up to prime operating condition, and this is cheaper than buying new ones. Plus, with new updates such as Magpul's enhanced followers, you're improving the mag's reliability. Finally, if and when an assault weapons ban is instated, standard-capacity magazines will be on the restricted list. If you can't get new magazines your only option will be to rebuild your old ones.

Magazine Candidates

Most AR owners have a collection of well-used or abused magazines, so for this project I picked out a few old ones to rebuild. As I write this article there are still plenty of used and affordable G.I. mags for the AR available at gun shows.

When sorting through your box to find suitable candidates to rebuild, or when buying used mags, there are a couple of things you want to look for. Even if it is a G.I. magazine, some contractors (such as Cooper Industries) had their contracts cancelled by the military for poor production. Aftermarket magazines (non-G.I.) should be approached with caution. For example, a lot of steel-body mags have been produced with substandard parts and inferior construction methods, which don't meet spec.

When inspecting G.I. mags, look at the number of spot-welds used to assemble the two halves. On 30-round mags there should be a minimum of six weld points. Examine the body of the mag. Obviously you should avoid dented, warped, or cracked mags. Also check out the mag's floorplate. If it looks like someone took a crowbar to it, mangling the body of the mag in the process, pass on that one, too.

Last, check out the mag's feed lips. They may be discolored, which is no problem, but if they are bent or cracked you don't want it. Since we're rebuilding the mags with new components, it's imperative to start out with a good body. Followers and springs will be replaced, as well as floorplates, so these parts aren't a concern.

This is also the time to test fit the mags in your rifle, insuring they seat properly and release smoothly. A couple of mags I selected fit a little too tight and wouldn't drop free when the release button was pressed. After inspection I determined the sides were bulging outward slightly. To correct this problem I put the mag in a vise to press the body back into shape. Be careful here: Press in small increments and then check for fit. If you press too far, the follower will bind up, preventing it from traveling up and down the inside of the mag body.

by Tiger McKee

R Magazines

Materials and Tools

Once you have gathered magazines, it's time to shop for the materials needed for the rebuild. For this project, I went straight to Brownells — a one-stop shop for about anything for firearms parts and supplies. They offer complete rebuild kits, both for 20- and 30-round mags, which contain springs, followers, and floorplates. (With 20-round mags, be aware that there are two types: The original design has a straight body, and some newer versions are curved and look like a shortened 30-round mag. This makes a difference when buying parts.)

The kits from Brownells are available with a variety of options. You can choose chrome silicon springs (which have an extended life but can rust) or the original stainless springs (which are less prone to rust but don't have as long a life as the chrome silicon springs).

While you may be tempted to reuse springs, my general rule is to always replace them. After being compressed and released enough times a spring begins to lose its effectiveness. Chances are any used G.I. mags you pick up have been well used, plus you never know the spring's quality to begin with. When disassembling the mags for this article I wound up with springs varying in length up to a full inch. Also, I avoid using "extra power" springs. I've found that they put too much pressure on the follower, which makes it difficult to seat a fully loaded mag in the rifle when the bolt is closed.

Brownells also provides individual components that can be purchased separately. The Magpul "Self-Leveling" follower is one of the best aftermarket options I've found. The shape of this follower fits the mag body better than others, so it won't tilt over, and, according to the manufacturer, the follower is constructed from "a unique self-lubricating material that aids in function." I'm in the process of upgrading every mag I have with these followers.

Brownells also has individual floorplates, so if you're just swapping out followers on good mags, you can replace any floorplates that you don't like the looks of at the same time.

For coating the mag bodies I decide to use a teflon/moly bake-on finish from Brownells. The teflon/moly comes in a variety of colors, so I selected a matte black for the 30-round mags and a dark parkerizing gray for the 20-rounders. I've used these coatings before, so I know they're durable and easy to work with.

For tools, you'll need a small screwdriver or punch to disassemble the mags. I also picked up a tool from Brownells for adjusting the feed lips on the mag body. While I didn't need this for any of the mags I used, I think it's a good tool to have on hand. Brownells has a specialty scrub brush for cleaning magazines, so I ordered one of them to help with the clean up on the inside of the mags.

Scuff pads, to clean up the mag body for refinishing, are needed, along with a degreaser to clean the body thoroughly prior to painting. Gloves should be used to keep your hands from getting any oil on the mags during the cleaning and painting process. A setup for hanging the mag bodies while painting will be needed, along with a small toaster oven for preheating the mags prior to painting and baking to cure them after coating. You can bake the mags in your home oven, but it does create a slight odor, plus your wife might not appreciate you using her oven to cook your mags.

Refinish

The process starts with disassembly. The spring and follower are removed from the bottom of the mag by sliding the floorplate to the rear. On 30-round mags you insert a flat-blade screwdriver between the rear of the mag and the floorplate, lifting the lip of the floorplate up slightly while prying to the rear. Use the



least amount of angle necessary on the screwdriver to avoid bending the floorplate. With 20-round mags, use a small punch to press the catch down while sliding the plate off. Since I'm replacing all the floorplates with new ones, I bagged the old ones up for the spare parts box.

The spring and follower are removed as one unit from the bottom of the mag. It takes a little bit of wiggling to get the follower out, but once you get the technique down it's easy. The old springs and followers also go into my used parts box. Use the mag brush to scrub the inside of the mag body.

Next go over the outside of the mag body with a scuff pad. This helps remove any residue, and preps the body for the paint. After cleaning the inside and outside of the mags, I scrub them down with dishwashing detergent and water. Wear your gloves while washing, to avoid leaving any oil residue on the mag body, and then wipe the mag down with a degreaser to remove any final contaminants that might still be left on the mag.

Prior to application of the finish, the mag bodies are heated in the toaster oven at a temp of 100 degrees. This heating opens up the pores of the metal, allowing the coating to penetrate into the surface, creating a better bond. After preheating the mags, I use clothespins, slipped into the mag body to provide me with a way to hang the mags while spraying them. Spray two fairly light coats of the Teflon/moly finish on mags, waiting the recommended 30 minutes between coats.

After allowing time for the final coat to dry, place the mags into the oven for baking. Although the directions call for 30 minutes at 350 degrees, I left mine in for a little longer. The baking process bonds the finish to the metal and allows





the finish to flow out, filling up any small scratches. After baking the mag bodies, they looked brand new. It was truly an amazing transformation.

Assembly

Assembly is the final step of the process. With the 30-round mags, attach the new Magpul followers to the springs, insert them into the body, and then install the floorplate. For the 20-round mags I used the followers that came with the kits. After assembly I'm pretty pleased with the results, but the real test takes place on the range.

I used a couple of different rifles for testing, and each mag was checked for fit with each rifle. All seated easily and smoothly dropped free. As a side note, one thing you want to make sure you don't do is overload the mag. Ideally when loaded you should be able to take your thumb and press the top round down about a half an inch. If you don't have this extra space for compression, you'll probably experience difficulty when trying to seat the mag with the rifle's bolt closed. During testing I didn't have any malfunctions and all the mags locked the bolt open when empty. The rebuild is a complete success.

Final Thoughts

Tactically speaking, it's a good idea to have two sets of magazines. One set is your operational magazines. They should be checked for function with your defense ammo and set aside. These are the mags you keep in your rifle for actually fighting.

The other mags are for training; they'll get thrown on the ground, stepped on, and all the other things that happen during training and practice. To be able to tell the difference between the two

groups, I use tape on the bottom of the mag to color-code them.

A weapon's magazines are a critical part of your gear. For training or practice you need functioning equipment. If you're clearing malfunctions during every other drill, it makes it hard to focus on improving your other skills. Magazines must be working properly for your weapon to do you any good in a fight. When lives are at stake you shouldn't be risking anything by trying to save a couple of dollars on cheap equipment.

Remember, your "tactical chain" is only as strong as its weakest link. In a

fight you'll only get one chance to win, so make sure every piece of your equipment is up to the task.

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Sig's Tactical

Sig Sauer gets into the 1911 market with an emphasis on craftsmanship, performance, and quality parts

When Sig Sauer first began making noises about building a 1911, a friend remarked, “There have been European 1911s before, but no good ones.”

I'm sure he was referencing Spanish ironmongery. Norwegian license-built 1911s and the Peters Stahl handguns were well made of good material. But perhaps my friend missed the point. The Sig 1911 isn't European but a product of the gun-wise Yankees in Exeter, New Hampshire. Its pistol, called the GSR or Granite (for the Granite State) Series Rail, has an impeccable pedigree.

What it takes to make the GSR

The goal in Exeter was to produce an American-made 1911 with a touch of Sig flair. Sig understands the advantages of the 1911 platform, namely marketability, and they would only change the template slightly. The 1911's straight-to-the-rear trigger compression, low bore axis, well placed controls, and overall excellent human engineering would not be changed.

After outlining its goals, Sig chose parts for the GSR carefully. The Sig custom shop assembles the pistol from high-quality parts — it compiled a wish list of top-end parts from respected vendors to finish the GSR in house. This is the norm for modern 1911 pistols.

1911

by Bob Campbell

I've examined other factory parts guns that did not make the grade. Some of the internal parts seemed so rough they may have been hammered out on a rock. A rather expensive factory pistol suffered the loss of a magazine release during the first outing. Sig avoided these problems.

While the pistol is comparable to custom handguns, you save considerably in the long run with a production pistol such as the GSR. Caspian supplies the frame and slide and the internal parts are from Wilson Combat, Evolution Gun Works, Performance Engineering, and Greider Precision. As someone who has built quite a few 1911 pistols, I know it's less expensive to purchase a complete build kit from a single maker. Sig went the preferred route of shopping for the best parts for the GSR.

The fitting and attention to detail are remarkably consistent. The stocks are from Herretts, a respected maker of custom grips. The trigger guard resembles the European Sigs. Sig chose a Storm Lake barrel with a 1-in-16 twist, and the fit is impressive. When you rack the slide, it's obvious someone who knows the 1911 has worked on this pistol.

Trigger compression is set at 4 pounds with no creep or backlash. The GSR features Novak sights; the front sight is not only dovetailed, but also pinned in place. These sights are adjustable, but in normal use won't go anywhere.

In the final formula, the GSR made a concession to European Sigs with a redesigned slide that gives the pistol a unique look. The slide is narrowed to resemble the P series Sig, but it's all 1911 in operation.

Engineers also included a light rail on the frame. (There is a slick-frame option available.) A light rail isn't uniquely Sig, but the pistol is intended for hard-use situations. And those who make a living with a pistol sometimes want a light hanging on the frame. Despite the frame rail, the pistol weighs 39 ounces — just like the standard government model.

Far from a conglomeration of mismatched parts, the confluence of quality results in a great performer. The Sig GSR is meant to sell and Sig shooters and 1911 folks are a different market. Each has shown considerable interest in the GSR.

Shooting the GSR

A generation ago it was considered standard operating procedure for a 1911 to require a break-in period of 50 to 200 rounds to set in the link and get rid

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If This "Incident" Happened to One of the Women At Your Office ... How Would You Have Responded?

December 17, 2007: West Los Angeles, California:

A muscular, tattooed gang member barges into the office of an upscale advertising agency and abducts the young, attractive receptionist at gun point.

But a fast-thinking, alert office employee actually "snaps" the gun out of his hand and then knocks him "cold" with a single crushing blow to the jaw ... and he stays "out" until police come and arrest him!

Hi, my name is Captain Chris Pizzo and I'm considered by many experts to be the top self defense instructor in the world! Here are a few of my credentials...

I hold black belts in 5 different martial arts, a U.S. Gold Medal in Grappling, and my students include international contractors (mercenaries), high-profile security agents, and hundreds of law enforcement agents at the local, state and federal level.

And if this doesn't credentialize myself enough, maybe this will ... I've recently been contracted to teach elite U.S. Military Forces like the Army Rangers and Navy Seals ... to disarm and capture enemy soldiers and Al Qaeda terrorists!

Now let me ask you a question...How would you have responded to the "situation" you just read about?

Police statistics show over 80% of people "freeze" in dangerous situations because they do not have the physical or mental confidence to "step in."

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knowledge I give to elite forces of the Army Rangers and Navy Seals. And tips on how to become the "baddest guy on your block" isn't all you'll get...

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of burrs. I've noted a tendency of 1911s from houses of good repute to avoid this break-in period. The Sig came out of the box running. Like all quality handguns, the Sig prefers some types of ammunition over others for accuracy but always feeds, fires, and ejects regardless of the type of ammo.

For this report, I tested the gun on two levels. First, I fired offhand at 10 yards for combat accuracy, firing as quickly as I could pull the front sights back into the rear notch. I then fired for absolute accuracy off the benchrest.

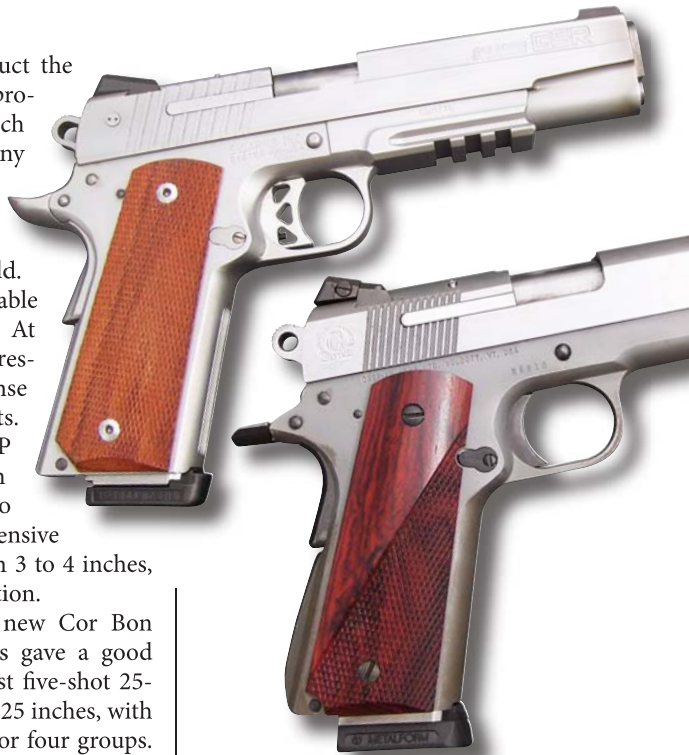
While combat accuracy is more important, absolute accuracy is an indication of the quality of manufacture. Either test is a chore with some handguns, but with a first-rate 1911 the firing tests are enjoyable. This steel-framed 1911 simply hung on the target during firing tests and more often than not the X-ring disappeared under the hammering of .45 ACP hardball.

During the test period I relied heavily upon affordable practice ammunition. Fioocchi 230-grain ball gave excellent results. I used the 200-grain XTP load from

the same maker to conduct the five-shot, 10-yard test program, often firing 2-inch groups — excellent by any standard.

The GSR is well regulated for 230-grain ball with the six o'clock hold. A dead-on hold is suitable for the 200-grain loads. At the 25-yard-line, I benchrested several potential defense loads with excellent results. The Fioocchi 200-grain XTP load proved accurate, with five shots grouping into less than 2 inches. Inexpensive ball ammunition ran from 3 to 4 inches, SOP for practice ammunition.

Not surprisingly the new Cor Bon Performance Match loads gave a good show, generating the finest five-shot 25-yard group of the test at 1.25 inches, with an average of 1.5 inches for four groups. Cor Bon's Thunder Ranch 185-grain DPX load is comparable to the Performance Match load in practical terms, averaging 2 inches or so for five shots at 25 yards.



SIG SAUER ACADEMY

Founded in 1990, the Sig Sauer Academy is situated on 130 acres in Epping, New Hampshire, about five miles from Sig's manufacturing plant.

The academy features indoor and outdoor tactical ranges and services both armed professionals and private citizens with a suite of offerings from foundational skills through advanced tactics, instructor development, and armorer certifications.

The academy staff has conducted training in all 50 states and in 36 countries. Every course can be customized and taught at the Epping facility or anywhere.

For details, visit www.sigsaueracademy.com or call 603-679-2003.

I fired a number of drills with a combat light, the Surefire X-300, attached. Results were excellent. I fired a considerable number of +P loads during the test and, despite the pounding of +P loads, the light never wavered. This is a good kit.

I practiced barricade fire and found my groups comparable to earlier efforts at the benchrest. I like to test a handgun with lead bullet handloads for economy, ball ammunition for function, and service loads for reliability. I also run a few +P loads through the piece; +P loads are similar to running the family sedan at 100 mph over a bumpy road, but they serve a purpose. I fired Cor Bon +P rounds in 185-, 200- and 230-grain loads. The 200-grain Cor Bon has always been my first choice as this is an accuracy champ with a good balance of expansion and penetration. I was able to fire a 25-yard barricade group of less than 3 inches with this load. Function was good, and the GSR is among the most comfortable of all 1911s when using +P ammo. There are no sharp edges on the tang or grip safety, and in all cases the controls were tight and crisp.

Carrying the GSR

Since rail gun holsters are a little difficult to find, I relied upon the Saguaro Gunleather belt slide for range work. This is a simple holster that gives fine results. I drew quickly from this holster and practiced transitions between targets at 7 to 10 yards. Again, the GSR simply hung on the target.

The author's custom Caspian base is fitted with many of the same parts used in the Sig Granite Series Rail.



Lee Berry works the GSR on steel plates. Note the spent case just leaving the chamber.

Toward the end of the test period, I obtained an IWB holster from Secret Squirrel Leather specifically designed for a 1911 rail gun. The holster is adjustable for cant and fits the GSR well. Since the handgun will be carried concealed, I replaced the checkered grips with a set of smooth grips from Paladin Grips. Perhaps this was not completely necessary, but the GSR is now truly snag free. There is no penalty in control and the pistol conceals as well as any steel-framed 1911.

These days, most of my work against bad guys is carried out with a computer. Just the same, I do not like being "naked." I most often carry some type of aluminum-framed 1911. When the likelihood of contact with our ex-con criminal class is higher, I often don a steel-framed 1911 and back-up the piece with several Metal-form magazines.

I cannot imagine a better 1911 to depend upon than the Sig GSR. The pistol has met or exceeded every expectation. This is a fine handgun well worth your consideration.

TACTICAL GEAR

SERIOUS MISSIONS SERIOUS KNIVES



Performance Driven, Duty-Ready.

The 0100 is a military-style, fixed-blade knife designed by Ken Onion and featuring an innovative "recurve" blade shape. Onion designed the 0100 blade for multi-tasking, minimal mass, and maximum performance. It provides ideal leverage for cutting the toughest materials and a perfectly centered point for precision piercing.

A portion of the proceeds from every sale of this high-quality, duty-ready knife will be donated to the PVA Heritage Fund, which works on behalf of the veterans who have given so much in service to their country.



Model **0100**
designed by Ken Onion

Blade.....CPM3V tool steel with Tungsten DLC coating
5-3/4 inches (14.6 cm), .190 inches thick
Scales.....3-D machined, G-10 in matte black
Overall.....10-1/2 inches (26.7 cm)
Weight.....11.2 oz. (19.6 oz. with sheath)
Includes nylon sheath with MOLLE compatible,
multi-carry configuration webbing and universal pouch.

MSRP: \$295.00



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HIT YOUR

MARKS

FINDING THE TARGET TO FIT YOUR NEEDS AND BUDGET

You can improve your shooting skills by choosing the right target. It's true. Certain target styles can maximize range time and increase proficiency.

To start, let's first divide target types into different categories. There are target types to fit anyone's training or budgetary needs. They are (listed by cheapest to most expensive):

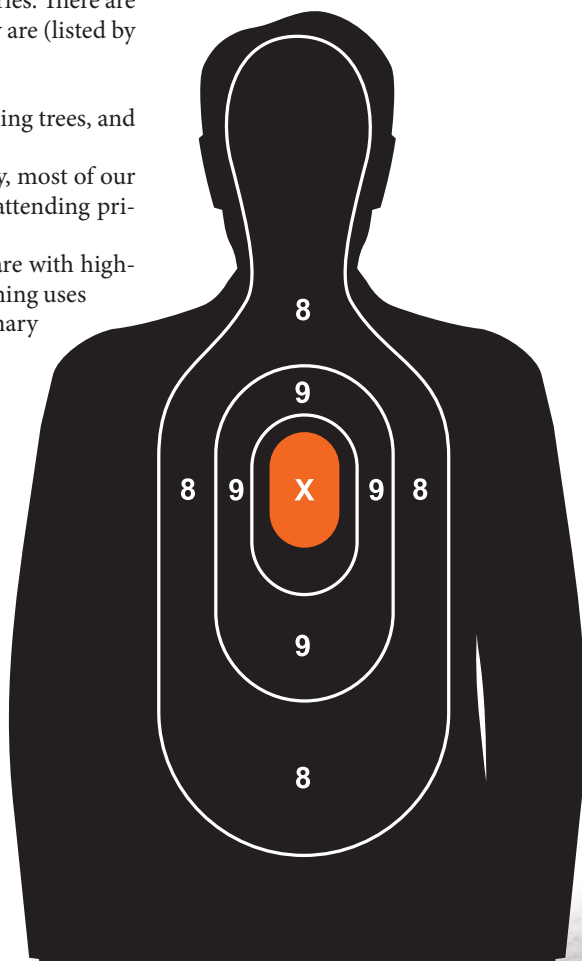
- Paper or cardboard targets (not all are created equal).
- Steel targets made up of steel poppers, plate racks, dueling trees, and other innovative training aids.
- Pneumatic and hydraulic target systems. Unfortunately, most of our exposure with this type is confined to watching on TV or attending private ranges/shooting skills.
- Targets controlled or monitored with computer software with high-quality steel grades that offer a myriad of options for training uses (military or law enforcement training facilities are the primary users, based on resources needed to purchase and operate).

Paper/Cardboard Targets

Law Enforcement Targets Inc. is a great source for targets. A visit to its website (www.letargets.com/) will provide hundreds of paper/cardboard targets along with steel and other systems.

Innovative designs, including numbered circles or shapes of different sizes and colors, are not a random conglomeration. Larger shapes help shooters emphasize speed, while smaller shapes reinforce basic pistol craft such as grip, trigger control, and sight alignment.

The different numbered shapes allow for drills where a partner or range master calls out a number or shape to be engaged. Shooters have to be flexible and must be able to react quickly, since they won't know the target until immediately before the weapon is drawn.





Another favorite target is the playing card variety where speed and accuracy can be practiced. One example of this is shooting the best hand with five rounds in an allotted time frame. This target also lends itself well as a precision rifle target.

Invest in good target stands for paper targets. Good stands can be found for approximately \$45 and are worth the investment in terms of time saved. Time at the range should be used practicing, not driving stakes in the ground or rigging targets to stand up long enough to be perforated.

The idea of punching paper with different symbols, sizes and shapes forces the shooter to focus on the target and differentiate between many different potential targets.

Anyone can shoot double taps on a cardboard silhouette and learn to be very proficient. The challenge with numbered or color-coded targets is to concentrate and select the best possible shot while maintaining the sound mechanics required to put the rounds on target.

When you shoot, you have to be thinking. This is especially true in a self-defense situation. If you're not thinking when shooting under stress, you'll most likely be firing blindly — and that helps no one.



Reactionary Targets

If you have the space and money, steel or polymer reactionary targets are outstanding and durable. The downsides to using steel are twofold: Weight and ricochets.

First, weight. Hauling heavy steel targets to and from the range with any frequency gets old in a hurry; it may cause your personal “cost-benefit” calculator to overload unless you have a buddy. Second, ricochets are an occasional hazard. If you’ve ever stood too close to a steel target during a CQB drill you certainly understand why eye protection is required.

Metal, combined with paper targets,

offer plenty of variety. Shooters and rangemasters can choose among falling plates, dueling plates on a post, pepper poppers or free-standing reactionary targets in a variety of formats. The variety continues with things like automatically resetting plates, shoot/no-shoot targets, vital areas surrounded by no-shoot areas. You name it, someone is making it.

If you want steel, Mike Gibson Manufacturing (MGM) is a good place to start, but there are dozens of makers for every level of shooter. My favorite is the MGM Precision Rifle Target. It is a steel target with vital zone plates in the chest and head areas that swing open or shut when

struck. The maker, like all the other makers, offers several different thicknesses to match your caliber needs.

In training scenarios, steel targets are durable, versatile, and provide instant feedback. They move or make noise when hit. And many of the varieties can be adjusted to make them fall with hits in different locations. It’s pretty easy to set up a popper to fall only after a head shot or dial it down to ensure it falls no matter where it’s hit.

Reactionary targets are great for high-speed shooting and putting multiple rounds on target quickly. The targets also stand up well to multiple hits and, once in place, are easier to reset than paper.

Polymer reactionary targets look and act like steel, but without the noise and ricochet potential. Anything that can be made of steel is also currently being made of polymer, and that includes poppers, plates and shoot/don’t-shoot targets. The big benefits of polymer are the durability and the ability to do ultra-close-range work without fear of bullet fragments coming back at you. The downside is: no hollow points. Hollow points simply tear the heck out of polymer targets.

Pneumatic/Hydraulic Controlled Targets

Next on the target hierarchy is the pneumatic or hydraulic controlled targets. These systems are the norm at most high-end shooting schools or private ranges. They allow for training within certain time limits as a target pivots towards or away from a shooter. This is great for analyzing one’s skill level and helps identify any issues with technique or equipment. “Mover” targets provide the rare opportunity to fire at a target tracking side to side or moving toward or away from an individual.

Another innovative moving target that is gaining popularity is a target placed on top of a radio-controlled base, allowing for it to break free from constraints imposed by a rail system.

Anyone who consistently uses these upper end target systems will attest to their effectiveness for training. Unfortunately, only a small percentage of shooters get to use these invaluable training devices.

The high-end target systems are often reserved for law enforcement or military agencies. These systems combine all motorized or RC aspects with computer software controlling presentation sequences, counting hits/misses, and calculating proficiency.

TARGET TIPS & TECHNIQUES

No matter what target type you use, a little extra effort and initiative will go a long way to maximize your training experience. Most techniques can be done on a limited budget and implemented quickly and easily.

1. Put clothing around a standard paper target goes a long way in enhancing realism in training. This will give even the most basic paper target a three-dimensional shape and obscure the clearly labeled “X” ring that most aim at automatically. This technique will also work with any kind of pneumatic or hydraulic targets that turn or “pop up” to the shooter.

2. Add simulated weapons designating shoot/no-shoot targets.

3. Turn a paper target mocked up with clothing slightly to the side for another “realistic” approach.

4. Use a target made up of equally sized circles numbered sequentially to break up the routine of man-shaped silhouette targets. Have a partner call out specific numbers for engagement, and then require a certain number of shots to match the number listed on the circle. This will force shooters to remember numbers called and monitor shots fired. This will force a shooter to multi-task and concentrate something besides firing the weapon.

5. Modify idea #4 and incorporate magazine change drills based on a high volume of fire, which requests weapons to be reloaded.

6. Steel targets can be given a certain paint color dictating which one is worthy of engagement.

7. Mix up multiple target types — silhouettes, bullseye targets, your mocked-up “mannequins,” and so on. Again, have a partner call out targets, number of shots, or other instructions that force you to concentrate on multiple directions.

Everything possible needs to be done to safely eliminate the feeling of the “square” clean range atmosphere. Different range drills are only limited by one’s imagination.



A few examples of paper targets available for use to maximize training time. Even a clay pigeon as a reactive target offers the opportunity for positive feedback.

A good example is a new system recently introduced by the Honestas Corporation (Honestas Ltd.) from Finland. Its Gemini Reactive Steel Target System (GRSTS-6) utilizes the best steel for almost limitless round strikes up to and including .308 Winchester. The system has been designed to handle medium machine gun fire at point blank range.

It has a head plate feature that can be programmed to appear and disappear whenever the instructor decides. The base of the unit simulates a chest shot. It can be used as a single target or a complex series of units all controlled from a laptop via wireless, and isn't limited to a stationary role.

It is man-portable and has a self-contained power source allowing for field use and ease of deployment. GRSTS-6 has been tested in Finland in Arctic conditions and is a true all-weather system (designed to function in temperatures ranging from -40 degrees to 100+ degrees). It's labeled as one of the most durable and high tech systems currently available.

This all comes with a commensurate price tag, of course. I attended a demonstration of the system. It delivers what it promises in terms of longevity, multiple uses, and simplicity of operation. GRSTS-6 maximizes training time with its ease of operation and numerous configurations. It can serve as solitary pistol target, long range precision rifle target, reactionary steel popper, multiple weapon stations for dynamic tactics, and can even allow a full squad to practice fire and maneuver tactics.

Conclusion

The criteria for selecting targets is simple — maximize the benefits of any training time or funds that can be used. Quality will outshine quantity. Targets and weapons are mere tools that mean nothing if the individual is not prepared, and that's where consistent training turns. Training is what is important and the proper choice of targets can aid in this.

TACTICAL GEAR



TARGET RESOURCE GUIDE

Here's a list of just a few companies that supply targets.

Action Target,

www.actiontarget.com. Features range equipment and targets for law enforcement and military, plus a directory of steel targets.

Advanced Training Systems,

www.atsusa.biz. Range equipment, portable targets and more for law enforcement. ALCO Target Co., <http://alcotarget.com>. Paper, metal, and other targets for training and qualification.

Amchar Wholesale, Inc.,

www.amchar.com. Wholesaler of various products.

American Target Co.,

www.americantargetcompany.com. A huge array of targets for law enforcement members.

Attack Target/MGM Targets/Mike Gibson Mfg.,

www.attacktarget.com or www.mgmtargets.com. Dynamic moving targets on trolley systems to improve reaction times.

Birchwood Casey,

www.birchwoodcasey.com.

Blackheart International,

www.bhigear.com. Variety of targets, including many in Global War on Terror silhouette.

Brownells,

www.brownells.com. More than 150 targets (tip: type "targets" in the search field in the upper left, then use the "Narrow Your Search" field in the center of the screen to find specific target types).

Defensor,

www.honestas.com. Important note: The site will come up in Finnish, so click on the British flag for the English site.

Elite Target Systems,

www.elitetargetsystems.com. Portable two-position wireless turning system.

Law Enforcement Targets Inc.,

www.letargets.com.

Mancom Manufacturing Inc.,

www.mancom.ca. Creators of Touch Plus target equipment; dedicated staff can assist with indoor/outdoor practice range planning and design.

Midsouth Shooters Supply Inc.,

www.midsouthshooterssupply.com. Carries a variety of paper, metal, and other targets (primarily Birchwood Casey). Look under Range Accessories, then look under Targets.

National Target,

www.nationaltarget.com. Paper pistol and rifle targets for police and military.

Newbold Targets,

www.newboldtargets.com. Self-sealing handgun and pistol polymer targets eliminate ricochets as they react to hits.

Qualification Targets,

www.targets.net. Turning target and other systems.

Range Systems,

www.range-systems.com. Features a variety of paper, plastic, steel, and other targets and systems.

The Mako Group,

www.makosecurity.com. Reactive targets and equipment.

Metal Spinning Targets,

www.metaltargets.com. Click on the "Law Enforcement" link to view selections.

Pistoleer Targets,

www.pistoleer.com. NRA silhouette and law enforcement targets.

Safe Direction,

www.safedirection.com. Reactive steel targets.

Savage Range System and

PortaTarget, www.portatarget.com. Non-reactive targets, reactive targets, target stands, electric targets, pneumatic targets.

Speedwell Targets,

www.speedwelltargets.com. A variety of cardboard, plastic, and steel targets for handguns and rifles; qualification, military, and law enforcement levels.

Stonewall Arms,

www.stonewallarms.com. Distributor of a number of products.

The Target Shop,

www.thetargetshop.com. Paper targets for law enforcement.

TJ Target,

www.tjtarget.com. Paper targets.



Blending In

Customize your gear with this **“Camouflage Made Easy”** program

There is nothing that visually stands out more than a rifle. It can be a modern urban environment, a dusty village in Iraq, or the middle of dense bush and the first thing that will grab someone’s eye will be the shape of a rifle.

It’s a two-sided coin: Spotting a rifle makes it easy to locate bad guys, it’s also easier for them to find you. To prevent this possibility, which can have deadly consequences, we need to explore the art of camouflaging. And whether it’s a matter of life and death or not, we can’t ignore the C.D.I. (Chicks Dig It) factor. Nothing looks cooler on the range, and separates you from the rest of the crowd, as a weapon with a sexy camo job.

Camouflaging your equipment can be accomplished in a variety of ways. Tape, cloth, and burlap are temporary measures that can be changed to fit different environments. There are professional systems that use two part paints and provide durable long lasting finishes. And then there’s my favorite friend, the spray can. Spray paint is cheap, available almost anywhere, and it’s easy and quick; using a few simple materials, some imagination, and a little spare time, you can create professional-looking camo jobs.

The basic principles of camouflaging are to blend into the environment to create concealment and to disguise your gear, making it appear to be something else. The eye is quick to pick up on anything abnormal, so we need a few tricks to fool it.

By Tiger McKee



First, avoid pure black. Few things in nature or man-made environments are pure black. If you examine these environments, you'll see the dark areas are just the same colors darkened by shadows or the lack of light. (My grandfather taught me at an early age not to look for the rabbit, but to spot its round black eyes.)

Next, try to create depth by incorporating blurry areas underneath sharply defined areas. Even if you focus on the object, blurry areas give it the appearance of being "deeper" than it really is.

Finally, we want to trick the eye by making the object appear to be upside down. If you study an area, you'll notice that the tops of objects are usually lighter in color than the bottom. In nature animals reverse this out; the top of a deer is brown while its underside is white. Doing the same thing with your gear makes it appear to be a different shape as opposed to something the eye is familiar with.

The materials you'll need are easy to obtain. For paint, go for flat colors that won't dry with a shiny finish. I normally work with camo paints from Brownells. Brownells offers a variety of high-density colors, which means they cover really well without having to apply multiple coats. You can also pick up other brands of camo paint at most shops that sell hunting supplies, and larger hardware stores will have some in stock.

You'll want a mask to reduce inhaling fumes and overspray and a set of safety glasses. I wear latex gloves to keep paint off my hands and prevent oil on my hands from transferring to the gear during handling.

A degreaser, such as acetone or Brownells TCE degreaser, is highly recommended to remove oil from the weapon. Scuff pads or sandpaper are used to prep the surfaces.

Masking tape — the expensive good blue stuff made specifically for painting — is needed to cover important areas that you don't want painted. You may also need a sharp utility knife for trimming tape or making stencils.

A stand or some way to hang your gear allows you to work around all sides while painting.

Those are the basics; you may need to pick up other materials depending on the technique you use.

CAPTIONS FROM LEFT TO RIGHT

You can be wearing great camouflage and blend into your environment, but a black weapon attracts attention like a clown at a funeral. Notice how the solid green pants stand out; stick to the idea that camouflage does its best to replicate nature's random patterns.

The materials needed to camouflage your equipment are easy to find and won't cost a lot of money. The exact materials you'll need depend on the technique being used.

Here are the three stages of the stencil technique. The top stock has the base colors applied, blending them from dark to light. The middle stock has detail added using the positive stencil (in this case a piece of plastic plant). The bottom stock shows what it should look like after using the negative stencil to apply the final colors.

The finished products are pictured here. The AR was painted using the sponging technique and the shotgun was camouflaged for urban environments using the masking technique. Several of the different techniques were used on the bolt rifle.

When working with firearms, the first step is to make sure the weapon is clear and unloaded. The safety rules still apply, and I'm always careful of where I point the muzzle. Any loose ammo is secured. If I leave the work area, I recheck once I return to make sure the weapon is still empty. I also don't take any chances with my eyes, so as soon as I enter the shop I slap on a pair of safety glasses.

Sponging

"Sponging," using a rough sponge to blot on color, is one of the easiest techniques to use when painting your gun. Most people who have painted the inside of a home are familiar with this interior decorating standard.

The first step is to tape off any areas that you don't want to be painted or damaged, such as the lens and dials on optics, and iron sights. Make sure you cover other areas that are critical to its operations, such as the muzzle crown or bolt.

After donning a pair of gloves, I degrease the weapon to ensure there isn't any oil present. Depending on the weapon, you may need to prep the surface by lightly scuffing the parts. If you have wood stocks — especially anything with a slick clear finish — you may need to take extra time and sand it. Once you've prepped the surface, degrease again.

Spray a base coat using at least two colors, and blend one into the other to create the "blurring" effect. Then, taking a coarse painting sponge (available at any major hardware store or craft shop), sponge the next color onto the areas

where the base colors meet.

I cut the sponge into different sizes and shapes and constantly rotate the shapes so I don't end up with a repetitive pattern. To apply the paint to the sponge, just spray it until it's good and moist, then sponge until it's dry. Then repeat. Once this is done, I'll sometimes use a fourth color and sponge on the highlights using a lighter color, or create shadowed areas using a darker paint.

Stenciling

"Stenciling" is about as easy as the sponging method. The prepping process is the same.

Again, start by laying down a base coat using at least two colors. Once it's dry, use a stencil to add more defined patterns.

Stencils can either be positive — such as a section of fake plastic plant — or negative, created by cutting patterns from cardstock to create a silhouette or a negative stencil.

Attach the stencil to the rifle by the stencil to conform to the weapon's shape, and tape it to the rifle. It doesn't have to be perfectly formed to fit the rifle; anywhere the stencil is not touching will create a blurry area to provide a sense of depth.

With the stencil attached, spray the next color, being careful not to spray too heavily (once you remove the stencil, there's usually too much contrast). Then move the stencil to a different location or attach another stencil and repeat the process.

Using different colors or stencil shapes will create a more random pattern. This



technique works really well for field environments where you're trying to reproduce the chaos found in nature. Let your wild side guide you.

DO-IT-YOURSELF SNAKESKIN CAMO

The snakeskin pattern is the most creative and complicated pattern I've done, but as you can see the results are well worth the effort.

To create the "scales," I cut out sections of a mesh laundry bag to wrap around the black stock, and then sprayed the mesh on one side with an adhesive so it sticks and conforms to the shape of the stock.

After the mesh is laid down over the stock the second color — a dark brown — is sprayed over the entire stock.

After drying, a thin pin striping tape masks off the triangular areas, creating a large checkerboard pattern (seen as brown in the sample photo). Make sure to really press the tape down when applying it over the mesh so you don't get any bleeding of colors.

Next, a light-green color is sprayed over the stock.

A stencil cut into the shape of a diamond — the size of the diamond shapes created by the pin-striping tape — is used with tan paint to provide shading in the scales. Spray light coats here. Each diamond is shaded with this stencil.

Once this is dry I removed all the tape and mesh, and taking a small paintbrush, using white or light gray, I applied little dots of highlight to individual scales.



This is an experimental pattern to simulate snakeskin. Not only will it camo your rifle, but it looks really cool.

Masking

"Masking" is a little more complicated and time-consuming, but also produces some of the best results.

Use masking tape to create shapes as you layer on your paint. I recommend starting with your darkest color and working your way to the lightest. You can always blend colors for depth.

Begin with your base color. Cut out masking tape to cover the areas that you want to remain that color. Any areas left uncovered will be painted over, so advance planning is necessary — especially if you're trying to reproduce or match an existing camo pattern.

Once you have the areas masked off, apply the next color. Let it dry. Mask off the areas you want to remain that color and spray again. After completing all the masks and colors, remove the tape to reveal the finished product.



With the sponge technique, use a rough sponge cut to various shapes and apply patterns of light and dark colors over the top of your base colors to create definition, depth, and contrast.

The cool thing about these techniques is that you can combine them to obtain a variety of results. Consider the environment in which you're most likely to use your weapon and use colors and shapes that match that area. When in doubt, use lighter colors rather than darker.

For practice, use wood 2x4s until you have your technique squared away. If you run a paint application on your weapon you don't like, you can always scuff it up and paint it over again. If you're a little squeamish about painting your weapon, just paint the "furniture" (stocks, grips, and handguards), leaving the receiver and barrel plain.

Camo Time

The amount of time it takes to complete your camo job depends on the complexity of the pattern or technique used. A complicated masking technique will take more time just to cut out the patterns. The sponging technique takes about 30 minutes; maybe a little longer, depending on how quick your paint dries.

The good thing about most camo paint is that it dries quickly unless it's a cold or humid day. I normally paint outside so the sun helps with the drying process.

Just remember that even though it may be dry to the touch, it will take a day or so for the paint to fully cure, so avoid handling the weapon any more than necessary until it's fully cured.



This is the sponging technique pictured in stages. The AR is taped to protect the barrel, receiver and the light's lens. The stock, handguards, light, and grip have been sprayed with the base colors, blending them together. The handguard, light, and grip have already been sponged.

Camo for Other Equipment

Camouflage should extend to all your other related equipment, such as spotting scopes, binoculars, and other items in your gear bag. Clothing and equipment must match your surroundings, with special consideration given to exposed parts of your body. Face paints, masks, veils, and gloves all work well to break up the shape and coloring of the body. One school of thought recommends wearing top and bottom clothing of different camo patterns to visually break up the body's shape even more.

Your job is to reduce target indicators that you create, such as contrast, outline, and reflections. These target indicators allow an observer to pick you out easily. When I've been working in the woods, one of the quickest things I pick up on is the human face and eyes. And camouflage can also extend to other target indicators such as sound, movement, and smell.

Think about the practical "field" applications of camouflage: Don't stand out and draw attention. For the sniper, this means blending into the environment for a successful mission. For a hunter, it can be the difference between putting meat in the freezer and just spending a nice day in the field.

Even for the average citizen, camouflage can be an important day-to-day consideration. If you don't want to be noticed, wear dull-colored clothes such

as khaki and gray that blend into almost any environment and don't stand out in a crowd. I drive an old beat-up pickup truck that nobody would think about breaking into.

Like my buddy who works for one of those special government agencies says, "If anybody ever sees us, we didn't do our job right." Camouflage, whether direct or subtle, will help you complete your mission — whether it's a SWAT call-out or a simple grocery run — without anyone ever knowing you've been there.

Tiger McKee is director of Shootrite Firearms Academy, located in north Alabama, and author of "The Book of Two Guns." McKee can be reached through the web site www.shootrite.org or at phone number 256-582-4777.

TACTICALGEAR

.308

For Precision

One of the more “inherently accurate” cartridges ever adopted for military service is the 7.62x51 — commonly called the .762 NATO and sold commercially as the .308 Winchester.

Created in 1952, the round is hard to beat for most shooters. But cartridge designers continue to make improvements to the .308 and its dominance as a match cartridge is pretty much assured. In addition to its accuracy, the .308 carries a great reputation as a manstopper, especially at long range.

The .308 is at its most interesting when fired from an accurate bolt-action or self-loading tactical rifle. With a good rifle and load combination, a shooter can regularly get groups of ½ MOA to ¾ MOA; smaller when the moon is just right and the stars align. While such groups might not win many benchrest matches, they will serve very well in a tactical situation.

We'll look at three rifles chambered for .308 that are fully capable of extreme accuracy for tactical situations. They are: the Remington 700P PSS (Police Sniper System), a custom Remington 700-based M40 Marine Sniper rifle replica, and a custom Springfield M1A Super Match.

Springfield M1A Super Match

The M1A rifle is the civilian, semi-automatic version of the military's M14 service rifle adopted in 1957.

The M14 evolved from the M1 Garand used in World War II and the Korean War. The two rifles share the same basic receiver design, but there are a number of other differences, most notably the detachable box magazine and the fully automatic capability of the M14.

Even with the lighter recoiling T-65 round, the recoil of the M14 when fired full-auto caused excessive muzzle climb, and the rifle was practically uncontrollable. Most had their selector switch “locked out,” rendering them semi-automatic only.

The M1A semi-automatic rifle used in this review didn't start as a Super Match. It was purchased new as a standard service-grade rifle. The barrel was TRW military surplus (often cited as a good one by M1A shooters).

When choosing a precision tactical rifle, look no further than the .308 Winchester. Here are three rifles that will put the rounds right where you want them.

by Scott Stoppelman



There had been little thought to upgrading the rifle to match specs, but after a couple of years of hand loading, glass-bedding, and other fooling around the rifle seemed at best a solid 1½ MOA shooter but there was room for improvement. So I called Springfield Armory to talk about upgrading this rifle to match specs.

When the rifle was shipped back to Springfield it was accompanied by a heavy, laminated and finished Super Match stock that could be used as a substitute for one of its stocks and would be glass-bedded by them. The trigger was worked down to a crisp 4.5 pounds (minimum for NRA matches) and a match-reamed pre-ban flash suppressor was added.

It was obvious from the beginning that this rifle was going to be a shooter. It didn't take long to make up some good loads for this rifle. Some powders are more suitable for gas-operated rifles than others. Powders like H380 and Alliants Reloder 15 are about

as slow as one wants to burn in these barrels, while numbers like IMR 3031 are on the fast side. The M1A shooter will find several good powders to try with various bullets and primers. Reloder 15 has proven to be an excellent performer in this rifle and is being used in the current military sniper round, pushing the Sierra 175-grain match bullet at about 2550 feet per second (fps).

Thus far this rifle's best groups had been fired using a similar load: a handload consisting of 45.0 grains of R-15 behind that same Sierra bullet in Winchester cases lit by the Federal 210 match primer. With that primer, the best group measured a tight .420-inch for four shots. Curious as to how it would perform with a common primer more suitable for a gas gun (slightly harder shell to guard against slam fires), I tried the CCI 200 LR primer and the same load grouped at .395 inch, better yet. That became the standard load for this rifle.



In the right rifle, the .308 brings a nearly perfect combination of accuracy and power. There is no wonder it is the most popular sniper round in the world.

I fired these groups from the bench on sandbags, hand-held with various scopes and mounts. The standard scope mount that accompanies many new M1A rifles is OK if of the one-screw type, but even better when using the second-generation two-screw type. A further improvement is one of the aftermarket mounts, such as the one on this Super Match — an the A.R.M.S. #18 M1A mount. This all-steel mount has but one main attaching screw/bolt on the side but is also attached to the rear of the receiver bridge where the clip loading block would be. There is a third attaching point up front using a set screw with lock to further stabilize the mount.

Perhaps the best thing about this mount — and the main reason it was chosen for this rifle — is it sits very low when compared to the issue-type aluminum mounts which allow the shooter to have access to the iron sights. This lower mounting allows the shooter to gain a good “cheek weld” without having to add a cheekpiece to the stock’s comb.

Fastened to this mount is a recent manufacture Leatherwood ART type 3-9X40 scope similar to the military version used on these rifles during the Vietnam era. On this type of scope, any change in elevation is achieved by moving the scope/base assembly up or down as opposed to making internal adjustments in the scope. When this capability is not needed, the scope’s power is fixed at 9X and the ranging feature disengaged. While the match rear sight’s ½ MOA hood had to be removed and a little metal removed from the mount to clear the rear sight’s protective “wings,” this scope just looks right on the rifle and the optics are clear. Other less complicated scope mounting arrangements should not require these changes, and no permanent modifications were made to the rifle.

This is certainly the most accurate M1A of my experience and with its green-toned laminate stock and ART scope, is quite striking.

M40 “Marine Sniper”

At Remington Law Enforcement booth at the 2006 SHOT SHOW, on display was an M40 Marine Sniper rifle similar to those that had been used in Vietnam. It was actually a prototype of a replica rifle to be made available to the public and would adhere to the original 1960 specs of the M40 rifle to the Marine Corps.

I figured then that if Remington could remake the M40, I could make my own.

To get started in the building of the

This Remington (below) will put rounds right where you want them at ranges that require the use of good optics.



“M40” seen here, I bought an early model Remington 700 at a local gun show. The downside to using an ADL instead of a BDL is that the ADL is a “blind magazine” rifle with no magazine floor-plate assembly. Thus the mortise for one was carefully cut into the belly of the stock. The 1960s impressed “checkering” had to be removed from the stock as there is none present on an M40. Military type 1-1/4-inch non-detachable sling swivels were added. The stock was then completely stripped, sanded, stained and finished with linseed oil for a “dull military” finish.

A local gunsmith was given the task of re-barreling with a new Shilen medium-heavy, match-grade, chrome-moly steel barrel measuring .830 inch at the muzzle. The M40 rifle’s 24-inch barrels were rifled with a 1:10 twist, which this Shilen barrel has. Conventional wisdom seems to indicate that if heavier bullets are to be used, the quicker twist may prove more conducive to accuracy; if so, it’s very hard to prove.

With the barrel now installed, the barreled action was shipped out to be parkerized. I had specified an O.D. green tint, but got gray instead. As the stock was waiting for the barreled action and still needed to be glass-bedded, I opted to keep it as received. It seems to be darkening as time passes and at least was well done. As to the glass-bedding, original M40 rifles were shipped “hand bedded” to the wood stock by Remington. Many were later glass-bedded by Marine armors here and overseas.

This “M40” required a proper scope.

That meant finding a used Redfield 3-9X40 Accu-Range model with its unusual range-finding system as part of the reticle. It’s three parts: With the “special fine crosshair” there are two stadia wire/lines near the top that represent a dimension (18 inches) which is meant to equate to the distance from belt to chin on a man-sized target. By using the power ring, the scope’s power is increased or decreased until the stadia lines match the “chin to belt” mark on a target. The shooter then reads the “tombstone” marker on the lower right in the scope to find the distance to target and will determine hold over or under to the target. Such scopes were used by the Corps, but were also sold to the shooting public with a different finish. It took some doing, but I found one.

When it looked like a very reasonable facsimile of an M40 — I headed for the range. The first few rounds out of the gun using Remington’s 150-grain FMJ ball load went into about an inch at 100 yards — a promising start. Federal match loads, both 168- and 175-grains go under an inch and select handloads came at under .400 inch on more than one occasion, with the smallest single group to date



A match-grade M-1A provides accuracy and the quick follow-up option only a semi-auto can bring. The detachable box magazine means you can change to mission-specific loads in seconds.

measuring .325 inch for four shots.

Original M40 Marine specs specified basically one MOA for five shots with the sniper load of that time — the M118 round, which launched a 173-grain FMJ bullet at a stated 2550 fps. I chose to make the Sierra 175-grain match bullet this rifle's main focus. This "M40" shoots it and both Sierra and Nosler 168-grain bullets nearly equally well and 10 shots will group under one inch.

The new Remington replica rifles are available from various venues and come with a certificate of authenticity, a green web sling in a green box embossed with the outline of Vietnam, and a graphic of a sniper in action. Retail price for one is around \$1,400 without a scope. (Leupold may offer one, but it's unclear if it will actually become available. Barring that, look for a used original Redfield or simply add a good quality scope.)

Remington 700p (Parkerized) PSS Police Sniper System

This rifle is a standard unmodified PSS with 26-inch hammer-forged non-fluted barrel. It has the standard issue HS Precision synthetic stock; incorporated in

the stock is the excellent aluminum bedding-block system that promotes superior stability and shot-to-shot consistency.

This PSS was purchased new just over 10 years ago and the only thing done to it has been a lightening of the trigger by a gunsmith to its present very crisp 2¾ pounds.

Various scopes have found their way on and off the rifle over the years and a few accoutrements such as a Harris bipod, tactical sling, and a compartmented carrying case round out the package. There really isn't a whole lot more that can be done to improve such a rifle. For most of its life this rifle has had a Leupold Vari-X 11 3-9X40 AO scope with target knobs; it's currently topped with a Tasco Super Sniper 10X AO, 30mm tube scope. This is a mil-dot scope and is an excellent piece of equipment.

Remington's accuracy criteria for the PSS rifle, according to company representative Linda Powell, is five shots into one inch at 100 yards with factory ammo. This example certainly will do that. With factory match loads, sub-MOA is easy and with handloads it gets really interesting. With its 1-in-12 barrel twist (ideal for

a .308) various bullet and powder combinations have proven to be accurate, with Hodgdon's Varget proving best overall especially with bullets of 168 grains. Other powders such as 4895 and 4064 are essentially equal.

The very best groups of ½ inch or less came from loads with Hodgdon's H380 behind Sierra's 175-grain match boat-tail lit by Federal's 210 M primer in Winchester cases. The first four rounds loaded with 45 grains landed in a group of just .215 inches measured center to center as closely as possible with a dial caliper. Subsequent groups increasing the charge by ½ grain increments grouped .540", .660", .688" and the last came in at .290" using 47 grams. The average of all five groups is a mere .48 inch.

Based on these and other results, the PSS has a slight edge over the custom M40 and the Super Match M1A. The Super Match is nearly the equal of the M40. I'd still put my money on a bolt gun for long-term consistency.

Final Thoughts

Perhaps the results do nothing more than prove once again what a consistently reliable performer the .308 Winchester is when fired in accurate rifles.

Of the rifles discussed here the replica M40 is unique. Built from parts anyone can get, the rifle still required considerable skill and investment in its creation. With Remington's introduction of a replica M40, anyone can now buy such a rifle without going through all the work.

The PSS and M1A are readily available in various configurations for reasonable cost. The PSS has to be considered a bargain at a retail price under \$1,000.

The M1A rifles are naturally more expensive (they cost more to build), and a new Super Match will cost about \$2,200 depending on barrel and stock options. Basic M1A service type rifles can be had for around \$1,300 for a good, reliable battle rifle or entry level rifle for match shooting in the service rifle category.

If you are in the market for a good precision tactical rifle, any of these will serve you well.

TACTICAL GEAR

►► Last issue we covered considerations and some of the processes necessary for you to develop the fitness center of your dreams and your enemy's nightmares.

This time we'll talk to experts to answer your questions based on their experience. All three experts —Deputy Chief Bryan Hilts of the Wausau Police Department, Sergeant Brad Jorsch of the Sheboygan County Sheriff's Department, and Chief of Air Force Fitness Margaret Treland — helped develop fitness centers with some degree of sanity still intact.

Here's a round-table discussion (conducted at different times) with all three.



FIT to

FIGHT

Designing The Ultimate Fitness Facility, Part 2:
What You Need to Know



How long have you been involved with your organization's fitness centers and programming, and how many facilities have you been involved with?

Margaret Treland: I've been involved with fitness programming for the Air Force for 20 years and focused on facility design for the last 11. I'm currently responsible for the fitness and recreation facilities for 20 bases, with 32 ongoing projects.

Bryan Hilts: Our facility opened in 2006. We started working on the logistics and funding for the fitness center several years prior to that.

Brad Jorsch: Our fitness room opened in 1998, but I became involved about 2 years ago. The room was initially home equipment. We started a redesign and refitting process in 2007 and should be complete in early 2009.

How big are your fitness areas? What type of facilities do you offer, and how many people actually use them?

Treland: The fitness and recreation facilities at my bases vary from 50,000 to 112,000 square feet. Average is about 70,000. The facilities at the actual bases include fitness, swimming, basketball, and other recreational and athletic activities. They are available to the base populations and their families. The usage varies with the size of the base and the nature of the recreation facilities available.

Hilts: Our fitness room is about 700 square feet and includes five strength pieces, four cardio pieces, and free weights. We have a core of approximately 15 officers and an equal number that use the exercise equipment regularly, but slightly less often.

Jorsch: The fitness room is approximately 1,100 square feet and includes cardio, a full line of Hammer Strength equipment, and some free weights. We have about 10 guys down here all the time and two to three times that who are regulars.

Why did you decide to start the fitness center and what is your primary goal?

Treland: To increase the quality of life for the airmen and their families. The military has a long history of offering athletic facilities for recreation, fitness, and morale.

Hilts: Like the rest of the population, our officers were leading more sedentary lifestyles and their physical fitness and readiness responded about like you would expect. We wanted to increase the fitness levels of our department as a whole so we could function and handle the job related stress better.

Jorsch: Our work schedule and dealings with certain segments of the population can create unique challenges for LEOs training in commercial public facilities. We wanted to provide a private environment for our personnel to improve themselves both physically and mentally that was available 24/7.

Do you feel that you have achieved that goal?

Treland: Yes. The Air Force takes great pride in the quality of life that we offer our Airmen. The facilities we offer are all first-rate and typically surpass those outside the base environments in terms of both product offering and affordability.

Hilts: Definitely. The room filled up awfully fast once the equipment was in and we made it available to our staff.

Jorsch: It's exceeded our expectations. Overall usage has increased four- or five-fold since the equipment was upgraded.

What was the biggest challenge you faced and what advice can you give our readers?

Treland: Keeping within budgets and anticipating changes in appropriations.

Hilts: Funding. It took several years to raise the funding necessary for the fitness center. We received donations and would like to thank The Alexander Foundation, The Dudley Foundation and The Wausau Police Benevolent Association. The officers pitched in and performed a lot of the labor, like hanging drywall and painting. The Benevolent Association purchased the actual equipment and donated it to the city.

Jorsch: Funding. We are in almost constant fundraising mode since we are still actively upgrading our equipment. Our organization is a registered 501(c)(3) organization and we have received donations and grants from a lot of sources. I

have a letter I send local businesses detailing reminding the potential donors of the benefits to the community of having stronger, fitter officers. It's a bit of a grind, but if you keep after it, you will be successful.

How did you decide on the equipment (type and selection) you selected, and do you have any suggestions you would offer?

Treland: We have long-standing relationships with several manufacturers. The one element we stress is that the equipment we purchase is all top-quality. Beyond that, we follow the ACSM Guidelines for facility design. These guidelines are the "bible" of fitness center and recreation facility planning and provide an excellent starting point for any project. From there we look for input from command and any special requirement the base might have.

Hilts: We formed a committee of officers, which is ongoing, and requested proposals from vendors on how to make

the best use of our space. Our committee was comprised of officers ranging from active athletes to couch potatoes to try to meet all of our officer's needs. We made our final decision based on quality of equipment, price, and the design's ability to meet our goals. Individual officers requested specific pieces and types of equipment, but we went with what would be used by everyone.

Jorsch: We took input from officers, but the selection was largely influenced by my base-hopping while in the military. We wanted strength equipment that was low maintenance, allowed isolateral movement, and had low starting weights. This allowed the same equipment to be friendly to new users while still meet the demands of our more advanced officers. Go with the best equipment you can afford. If it means a few extra weeks of fundraising, do it. Take the time and get the good stuff.

What type of programming and orientations do you offer?

Treland: We provide formal orientations as well as making personal training available. We strive to make the products and services we offer comparable to what is offered by commercial fitness centers.

Hilts: Our orientations are on an informal basis. We rely on our officers to ask for assistance if there is anything they don't understand.

Jorsch: We don't have a formal orientation process, but we do offer assistance with routines and nutrition for anyone who is interested.

Do you have any other advice for someone just starting a fitness center designed for tactical applications?

Treland: Get the ACSM Health/Fitness Facility Standards and Guidelines. It's the "bible" for facility design and provides a great starting place and will answer most of your questions.

Hilts: It takes a lot of work, but the results are worth the effort. We would go through it all over again to get the fitness center open.

Jorsch: Don't be afraid of the fundraising. Stronger, fitter officers protect the officers and the public. Exercise has been shown to prevent injuries and reduce the use of excessive force. If the public knows what they get for their money, they will help.

Strength training equipment. Sheboygan Sheriff Dept., Sheboygan, WI



GETTING YOUR FITNESS CENTER STARTED

Whether you want to provide recreational opportunities for 100,000 airmen, increase the base fitness level of your officers or become stronger for combat, your facility will do what you design it to accomplish. Keep your goals in mind every step of the way and you will succeed.

The funding and fundraising aspects may be difficult, but there are a lot of potential donors and grants available. Find creative ways to reach out and stress the benefits your community will see from fitter officers.

QUICK POINTS TO REMEMBER:

- Find top-flight equipment that will fit your space, and make sure it's equipment that will work for everyone from novices to experts.
- Once you establish a budget, stick to it. Seemingly small cost overruns can add up quickly.
- Allow some space for stretching and "recovery time" without interfering with other activities such as weight training or cardio.
- Do your research. Based on your budget and funding, it might help to go to an independent fitness equipment expert to assist with equipment selection and product discounts.

TACTICAL GEAR

BURRIS

SPEEDBEAD OFFERS RED DOT REFLEX OPTICS

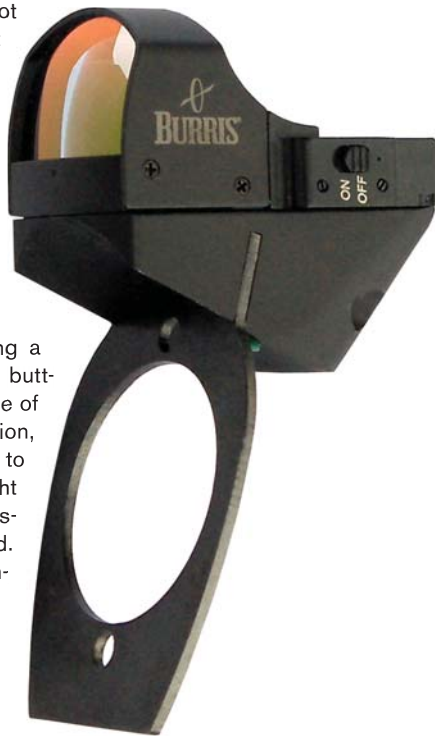
The SpeedBead, a red dot reflex sight system that provides wing shooters the advantages of optics without the height, weight, or loss of balance associated with adding optics to shotguns, has been introduced by Burris Co.

A small and lightweight sight is coupled by a new method of mounting the sight to the shotgun by sandwiching a mounting plate between the buttstock and the receiver. Because of optics and the mounting location, the need for a shooter's eye to be positioned perfectly left/right and up/down to achieve consistent shot execution is eliminated.

The mounting places the center of optic directly in line with the vented rib so no alteration in shooting style is required. Should the common CR-2032 5-year battery ever fail, the shooter can revert back to using the normal front bead without visual obstruction. Additionally, 1/8" and 1/4" risers are available which shooters find beneficial because there is less target obstruction from the barrel and rib on rising targets.

The initial offering will include systems for most Beretta, Benelli, Franchi, Stoeger and Remington semi-automatic and pump action shotguns, with additional models to come. MSRP is \$299.

For more information, go to www.burrisoptics.com.



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TAURUS



TWO STYLES AVAILABLE IN TAURUS 24/7 LINE

Taurus has built two new styles of automatic pistols in its OSS line. Developed through feedback from Special Forces teams stationed around the world, the Taurus 24/7 OSS is built to meet and/or exceed all requirements laid down by USSOCOM. The extreme duty pistol offers reliability, durability, accuracy, and ergonomic functionality.

The 24/7 OSS is capable of firing thousands of failure-free rounds in virtually any environment: jungle humidity and mud, desert heat and sand, or arctic cold and ice. Features include:

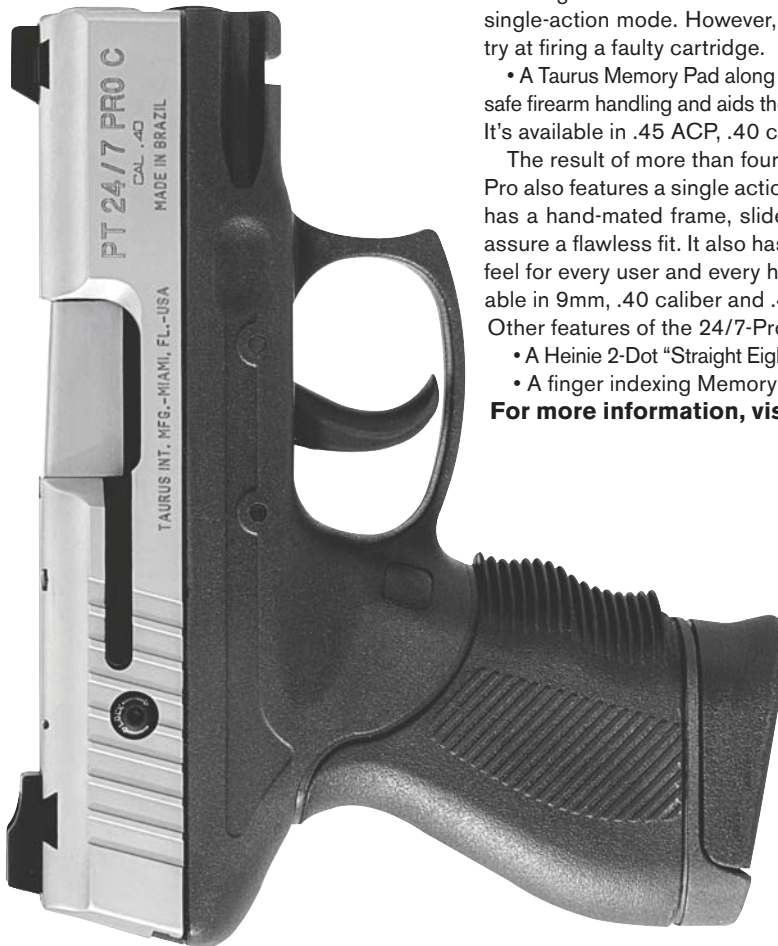
- Single action/double action trigger system fires normally in a smooth single-action mode. However, if the primer fails to ignite, it offers a second try at firing a faulty cartridge.

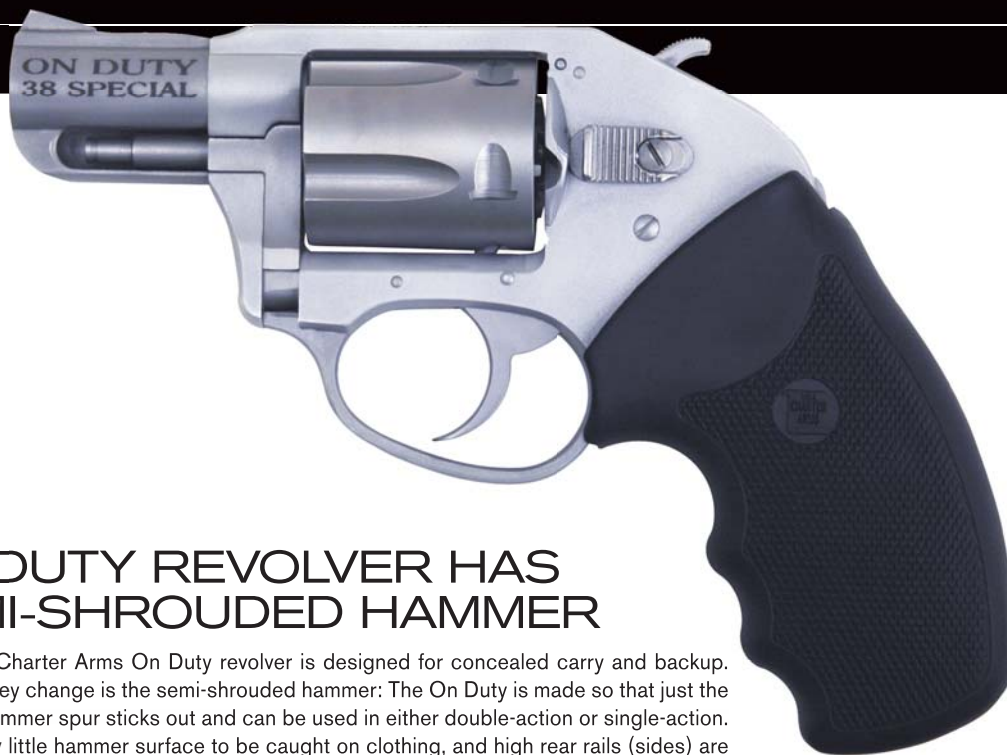
- A Taurus Memory Pad along the frame provides an automatic finger locator for safe firearm handling and aids the aim when using a traditional two-handed grip. It's available in .45 ACP, .40 caliber and 9mm.

The result of more than four years of research and engineering, the 24/7-Pro also features a single action/double action trigger system. The 24/7-Pro has a hand-mated frame, slide and barrel with matching serial numbers to assure a flawless fit. It also has a Ribber Grip for a comfortable, customized feel for every user and every hand size (not available on .45 ACP). It's available in 9mm, .40 caliber and .45 ACP and three distinct barrel lengths. Other features of the 24/7-Pro include:

- A Heinie 2-Dot "Straight Eight" Sight for quick and accurate aiming points.
- A finger indexing Memory Pad for an automatic finger locator.

For more information, visit www.taurususa.com.





CHARTER ARMS

ON DUTY REVOLVER HAS SEMI-SHROUDED HAMMER

A new Charter Arms On Duty revolver is designed for concealed carry and backup. The key change is the semi-shrouded hammer: The On Duty is made so that just the tip of the hammer spur sticks out and can be used in either double-action or single-action. There's very little hammer surface to be caught on clothing, and high rear rails (sides) are designed to dislodge the clothing during the draw.

It features a 7075 aluminum alloy frame, a 2-inch stainless steel barrel, and tough innards for a compact 5-shot revolver with a weight of 12 ounces.

The On Duty is chambered in .38 Special +P.

The Charter Arms On Duty revolver has a MSRP of \$430.

Model number 53810.

For more information, visit www.charterfirearms.com.

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NEW UZI FOLDING AND FIXED-BLADE TACTICAL KNIVES AVAILABLE FROM HALLMARK CUTLERY

HallMark has built two new tactical folding knives as part of the Uzi line for everyday needs as well as duty-ready, strategically designed tools.

The Uzi Foxtrot and the Echo-Tanto are new additions to the UZI tactical folding knives line by HallMark Cutlery. The Foxtrot is available in two handle options, Aluminum and G10 and feature hard-coated 8CR14 stainless steel blades, and pocketclip. The G10 version also includes an inlaid shield of the well-known UZI logo. The Foxtrot measures 4 1/2" closed with a 3 3/4" blade. MSRP is \$34.99.

The Echo-Tanto is another blade option to the Echo. The Echo features G10 handle scales, a hard-coated 8CR14 stainless steel blade, and a pocketclip. The tanto-style blade measures 3 1/4" and includes an oversized thumbhole for one-handed opening. The G10 handle is inlaid with the Uzi shield. The Echo measures 4 1/8" closed. MSRP is \$34.99.

The Uzi Battle Commander is the newest Uzi tactical fixed blade offering. Patterned after historical combat designs, the Battle Commander's 6" stainless steel blade features a hard blade coating to provide durable protection for everyday and field use. At an 11-inch overall length, the Battle Commander is compact. The Micarta handle is designed for a comfortable grip. For full duty functionality, the Battle Commander features a durable nylon M.O.L.L.E. System Sheath. MSRP is \$64.99.

Visit www.hallmarkcutlery.com to see the entire line of Uzi tactical knives.



2 MODELS IN BARSKA ELECTRO SIGHT RIFLE-SCOPE SERIES

Barska has added two new models to its Electro Sight riflescope series.

- The 2x30 Red Dot features a 7-position reticle brightness adjustment, 1/2" click adjustable windage and elevation adjustment, and a removable 2x objective lens magnifier. The scope's ruby-coated and multi-coated lenses provide sharp images with minimum glare and the scope is parallax-free at 100 yards.

- The 4x28 I (Illuminated Reticle) model features a dual color (red/green) Mil-Dot reticle. A five-position rheostat allows individual reticle brightness adjustments; 1/2" click adjustable windage and elevation adjustments and long eye relief increase shooting accuracy.

Both include standard Weaver-style mounts and black matte finishes.

Two rubber armor models have also been added to Barska's Contour riflescope series. Both are completely black matte rubber armor protected and feature a Mil-Dot reticle. The models are a 3-9x40 IR (Blue Illuminated Reticle) and a 3-9x40. The IR is a military/law enforcement scope equipped with a bullet drop compensation turret as well as a side-mounted rheostat with eight settings. Both scopes feature fast focus.

For details, visit www.barska.com.



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Hardcore Individuals

model: SMF (right) with
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One gun case is all you need to carry everything from 16", collapsible stock, AR carbine to a 20", fixed stock varmint rifle. Brownells has just released their Adjustable Length Rifle Case in Black (#084-000-326)

These cases adjust from an internal length of 25-1/2" up to 46" long. That's long enough for virtually every AR, FN/FAL or bolt action hunting rifle.

"You don't want your gun sliding around in the case and with our Adjustable model you can snug the length down to match your gun," said company President, Pete Brownell.

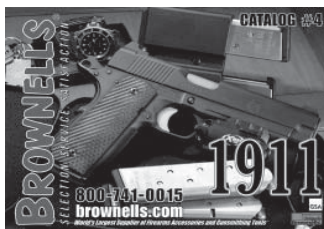
At 14" tall, the case will accept a rifle with optics and a 30-round magazine in place. It's padded, soft-sided and equipped with removable, padded nylon shoulder straps for easy backpack carry. Three rows of MOLLE straps allow easy attachment of magazine pouches or other accessories.

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ROTARY DIOPTER SIGHT SYSTEM FOR SIG SAUER SIG556 RIFLES

This new sight system provides four site stations for accurate engagement at varying distances including CQB, 100m, 200m, and 300m, all with tool-less windage and elevation adjustment. Designed to work in conjunction with the hooded front sight, the Rotary Diopter Sight System attaches to the receiver's M1913 rail. Made of durable steel construction, the Rotary Diopter Sight System retrofits all existing SIG556 rifles. The front and rear sight co-witness with the Sig Sauer Mini Red Dot Sight and are optimized for M855 and M193 ammunition. The Rotary Diopter Sight System features 0.5 MOA (1/2") click adjustments and 34" windage/25" elevation adjustment range at 100 meters.

The Rotary Diopter Sight System is now standard on the Sig556 SWAT and Classic rifle models. This feature now provides serious shooters with a high quality indexed set of iron sights with CQB capabilities. MSRP is \$259.

**For more information,
visit www.sigsauer.com.**



SIG SAUER

STREAMLIGHT LAUNCHES POLYSTINGER LED AND DS LED RECHARGEABLE LIGHTS

Streamlight, a leading provider of high-performance lighting tools for law enforcement professionals, has introduced the PolyStinger LED and PolyStinger DS LED rechargeable, polymer flashlights that provide exceptional brightness and durability with power C4 LED technology. The PolyStinger DS LED also adds a tailcap switch.

Streamlight's C4 power LED technology provides two to three times the output of previous LEDs, up to a 50,000-hour lifetime, and is impervious to shock.

The lights offer three controlled variable intensity modes and a strobe mode. The high mode provides 24,000 candela peak beam intensity and 185 lumens of measured system output. The medium mode provides 12,000 candela peak beam intensity and 95 lumens, while the low mode generates 6,000 candela peak beam intensity and 50 lumens of measured system output. In addition, the lights' deep-dish parabolic reflectors produce a long-range targeting beam with optimum peripheral illumination to aid in navigation.

The PolyStinger DS (Dual Switch) LED also offers the flexibility of dual switch technology with both a multi-function, head-mounted push-button switch and a second multi-function tacti-

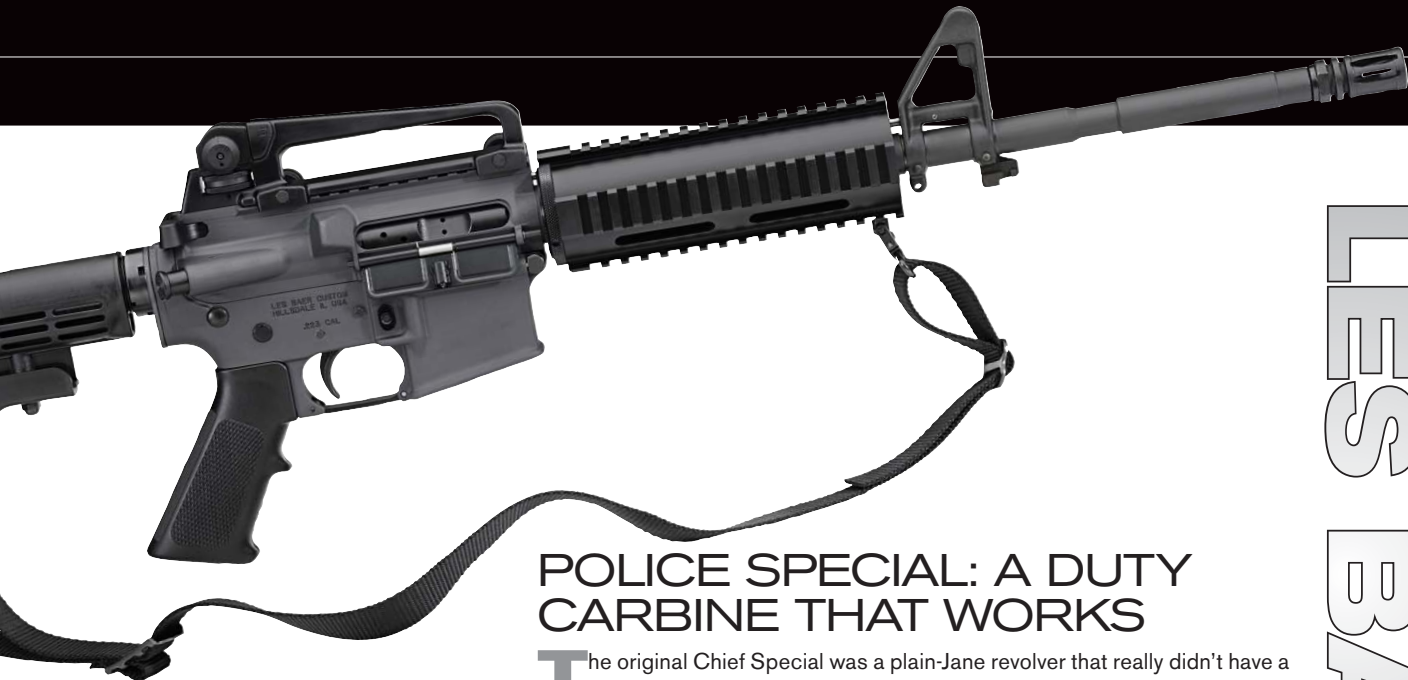
cal tail-cap switch that operate independently, each one enabling police officers to adjust the light easily to match their circumstances.

Both lights are constructed of super-tough, non-conductive nylon polymer, with a non-slip rubberized comfort grip. The lights' lenses are made of unbreakable polycarbonate with a scratch-resistant coating. They are powered by Nickel-cadmium sub C batteries, which are rechargeable up to 1,000 times. A steady charger fully charges in 10 hours, while a fast charger or PiggyBack models fully charge in 2+ hours. Both lights work with existing Stinger chargers.

The PolyStinger LED model weighs 11.5 ounces, measures 8.07 inches in length, and is available in black or yellow. The PolyStinger DS LED weighs 11.9 ounces, measures 8.64 inches, and is available in black only. Both are backed by a limited lifetime warranty. The suggested retail price for the PolyStinger LED is \$194 and the Stinger DS LED has a suggested retail price of \$209.

For more information, visit www.streamlight.com.





LES
BAER

POLICE SPECIAL: A DUTY CARBINE THAT WORKS

The original Chief Special was a plain-Jane revolver that really didn't have a lot of special features, but it got the job done anyway. Les Baer Custom's new Police Special, on the other hand, is a full-featured dynamo of a rifle that's specially designed and built to include every important feature any law enforcement officer could ever want...and none of the stuff he doesn't. Most importantly, it delivers performance far superior to any other 16-inch AR-style rifle on the market. It's even guaranteed to shoot 1 MOA with match ammo.

As a patrol carbine or a high-energy tactical rifle, the Les Baer Police Special is the new head of the class in the law enforcement market. It's loaded with the thoughtful, businesslike features that make it a serious pro, and it's intentionally devoid of the amateur gee-gaws that cheapen the purpose and limit the usefulness of a police rifle for real police work.

FEATURES INCLUDE:

- LBC forged and machined upper and lower receiver
- Removable carry handle with rear sight
- Picatinny flattop rail on upper
- Standard style carrier
- Precision bolt and extractor
- 16-inch precision button-rifled steel barrel with 1X8 twist
- 5-position collapsible stock
- Special 4-way Picatinny handguard free floated
- 1-inch nylon sling
- A2-style flash hider
- Hard coat anodized upper and lower
- Phosphate finish on steel parts
- Steel front sight base
- Timney Match trigger group



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FOLDING FIXED BLADE EVERYDAY CARRY KNIVES

A trio of folding fixed-blade knives for everyday use is available from Triple Eight Professional. Each knife features a stainless 440 blade. The line includes:

- The CopTool, designed by retired police officer and American Handgunner Editor Roy Huntington, cuts seatbelts, pries/scraps, and puts “big tool” power in a tiny package. MSRP: \$49.95.

- The S.O.L. Knife, designed by master knifemaker Kirk Rexroat. The S.O.L. features a convenient pocket clip and an aggressive double-edged blade, excellent for last-ditch emergencies. MSRP: \$49.95.

- The WrightKnife, also designed by Rexroat. The more conventional blade design is “right” for most cutting chores. MSRP: \$49.95

**For more information go to www.888professional.com
or call (858) 382-0055**

TNW GAS PISTON SYSTEM™ INSTALLED WITH SUPPLIED HAND GUARDS



TNW GAS PISTON SYSTEM™ INSTALLED WITH PISTON END PUSH ROD



TNW

TNW GAS PISTON SYSTEM BREATHEES NEW LIFE INTO THE AR15/M16

TNW has developed a gas piston operating system for AR15/M16 rifles. The system addresses the issues of fouling, heat and reliability in harsh environments.

TNW has developed a low-pressure, long-stroke gas piston design to keep from "hammering" the bolt as the short stroke designs do. TNW has slowed the acceleration of the bolt mass and instead accelerated it over a greater distance. The result is less shock forces on the system, longer lasting parts and reliable feeding. The system is user-friendly and maintenance can be performed at the operator level.

For more information, visit www.TNWfirearms.com.



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FNH USA

FNH SLP SHOTGUN LINE GETS UPGRADE

FNH USA has enhanced the modularity and flexibility of its SLP line by offering an assortment of shotgun choke tubes and accessory sporting barrels.

The accessory barrels are of steel construction with a matte black finish for use with the FN SLP and the FN SLP Mark 1 shotguns and are available in 22, 24, 26, 28 and 30 inches.

The Briley Standard Invector and Invector-Plus extended design choke tubes are polished stainless steel with blue anodized accent identification rings and are offered in sizes from cylinder to extra-full.

Also available for the FN SLP and FN SLP Mark 1 is an aluminum tri-rail extension in matte black finish that offers three mounting rails that can be used for tactical lights and lasers.

The reliability of the gas operation of the FN SLP shotguns is well documented along with its exceptional cycling speed and light felt recoil. It is ideal for a range of law enforcement, tactical, personal security and practical competition uses.

DeMilt adds, "We ship two pistons with the shotgun for a very good reason," says FNH's Rick DeWitt. "The addition of two pistons gives you a wider range of operational flexibility while maintaining a power level that is controllable. And there's the added benefit of reducing wear on the gun."

For more information visit www.fnhusa.com



SCHMIDT & BENDER PRODUCES 12-50X56 PM II RIFLESCOPE

Schmidt & Bender of Germany has added the 12-50x56 PM II to its line of police marksman tactical scopes. It's the highest magnification riflescope Schmidt & Bender has created.

The 12-50X56 PM II is built on a 34 mm tube. It provides parallax adjustment from 50m to infinity and target-style adjustment turrets. Eye relief is 70 mm, and the scope measures 16.4 inches (417 mm) in length.

Several reticles are offered with the 12-50x56 PM II, in either the first or second focal plane (depending upon the model). In addition to the P3 and P4 Fine, which offer sophisticated range finding capabilities, new Sport and Sport Fine reticles have also been introduced which will appeal to the precision target shooter.

The 12-50x56 PM II is available in several elevation/windage configurations: double turn elevation turret with 1/4 MOA clicks (0-65 MOA) combined with a single turn windage turret in 1/4 MOA clicks, both turrets clockwise or counter-clockwise; multi-turn elevation with 1/4 cm clicks (0-175 cm) combined with single turn windage in 1/4 cm clicks; or multi-turn elevation with 1/8 MOA clicks (0-75 MOA) combined with double turn windage, also with 1/8 MOA clicks, and both turrets clockwise or counter-clockwise. The 1/8 MOA version with ccw adjustments will be the first to be available in the U.S., at the request of F-Class shooters seeking a long-range scope of absolute precision.

**For more information,
visit www.schmidtbender.com.**



SCHMIDT & BENDER

MOSSBERG

NEW BOLT-ACTION RIFLE FROM MOSSBERG

O.F. Mossberg & Sons has released its 100ATR Night Train II bolt-action rifle. As with its counterpart, the Night Train, this tack-driver is equipped with the new adjustable LBA (Lightning Bolt Action) Trigger System and free-floating 22" button-rifled barrel.

The Night Train II features upgrades including a factory-mounted Barska 6-24 x 60mm variable scope; muzzlebrake; Harris Bipod; and neoprene comb raising kit with foam cheek pad inserts. The integral top-load magazine offers a 4+1 capacity with .308 Win cartridges while providing reliable feeding and simple loading and unloading.

Available in black or digital camo, every 100ATR Night Train II is factory assembled and includes a gun lock and two-year limited warranty.

PRODUCT SPECIFICATIONS

Action Type: Bolt-Action centerfire

Calibers: .308 Win Mag

Trigger: Lightning Bolt Action™ Trigger System

Stock: Synthetic, black or digital camo

Magazine type: Top load magazine

Magazine Capacity: 5 rounds including one in the chamber

Barrel Length: 22"

Metal Finish: Matte Blue

Optic: Factory-mounted Barska 6-24x60mm variable scope

Avg. Weight: 9.5 lbs.

Origin: Made in the U.S.A

Warranty: 2-year Limited Warranty

For details, go to www.mossberg.com.





NIGHTFORCE DEVELOPS FIRST FOCAL PLANE SCOPE FOR TACTICAL AND MILITARY SHOOTERS

Nightforce has introduced a new riflescope built with a reticle in the first focal plane. The NXS 3.5-15x50 F1 was created at the request of U.S. military and professional sharpshooters for a scope that is extremely fast and applicable to a wide range of targets at various distances. It offers a choice of elevation/windage click values, reticles, and ballistic turrets with Nightforce ZeroStop technology.

The F1 is offered with a choice of three different windage/elevation adjustments: .250 MOA, .1 Mil Radian, or 1.0 MOA elevation/.5 MOA windage. There are two optional engraved ballistic turret caps available separately, one for the 1.0/.5 MOA version specifically marked for the A-191 (.300 Win. Mag./190 gr. Sierra Match King), or for the M118LR (.308/175 gr. Sierra Match King), marked in meters. The standard cap comes with an MOA scale, which the user can have custom engraved to match virtually any caliber once that caliber's ballistics are established.

Nightforce patented ZeroStop technology is standard on all F1 elevation turrets, which allows the shooter to set the zero point of his or her choice, then return instantly, by feel, to their chosen zero regardless of how much elevation adjustment has been made.

The NXS 3.5-15 x 50 F1 is currently available with Nightforce Mil-Dot or MLR reticles, both created for tactical and military use. More reticle choices will be introduced in 2009. The F1 ships with a set of Nightforce Ultralight rings included.

- Nightforce has also introduced the Top of Ring Bubble Level, which replaces the top half of Nightforce Unimount, Direct Mount, and Nightforce Mil-Spec rings. The bubble level is low profile and built directly into the top half of the ring, allowing the shooter to maintain perfectly level rifle alignment. It also aids in precise scope mounting, providing an easy method of making certain the reticle is exactly level.

The Top of Ring Bubble Level is available by itself, with an integrally machined mount for the Nightforce ADI (Angle Degree Indicator), or as a complete system incorporating the ADI. Calibrated in degrees, the ADI gives an instant readout which can be entered directly into Nightforce ballistic software or referenced to a pre-printed angle drop chart.

For more information, visit www.nightforceoptics.com.



VERSATILE FIXED BLADE KNIFE FROM BOKER PLUS

Boker Plus has teamed up with Miltner Adams to create a versatile fixed blade tactical knife. With its top grip design, the MA-2 lightweight fixed blade can handle a multitude of tasks – a last-resort defense weapon, an “in the field” cutting companion, or a general use tool.

The compact MA-2 has a blade length of 2 1/2”, an overall length of 5”, and weighs 1.5 oz. It’s made of 440C stainless steel with a titanium coating. The FRN sheath system allows for multi-position carry and snaps in for safe transport.

The MA-2 by Boker Plus is available through Boker USA. Suggested retail price is \$29.95.

URBAN SURVIVAL KNIFE

The Boker Plus Urban Survival, a new addition to the Jim Wagner Series, has an overall length of 5 3/4” and a blade length of 1” and offers compact dimensions and a variety of functions. Features include a lightweight textured aluminum handle, 440C stainless steel blade, belt/pocket clip, liner locking mechanism, glass-breaker tip, and a pen tip as an added accessory. The knife weighs 1.5 oz.

The knife has a suggested retail price of \$39.95.

Additional information can be found at www.bokerusa.com.



TRIJICON UNVEILS LONG RANGE ACCUPOINT SCOPE

Trijicon Inc. has introduced its longest-range scope ever in its AccuPoint series. The AccuPoint 5-20x50 riflescope provides advanced, dual-illumination technology for optimum shooting in any light. Designed primarily for tactical shooters, varmint hunters, and law enforcement snipers, the AccuPoint 5-20x50 riflescope allows shooters the ability to extend their range in any light. Advanced fiber-optics and tritium aiming point illumination speed target acquisition and extend shooting hours. The dual-illumination fiber optic system automatically adjusts aiming-point brightness to existing lighting conditions.

Features include long range capabilities with its light-gathering 50mm objective, adjustable parallax, easy-to-use external turret adjustment controls, battery-free performance, manual brightness override, waterproofing up to 10 feet, corrosion prevention, and anti-fogging treatment.

For more information, call 248-960-7700 or visit www.trijicon.com.



TRIJICON INTRODUCES NEW VARIATIONS TO ACOG SCOPES

Trijicon Inc. has developed new optical variations to its Trijicon ACOG models: compact telescopic sights with dual-illuminated reticle patterns for use in low light or at night. Additionally, Trijicon has announced a new ACOG line of scopes, measuring just four inches long.

The following enhancements will be available to select ACOGs:

- Green reticles will now be available in many ACOG models, in addition to red and amber. Appearing at the center of the color spectrum, green allows the human eye to adjust to it very quickly and appears very bright in low to no light situations.

- Horseshoe reticle patterns, developed at the request of the United States Military, will be available on the ACOG 4x32 (TA31H) and 3.5x35 (TA11H) model scopes, allowing for very fast target acquisition.

- Reticles calibrated for the 6.8 SPC round, allowing for the conversion of an AR15 into an excellent hog and deer hunting rifle.

- Also new is a shorter, more lightweight Trijicon ACOG 1.5x magnification model. Measuring almost an inch shorter than the current ACOG 1.5x model, this four-inch-long scope will offer a reduced profile and lighter weight, making it an excellent optic for carry handles or on a flat-top SBR (Short Barreled Rifle). There's also a newly designed circle dot reticle for faster target acquisition. As with all Trijicon ACOGs, the new 1.5x model is dry nitrogen filled to eliminate fogging, is waterproof to 328 feet, features multi-coated lenses to provide superior clarity and light-gathering capabilities with zero distortion, has battery-free illumination, is encased in a forged 7075-T6 aircraft-grade aluminum housing, and utilizes built-in fiber optics to automatically adjust the brightness level and contrast of Trijicon's illuminated tritium reticle.

For more information, visit www.trijicon.com.



TRIJICON



ROMER II ADVANCED FROM WILEY X EYEWEAR COMBINES PROTECTION, VERSATILITY

Wiley X Eyewear, a leading provider of high performance protective eyewear for the U.S. Army, Navy, Air Force and Marines, is now making its military-grade High Velocity Protection (HVP) technology available to hunters, competitive shooters and other sportsmen.

The Wiley X Romer II Advanced provides an impact and heat-resistant frame and three easily interchangeable lenses.

The design of the Wiley X Romer II Advanced makes it easy for hunters and shooters to switch between precision Clear, Smoke, or Light Rust lenses, finding the optimal choice for the given situation or shooting environment. These 8-base curvature lenses are manufactured from shatterproof 2.0mm Selenite polycarbonate and treated with Wiley X's T-Shell and Foil coatings for maximum scratch resistance and anti-fogging protection.

The Romer II Advanced is certified to ANSI Z87.1-2003 high velocity impact, VO ballistic impact test MIL-PRF-31013, which requires that eyewear withstand the impact of a .15 caliber steel fragment fired at 640-660 feet per second, and CE EN 166 (F) standards. Engineered to protect and enhance vision in potential life-and-death situations, these glasses provide wearers with 100-percent UVA/UVB protection and distortion free vision under the most challenging conditions.

The frame features a 90-degree wrap-back design, eliminating problems with tunnel vision while providing protection against wind, glare, and fragmentation injuries. Wiley X's Slot technology securely holds the lenses in place for advanced protection, yet allows for easy changing of lenses when needed. The system comes with three sets of lenses, a zipper top nylon carrying case, and a cleaning cloth.

For more information contact Wiley X, Inc., phone 800-776-7842, web www.wileyx.com.

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Registration:

Thursday Sept 3rd, 12 noon to 6pm
Friday Sept 4th, 9am to 6pm
Saturday Sept 5th, 9am to 6pm

Show dates and times:

Friday Sept. 4th 10am to 6pm
Saturday Sept. 5th 10am to 6pm

Trader's Cove:

Thursday Night: 8pm to 12pm
Friday night: 8pm to 12pm
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www.usualsuspect.net

5.11 TACLITE



TACLITE HAS NEW GEAR FOR THE SUMMER MONTHS

• **P**ro Shorts are constructed of fade- and wrinkle-resistant poly/cotton ripstop for durability and color retention. They feature tactical strap and trademark rear slash pockets, a double reinforced seat, bartacks in high-stress areas, and double and triple-needle stitching for durability. Extras include Teflon fabric treatment and a quick-access multipurpose pocket. Priced from \$37.99, Taclite Pro Shorts have a 9 1/2" inseam and are available in a variety of colors.

• New colors are now available in the short-sleeve Covert Casual Shirt: brick and dark straw. The textured plaid version comes in cadet, olive and dark straw. The shirt easily conceals a holstered sidearm. A hidden weight pocket allows faster sidearm access. Velcro-secured side vents and lower placket breakaways offer quick access to waist-level gear. Pricing begins at \$49.99.

• A new concept in large-format covert carry bags, 5.11 Tactical's Select Carry Pack offers the benefits of both a sling and a pack. The Select Carry Pack discreetly hides a submachine gun (overall length <600mm). The detachable Pistol Pouch on the chest doubles as a fanny pack and contains a pistol/small electronics holder, an accessory pocket and a mag/knife holder. (The Pistol Pouch can also be purchased separately.) On the back is a pocket for a hydration bladder or – if extra protection is desired – a custom-made ballistic panel. Colors are charcoal/black or khaki/charcoal, and priced at \$119.99.

For more information, visit www.511tactical.com.





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NEW TACTICAL RESPONSE COMBAT SHIRT FROM TRU-SPEC

The latest addition to Tru-Spec's TRU (Tactical Response Uniform) is a unique shirt designed specifically to be worn under tactical vests.

The Tactical Response Combat Shirt is based on a current military design that helps reduce the severity of burn injuries while providing a more comfortable uniform top to wear under hot, heavy body armor and protective vests.

The shirt is made from no drip, no melt Cordura baselayer, a 60/40 cotton nylon blend that reduces the severity of burn injuries and also breathes, wicks away moisture, and dries quickly.

The full function uniform sleeves, based on Tru-Spec's extremely popular TRU (Tactical Response Uniform), are available in two fabric options and in different colors.

The shirt also features a mock turtle neck, zippered sleeve storage pockets, anti-abrasion padded elbow patch, gusseted sleeves, and more. It's available in sizes from Small to 2XL through authorized Tru-Spec dealers. For a complete list of dealers and distributors, go to www.truspec.com.





MILITARY-GRADE NIGHT VISION GEAR

A military grade night-vision system is available from NIVISYS Industries. The Generation III unit designated MUM-14 (Multi-Use Monocular) that also meets all U.S. military specifications for combat use.

The MUM-14 is designed for hand-held operation, helmet mount, head-mount, and fire-arm. As a head-mount unit, it affords users night vision while keeping their naked eye available for observation and/or gun-sight acquisition.

For use in total darkness, it features a built-in infrared flashlight emitting light only visible through the MUM-14. The MUM-14 uses a single AA battery for 20-plus hours of use or a single CR-123 three-volt battery for 40-plus hours of operation.

The MUM-14 is available in a package containing the MUM-14, quick detachable picatinny weapon mount, and complete night-vision head-mount system. MSRP is \$3,200.

Optional accessories include: 3x and 5x magnifiers, camera adapter, hard carry case, and a surveillance system.

NIGHT VISION GOGGLES

Night Vision goggles from NIVISYS Industries have received FAA approval for civil aviation. The goggles were built partially in response to recent emergency response helicopter crashes at night.

Constructed of anodized aircraft quality-aluminum, these goggles are lighter than mil-spec goggles and are less susceptible to g-force stresses on the pilot's head. The goggles also feature binocular vision to assist with depth of field in landing and takeoffs. The goggles run on two AA alkaline batteries; the standard battery pack holds two separate loads of AA batteries.

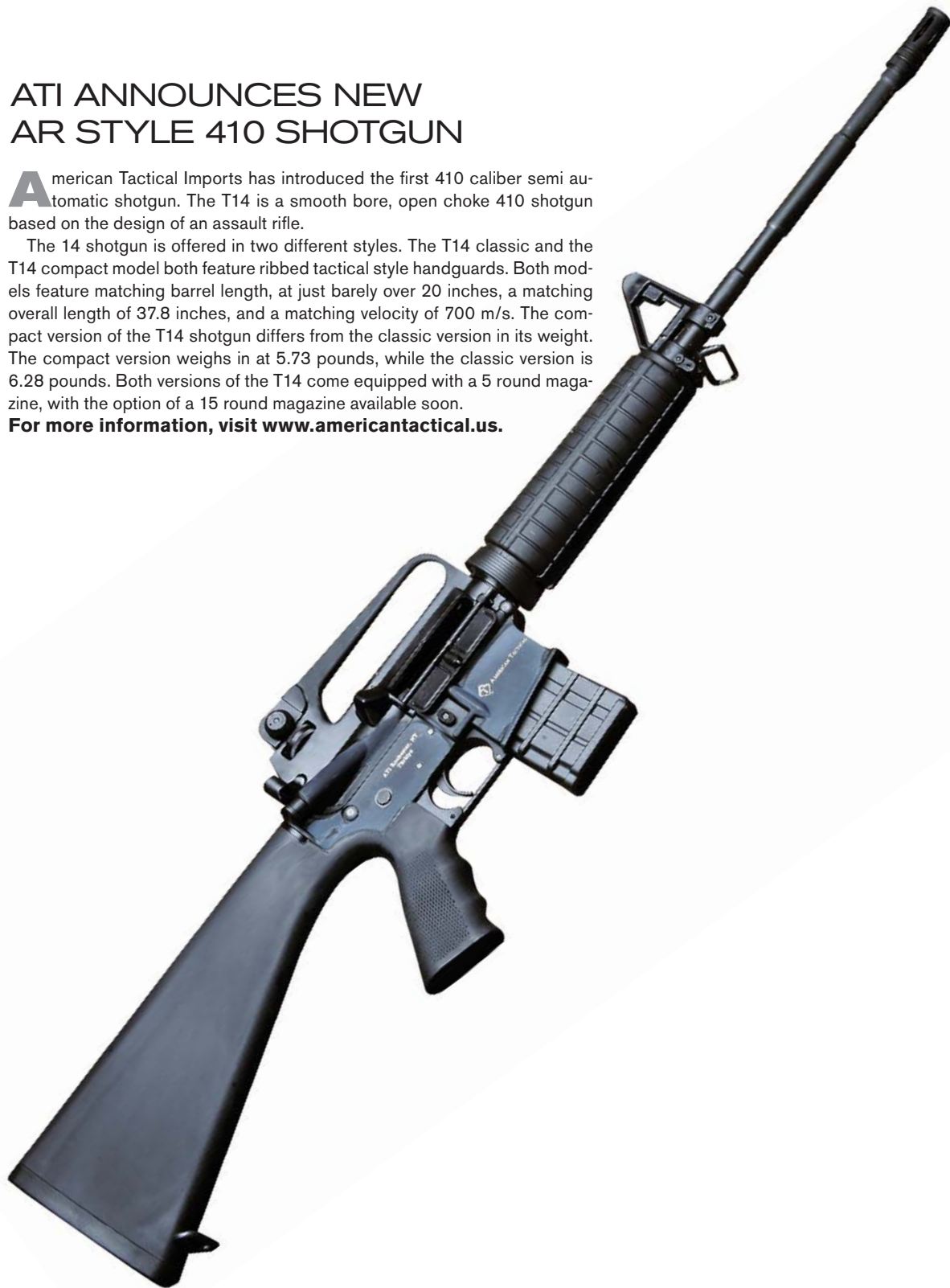
For information on any product, visit www.nivisys.com.

ATI ANNOUNCES NEW AR STYLE 410 SHOTGUN

American Tactical Imports has introduced the first 410 caliber semi-automatic shotgun. The T14 is a smooth bore, open choke 410 shotgun based on the design of an assault rifle.

The 14 shotgun is offered in two different styles. The T14 classic and the T14 compact model both feature ribbed tactical style handguards. Both models feature matching barrel length, at just barely over 20 inches, a matching overall length of 37.8 inches, and a matching velocity of 700 m/s. The compact version of the T14 shotgun differs from the classic version in its weight. The compact version weighs in at 5.73 pounds, while the classic version is 6.28 pounds. Both versions of the T14 come equipped with a 5 round magazine, with the option of a 15 round magazine available soon.

For more information, visit www.americantactical.us.



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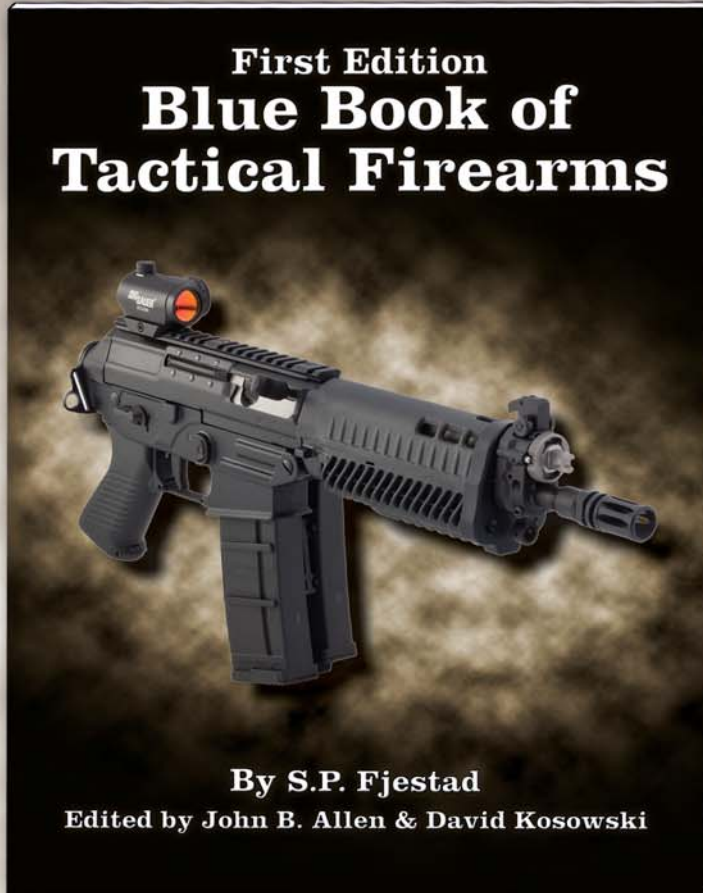
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