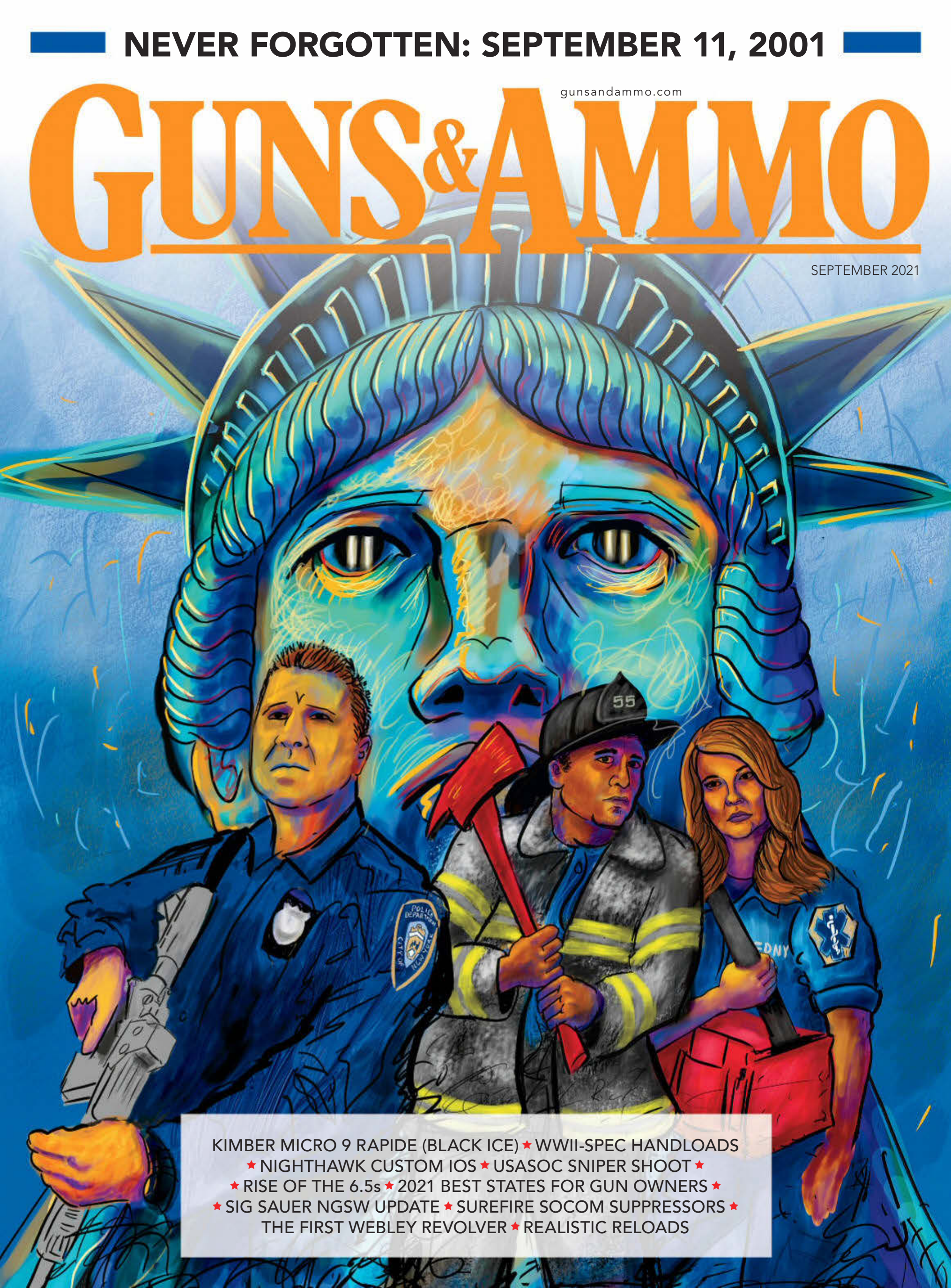
NEVER FORGOTTEN: SEPTEMBER 11, 2001

gunsandammo.com

GUNS&AMMO

SEPTEMBER 2021



KIMBER MICRO 9 RAPIDE (BLACK ICE) ★ WWII-SPEC HANDLOADS
★ NIGHTHAWK CUSTOM IOS ★ USASOC SNIPER SHOOT ★
★ RISE OF THE 6.5s ★ 2021 BEST STATES FOR GUN OWNERS ★
★ SIG SAUER NGSW UPDATE ★ SUREFIRE SOCOM SUPPRESSORS ★
THE FIRST WEBLEY REVOLVER ★ REALISTIC RELOADS

20 YEARS
DANIEL DEFENSE®
2001 - 2021

MANUFACTURING FREEDOM®

20TH ANNIVERSARY SWEEPSTAKES

ENTER TO WIN

MULTIPLE TIMES*

(Up to 20 Firearms)

NEW FIREARM PRIZE EVERY 2 WEEKS

VARIOUS WAYS TO ENTER

SCAN ME

danieldefense.com/anniversary

* No purchase necessary. Sweepstakes runs throughout 2021.

WORLD-CLASS FIREARMS DESIGNED & MANUFACTURED
IN BLACK CREEK, GEORGIA | USA

RECKONING

HOLSTER SYSTEM

REMOVABLE MAG CARRIER
FOR STAND ALONE CARRY

ADJUSTABLE RETENTION DEVICE W/ TOOL
ADJUSTABLE HEIGHT & CANT CLIPS

CROSSBREEDHOLSTERS.COM

CROSSBREED® HOLSTERS

GUNS & AMMO

CONTENTS

SEPTEMBER 2021 | VOLUME 65, NUMBER 9 | PUBLISHED MONTHLY

BY ERIC R. POOLE

NGSW UPDATE 58

A DETAILED LOOK AT SIG SAUER'S SUBMISSIONS TO REPLACE THE U.S. ARMY'S M4A1, M249 SAW — AND THE 5.56 NATO.

Guns & Ammo's subscriber cover features the NGSW-R and NGSW-AR prototypes, as well as the 6.8x51mm cartridge featuring SIG Sauer's new hybrid case. p. 58

NEWSSTAND COVER ART BY ALFREDO RICO; SUBSCRIBER COVER PHOTO BY MARK FINGAR

48

9/11: LAST MAN
A tribute to the last NYPD officer to leave the World Trade Center on September 11, 2001.
BY TOM BECKSTRAND

70

SOCOM'S SUPPRESSOR
Surefire's suppressor has been serving at war for more than a decade.
BY TOM BECKSTRAND

80

THE FIRST WEBLEY
Though initially overshadowed by other makes, in time Webleys would become the preeminent English revolvers.
BY GARRY JAMES

90

BEST STATES FOR GUN OWNERS 2021
The political landscape has changed, raising Wyoming to the top of G&A's rankings.
BY KEITH WOOD

114

BREAKING THE 6.5MM CURSE
Why the 6.5 Creedmoor won over American shooters, and opened the door to other mighty metrics.
BY CRAIG BODDINGTON

Reader Blowback 8
Editorial by Eric R. Poole 15
Gun Room by Garry James 17
Handgunning by Jeremy Stafford 25
Rifles & Glass by Tom Beckstrand 31
Gun Tech by Richard Nance 35
Bullet Board by Dave Emary 39
Lock, Stock & Barrel by SGM Kyle Lamb [Ret.] 45
Proofhouse Kimber Micro 9 Rapide (Black Ice) 9mm . . 122
Spent Cases by Keith Wood 128

Guns & Ammo (ISSN# 0017-5684) September 2021, Volume 65, Number 9. Copyright 2021. Published monthly by OUTDOOR SPORTSMAN GROUP®, 1040 6th Ave., 17th Floor, New York, NY 10018. Periodical postage paid at New York, NY, and at additional mailing offices. **POSTMASTER:** Send address change (Form 3579) to Guns & Ammo, P.O. Box 37539, Boone, IA 50037-0539. Return undeliverable Canadian addresses to: 500 R. 46 East, Clifton, NJ 07011. Canada Post Publications Mail Agreement No. 41405030.

RELENTLESS
MARK 5HD
RUGGED PERFORMANCE.
RELENTLESS PRECISION.
LIFETIME GUARANTEE
LEUPOLD

©2021 Remington Ammunition

THE DEADLIEST MUSHROOM. NOW EVEN DEADLIER.

At Remington, we believe that good is never good enough. That better can always be better. That's why we're proud to introduce Core-Lokt® Tipped. Offering proven on-game performance with improved accuracy and long-range potential, it's fair to say the legend just became more legendary.

NEW Core-Lokt® Tipped

- **Big Green Polymer Tip:** Improves long-range ballistics, in-flight accuracy, and initiates rapid expansion.
- **Proven Core-Lokt Jacket:** Tuned for optimal performance on big game.
- **Match-Grade Accuracy:** Center of gravity adjusted rearward to maximize accuracy.

Proudly Made in the USA by American Workers.

Stauer Collector's Series

FREE $99 Binoculars With Knife Purchase
(see details)

Not shown actual size.

BONUS! Call today and you'll also receive this heavy duty sheath!

Blade Stunner

*Beautifully made, magnificent to look at, this knife is a work of art at **only $99***

It's not often you happen upon a blade smith who has gem cutting skills. The stainless steel blade, bolster and pommel are exquisitely etched and would have looked great with a less ambitious handle. But the results of overachieving are stunning here. The turquoise-blue colored handle is ablaze with assorted stones like jasper, marble, sunstone, and coral that have been hand cut and inlaid in a Southwestern motif that conjures images of intricately beaded belts and moccasins.

Whether you collect blades, interesting stones, or are a lover of the great American Southwest, the ***Sedona Knife*** is more than cut out to do the job.

EXCLUSIVE FREE Stauer® 8x21 Compact Binoculars -a $99 value- with purchase of the Sedona Knife

Your satisfaction is 100% guaranteed. Feel the knife in your hands, wear it on your hip, inspect the impeccable craftsmanship of the ***Sedona Knife***. If you don't feel like we cut you a fair deal, send it back within 30 days for a complete refund of the item price.

Limited Reserves. You could pay nearly $1,900 for a steel, fixed blade knife with a gemstone handle, but why would you when you can enjoy the superb craftsmanship of the ***Sedona Knife*** for only **$99**. Don't let this beauty slip through your fingers. Call today!

What customers are saying about Stauer knives...

★★★★★

"Very hefty, well-built knife and sheath. Extremely good-looking and utilitarian."

— R., Lacey, Washington

Sedona Knife ~~$179~~*

Offer Code Price Only **$99** + S&P

Save $80

1-800-333-2045

Your Insider Offer Code: SEK186-01

You must use the insider offer code to get our special price.

Stauer®

14101 Southcross Drive W., Ste 155, Dept. SEK186-01
Burnsville, Minnesota 55337
www.stauer.com

ACCREDITED BUSINESS BBB **Rating of A+**

**Discount is only for customers who use the offer code versus the listed original Stauer.com price.*

California residents please call 1-800-333-2045 regarding Proposition 65 regulations before purchasing this product.

• 5" etched stainless steel blade; 9 1/2" overall length
• Turquoise-colored handle with accent stones including coral, marble, sandstone, tiger's eye, jasper and sunstone • Leather pouch included

Stauer... *Afford the Extraordinary.*®

GUNS&AMMO
gunsandammo.com
An Outdoor Sportsman Group® publication

VP, SHOOTING GROUP PUBLISHER
Chris Agnes

EDITORIAL

EDITOR
Eric R. Poole

EXECUTIVE EDITOR
Joe Kurtenbach

ART DIRECTOR
Michael Ulrich

STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER
Michael Anschuetz

DIGITAL EDITORIAL DIRECTOR
Jeff Phillips

SENIOR EDITOR
Garry James

FIELD EDITOR
Keith Wood

HANDGUN EDITOR
Jeremy Stafford

RIFLES AND OPTICS EDITOR
Tom Beckstrand

TECHNOLOGY EDITOR
Richard Nance

CONTRIBUTORS

Craig Boddington, Dave Emary, D. Faubion, Mark Fingar, Brad Fitzpatrick, Robert W. Hunnicutt, Kyle Lamb, Lukas Lamb, Jill Marlow, Alfredo Rico, Phil Schreier

ASSOCIATE PRODUCTION MANAGER
Elizabeth Carey

ENDEMIC AD SALES

NATIONAL ENDEMIC SALES MANAGER
Jim McConville (440) 791-7017

WESTERN REGION
Hutch Looney hutch@hlooney.com

EASTERN REGION
Pat Bentzel (717) 695-8095

MIDWESTERN REGION
Mark Thiffault (720) 630-9863

NATIONAL AD SALES

ACCOUNT DIRECTOR DETROIT OFFICE
Kevin Donley (248) 798-4458

NATIONAL ACCOUNT EXECUTIVE CHICAGO OFFICE
Carl Benson (312) 955-0496

DIRECT RESPONSE ADVERTISING/NON-ENDEMIC
Anthony Smyth (914) 409-4202

SUBSCRIPTIONS INQUIRIES: Should you wish to change your address, order new subscriptions, or report a problem with your current subscription, you can do so by writing Guns & Ammo, P.O. Box 37539, Boone, IA 50037-0539, or e-mail us at amocustserv@cdsfulfillment.com, or call TOLL FREE 1-800-800-2666. BE AWARE THAT GUNS & AMMO ONLY ACCEPTS SUBSCRIPTION REQUESTS FROM AUTHORIZED AGENTS! WE MAY NOT HONOR REQUESTS FROM UNAUTHORIZED AGENTS, AND YOU THEREFORE MAY LOSE YOUR MONEY IF YOU BUY FROM AN UNAUTHORIZED AGENT. If you are offered a subscription to Guns & Ammo, please call 1-800-800-2666 to determine if the agent is authorized. For more information on subscription scams, please visit www.ftc.gov.

SUBSCRIPTION RATE for one year is $19.94 (U.S., APO, FPO, and U.S. possessions). Canada add $13.00 (U.S. funds) per year, includes sales tax and GST. Foreign add $15.00 (U.S. funds) per year.

OUTDOOR SPORTSMAN GROUP®
INTEGRATED MEDIA

CORPORATE

CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER,
PUBLISHING & BRANDED MEDIA
Mike Carney

EXECUTIVE VP,
GROUP PUBLISHER & OPERATIONS
Derek Sevcik

VP, CONSUMER MARKETING
Peter Watt

VP, MANUFACTURING
Deb Daniels

SENIOR DIRECTOR, PRODUCTION
Connie Mendoza

DIRECTOR, PUBLISHING TECHNOLOGY
Kyle Morgan

SENIOR CREATIVE DIRECTOR
Tim Neher

For questions regarding digital editions,
please contact digitalsupport@outdoorsg.com.

MEDIA
outdoorsg.com

TELEVISION
outdoorchannel.com
thesportsmanchannel.com
worldfishingnetwork.com

FISHING
bassfan.com
floridasportsman.com
flyfisherman.com
gameandfishmag.com
in-fisherman.com

HUNTING
bowhunter.com
bowhuntingmag.com
gundogmag.com
petersenshunting.com
northamericanwhitetail.com
wildfowlmag.com

SHOOTING
gunsandammo.com
handguns.com
rifleshootermag.com
shootingtimes.com
firearmsnews.com

CONTRIBUTIONS: Manuscripts, photographs and artwork must be submitted to the editorial department with a SASE. The Publisher assumes no responsibility for loss or damage to unsolicited material. Please send to: **Guns & Ammo,** 2 News Plaza, Peoria, IL 61614, Attn: Editor

FOR REPRINTS: For Reprints/Eprints or Licensing/Permissions, please contact: Wright's Media — TOLL FREE 1 (877) 652-5295.

OCCASIONALLY, our subscriber list is made available to reputable firms offering goods and services that we believe would be of interest to our readers. **If you prefer to be excluded, please send your current address label and a note requesting to be excluded from these promotions to: Outdoor Sportsman Group® – 1040 6th Ave, 17th Floor, New York, NY 10018 Attn: Privacy Coordinator, or email your label information and note to privacy@outdoorsg.com**

The Publisher and authors make no representations or warranties regarding the accuracy, completeness, and timeliness of the information contained in this publication. Any reliance or use of the information is solely at your own risk, and the authors and Publisher disclaim any and all liability relating thereto. Any prices given in this issue were suggested prices at the press time and are subject to change.

Some advertisements in this magazine may concern products that are not legally for sale to California residents or residents in other jurisdictions.

GUNS&AMMO® is a registered trademark of Outdoor Sportsman Group® in the United States.

Copyright 2021 by Outdoor Sportsman Group®

All Rights Reserved. No part of this book may be reproduced without written permission.

Printed in the U.S.A.

Alliance for Audited Media

MPA

READER BLOWBACK

WRITE US! "Letters," Guns & Ammo, 2 News Plaza, 3rd Floor, Peoria, IL 61614, or email us at gaeditor@outdoorsg.com. Please include your city and state of residence. Letters may be edited for brevity and clarity.

LEFT-HAND '03?

I saw a left-hand 1903 Springfield in a brief film of the Marines in World War I, "The Battle that Made the Marines" on YouTube. I never knew they existed! Yes, the bolt arm was on the left side of the rifle, and it was shot by a lefty!
Lewis Brackett
Email

Unfortunately, the imagery in that film was reversed.
— G. James

GOOD ARTICLE

Garry James' July 2021 feature that reviewed the "Gas-Pump Rifle" was spot on. I have nine assorted Standard rifles and do not trust any of them. Also, I have an original document in good condition signed by "Charles King," which is dated June 26, (19)15. Perhaps it is a blueprint? It should be in a museum or possessed by an interested historian!
Oliver Green
Lakeland, Florida

PART FOUND!

In your May 2021 edition, on page 19, there was an inquiry about restoring a Spencer. In the answer to "H.C.D.," S&S Firearms was mentioned as a source for parts for these old guns.
I am the proud owner of an 1860s Spencer Carbine that was in need of a screw. I went to S&S's website (ssfirearms.com) and found what it was missing. I called them and spoke to a very understanding gentleman who confirmed the screw as the part I needed. Thank you for your information leading me to S&S.
Paul Lewis
Viera, Florida

SEEING BLOBS

SGM Kyle Lamb's column on mounting a red dot on a pistol covered almost all the issues. He failed to mention a problem that some gun owners, a small percentage, might have: Astigmatism. I've had people hand me a red-dot sight to illustrate how bright and easy it is to see. When I looked through the sight, the red dot resembles an amoeba. What I've found is that sights using a lens with etched glass have little to no perceived distortion of the dot, whereas sights that feature a collimated reflection of a projected dot give me anything but a crisp reticle. It may not be the sight's fault. If this is what you see, it may be an astigmatism.
Chuck Williamson
Mechanicsville, Virginia

NOT A COLT

In the July 2021 issue's "Reader Blowback," Mr. Snyder of Indiana claimed that the LAPD officer holding a revolver in Jeremy Stafford's May 2021 "Handgunning" column was a Colt Officer Model Match. It is not. When examining the picture on page 22, I see:

- Small rear-sight blade;
- Set-back Patridge front sight;
- Front ejector rod locking lug;
- Period-correct custom Roper target grips;
- A S&W cylinder release, lower than a Colt's.

Compare this to a picture of Smith & Wesson's .38-caliber Hand Ejector Military & Police Target model. I recommend Roy Jinks' "History of Smith & Wesson" (1977) as a reference. On page 172 of Jink's book, there is a photograph of one, a Model of 1905 Fourth Change, used by "Ed McGivern on January 23, 1934, to shoot five shots in two-fifths of a second into an area the size of a playing card." The Colt Officer Model Match had less barrel taper than the revolver pictured in Stafford's column.
Anonymous
Rio Rancho, New Mexico

CORRECTION

I'd like to compliment the staff and writers of Guns & Ammo. The magazine continues to improve and is certainly one of the best on the market. I look forward to every issue and read cover to cover. In the July 2021 issue, Eric Poole covered the reintroduction of the Colt Anaconda.
It was great article and is representative of Mr. Poole's excellent writing style. One part of the article caught my eye: He wrote that he identified the most consistent "cylinder" to fire all his five-round groups through. I think he meant "chamber." Interestingly, the International Handgun Metallic Silhouette Association (IHMSA, ihmsa.org) outlawed this practice in the revolver category years ago because it wasn't indicative of the revolver's ability when used as designed.
Bob Westlake
Spokane Valley, Washington

SEPTEMBER '17

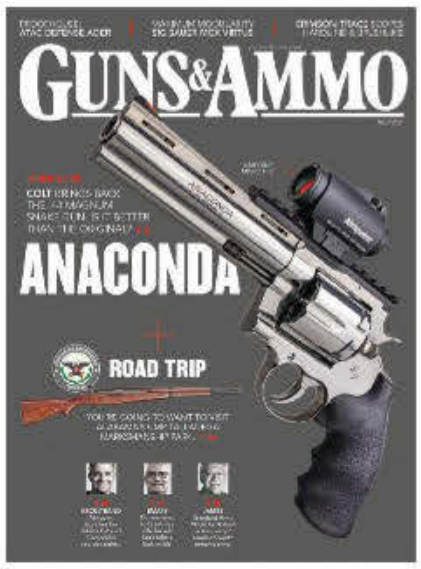
Guns & Ammo was permitted an exclusive testfire of SIG Sauer's XM17 submission to the Modern Handgun System (MHS). Based on a specially configured, all-FDE version of the first-generation P320, the M17 replaced the M9 as the U.S. military's standard-issue service pistol. The M18, a compact variant, was also contracted.

SEEKING LONG RANGE RELATIONSHIP

Gone are the long, lonely days dreaming of turning long range targets into short range bullseyes. Meet the new KelTec® CP33™ Competition Pistol. With its threaded barrel, adjustable fiber optic sights with long sight radius and two 33-round magazines, no bullseye is safe. Innovation. Performance. KelTec. See more at **KelTecWeapons.com.**

KEL TEC 30 YEARS

©2021 Kel-Tec CNC Industries, Inc



ANACONDA RAIL?

After purchasing the July 2021 issue of Guns & Ammo, I became the owner of the same 2021-manufactured Colt Anaconda that was featured on the cover of the newsstand edition. Where can I purchase the rail used for mounting optics or red dots? I need that and am struggling to find anyone who knows where to look!
Aaron Buchholz
Email

They'll be available at Brownells (brownells.com) in a few weeks. Sorry for the delay.
— J. Baldini,
Colt's Manufacturing Co.

TIME TO INVESTIGATE

Use the power of the pen to report on the shortage of reloading supplies, specifically primers and powder. The answer I get from gun stores is that there are now 7 million new shooters as of the last election, and they are buying up everything. Frankly, I don't buy that. I do believe there are gun and ammo shortages, but new shooters are not reloaders. A thousand primers used to cost $40 and now command upwards of $200 — if you can find them. That is not supply versus demand. What's going on? When will things get back to normal?
Marshall Nathanson
Thousand Oaks, California

WHERE TO BUY?

Mr. Poole, thank you for the editorial on Remington in the May 2021 issue. I collect Remington's .22 target rifles, and I enjoy shooting them at our gun range. Could you please tell me how I could get a copy of the table-top book you described by Roy Marcot?
Charles C. Page
Chesapeake, Virginia

Check remingtonsociety.org or amazon.com.
— E. Poole

STILL 40

Great stuff by Jeremy Stafford in the July 2021 issue's "Handgunning" column about the .40 S&W. I own several semiautomatic handguns in .40 and I really enjoy their performance and shootablity. I don't think the .40 will make a comeback, but it won't disappear either. That July issue was a great read, cover to cover.
Todd Kiger
Clarksburg, West Virginia

ARTICLE REQUEST

I cannot say that I've ever seen an article featuring Staccato pistols in Guns & Ammo magazine. When you get a chance, would you mind covering these?
Richard L
Las Vegas, Nevada

On May 27, 2020, the former STI Firearms changed its name to Staccato (staccato2011.com). You are correct, we have not published a review of these pistols since the rebrand. I recently fired the Staccato P carried as a duty pistol in Wisconsin, and watched it used through a two-day advanced pistol course. It was incredibly accurate, albeit a bit sensitive to the quality of range ammunition. For a tight-fit, double-stack 2011 that retails for $2,099, I wasn't surprised.
— E. Poole

ONE MORE SHOT

In July's "Reader Blowback," the letter from Bill Schroeder of Hillsboro, Illinois, and his comments on the ethics of long shots in hunting struck a nerve. His opinion that long shots "have nothing to do with hunting" is ill conceived. I've done long-range hunting and loved it. I've fed my family and friends with game and fish since I was old enough to legally do so. While antelope hunting in Wyoming, for example, I used a Sharps rifle replica that I built. I added my own design features, and its accuracy with my skill in using this rifle brought down a beautiful buck that was just an 1/8 of an inch short of making Boone & Crockett. In 1976, I was injured in a motorcycle accident and had to wear a cast after suffering a broken arm, sprained ankles and wrists. My condition made hunting and stalking very difficult. Still, I aimed using a tang-type peep sight and a lightly shaded front sight to make a shot from 500 yards. Without the use of technology, I proved then that many hunters could similarly accomplish that feat. In fact, there was also a Single-Shot Club whose members, some with scopes and some with open sights, did just that! Skilled hunters and shooters are capable of long-range shots in a sportsmanlike manner.
Curtis A. Kempka
Manitowoc, Wisconsin

EARLY RED DOTS

I have some information to add to Tom Beckstrand's July column on the new Aimpoint sights. There was a company in Buffalo, New York, making red-dot sights in the late 1960s before Aimpoint existed. "American Rifleman" even had an article in January 1969 about the Oxford Gunsight for rifles and pistols. Some of the older shooters in our local bullseye leagues used them on target pistols. I heard that Oxford was part of American Optical, also based in Buffalo. There are some mentions of the military using them in Vietnam, too.
Tom Hahn
Lockport, New York GA

THE BEST GUN ENTHUSIAST SHOWS EVER MADE. ONLY ON MYOUTDOORTV.

20,000+ Shows. Best-In-Class Content.

Watch the best hunting, fishing and shooting shows ever made. Exclusive, premium content added weekly. **MyOutdoorTV** is available on all your favorite devices — stream or download to watch anytime, anywhere.

MYOUTDOORTV. NOW EVERYWHERE.

tv App Store
XBOX Google Play
amazon fire TV Roku

MOTV
MYOUTDOORTV®
MYOUTDOORTV.COM

START YOUR FREE TRIAL

RMDS
2FE1:19
FN COLUMBIA, SC USA
FN COLUMBIA, SC USA
FN COLUMBIA,

WHOEVER SAID YOU CAN'T CHOOSE YOUR FAMILY WAS WRONG.

FN 509®
COMPACT
TACTICAL

FN 509®
MIDSIZE

FN 509®
COMPACT

FN 509®

FN 509®
TACTICAL

SCAN TO
LEARN MORE

FN 509® FAMILY

Distinctly different firearms that all share a common purpose: defending what you value most. From the innovators behind the world's most battle-proven firearms.® **Visit fnamerica.com**

CARRY THE FUTURE™

PELTOR™
SPORT

MORE SOUND.
LESS NOISE.

Peltor™ Sport Tactical 500 SMART Electronic Hearing Protection from 3M

SMART technology automatically adjusts your audio to the environment and firearm for customized protection. Speech is clearer. Operation is easier. The Tactical 500 syncs with Bluetooth® enabled devices — so you can stay connected and protected.

3M SMART Technologies

- **Dynamic Suppression Time** measures the energy in gunshot noise and automatically sets suppression time for reduced echoes and increased comfort
- **Clear Voice Tracking** seeks voice within background noise and actively filters noise for improved speech intelligibility

Foldable for storage and protection.

26 NRR

3M.com/PeltorSport

USA Shooting
Official Sponsor

© 3M 2020. All rights reserved. 3M and Peltor are trademarks of 3M. The Bluetooth® word mark and logos are registered trademarks owned by Bluetooth SIG, Inc. and any use of such marks by 3M is under license.

3M

I'll ***never forget*** *September 11, 2001.*

ERIC R. POOLE

@GUNSANDAMMOMAG

LIVES AFFECTED

I WAS A CADET in my senior year at the Virginia Military Institute (VMI) trying to survive a tough Hispanic literature class on September 11, 20 years ago. Halfway through, a third-year cadet, short of breath, charged into our room with news that a plane had hit a tower of the World Trade Center. The professor attempted to continue teaching amid our concerns, but the noise of pattering feet in the hall continued to rise so the instructor dismissed us early.

With the free time given to us, I decided to head back to my room and go over a paper due that day. The cadet barbershop had one of two cadet-accessible televisions on post, so I made my way using a shortcut to the Old Barrack's Sally Port for a glimpse of what was being reported. Many older cadets took pride in expressing a rebellious nature when it came to the Institute's strict grooming standards, so I knew the situation was serious when I arrived to find only standing room available. A minute after I started watching, I was among the many who witnessed Flight 175 hit the second World Trade Center tower at 9:02 a.m. Charles Mathers, VMI Class of 1962, was killed.

It was hard to fathom how or why such events occurred, and most of my thoughts turned to what it must have been like to be among the passengers. We all watched the news intently in awestruck silence. After witnessing the breaking reports of Flight 77 crashing into the Pentagon 36 minutes later, our fear and concern turned into anger. Lt. Cmdr. David Williams, VMI Class of 1991, was killed.

Institution officials quickly caught on to the distress and canceled most classes. Two of my rifle teammates were brothers whose father worked at the Pentagon, so I shared their concern for his safety. We found out that afternoon that his office had been destroyed. Unbelievably, he had called in sick.

Cadets were instructed to stay on post, and those of us who were either in the National Guard or Marine Corps Reserves were told to contact our chain of command for possible deployment orders. My unit's Inspector-Instructor staff said that I would be contacted if necessary. I spent the rest of the day helping to manage freshmen who came together to sew 100-plus twin-size bedsheets in the Old Barrack's courtyard. It would later serve as a four-story projector screen so that the entire Corps of Cadets could watch President Bush's address to the nation.

In the days that followed, some cadets tried to organize a volunteer crew to go and help in the recovery and cleanup. Authorities in New York and Washington D.C. declined VMI's offer of assistance leaving many of us feeling helpless. It wasn't long before we coped by hanging a massive Garrison flag for display on the outside of barracks.

I graduated VMI in May 2002 and remained enlisted. Less than a year later, I was part of the Iraq invasion. I wasn't alone; the number of graduates who joined the military increased to more than 50 percent.

Like many, the War on Terror had a real face for me. My "Brother Rat" Lt. Joshua Hurley, Class of 2001, was my first friend killed in Iraq on November 1, 2003. Next, fellow classmate Sgt. Ryan Doltz, Class of 2000, was killed in Iraq on June 6, 2004. The tough and bright Capt. Luke Wullenwaber, Class of 2002, was killed in Iraq on November 16, 2004. Sgt. Dale Griffin, Class of 2003 was killed in Afghanistan on October 27, 2009, and Class Vice President Charles Ransom, Class of 2001, was murdered in Afghanistan on April 27, 2011. Capt. Michael Newton, Class of 2003, was killed on June 11, 2011. Mike was a great guy, unusually cheerful, who I enjoyed mentoring while on the rifle team. Fifteen fellow alumni have died due to this war.

I lost another rifle teammate, and good friend, CW2 Howard Cook, Class of 2001. He was a fellow Marine reservist while attending VMI who later served in Iraq in 2005. A police officer for the Federal Reserve Bank, he was also a Blackhawk pilot for the Texas Army National Guard. Gearing up for a deployment to Afghanistan, he was killed by a vehicle driving the wrong way on July 7, 2011.

After 20 years, the War on Terror continues.

MAXUS II
BROWNING
BROWNING.COM

*"**The Germans made use** of just about every arm they could from those countries they defeated, so your point is well-taken."*

IDENTIFICATION & VALUES

GARRY JAMES
GARRY.JAMES@OUTDOORSG.COM

UNKNOWN MAKER, AMERICAN PISTOL, CIRCA 1845

HARDWARE STORE PISTOL

Q: This pistol was passed down from my father. It has been in our family for many years. It was my grandfather's originally, and I believe he bought it in the late 1950s or early 1960s. I think my father told me that my grandfather obtained the pistol in Michigan. I've tried doing research on it, but I cannot find much information. I've attached images and hope that you can do better. I'm unsure on the caliber, maybe .45 or .54. The length of the pistol is 9 inches exactly. The inscription of the lockplate says "Made for Hooper Martin & Smith Philadelphia".
M.V.
Email

A: *That's an interesting piece. It is a greatcoat-sized percussion pistol manufactured by some unknown maker for the hardware store Hooper, Masters and Smith which maintained a business on 1153 Market St., Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. The 1839 edition of "McElroy's Philadelphia City Directory" states the firm was "Importers and dealers in foreign and domestic hardware and cutlery." The style of the pistol indicates an American — probably Pennsylvania — origin. I would date it circa 1845. It is similar to the wares of Henry Deringer, though because it's so plain, I would be inclined it to think it was made by someone else. It's rather nice. If it was mine, I'd fit it with a proper hammer screw and get a ramrod for it. My guess is the rod would probably have had a horn, brass or German silver tip.*

"THUNDER RANCH" S&W MODEL 21

Q: My father-in-law was an avid hunter, shooter and collector who certainly made use of my FFL through the years to add to his collection. The last item I procured for him before he passed away was a "Thunder Ranch" S&W Model 21-4 in .44 Special, S/N TRS0XXX. After he passed away, my brother-in-law, who inherited all his firearms, gave this to me for sentimental reasons. I promised him and my wife that I would never sell it, but I am wondering what it is worth. It is totally unmolested and in 95 percent (or better) condition. The only marks are cylinder-stop drag marks on the cylinder. He passed very few rounds through it, and I have never fired it myself. I am just curious about how rare these "Thunder Ranch" revolvers are and what its approximate value is.
M.S.
Wentzville, Missouri

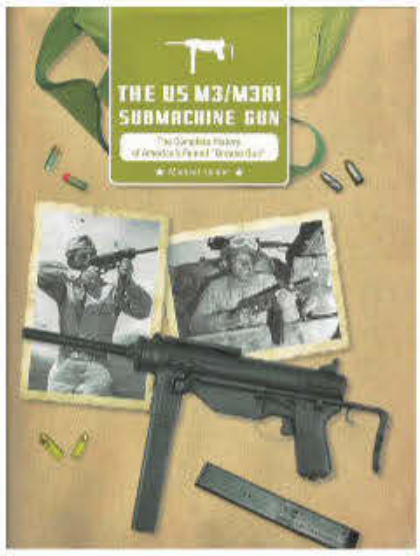
A: *The .44 Special Thunder Ranch Special was a limited-edition version of the Smith & Wesson Model 21-4 manufactured from 2004 to 2006. They came with a blue or nickel finish and with round butts. According to the "Forty-Second Edition Blue Book of Gun Values" (bluebbookofgun-*

AUCTION BLOCK

A lovely pair of unfired, decorated Colt Woodsman Match Target semiautomatic pistols realized $25,000 at a May 21, 2021, Sportsman's Legacy sale. The pistols, one of which has a 4½-inch barrel and the other a 6-inch barrel, feature Colt factory "C" engraving, gold lettering and target grips. The work was executed in 1983 by Master Engraver George Spring, and he employed floral and scroll designs over some 75 percent of the guns. They are fitted in a French-style, double-walnut case complete with a Colt Custom medallion on the lid. All-in-all, the pair offers a spectacular presentation. For more information concerning this and future sales, visit Sportsman's Legacy at sportsmanslegacy.com.

HAVE AN HEIRLOOM?
Curious about a vintage firearm? Email Garry at garry.james@outdoorsg.com, or send a description with detailed photos to Gun Room, Guns & Ammo, 2 News Plaza, 3rd Floor, Peoria, IL 61614. Please include your name and state of residence.

Due to the volume of requests each month, personal replies are not possible. The most interesting or unusual queries are answered in Guns & Ammo magazine.



RECOMMENDED READS

***The US M3/M3A1 Submachine Gun* by Michael Heidler; Schiffer Publishing, Ltd., Atglen, PA. 2020; 225 pages; hardcover**
One of the most interesting, practical and cost-effective submachine guns to emerge during World War II was the M3/M3A1 "Grease Gun." Manufactured of stamped, welded and some machined parts, it was produced for a fraction of the price of a Thompson — and it could be turned out much more quickly. First adopted by the United States in 1943, this arm (in two main variants) saw worldwide usage beyond that conflict. Author Michael Heidler has produced a wonderfully-illustrated, detailed history of this fascinating full-auto. Details of the M3/M3A1's development, manufacture, employment and ammunition and accessories are covered in a readable, easy-to-access format. Many period diagrams and photographs complete this well-thought-out book. It's not just an informative read, but an entertaining one as well. $45

SPRINGFIELD ARMORY KRAG-JØRGENSEN MODEL 1898, .30-40 KRAG, 80%: $900

values.com), a Thunder Ranch Model 21-4 in 95 percent shape is worth $600.

.44-40 CARTRIDGES

Q: I am 85 years of age and trying to make sense of a box of Remington .44-40 pistol cartridges in a green Remington box. I also have the following rifles: A Colt Lightning pump rifle marked ".44 Cal." produced in 1896; a Winchester Model 1873 barrel marked ".44 WCF" and produced in 1888; and a Winchester Model 92 Trapper marked ".44 WCF". All of these rifles are in very good to excellent condition. My question is can the Remington .44-40 cartridges be used in these three firearms? The Remington box of factory ammo is marked for pistols and revolvers. Thanks for your information. I want to leave these rifles to my children with a box of ammo for each.
H.R.
Email

A: *All three of your rifles are chambered in .44-40, which was also known as .44 Winchester Centerfire (WCF). The ammunition should be compatible. Before shooting them, I'd have a gunsmith give them a going over to make sure they are in proper order. Depending on what style of green box you have, the ammo might have a few years on it, so it wouldn't hurt to have that looked at as well.*

SGT. SCHULTZ'S RIFLE, TAKE 1

Q: Reader C.B. of Willits, California, asked you a question in the June 2021 issue of G&A about Sgt. Schultz's rifle as used in the vintage television program "Hogan's Heroes." You are correct in that Sgt. Schultz did carry the Krag-Jørgensen, but many other characters also are shown carrying the same rifle. You will find many other weird uses of other firearms in the show. I, too, am old enough to have watched the show when it first aired, but I was given a set of DVDs by my son a few years back and I watched them all. Just recently, April 1, 2021, I began to re-watch the show, and in doing so, I, too, came of the realization that many of the firearms shown are not German at all! It is fun to see the strange firearms in the hands of the "enemy." The same applies to all of the strange and re-badged vehicles (mostly trucks) used in the production of that show as well!
A.R.
Shoreham, Vermont

A: *Thank you for the added information. It is very interesting. I would recommend that readers who are interested in the program to give it another look-see.*

SGT. SCHULTZ'S RIFLE, TAKE 2

Q: There is a simple reason that "Sergeant Hans Schultz" was shown toting a Krag-Jørgensen rifle in "Hogan's Heroes": Historical accuracy! Unlike the Americans, the British and the Russians, the Germans never managed to manufacture enough of their standard arms to equip every member of their armed forces. The combat troops had first call on all 98Ks, MG 42s, MP 40s, and P.38s that came out of the factories. But there weren't enough of those to arm the occupying troops, the third-line troops guarding German installations at home, or fourth-line troops such as prisoner-of-war camp guards.
The Nazis took over the arsenals and armories of the nations they occupied, and the occupying units were frequently armed with guns of the army they had conquered to simplify supply issues. When it came to rifles, the third- and fourth-line troops were armed with whatever they could scrape up. Given that Denmark was the model protectorate of the Third Reich, even retaining its pre-war government, and close enough to Germany that the Germans could ship rifles and ammunition right to their troops, the

GUN STORIES

STRONGER TOGETHER

America's firearms community is strong. Reliable. And passionate. Wednesday Night At The Range honors our freedoms with a full evening of expert coverage, led by Joe Mantegna, Craig Boddington, Michael Bane, Mark Keefe, and Jim and John Scoutten.

WEDNESDAY NIGHT
AT THE RANGE
BEGINS 7P ET

Midway USA Outdoor

Krag-Jørgensen rifle were surplus to meet the needs of the *Wehrmacht*. There weren't all that many German troops in Denmark until 1943, in any case. Thus, it is not surprising that Danish Krags would have been turned over to the Luftwaffe and issued to the guards of the prison camps. The thinking in the OKW would have been that it would be unlikely the guards would need to shoot the downed flyers; the rifles were more a symbol of their authority over the POWs than practical firearms. The average American television viewer of the 1960s could identify the longarms used by the U.S. Army in World War II, the German Luger, the M1911A1, the Colt Peacemaker and possibly the Winchester Model 1892, but that's about as far as it went. If they saw a German soldier with a bolt-action rifle, they would assume it was a Mauser 98K. I know I didn't pick up on the fact "Schultz" carried a Krag-Jørgensen until the show was in reruns, and I've been gun-obsessed my whole life. The fact the production company would go to that level of detail shows they understood how serious a business comedy can be.

R.J.
Email

GREEN RIVER RIFLE WORKS TRAPPER'S PISTOL, .50-CAL., 90%

A: *Thanks for your interesting reply. The Germans made use of just about every arm they could from those countries they defeated, so your point is well-taken. Of course, as far as TV people are concerned, especially around the time of the production of "Hogan's Heroes," they went to gun rental firms and picked up bits and pieces that were photogenic as long as they more-or-less resembled what they figured might actually have been used, and which could use readily available blanks.*

GREEN RIVER RIFLE WORKS PISTOL

Q: I bought this .50-caliber blackpowder pistol in the early '70s at an estate auction for $50. What attracted me first was the perfect pattern of the grain in the stock. I know it was made by the Green River Rifle Works, now long out of business. I would like to know if any production numbers exist and what it is worth. The workmanship

BELGIAN "FRONTIER ARMY," UNKNOWN CALIBER, 30%

is far above average. It has never been loaded but has been capped and dry fired as noted by the residue on the nipple.
J.F.W.
Email

A: *I agree. The Green River Rifle Works turned out some very nice pieces, the Trapper's Pistol — which is what you have — being one of them. Their arms, which as I recollect were largely designed by "Doc" Gary White, had a much more authentic period look than some of the other mass-produced muzzleloaders of the period. Quality was excellent. I remember we featured one on the cover of the "Guns & Ammo Complete Guide to Black-powder" published in 1974. Green River Rifle Works offered a nice selection of longarms at that time. I believe the company started business around 1972. Its pistols are scarcer than the longarms, many of the former being custom or semi-custom pieces. There is healthy interest in GRRW guns, and even a collector's group, which you may want to check out. The Trapper's Pistol came out in 1974 and sold for $250. It was available in .45, .50, .54 and .58 calibers with various barrel lengths and a choice of percussion or flintlock ignition. As I haven't seen a Trapper's Pistol for sale in some time, I'm afraid I really don't have a feel for what they are going for right now. Not a lot of them were made, so they don't often turn up for sale.*

BELGIAN "FRONTIER ARMY" REVOLVER

Q: I have a revolver my dad found in south-eastern Colorado near La Junta, circa 1920. He searched for and collected many pottery shards, bone needles and arrowheads when he was a boy and also found this six-shot, either .44- or .45-caliber revolver, marked "Frontier Army" on top. On the right side, just forward of the cylinder, are an "R" and an "L" along with two or three other symbols. It was in a weather-beaten leather holster, which I also have. The gun and holster appear to have been out in the elements many years before my dad found them. I'm 72 and I will be passing this gun on to one

of my sons or grandsons who are all avid hunters. I would like to be able to also pass on any history about the gun, too. This is a single-action revolver. The barrel is not rifled and the bore is offset.
B.S.
Email

A: *You have a Belgian-made revolver, the lines of which (and its moniker) are trying to roughly emulate a Colt-style Single Action Army, and to be marketed accordingly. These were inexpensive handguns offered from the last quarter of the 20th century until around the beginning of World War II. Calibers varied. When new, your "Frontier Army" probably sold for around $5.*

NEEDLEFIRE SALON PISTOL

Q: I recently purchased what I believe to be a needlefire pistol, the needle being 2 inches long. It's about .32 caliber, in great condition and nicely engraved. It has a Belgian proofmark and the name "RISSACK". How rare is this gun, and what is its value?
D.W.
Owatonna, Minnesota

RISSACK NEEDLEFIRE PISTOL, .32 CAL., 75%: $1,125

A: *Jean Jacques Rissack was a maker who maintained an establishment in Herstal, Belgium, around the midpoint of the 19th century. Among other items (such as Flobert-type pistols), he produced multi- and single-barreled needlefire pistols such as your* pistolet de salon *(i.e., "saloon" or "gallery" pistol). As the gun's name implies, it fired a self-contained cartridge that was discharged by means of a needle that pierced the rear of the round, striking a primer. A variant of this system was used most prominently in the Prussian* Zundnadelgewehr *military arms of the 1840s, '50s '60s. Rissack also made rook rifles and experimented with needlefire revolvers. Your piece is, as you say, quite nice and typical of his best work. Determining value is tough as I haven't seen too many come up for sale. Based upon similar pieces and the rather tepid market for arms of this type currently, I'd price it between $1,000 and $1,250.* G&A

HOME SWEET HOME DELIVERY

We didn't invent the silencer. But we sure did reinvent the process of buying one. At Silencer Central, our simplified process is smarter, easier, and ensures you get the silencer you need delivered right to your front door.

SILENCER® CENTRAL

Silence Delivered™

SilencerCentral.com : 888-781-8778

When your hunt is on the line...
take the BRUSHLINE™
50 NEW OPTICS
LIFETIME WARRANTY
FAILURE
IS NOT AN OPTION
CRIMSON TRACE®
CRIMSONTRACE.COM

Reloads should be fast, efficient and ***rare****.*

JEREMY STAFFORD

REALISTIC RELOADS

DESPITE WHAT THE MEDIA would have people believe, defensive shootings involving armed citizens — both sworn and non-sworn — do happen, but they remain statistically rare. Most police officers and concealed carry practicioners will never shoot their pistols in a life-or-death event. More likely, when a situation requires an armed defender to draw a pistol, there is a good chance that the bad guy will reconsider their actions rather than engage in a gunfight. That's a win for the good guys and it illustrates the importance of being armed. Still, it's not a shooting.

Depending on the source, the typical gunfight consists of two to four rounds fired in less than three or four seconds. It's tough to imagine the need for a reload given those parameters. And, despite anecdotal tales, documented events involving an actual reload and re-engagement are difficult to find. I was my department's firearms subject-matter expert for years, and I can only recall one event. That's a very small percentage of what are already statistically rare occurances.

Despite being unlikely, defensive shootings do happen, which is why we train, practice and strive to get better with our firearms. Training time is precious, and ammo is even more so these days. I'm sure that what I say next is going to ruffle a few feathers. Unless you're practicing for competition, you're probably spending too much time training to reload. Your training time would be much

PHOTOS: JEFF EDMONDS | MUZZLEFLASH MEDIA

HEX™
BY SPRINGFIELD ARMORY

WASP MICRO FOOTPRINT™ RED DOT

DRAGONFLY STANDARD™ FOOTPRINT RED DOT

PRECISION CRAFTED
OPTICS

HEX™ is a special project by Springfield Armory® to develop superior optical support for your firearms. Built to exacting specifications from premium materials, every HEX product is thoroughly tested and backed by our Lifetime Warranty.

LIFETIME HEX WARRANTY™

HEXOPTICS.COM

Precision, dexterity and time are all prerequisites for performing the so-called "tactical" reload. Though the intent is sound, this carryover from the single-stack era comes up short on utility with modern semiautos.

Real-life reloads are incredibly rare. Making the most of naturally occuring slide-lock reloads during training will help reinforce the needed mechanics without taking valuable time and ammo from other skills.

Given the 10-plus-round standard capacities of micro-compacts like the SIG P365, running low on ammo has never been less likely.

better spent developing accuracy and speed, which would negate the need for a reload in anything except the most outlandish "marauding gang" scenario.

The advent of micro-compact 9mm pistols that are slim, offer superb control and carry a large number of rounds makes the concept of a defensive reload even more far-fetched. This is not to say that you shouldn't spend time training for reloads, but the type of reload matters, as does the amount of time you spend practicing it.

Tactical Reload This reload, as it is commonly understood, is obsolete. In practice, the shooter would acquire the fresh magazine with the thumb and middle finger of the support hand, bring it up to the pistol, eject the partially loaded magazine between the ring and small finger of the same hand, insert the fresh magazine into the pistol, and then secure the expended magazine containing an unknown number of rounds somewhere on the body — you know, just in case.

Originally developed when pistoleros carried one single-stack seven-round magazine in a M1911, plus one reload on the belt, it made sense. With only 15 to 17 rounds total, you don't want to throw ammunition away. The awkward gun-jitsu of placing a magazine between specific fingers is much easier to accomplish with a thin, single-stack magazine. There was also

an assumption that a pause or lull may arise during the fight, or perhaps the shooter could find some cover that would allow for topping off the gun while retaining the partial magazine. With the historical aspect of the tactical reload covered, let's look at the practical facts.

First, modern service pistols generally use double-stack magazines that provide more ammunition in one magazine than a single-stack magazine provided in two, or sometimes three, full magazines. Even micro-sized concealed carry pistols such as the SIG Sauer P365, Springfield Armory Hellcat and Taurus GX4 provide the shooter with 11 to 16 rounds in the pistol, and 12 to 15 more on the belt or in the support-side pocket. Not only is a shooter unlikely to run out of ammunition, but the thickness of those magazines makes the act of holding two magazines in the same hand difficult for many. I'm not arguing to train less, I'm just suggesting that we train smarter. In the 40 or so years that my department has taught this technique, shooters only used this reload to top their pistol off after the engagement was over. Looking at it critically, the entire premise of the tactical reload is flawed. Being in a gunfights is like being pregnant: You either are, or you aren't. There is no pause or lull to facilitate these kinds of square-range theatrics. In maneuver warfare or within a trained team, there might be a time and place to retain magazines. In these cases, a reload with retention is a better option than a tactical reload.

If you ever do need more bullets in a gunfight, you are probably going to need them fast. Set up your gear so that spare magazines are oriented bullets-forward, this will help you index with your support hand to quickly and reliably bring the fresh magazine to the gun.

Retention Reloads A reload with retention is simple. The shooter removes the old magazine, places it in a pocket, then changes mags like normal. The people that cling to the tactical reload and dislike the retention reload always point out that there is a longer period of time when the gun only has one round in it. While this is true, the benefit is that there is no period of time in which the shooter is juggling two magazines with their support hand in front of their face. While in Iraq, I often retained my magazines during combat. It wasn't to reload with them; it was because they were the only magazines that I had and I wasn't likely to get more of them. We would reload the magazines from ammo cans after the fight. This is a radically different set of circumstances when compared to a self-defense or on-duty shooting.

Even from a training perspective, the tactical reload is inefficient. It takes up more training time than any other reload in the basic firearms curricula, yet it is never used. Why are we spending our precious training time teaching a technique that doesn't get used? (Or at least, is used so infrequently that finding actual data is impossible.)

Speed Reloads Reloading the pistol is important because when you need more bullets in a gunfight, you're going to need them quickly. By eliminating something that is never used, we can spend more time on training for what's realistic: In-battery and out-of-battery reloads. Sometimes called "emergency" reloads or "speed reloads," these are more likely to be needed and share many of the same mechanics, which make them efficient to teach and practice.

The magazine exchange part of the reload is where most struggle, but it can be practiced dry, away from the range. Be deliberate about the live-fire range time you spend on reloads. Your training should reflect the skills most likely to be needed in the unlikely event of a gunfight. A fast, smooth draw with a fast, accurate shot pair should be the priority. Afterwards, you can work on other skills such as clearing malfunctions and one-handed shooting. There are a lot of skills to be practiced, but not all should be prioritized. Time and resources are limited, use them wisely. G&A

EOTECH®

COMMUNITY
COUNTRY
PROTECT CONSERVATION
HOME

vudu 3.5-18x50 SFP

eotechinc.com

©Copyright 2021 EOTECH, LLC. All rights reserved. EOTECH®, Vudu® and HWS® are registered trademarks of EOTECH, LLC.

Choose to blend in.

If you're carrying concealed and want to be comfortable, then a holster needs to be the last item you put on in the morning, not the first.

Sneaky Pete holsters fit into your lifestyle and you'll never have to dress around your firearm again. No matter how you make your way in the world, there's a Sneaky Pete Holster that's exactly right for you!

Holsters start at only:

$39.95!

Prices vary based on color and material

SneakyPete.com

FREE SHIPPING with code: GA2021

Sharpshooters gathered at ***USASOC's sniper competition.***

TOM BECKSTRAND

THE UNKNOWNS

THE SNIPER COMMUNITY is a close-knit bunch, especially when it comes to the special operations units. These units are small and exclusive, so there is little information available about what they do and how they do it. If you're connected, though, you might already know about the annual, week-long competition held at Fort Bragg, North Carolina, where special operations units from around the world get together and compete to see who performs the best. Previously, I've been limited to attending during the one day when the event opens up to vendors and those supporting the competition. However, this year I had the opportunity to observe the match in its entirety. What I observed was enlightening.

The hosting organization is the United States Army Special Operations Command (USASOC). This year's competition had 14, two-man teams in attendance, and the competition was set up and run by the Special Forces Sniper School cadre, who did an exceptional job. All of the Special Forces Groups (i.e., Green Berets) were represented, as was the 75th Ranger Regiment and a Tier 1 USASOC Headquarters element. The Marines sent a team of Raiders and instructors from their scout/sniper course, and the Coast Guard sent a team. There is normally good representation from federal law enforcement organizations, but this year only the Secret Service attended due to Covid-19 travel restrictions. Partner countries are also invited and usually show up in force, but due to those same travel restrictions, only the French Commandos had a team compete.

The competition occurs over four days with day five being reserved for the awards presentation. Each team completes approximately four events each day, and there are night events on two of the four days. This is a ".308 Only" match, but competitors can bring and compete with whatever guns and optics they prefer. The cartridge rule is to keep it service-related and to maintain good training value for the time invested. No one has fielded a 6mm for service use, and only a handful of snipers are using the .260/6.5mm cartridges. The .308 mandate keeps the playing field (mostly) level. The continued use of the .308 is due to logistical considerations and not any perceived superiority of the .308 over other cartridges for sniping use.

Every rifle shoots the same cartridge, but there is a lot of variety in terms of guns, and some variety among the scopes used in the match. Most bolt-action rifles I saw were built with custom actions dropped into the sniper's chassis of choice. The most common actions used for these rifles were the Impact 737R (impactprecisionshooting.com) and Bighorn's by Zermatt Arms (bighornarms.com). The most impressive rifle I saw was Accuracy International's new AT-X (accuracyinternational.com) used by the Marine Raiders.

The optics used on the sniper rifles were almost exclusively made by Nightforce (nightforceoptics.com). Each competitor brought a sniper rifle, a carbine and a pistol. Of the 28 sniper rifles present, 23 wore Nightforce scopes. Of the remaining five, three were Leupold (leupold.com) and the French Commandos brought two Steiner scopes (steiner-optics.com). There were also 28 carbines at the match, and the split with those worked out to about 22

Nightforce 1-8Xs with the remainder being Vortex's 1-6X (vortexoptics.com).

The competition had about 20 stages requiring competitors to use all three guns, but never all three for the same stage. Some stages were what most expected with conventional sniper tasks of shooting small targets that are far away with one guy on the rifle and one guy on a spotting scope. One twist that competitors faced was a stage where the spotter could see the target but the guy on the rifle couldn't. This was solved by giving corrections to the shooter based on a point both could see. Another stage had snipers surrender the ammunition they were using in exchange for mystery ammunition that they had to "dope" on the clock. This meant they had to not only zero the rifle for the new ammunition, but figure out its trajectory and hit targets while doing so.

Other stages included pistol and carbine shooting along with employing the sniper rifle. Most of these stages incorporated movement into the course of fire, required competitors to transition from one firearm to the next and also reload each rifle while on the clock.

One of my favorite stages was called "Heavy Drop." It had two, 130-pound dummies that each team had to carry to get the ammunition they needed to shoot the stage. There was a small orange cone every 15 yards or so, and for each cone they passed the team got one round. If both guys carried both dummies, passing a cone netted two rounds. Once the team had the ammunition they needed, they ran up to the fourth floor of a tower and engaged steel targets from 550 to 850 meters away. The time they had to complete the stage was 4 minutes. This event required physical fitness, teamwork and shooting ability to complete.

The competition also required competitors to be familiar with a wide range of technology. Each team had night vision and thermal sights, and was required to shoot four of the 20 stages at night. The night stages were no less gun-handling intensive. One stage required magazine changes every six rounds and shooting off both shoulders when employing the carbine and rifle. That stage packed shooting with night vision, magazine changes across two different rifles and ambidextrous shooting, all into one event. That's a lot to do at once, and every team I observed did it well.

I had an opportunity to interview the commanding general of the Special Warfare Center and School (swcs.mil), Maj. Gen. Patrick B. Roberson, during the match. I asked him what he's seen change in sniping since the War on Terror began. He said, "We've gotten a lot better with how we train internally, our ability to use technology to our advantage, our ability to train our foreign partners, and how we employ them on the battlefield." He credits this competition as one of the reasons sniping has improved so drastically in the last 10 years.

What makes this match unique among any and all precision rifle matches (other than who attends) are the unknowns each team faces at the start of a stage. The team receives limited information and has little time to prepare. They have to make decisions quickly while also knowing they don't have all the facts they need to be comfortable with their decisions. This replicates what's expected of them in combat. While things like firearm proficiency and physical fitness are keys to surviving on the battlefield, decision-making under pressure is the most important skill a special operations soldier can have.

By the time the dust settled, and the match was over, the USASOC Headquarters team took first place with the Marine Corps Raiders so close behind them that a single target could have changed the outcome of the competition. The 5th Special Forces Group took third and the 75th Ranger Regiment placed fourth. G&A

ANYTIME, ANYWHERE

DIGITAL ACCESS NOW INCLUDED WITH YOUR PAID SUBSCRIPTION!

ENJOY DIGITAL ACCESS ON YOUR PHONE, TABLET & MORE*

SUBSCRIBE TODAY AT

WWW.GUNSANDAMMO.COM

CURRENT SUBSCRIBERS GO TO MYMAGNOW.COM
AND SELECT "CREATE DIGITAL ACCOUNT"

*Digital Edition is available on updated iPad/iPhone, most Android devices, and the Microsoft Store for Windows

GUN OWNERS CARE
GunOwnersCare.org

SECONDS MATTER

X-POINT™ DEFENSE

There are no second chances when it comes to personal defense situations. Browning's personal protection ammunition is designed for the most demanding scenarios. When seconds matter, trust in Browning X-Point Defense.

X-POINT TECHNOLOGY

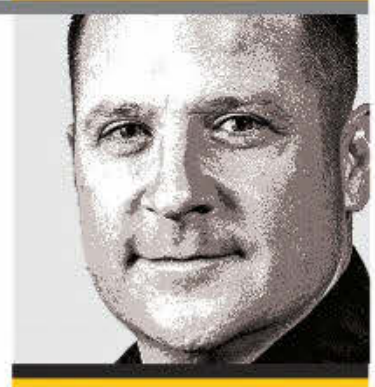
- Guards hollow point for consistent expansion and penetration
- Rapidly transfers energy to the target
- Formed metallic hollow point for consistency, toughness and reliability

AVAILABLE IN
380 ACP
9MM LUGER
40 S&W
45 AUTO
10MM AUTO

BROWNING®
AMMUNITION

© 2021 Browning Ammunition

Nighthawk Custom Interchangeable Optic System (IOS)



RICHARD NANCE

The IOS uses a tapered slide cut to accept either a blended cover plate with the Novak-pattern dovetail for iron sights, or a mounting plate designed to accept popular red-dot sights. IOS plates feature an integral suppressor-height rear sight as a backup to the electronic optic. The design and precision machine work means that you don't have to re-zero if you change between plates. The IOS is available on new builds as well as a retrofit option for many existing Model 1911s. Cost for the modification is $350 plus $150 for a red-dot-ready IOS plate. (Optic not included.)

AN ADAPTABLE SIGHTING SOLUTION

RED-DOT SIGHTS are quickly becoming the norm for pistols. These days, almost every pistol manufacturer is offering red-dot-ready options. Recently, Nighthawk Custom raised the bar with their cleverly designed Interchangeable Optic System (IOS) that allows users to quickly change from a plate with a traditional rear sight to a one with a red-dot sight, and vice-versa.

Why would you change your pistol's sights? Consider the case of a concealed-carry practitioner who's just learning to use a red-dot optic. With the IOS, you can train to proficiency with the red dot, yet still rely on the familiarity of traditional sights for carry during the learning curve.

Interchangeability also enables a user to rotate a single red-dot sight between multiple M1911s with the IOS.

An innovative and precisely executed dovetail cut ensures strong and consistent mating between IOS components. IOS slides accept both iron-sight and red-dot mounting plates.

PHOTOS: MICHAEL ANSCHUETZ

Suffice it to say, having the ability to easily transition between a red dot and traditional sights has many advantages.

IOS plates are machined from prehardened material for durability. Currently, there are plates to accommodate some of the most popular red-dot sights, including the Trijicon RMR (tested), Holosun 507, the Shield RMSc and the Vortex Viper. The plates also feature an integral rear sight that's tall enough to see through the window of your optic. Interestingly, the low profile IOS enables you to see a standard-height front sight with a traditional rear sight through the optic's window.

The IOS-compatible plates feature a dovetail cut that mates to a corresponding track machined into the top of the slide. Once mounted, the plates are secured by a locking pin and screw. The system is simple and elegant, as expected from Nighthawk.

For personal defense, traditional sight redundancy is critical because even the best red dots can malfunction. In such a case, having a secondary sighting system could be a lifesaver. Unlike some red-dot mounts that obscure a permanently mounted rear sight, the IOS has an integral rear sight that works in conjunction with your red dot.

To remove an IOS plate, use the supplied Allen wrench to loosen the nut atop the plate. Then push the pin out the side of the plate and slide the plate rearward. To install another plate, simply reverse the process. It couldn't be simpler.

Nighthawk's tapered dovetail cut is brilliant. It ensures the plate is mounted precisely for a perfect fit with no loss of zero. The IOS is well designed and epitomizes the quality that Nighthawk Custom is known for. If you're looking for the versatility to switch between a red dot and traditional sights on your M1911, the IOS may be the perfect solution. Visit nighthawkcustom.com to learn more. G&A

WHAT YOU CARRY, CARRIES YOU.

The M&P Shield® Plus. Our most comfortable, high-capacity, concealed carry, Micro-Compact EVER.

The Shield™ Plus pistol is the next evolution in everyday carry. With a standard capacity of 13+1 rounds, the M&P Shield® Plus delivers a natural point-of-aim and a newly optimized grip texture to help you manage recoil to keep you on target round after round. The new flat face trigger design allows for consistent finger placement that helps with repeatable, accurate, comfortable shooting.

See the full lineup including ported barrel, optics cuts, and longer slide options at smith-wesson.com.

Smith & Wesson®

©2021 Smith & Wesson Inc. All Rights Reserved

BECAUSE YOU WON'T LAST LONG
OUT HERE ON TAG SOUP.

The new **110 Timberline**, painstakingly engineered to withstand the rigors of unpredictable high-country conditions. This is our testing ground; a gnarly, beautiful place where low temps and even lower pressures cause lesser firearms to fail. One of six purpose-built, premium firearms, only from Savage.

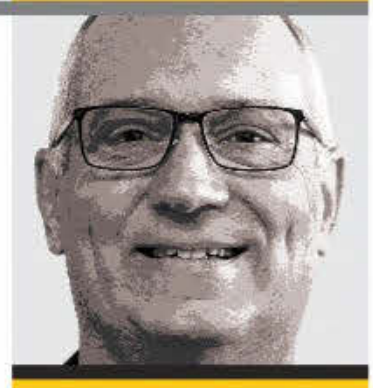
- RealTree Excape Camo Stock
- OD Green Cerakote Fluted Barrel, Receiver
- AccuFit Adjustable Stock
- Available in Right/Left Hand

110 TIMBERLINE

SAVAGE®

For detailed information on the entire BackCountry Xtreme lineup at **SavageArms.com**

Considerations when handloading ammunition for ***World War II-vintage rifles.***



DAVE EMARY

RETRO RELOADS

COLLECTING AND SHOOTING World War II-vintage surplus rifles is a relatively inexpensive shooting activity that gives gun enthusiasts a connection to the past and to those who served. Surplus ammunition had been available for some of these guns until the recent social and political upheaval, particularly for mainstream calibers such as .30 Carbine, .30-'06 Springfield, 8x57mm JS Mauser, .303 British and 7.62x54R. (I will cover the Japanese 6.5mm and 7.7mm rounds in a later column.) As of May 2021, my surplus ammunition suppliers report that there is nothing available for shooting these historic rifles. I can't find pulled surplus projectiles to reload either, and I don't expect this to change soon. So, what options remain?

Assuming you have access to components, this article will help some through the handloading process to produce mil-spec ammunition that will regulate with the sights and give proper ballistics for shooting World War II rifles. The information is based on original performance specifications for these cartridges and current component projectiles and propellants to match. Bear in mind, the velocities about to be quoted are from minimum-specification test barrels. Your mass-produced, likely used, rifle will not produce these velocities with one exception: The 29-inch-barreled Mosin-Nagant.

.30 Carbine bullets (l. to r.): Hornady 110-gr. FMJ; Lake City 110-gr. Ball M1.

.30 Carbine The .30-caliber M1 Carbine and ammunition were both developed by Winchester and adopted by the U.S. Army in 1941. The concept was to provide rear-echelon troops with a more effective, longer-range firearm than a handgun. It's interesting to note that Winchester, in early discussions with the Army, had proposed using the Winchester .351 Self Loading (SL) cartridge. However, the Army wanted a .30-caliber cartridge for less recoil and greater magazine capacity. The .30 Carbine, for all practical purposes, is a scaled-down Winchester .351 SL.

The original 1941 load specifications for the Ball M1 round was 13 grains of WC 820 Ball propellant, a .308-inch 110-grain round-nose (RN), flat-base (FB) projectile traveling at 1,900 feet per second (fps) at 53 feet from the muzzle with a chamber pressure is 40,000 pound-force per square inch (psi). The muzzle velocity from the 18-inch M1 Carbine barrel is approximately 1,980 fps.

Reloading for the .30 Carbine is straightforward. The case headspaces off of the case mouth and, as such, the trim length must be monitored closely. Keep the trim length within the specifications listed in the reloading guide. Hornady and Speer both offer a 110-grain RN FB full-metal-jacket (FMJ) bullets that closely match original projectiles. Hornady (hornady.com) and Speer (speer.com) offer RN soft-point (SP) projectiles that provide expansion from the M1 Carbine. Surplus FMJ projectiles can be found on the internet, mostly Armscor's (armscor.com). The M1 Carbine can be rather finicky about what will feed well, and I would stay away from projectiles that have any kind of a flat point, particularly a soft point. For propellant, WC 296 and H110 are very close in performance to the original specification Ball propellant. They will both produce true-to-spec velocity, provide reliable functioning and regulate well with the sights. Vihtavuori N110 also works well, although it loads at lower charge weights and produces a little less velocity. It burns cleaner than the Ball propellants and usually provides better accuracy.

.30-'06 Springfield bullets (l. to r.): Lake City 152-gr. Ball M2; Hornady 150-gr. FMJ-BT; Hornady 155-gr. BTHP.

.30-'06 Springfield The original loading for the .30-'06 Springfield in 1906 was a .308-inch, 150-grain Spitzer FB projectile. After World War I, the Army experimented with a heavier 172-grain boattail (BT) projectile. The project was scrapped as a service load because its capabilities exceeded the safety parameters used to design almost all of the Army's small-arms ranges. The Army went back to the original 150-grain FB FMJ loading of 1906 when it adopted the Ball M2 loading in 1938, but the weight was increased to 152 grains. The performance specifications for the Ball M2 round with 50 grains of IMR 4895 was 2,740 fps, 78 feet from the muzzle, at 60,000 psi. I have seen charge weights in Ball M2 ammunition from 47 to 50 grains. The muzzle velocity is approximately 2,805 fps.

The Ball M2 projectile has a long, sleek ogive optimized

to the head height of the .30-'06. Unlike almost all currently produced .30-caliber projectiles, it does not defer to the shorter head height of the .300 Winchester Magnum. The ballistic coefficient (BC) of the M2 Ball projectile is nominally .390 (G1).

To reproduce loads that will match up well to the M2 Ball load look at 150- to 155-grain boattail projectiles close to a .400 G1 BC. The boattail will allow these shorter-ogive projectiles to match up well for BC with the longer-ogive M2 projectile. Doing this will produce a good match to the rear sight regulation. Projectiles that are a good fit include Hornady's 150-grain FMJ-BT and 150-grain SST, Nosler's 150-grain ballistic tip and Sierra's 150-grain MatchKing (MK). The heavier 155-grain Hornady AMAX, Nosler Custom Competition and Sierra MK projectiles have a G1 BC closer to .450, but these would provide good results with either Garand or Springfield rifles.

The Hornady .3105-in. 174-gr. FMJ-BT is a good stand-in for the .303's Mk VIII.

Propellants that provide the proper charge weight and performance are medium-speed powders such as Alliant RL-15, Hodgdon Varget, IMR 4895 and 4064, and VN135, 140 and 150.

.303 British The .303 British round was first introduced in December 1888. It was loaded with a .312-inch, 215-grain RN FB projectile and blackpowder. Double-base smokeless cordite strand propellant was adopted in 1891. The 215-grain RN projectile went through several design iterations. It was ultimately abandoned for the Mk VII, .312-inch, 174-grain Spitzer FB projectile in 1910. It is interesting to note this projectile had an aluminum or compressed wood fiber core in the nose that caused it to tumble quickly in soft tissue. Though it was a very deadly projectile, it still met Hague convention requirements because it was an FMJ design. This is the projectile that was predominantly used in Enfield rifles throughout World War II.

There was also a Mk VIIz round that used a single-base Dupont flake IMR propellant. In 1938, a 175-grain Spitzer boattail projectile called the Mk VIII was adopted to obtain greater range from the Vickers machine gun. It was loaded to higher pressure and velocity than the Mk VII load, and it was not recommended for general use in Enfield rifles since the boattail purportedly caused increased throat erosion.

Nominal loading specifications for the .303 British Mk VIIz load was 41 grains of single-base Dupont No. 16 propellant at 2,440 fps muzzle velocity and 53,000 psi. Cordite-loaded Mk VII loads produced the same performance with 37 grains of propellant.

There are no 174-grain FB .303 projectiles available from manufacturers today. However, Hornady produces a 174-grain FMJ-BT. This bullet essentially reproduces the Mk VIII projectile and produces very good results in any Enfield rifle. Hornady currently makes their bullets to a .3105-inch diameter.

Propellants appropriate for the .303 British are the same as the .30-'06: Alliant RL-15, Hodgdon Varget, IMR 4895 and 4064, and VN135, 140 and 150. The .303 British headspaces off the rim, and cases generally stretch a lot on the first firing. Do not full-length resize or case life will be two or three firings. Set your sizing die to bump the shoulder back .002 to .003 inch from the fired condition to provide better case life. Watch for signs of head separation with fired .303 British cases.

8x57mm JS (7.92x57mm IS) Mauser The 8x57mm Mauser cartridge is known by several names, so let's clear this up. There is the 8x57 J, or in Europe it is called the "I" version, and the "8x57 JS" or European "IS." The difference is significant. The earlier J/I cartridge uses a .318-inch diameter projectile. The later JS/IS cartridge uses a .323-inch projectile. Both cartridges are loaded to nearly the same pressure, but if you can get a JS/IS cartridge to chamber and fire in a J/I rifle you will get very high pressures. The other problem is the guns chambered for J/I cartridges are older, late-1800s rifles, predominantly Gewehr 1888 models, which are not terribly strong.

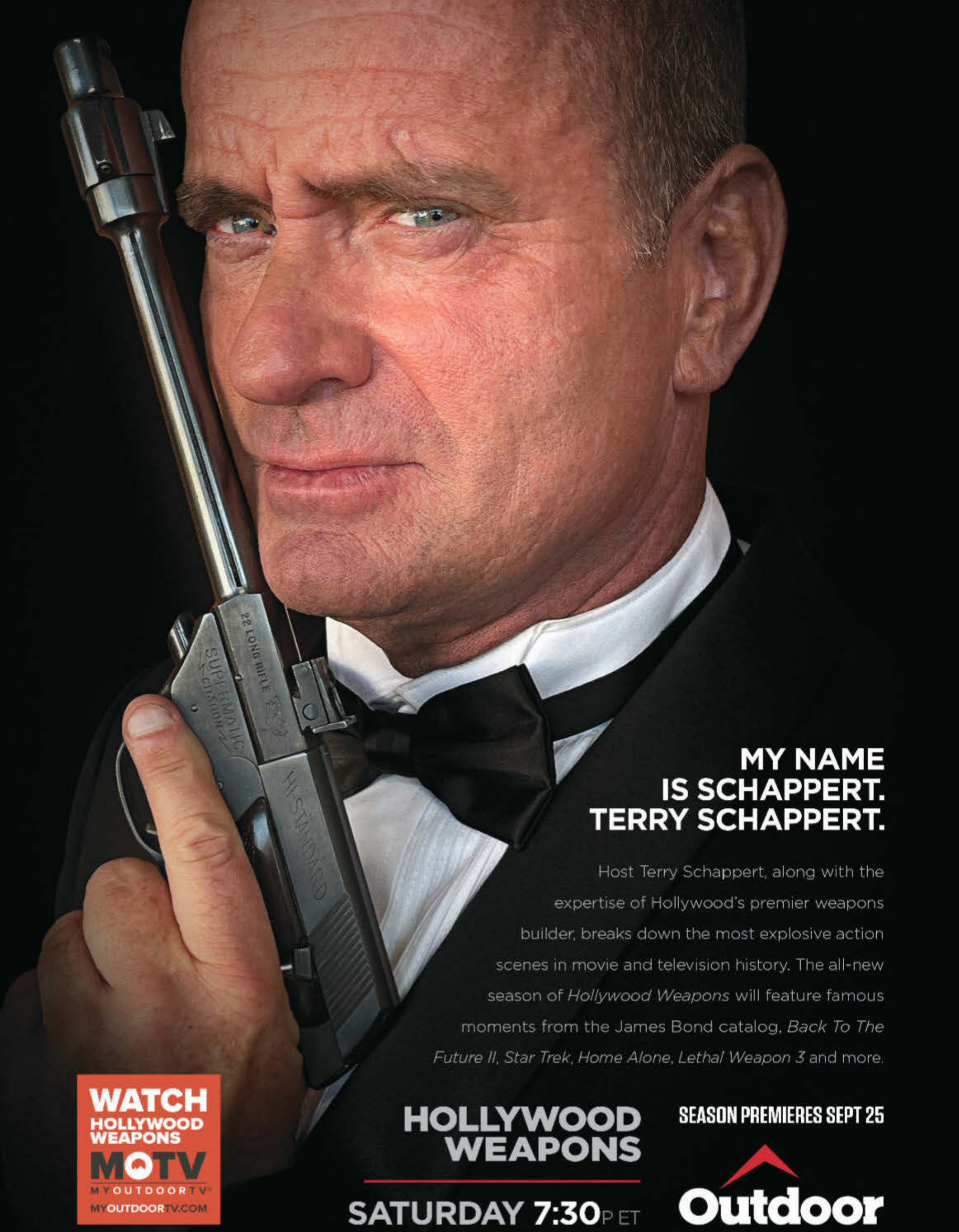
The 8x57 JS was a follow-on development of the original 1888-vintage 8x57 J cartridge, which used a .318-inch 227-grain RN projectile. The 8x57mm was a first-generation smokeless propellant cartridge. In 1895, the rifling dimensions of the 8x57 were changed to .323-inch diameter to reduce wear and provide better accuracy. In 1903, after considerable research on bullet shape, the Germans changed to a 152-grain Spitzer FB projectile with a energetic double-base propellant. The bullet was in response to the 1898 French 8mm Lebel's 198-grain Spitzer boattail projectile, and was used throughout World War I.

In 1933, the 152-grain load was changed to a 196-grain Spitzer boattail in order to achieve a longer effective range for machine guns. The load was designated the "s.S. Patrone." In 1940, a mild steel-core 178-grain bullet was introduced in order to conserve lead; it was designated the "S.m.E." load. By 1942, the new load was replacing the heavier Patrone ammunition.

The performance specification for the s.S. Patrone was 43 to 44 grains of a double-base flake propellant producing a muzzle velocity of 2,490 fps at 56,500 psi. The S.m.E. load was loaded with 43 to 44 grains of propellant with a muzzle velocity of 2,592 fps.

8x57mm JS Mauser bullets (l. to r.): 196-gr. s.S. Patrone; Hornady 180-gr. GMX; Hornady 170-gr SST.

To reproduce 8x57 JS/IS loads of World War II vintage, the s.S. Patrone load can be matched by using the Nosler 200-grain Custom Competition or Sierra .323-inch 200-grain MK. For the S.m.E.



MY NAME IS SCHAPPERT. TERRY SCHAPPERT.

Host Terry Schappert, along with the expertise of Hollywood's premier weapons builder, breaks down the most explosive action scenes in movie and television history. The all-new season of *Hollywood Weapons* will feature famous moments from the James Bond catalog, *Back To The Future II*, *Star Trek*, *Home Alone*, *Lethal Weapon 3* and more.

WATCH HOLLYWOOD WEAPONS MOTV
MYOUTDOORTV®
MYOUTDOORTV.COM

HOLLYWOOD WEAPONS

SATURDAY 7:30P ET

SEASON PREMIERES SEPT 25

Outdoor

load the Hornady 180-gr. GMX or 170-grain SST, Nosler 180-grain Ballistic Tip or Expansion Tip would work well. Other projectiles offered in this weight range from other manufacturers are FB bullets. These would work well for short-range shooting, but they would deviate from the sight regulation at longer distances. The best propellants for the 8x57 are the same as .30-'06 and .303 British.

7.62x54R (7.62 Russian) The 7.62x54R Russian cartridge was introduced in 1891 for the Tsarist-era 1891 Mosin-Nagant rifle series. It was originally loaded with a 210-grain RN projectile that was replaced in 1908 by a 148-grain Spitzer FB FMJ bullet to keep pace with other European ammunition developments. The 148-grain projectile is essentially unchanged today. It is worth noting that this cartridge is used today by the Russian army in the Dragunov sniper rifle and PKM machine gun. The performance specifications for the 148-grain load is 50 to 51 grains of stick propellant with a muzzle velocity of 2,720 fps at 56,500 psi. Velocity from a 29-inch-barreled Mosin-Nagant rifle is approximately 2,850 fps.

7.62x54R bullets (l. to r.): Hornady .3105-in. 174-gr. FMJ-BT; Hornady .312-in. 150-gr. SP; 148-gr. Light Ball.

Many reloading guides only show data for .308-inch diameter projectiles. This diameter projectile will not provide satisfying accuracy. The 7.62x54R was designed for .311- to .312-inch diameter bullets. CIP, the European equivalent of SAAMI, lists a maximum projectile diameter of .312 inch. I have measured some Mosin-Nagant rifles with grooves of .314 inch. Sierra offers .311-inch 150-grain soft points, and Hornady and Speer both offer .312-inch 150-grain soft-point projectiles. All of these would regulate well with the sights on a Mosin-Nagant and the scope on a 91/30 PU sniper. I have also used the Hornady .3105-inch, 174-grain boattail FMJ and Sierra's .312-inch, 174-grain MK in my 91/30 PU for vintage sniper matches with very good results. They won't regulate well with the elevation turret at longer ranges, but they do shoot quite well.

Propellants listed for .30-'06, 8x57 and .303 British also work with the 7.62x54R. Hornady's Reloading Handbook lists loads for .312-inch projectiles.

Summing Up If you collect and shoot World War II-vintage firearms, getting correct ammunition for them can be a challenge. However, with the right components it is possible to produce ammunition that closely resembles the original loads.

WALTHER®

PDP

It's our duty to build the best performing firearm...

IT'S YOUR DUTY TO BE READY

Red Dot Ergonomics

Performance Duty Grip Texture

Red Dot Ready

SuperTerrain Serrations

Modularity

Performance Duty Trigger

PDP Full Size

PDP Compact

What does it mean to be ready?

waltherarms.com

© 2020 Walther Arms Inc. | All Rights Reserved

RUGER® MAX-9™

9MM LUGER
Caliber

10+1
12+1
Capacity

3.20"
Barrel Length

18.4 OZ.
Weight

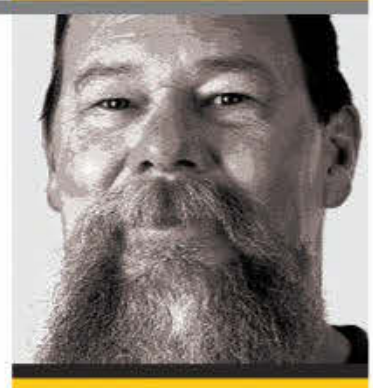
The MAX-9™ is your next handgun. Whether you're new to firearms ownership, or you've been an enthusiast for years, the versatile MAX-9™ is sure to meet your personal protection needs. Comfortable enough to conceal in an inside the waistband holster or pocket holster, this micro-sized pistol has it all - without compromising on capacity or features. Rugged, reliable, affordable - the Ruger® MAX-9™.

COLION NOIR,
Firearms Enthusiast

RUGER
RUGER.COM/MAX-9

The acquisition, ownership and use of firearms is heavily regulated.
Some models may not be legally available in your state or locale. Know the law and shoot safely.

Thoughts on the ***20th Anniversary of 9/11.***



SGM KYLE LAMB [RET.]
VIKINGTACTICS.COM

FREEDOM ISN'T FREE

ON 9/11 we knew that we had been viciously attacked. As America slept, content that all was well in the world, our enemies had planned and executed. I stood and watched with my Sergeant Major as the second plane plowed violently into the South Tower of the World Trade Center. I have had plenty of people ask how this made me feel. When the first plane hit the World Trade Center we felt as though we'd witnessed a terrible accident. When the second hit we felt like we'd just been hit in the mouth.

I was a member of an elite Army Special Operations unit at the time. There was no trepidation, there was no wringing of hands, everyone was filled with determination.

We watched, as did all of America, when President Bush stood at Ground Zero. We knew we would make those responsible pay, and pay dearly.

Over the last 20 years, America's resolve in Washington has faded. No one wants to offend anybody by speaking plainly and true. In American Special Operations units, the facts are still the facts, and those men and women continue their hunt. It is never ending, as it should be.

The author loading on an MH-6 Little Bird helicopter for a mission in northern Iraq. Note the fragmentation grenade for backup.

After 9/11 I had to wait several years before I was actually able to deploy to Iraq. During that wait it was my job to train those going overseas. This was a hard lump to swallow, but someone had to be that trainer. Eventually, I did get to deploy to Iraq for numerous tours. It was finally my chance to fulfill the mission I'd been preparing myself and others for since the 2001 attacks.

What changed after 9/11? I believe I focused harder at training than ever before. The firearms marksmanship classes that I took or taught were focused on one purpose only: To enhance our ability to visit violence upon our enemies. It became a quest for many of us to hone those skills to a razors edge, then standby for deployment.

I watched as my kids grew up; they weren't sheltered from what was going on in America or what was going on at Fort Bragg, North Carolina. They were front and center when wounded soldiers came back. They didn't look at disfigured men as something out of the ordinary, they knew these men were warriors, each and every one of them trying to recover to be put back into the fight. A missing leg or arm didn't get quiet stares from either child, they knew these men were my friends and being blown up or shot had not changed who they were on the inside. To this day, I consider their exposure a blessing. All of us could take a lesson, treat those wounded as you would want to be treated, as a contributing member of the team.

When we deployed I can say, with a smile on my face, so did Guns & Ammo magazine. Many of us die-hard shooters couldn't wait to get the next issue from a care package that slowly made it's way into the Combat Zone.

It has been 20 years, some have forgotten how we were attacked, some have forgotten the sacrifices of the men and women of our military, those in law enforcement and the firefighters that paid the ultimate price. Some have forgotten those thousands killed on 9/11 and during tours to

SGM Kyle Lamb (Retired) and his teammates deployed to Iraq in support of the Global War On Terror (GWOT).

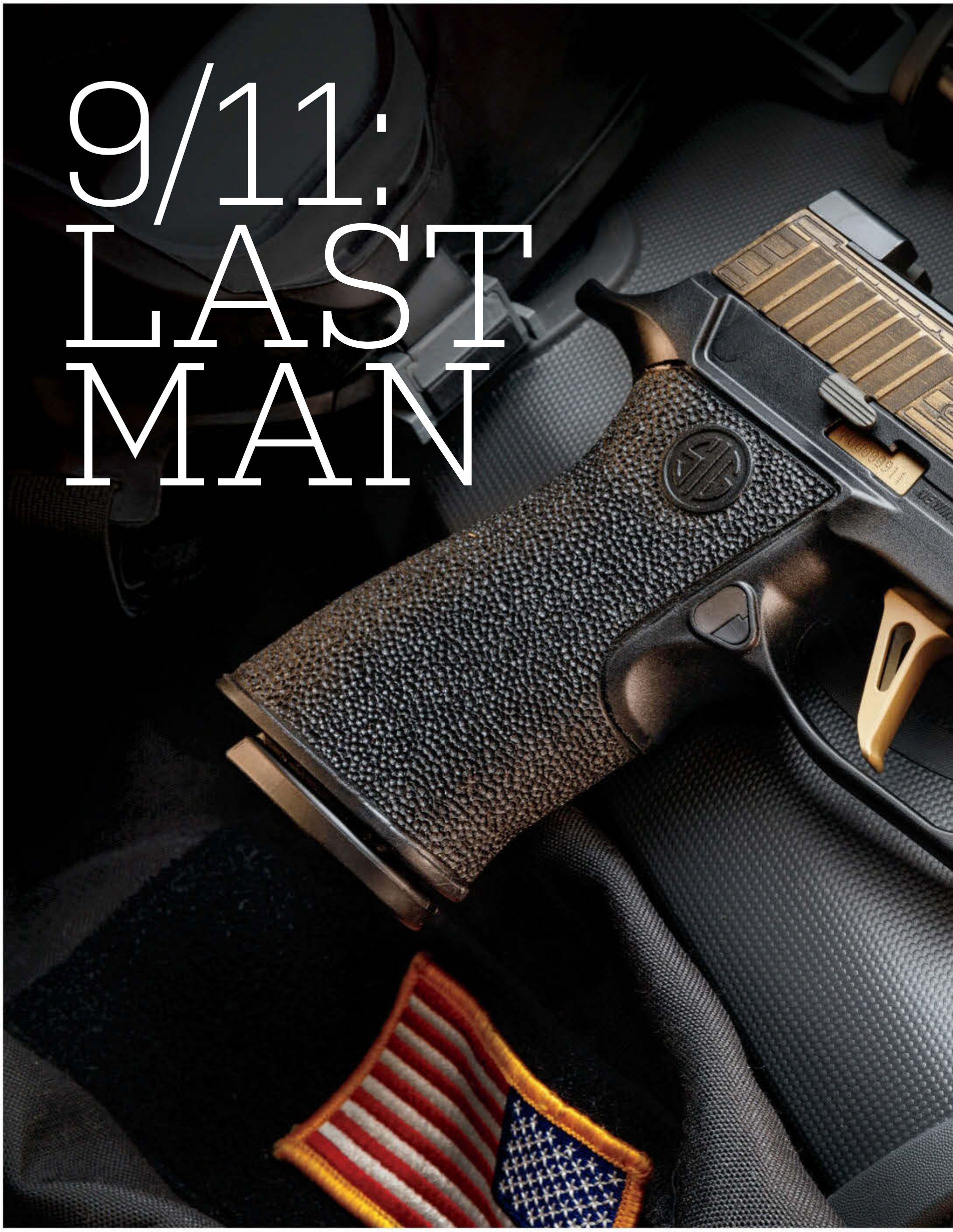
Lamb on convoy with a modified M4 (free-float handguard, Surefire light, IR laser) and a Glock 19 with G17 mag and plus-five basepad.

Afghanistan and Iraq, just to name a couple of the places we were sent to fight. On the other hand, some of us see their faces when we hear the National Anthem played at a sporting event, and remember those men and women who can no longer stand with their families and enjoy the freedoms of America. Memorial Day isn't a time of celebration for many of us. We remember, we must remember, we can't let those memories fade or die — keep those men and women alive. Always remember.

We should all take a minute and reflect on what 9/11 means to us. Who we know that sacrificed their life, their legs, their eyesight, their families, their friends. We should also remember, Freedom isn't free, it has a cost that we as Americans must be ready to pay. As Thomas Jefferson said, "The tree of liberty must be refreshed from time to time with the blood of patriots and tyrants. It is it's natural manure." Do not take this duty lightly. Do not be afraid. Never forget. God Bless America! G&A

WE CREATE INDUSTRY-LEADING SOLUTIONS FOR BOTH PROFESSIONAL
AND PERSONAL NEEDS. WE BUILD FIREARMS ACCESSORIES AND GEAR DESIGNED
FOR REPEATED HARD USE, WHERE QUALITY, RELIABILITY, AND FEATURES COUNT.
MAGPUL
www.magpul.com
© 2020 Magpul Industries Corporation. MAGPUL, MAGPUL LOGO & DESIGN, and others are trademarks of Magpul Industries Corp.

9/11: LAST MAN



A TRIBUTE TO THE LAST NYPD OFFICER TO LEAVE THE **WORLD TRADE CENTER** ON SEPTEMBER 11, 2001.

BY TOM BECKSTRAND | PHOTOS BY MARK FINGAR

Jimmy McEniry (second from left) and members of NYPD ESU at Ground Zero two days after the Twin Towers fell. (Photo courtesy of Jimmy McEniry)

WHEN A MILITARY UNIT is leaving a target location upon mission completion, the last team member to exit the objective calls out, "Last man!" in order to alert the rest of the team that everyone is accounted for. Jimmy McEniry was the New York Police Department's (NYPD) last man out of the World Trade Center as the second tower fell on September 11, 2001.

The Man September 11th started like most normal days for McEniry. He was a U.S. Marine Corps reservist and had duty that morning when he got a call telling him that a commercial airplane had hit one of the towers. Hearing the news, he immediately excused himself from reserve duty and made his way back to his NYPD assignment.

McEniry was a member of NYPD's Emergency Services Unit (ESU), New York's "SWAT" team, if you will. They go by the title of "Emergency Services" because they handle rescue efforts inside the city. McEniry caught a ride to the towers with a teammate that morning, and both men were extensively trained in the use of ropes and climbing gear necessary for rescue efforts, and they planned and prepared for just such an event. McEniry explained, "Ever since the World Trade Center (WTC) attack in 1993, we rehearsed for a second attack. Our plan was to land on the roof of the WTC and then run rope rescues for those below. We'd haul them up to the roof and then evacuate them off the towers."

As he and his teammate approached the towers, McEniry remembers the chief of police checking in with the aviation wing trying to discern if anyone was on the roof, and whether or not aviation could land there. "The smoke was thick at the top of the towers, but there was one corner where they could land. However, no one was on the roof. If anyone had been there, we would have committed to a roof rescue."

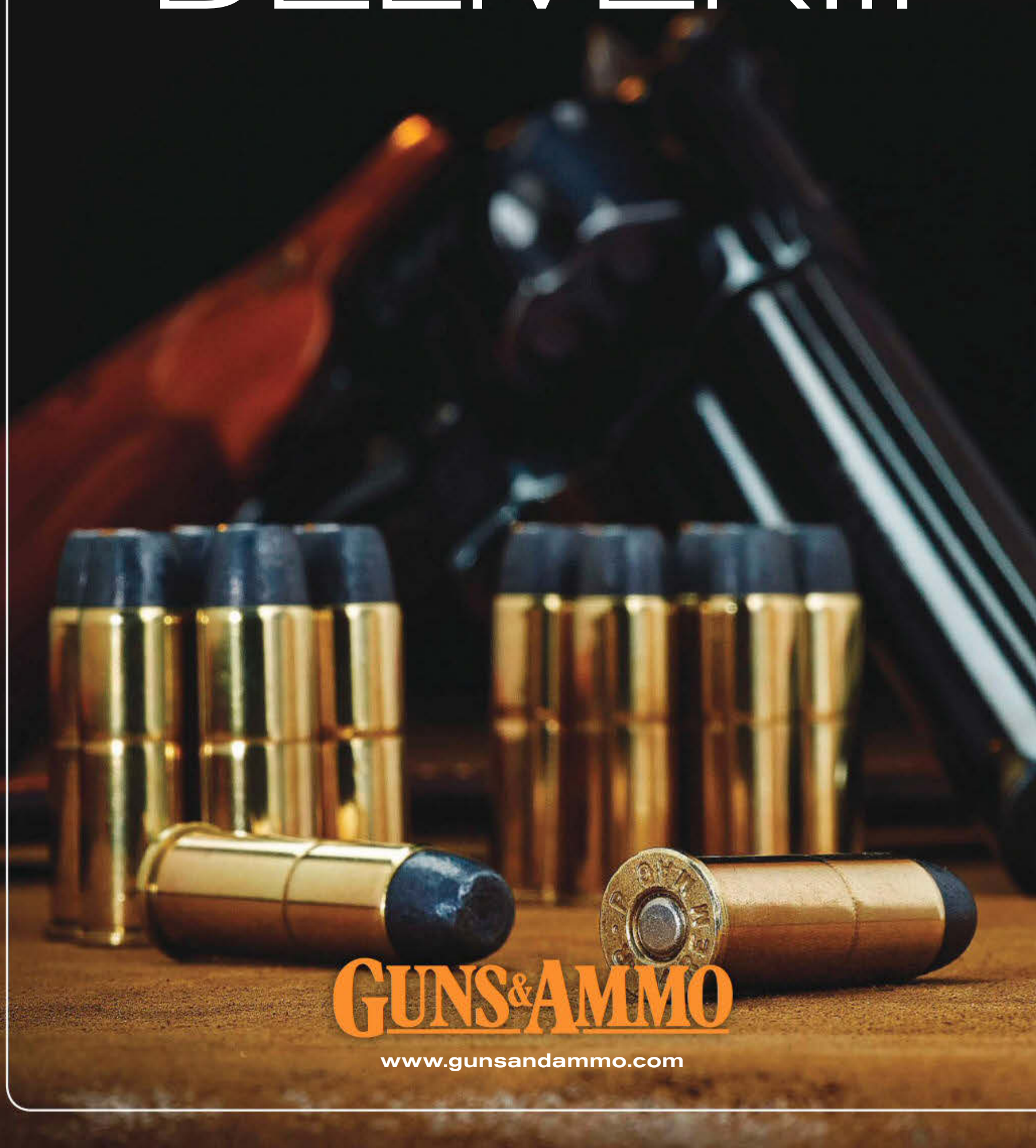
Shortly after McEniry and his teammate arrived at the towers, the first structure collapsed. Luckily, the second tower actually shielded their approach and protected the pair from the falling debris of the collapsing first tower. McEniry's teammate was one of ESU's leading rope experts, so he grabbed a handful of gear and went into the tower to begin finalizing the plan. McEniry, too, grabbed a load of gear and made his way into the building.

Upon entering the building though, McEniry's teammate came running out, yelling, "It's coming down!" Within a few seconds the realization sank in, and McEniry dropped his gear and took off at a run.

"I looked up and saw the building coming down on top of me, so I dumped my stuff and took off. There was a fire truck parked next to the tower that I dove under just as everything hit the ground. It was me and a pretty big firefighter under there, so it got kind of tight. When the debris hit the ground, the blast hit me in the face and temporarily blinded me."

Half-blind, McEniry began to dig his way out from under

WE'RE PRIMED TO DELIVER...



GUNS&AMMO

www.gunsandammo.com

the fire truck. "I stood up and remembered that the front of the fire truck was facing the building, so I used it to help guide me toward the building. I couldn't hardly see at all. About halfway up the fire truck, I ran into a solid wall. It made no sense."

Debris from the falling tower had completely crushed the front of the fire truck, forming a wall where the truck had once been. Since he could go no further, McEniry turned around and used what was left of the truck to guide him away from the tower. Once he got to the back of the truck, he could see a smudge of light off in the distance. "I walked towards the light."

He soon linked up with another NYPD officer, and the two made their way back to the tower. They found two more police officers and three civilians clinging to the edge of the Customs House, so they retrieved a ladder from the mangled fire truck and rescued them from the ledge. McEniry then sought medical attention because he still couldn't see very well.

McEniry was initially reported as a fatality on the NYPD's personnel roster. His teammate, who had escaped the building seconds before him, had continued to run down the street and, when the tower fell, had been propelled a great distance by the blast. McEniry's teammate was convinced there was no way he could have survived, and therefore reported him as dead upon checking in with the NYPD operation's center. Thankfully, NYPD was able to correct that error later in the day. If it hadn't been for the protection of the fire truck, McEniry would have never made it.

NYPD lost 23 officers on September 11, 2001. Fourteen of those officers, like McEniry, belonged to ESU. The ESU training academy has devoted the back wall of their classroom to every member of ESU to be killed

STILL MAKING HISTORY.

BIGGER AND BOLDER

Introducing the 2021 Colt Anaconda. Re-designed and bulked-up with a solid stainless steel frame for strength and durability, this DA revolver is worthy of its pedigree.

Experience the Linear Leaf Spring Action for a non-stacking, smooth-as-glass trigger pull. With recoil-absorbing Hogue grips and adjustable, interchangeable sights, this .44 Magnum is cool and comfortable from the range to the woods.

The Colt Anaconda, once again, makes history.

COLT.COM/**ANACONDA**

AMERICAN MADE

FOLDS OF HONOR

in the line of duty. More than half the pictures on that wall are from September 11.

20 Years Later "It doesn't feel like it happened 20 years ago. Every year that goes by, it doesn't get any easier." McEniry's life, and many others, changed significantly that day. Many veterans reading this article will understand the sense of loss the NYPD ESU experienced on September 11th, but few are familiar with so much unexpected loss in a single morning. McEniry recounted talking to his friend, Mike Curtin, that morning about his military identification card and getting it updated to reflect his retired sergeant-major rank. McEniry had just received some help from a corporal in completing the task when he called Curtin and told him he should buy the corporal lunch because her efforts made the correction a relatively painless process. "The first plane hit about five minutes later," McEniry said.

Curtin and three members of his team from ESU Truck Two died when the towers came down. Curtin's remains were found nine months later not far from where he was last seen, and the NYPD flew his family in from Long Island on a police helicopter for his evacuation from Ground Zero. Curtin worked at the cleanup of the Oklahoma City bombing and had told McEniry stories of what he saw and experienced there. Curtin said that the entire clean-up site in Oklahoma would get so quiet you could hear a pin drop when they found human remains and removed them from the destruction.

"The same thing happened at the towers. All the cranes stopped, everybody stopped," McEniry said. "Mike left Ground Zero covered in the USMC and American flags. We all wanted to show our respect."

The years that followed the September 11th attacks were filled with deployments overseas for McEniry. "I stayed and worked at Ground Zero until we closed it out. I don't have a lot of memories from that time because it seemed like we never stopped. We had so many funerals but no bodies to bury, and then we still had our regular work to do." After closing out Ground Zero, McEniry deployed repeatedly as a team leader for Central Command commanding general's personal security detail (PSD).

"I was an infantryman, but I had a strong law enforcement background, so I kept drawing the PSD thing," McEniry said. "I deployed in 2003 to 2004, 2004 to 2005, and 2010 to 2011."

Every year, McEniry and members from his ESU Truck get together on September 11th to remember their friends. "We go to a local bar, have a nice meal and a few drinks, and tell stories about the guys we lost. Our group is about 50 to 60 guys." This September 11th will be no different, except it marks 20 years since the attack.

McEniry retired from the U.S. Marine Corps in October 2012, and from the NYPD on July 29, 2019. He dedicated many years of his life to serving America, both at home and abroad. We are proud of him and thankful for the opportunity to present him with the pistol seen on these pages. May we never forget.

THE PISTOL

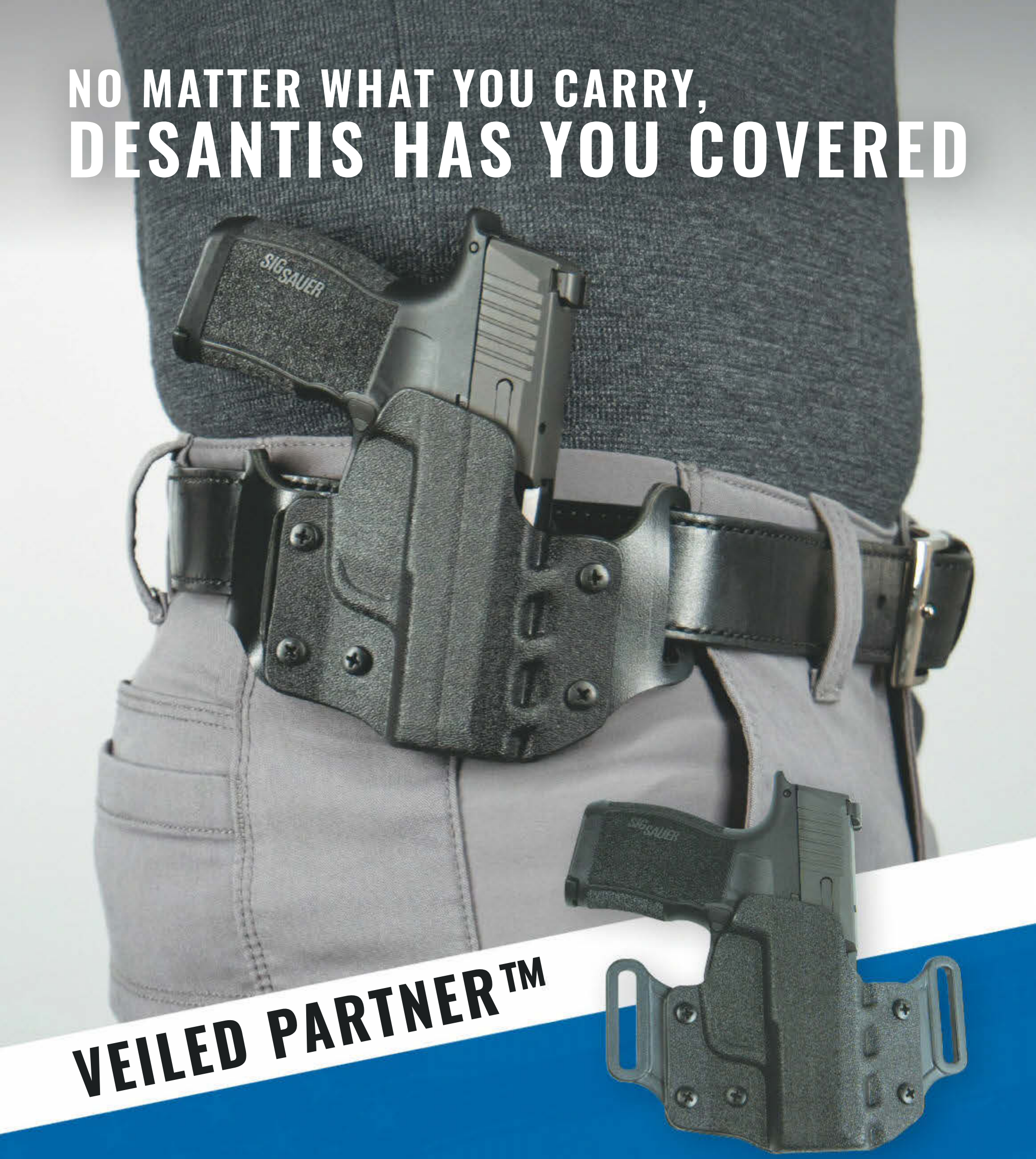
A tribute from Guns & Ammo and SIG Sauer was presented to Jimmy McEniry. SIG Sauer had initially sent the P320 Fire Control Unit (FCU), the serialized chassis of the pistol, to G&A as a test product to be assembled for review. What makes the P320 FCU special is SIG's Custom Works program. Any one-of-a-kind pistol can be built from the FCU chassis, eliminating the need to purchase factory configurations and components that are often modified or replaced. The FCU encourages and facilitates the development of mission-specific and personalized end-products from the start.

Fortuitously, Guns & Ammo's Editor Eric R. Poole noticed the test unit's serial number: "911". He determined it would make a fitting gift to honor someone who had served on 9/11. Poole called me for ideas, and I immediately thought McEniry would be an ideal recipient. SIG Sauer, too, enthusiastically supported the plan.

Phil Strader, SIG Sauer's pistol product manager, quarterbacked the effort and helped to develop the gun's thematic design. Outlaw Ordnance brought the vision to life. Through the cut-and-colored steel of the P320's slide, the resulting pistol honors the heroes of the New York Police Department, the New York Fire Department and the New York/New Jersey Port Authority Police with their departmental emblems, as well as the date, and the flight designations of the aircraft used in the attack, all in remembrance of the innocent passengers. Fittingly, the words "NEVER FORGET" are emblazoned against a field of stars. The slide's burnt-bronze Cerkote finish complements the aesthetics of the FCU and its trigger. SIG Sauer's stippled grip module completes the pistol.

It is a beautiful and fitting tribute, though wholly unequal to the sacrifice and service of its recipient and the lives it remembers.
— T. Beckstrand

NO MATTER WHAT YOU CARRY,
DESANTIS HAS YOU COVERED



VEILED PARTNER™

DeSantis GUNHIDE®

PEGASUS® Polymer by DeSantis

Precision molded with exacting curvature for maximum concealment and fits like a second skin

Adjustable tension, optics compatible, and easily configurable for both height and cant

DESANTISHOLSTER.COM

SPRINGFIELD-ARMORY.COM

HELLCAT®

RDP™

The Hellcat®, the highest capacity micro 9mm in the world, is now offered in the Rapid Defense Package (RDP™) configuration. Paired with a HEX™ Wasp™ micro red dot and a Self Indexing Compensator the Hellcat RDP delivers fast target acquisition and rapid, accurate follow-up shots. Also new on the Hellcat RDP is an optional ambidextrous manual safety and the Gen 2 trigger with enhanced ergonomics.

SPRINGFIELD ARMORY®

NGSW UPDATE

A DETAILED LOOK AT **SIG SAUER'S** SUBMISSIONS TO REPLACE THE U.S. ARMY'S M4A1, M249 SAW — AND THE 5.56 NATO.

BY ERIC R. POOLE | PHOTOS BY MARK FINGAR

THE NEXT GENERATION SQUAD WEAPONS (NGSW) Program is a prototyping effort to develop squad-level small arms for the U.S. Army. NGSW consists of a Rifle (NGSW-R), Automatic Rifle (NGSW-AR), a 6.8mm cartridge and a shared Fire Control (NGSW-FC). The NGSW-R aims to replace the M4A1, and the NGSW-AR would supplant the M249 Squad Automatic Weapon (SAW).

Three vendors were selected to develop these firearms and ammunition including General Dynamics Ordnance and Tactical Systems (GD-OTS, gd-ots.com), who is partnered with True Velocity (tvammo.com); Textron (textron.com), who is working with Olin-Winchester (winchestermilitary.com); and SIG Sauer (sigsauer.com), its own one-stop solutions provider. Vortex Optics (vortexoptics.com) and L3Harris (l3harris.com) are working on the NGSW-FC.

The first prototype tests began during the third quarter 2020 to offer manufacturers feedback ahead of the second prototype test, which began during the second quarter of 2021. The second test was designed to evaluate the performance potential of these systems. SIG Sauer's NGSW-R and -AR seen on these pages represent second-round submissions. The U.S. Army Acquisition Support Center (USAASC) projects that the first military unit will be equipped with NGSW systems in 2022, which means that a decision on the small arms platforms and cartridge could arrive by the end of 2021.

SIG SAUER
SIG SAUER

When used in SIG Sauer's NGSW-AR light machine gun, the 6.8x51mm round maintains the use of disintegrating links for feeding. Each belt includes a spoon, which can be fed and pulled through the feed tray, eliminating the need to open the cover. This makes loading belts significantly faster.

The 6.8 Challenge The U.S. Army decided that a 6.8mm cartridge is what they needed for the future. "It was the precursor of the Next Generation Squad Weapon program," said Brig. Gen. David Hodne, director of the Soldier Lethality Cross Functional Team. Unlike previous small arms programs, NGSW began with the ammunition.

"On the rifle side, the AR is popular around the world," said Ron Cohen, president and CEO of SIG Sauer. "We solved the challenges within an M4 with the MCX," Cohen added. "Yes, I'm biased, but the M4 is light and easy to carry. But it uses a 5.56. If you have a problem with the caliber, then that's what you need to change. That's the 6.8 program. The issue is what you feed through guns, and that's a big opportunity."

The 2017 decision to develop a 6.8mm cartridge came out of lab work and recent combat experience in Afghanistan, Africa, Iraq and Syria. G&A received reports indicating that the 6.8mm bullet was designed by Picatinny Arsenal for a specific velocity range to defeat developing body armor technology at distance.

"We want to make sure we are not divulging things at some point that would give our adversaries some ideas of the things that we are trying to do," said Brig. Gen. Anthony Potts, commander of Program Executive Office (PEO) Soldier. Gen. Potts said, "There is no secret, it's all about energy. So, we [must] understand the targets that we are going after, we [must] understand how much energy it takes to defeat that target at that distance, and we have to build a system that delivers that."

At the time of this writing, the construction of the new 6.8mm bullet is a mystery, including its intended purpose, but if you consider that the Army isn't satisfied with the performance of the 5.56mm M855A1 EPR round or the 7.62mm M80A1, which has a muzzle velocity of 2,970 feet per second (fps), it becomes apparent that bullet weight, energy and speed are key to the existence of the 6.8x51mm.

SIG Sauer's approach to the 6.8x51mm is a hybrid design featuring a brass case that's mechanically bonded to a steel-alloy casehead to support high pressure.

The Army wants an effective range out to 1,200 yards with a round that weighs less. Both the M855A1 and M80A1 rounds are composed of an exposed steel penetrator mounted on a copper slug encased within a copper jacket. Therefore, it would be fair to expect that the new 6.8mm bullet is similarly constructed, albeit driven at faster velocities. (I've only handled and fired 6.8mm ammunition that appeared loaded with full-metal-jacket, boattail hollowpoint. I'm not convinced that the ammunition assembled for Guns & Ammo's recent testfire wasn't specially handloaded and not a factual representation of rounds that would be used against enemy combatants.)

The Sporting Arms and Ammunition Manufacturers' Institute (SAAMI) determined that the maximum average pressure of the 6.8x51mm is 80,000 psi, which drives the U.S. Army's 135-grain projectile above 3,000 feet-per-second. Though the velocity may be similar to that of the 62-grain M855A1 (3,150 fps), the 62-grain SS109 (3,110 fps) and 55-grain XM193 (3,260 fps), don't forget that the U.S. Army wants those same velocities (or faster) while pushing its hush-hush 135-grain projectile. Though exact pressure and velocity requirements are secret, it's safe to assume that the Army is racing to address specific advancements by potential adversaries.

Each ammunition manufacturer is submitting a cartridge of their own design, but they all carry the same 6.8mm projectile. Both Rifles and Optics Editor Tom Beckstrand and I have independently evaluated True Velocity's lightweight, polymer-case design, which was developed in partnership with GD-OTS. This team is offering the U.S. military short-recoil bullpup designs for its 6.8mm TVCM cartridge with Lonestar Future Weapons (lonestarfutureweapons.com) designated as the prime contractor for the NGSW's final stage.

FOR FIREARMS FANS, IT'S THE ONE TO WATCH

For hard-hitting coverage of all things firearms, *Guns & Ammo* is the one to watch. We go in-depth on the topics today's shooters want most: expert product reviews, range tests, historical firearms, training, suppressors, ballistic science and much more.

GUNS & AMMO

WEDNESDAYS 8P ET Outdoor

WATCH GUNS & AMMO MOTV

MYOUTDOORTV.COM

Olin-Winchester is a subcontractor to Textron and is developing a plastic-case, telescope-design cartridge. (Full disclosure: G&A has not examined or evaluated Olin-Winchester's cartridge.)

"Whatever happens now will dictate the next 20, 30, 40 years," said Ron Cohen, president and CEO.

Making The Case SIG Sauer has developed its NGSW-R, -AR, 6.8 cartridge, as well as a suppressor and optics to complement its take on the 6.8mm cartridge. SIG Sauer is the only company offering an entire system developed under one collection of engineers who collaborate directly with an employed staff of well-respected veterans from the U.S. Army Special Forces, Rangers, Army Marksmanship Unit (AMU), Marine and Navy SEAL communities. These guys were recent endusers and speak the language.

"I was a soldier in 1979 shooting a [M]240," Cohen recalled. "Think about it. How many generations have to shoot the same product before somebody wakes up and says, 'Enough is enough?' I would salute the U.S. military today for their willingness to tackle programs that no one had the balls to do before. These generals are willing to address soldiers, and not just F-35s that get good media; they are willing to tackle ammunition that hasn't been reimagined since the invention of [brass cartridges] in the 1840s."

SIG Sauer's 6.8mm cartridge appears conventional at first glance, but it features a hybrid case. It uses a brass body that's secured to a steel-alloy case head. Weight is saved because the brass and case head can be made thinner, versus a typical case that's starts with a brass cup, which is then pressed and drawn to size. This also means that SIG's hybrid case offers increased volume, i.e., capacity, to accept a larger powder charge, which is necessary to boost muzzle velocity. The steel-alloy case head and rim also add strength to safely manage the 6.8's higher chamber pressure.

With the 6.8's high velocity, in the beginning SIG Sauer's engineers were hoping to achieve a barrel life of 4- to 5,000 rounds. The Army's requirement for 6.8mm barrels is 6,000 rounds. During testing, SIG Sauer learned that its NGSW

barrels could run to 12,000 rounds before needing to change them out. They are not afraid of barrel wear anymore.

There are four distinct arguments that favor SIG Sauer's approach to the 6.8mm cartridge, which give it an advantage, in my opinion. First, a cartridge such as True Velocity's was designed to save weight versus the 7.62 NATO. If the objective is to just save weight, SIG's engineers could have replaced the steel case head with one made of aluminum. SIG Sauer's 6.8mm saves some weight, but with the steel case head it also affords increased pressure. Regardless of the projectile, SIG Sauer's hybrid case is like a booster for any caliber round — not just the Army's 6.8 bullet. (Think about that.) The result of SIG's entry is increased lethality and reduced weight.

Number two, whether it be the Lake City ammunition factory or one in an allied country, manufacturing SIG Sauer's 6.8mm with hybrid case is backwards compatible with the tooling and equipment already used to assemble conventional ammunition. With what we know about making polymer-case ammunition, new machinery and technology would be required since proprietary sealants are necessary to secure a bullet in the case mouth.

Third: Given that the cartridge overall length is like the 7.62x51mm, even if the Army decided that it wasn't ready to field new weapon systems, current-issue M240-series machine guns could be adapted to accept the new 6.8 round with a barrel change and, perhaps, different feed pawls and a tray to accept belts of ammunition. Considering the higher chamber pressure, I believe that adapting 7.62-based AR platforms such as the M110 series would require additional reinforcement to the aluminum receivers and barrel extension, as well as a new buffer and spring, but it could be done. To be fair, with this same scenario True Velocity's polymer-case 6.8 ammunition could also be adapted to legacy platforms.

The fourth advantage that favors SIG Sauer's hybrid case is that brass and steel extracts more heat from the chamber than plastic, which is important for long strings of automatic fire. Heat must go somewhere. As a case is ejected from the action, some of that heat leaves with metal cases, too. Theoretically, SIG Sauer's solution should lower the barrel's operating temperatures, especially during automatic fire. This might stave off erosion and wear for critical parts better than polymer-case ammunition.

The NGSW-R has a two-position gas regulator. The operator can adjust pressure for adverse conditions or suppressor use.

The top rail extends beyond the upper, which facilitates optic mounting that prioritizes eye relief and the accuracy of lasers.

Per the U.S. Army's request, the NGSW-R includes a set of front and rear, 45-degree offset, backup sights mounted to the rail.

If SIG is selected, the U.S Army can opt for the forward assist and brass-deflector assembly. The lower controls are ambidextrous.

Despite its forward charging handle, a rear charging handle is also included with ambi latches for easy access beneath an optic.

NGSW-R SIG Sauer's NGSW-R is based on the MCX platform, which was commercially released in 2015 and has evolved with user feedback to accept different calibers in various barrel lengths. (The NGSW-R is also nicknamed the "MCX-SPEAR.")

Like the MCX, the select-fire NGSW-R operates in normal or adverse conditions using a two-position gas regulator to run its piston. An adjustable regulator can ensure reliability when shooting different bullet weights and velocities while suppressed or unsuppressed.

Like the MCX, the larger NGSW-R maximizes modularity. It has a self-contained barrel clamp that is holds the barrel extension to the upper receiver with two T-27 Torx screws. SIG Sauer scaled up the MCX design to accommodate its 6.8x51mm hybrid round, but this also means that it could be adapted to accept the military's existing inventory of 7.62x51mm NATO, 6.5 Creedmoor, and other .308-based cartridges, with little more than a barrel change. (Looking at the NGSW-R, it's easy to think that a semiautomatic-only MCX-SPEAR could appear for the commercial market.)

The NGSW-R maintains the MCX's full-length optic-ready rail, which can accept night-vision devices, thermals, lights and lasers. The top rail is also grooved down the middle, which suggests that it could eventually integrate powered accessories such as the Fusion rail. Powered rails allow certain accessories to be plugged in and operated by integrated controls without additional wires and batteries. Per the Army's request, the NGSW-R also sports a flip-up front post and rear aperture sights at a 45-degree offset to the top rail.

Like the MCX, the lowers receiver extension offers a rail to attach various types of stocks. The NGSW-R's is foldable to the left.

SIG Sauer is standing by to manufacture the NGSW-R with or without a forward assist. Engineers told G&A that it wasn't necessary, but that some in the Army still want it. Other controls, including the rear charging handle are comfortably ambidextrous. And because the NGSW-R is based on the MCX, there isn't a receiver extension to house a buffer and recoil spring. Therefore, the interchangeable, adjustable stock assembly can fold to the side to reduce its overall length.

CZ-USA

PROTECT • HUNT • COMPETE

FORGE YOUR OWN PATH

More than just another striker-fired pistol, the P-10 is decidedly CZ, from the way it feels to the way it shoots. Industry-leading features, legendary build quality and superior shootability make the P-10 stand out from the crowd. The world is full of followers – take your own path. Experience CZ.

CZ P-10

@CZUSAFIREARMS

Hybrid-case 6.8x51mm ammunition is connected via disintegrating links and fed into the left side of the Automatic Rifle.

Fifty- and 100-round ammunition soft-sided drums are now easily reloadable and can be carried on soldier's gear.

SIG's NGSW-AR features a design that allows a spoon to feed a belt of ammo without the need to open the top cover.

NGSW-AR Just as the M249 SAW shared cartridge commonality with M16 and M4 variants, the NGSW-AR will chamber the same 6.8mm cartridge and Fire Control that the Army selects for the NGSW-R. Like the M249 SAW, SIG Sauer's prototype Automatic Rifle is belt fed with a feed tray and cover system containing multiple axis movements to more reliably align cartridge belts in the field. There is also a spoon at the start of the belt that makes it quick to load without needing to open the feed-tray cover; simply insert to spoon through the feed port and pull it through the other side. It will stop as the first cartridge is trapped in the cover's pawls as it awaits stripping from the disintegrating clips and chambering from the open bolt's forward movement to battery.

Despite having a rail on the feed tray cover, which opens and closes, the M249 did not have a reliable return-to-zero when an optic was mounted on it. SIG Sauer indicated that a soldier can mount an optic on the feed tray cover's rail of the NGSW-AR and it will return to zero due to the unique design of its hinge-and-latch system. During a VIP testfire at the SIG Sauer Academy, I found this to be true while using SIG Sauer's Romeo8T red-dot sight. Plenty of rail exists, however, to relocate the red dot behind the feed tray cover, or a soldier could opt for using a magnifier in tandem with a red dot system. Generous railspace makes eye relief flexible, but so does the adjustable buttstock assembly. Anyone assigned to hump the NGSW-AR in a squad should find it to be readily adaptable to their body size and the wearing of armor.

Note, the first stop of NGSW-AR's selector switch is automatic fire at 90 degrees. Another 45-degree rotation selects semiautomatic fire.

The two-position gas regulator may see more use on the NGSW-AR since the LMG was designed from the outset to operate reliably with a suppressor attached. Long-duration suppressed fire from any machine gun generates more heat as it also traps debris within the can and creates backpressure.

Typically, the added backpressure from operating a machine gun with a suppressor attached would mean more felt recoil to manage. During testing, however, that wasn't so. The recoil system effectively absorbs the sharp return of the bolt during cycling of the high-pressure 6.8 cartridge. The difference in

800-338-3220 | HORNADY.COM

SHHH... TELL EVERYONE!

Hornady® has made a revolutionary breakthrough — without breaking the sound barrier. **Hornady® Subsonic Ammunition** represents the first truly reliable expanding subsonic ammunition line. Suppressed or unsuppressed, these loads are easy and fun to shoot but still deliver excellent terminal performance.

- Optimized for performance at subsonic velocities
- Unique powders result in low-flash signature
- Great for plinking, target shooting or hunting

For ammunition that delivers big results without a big bang, the only choice is Hornady® Subsonic.

HANDGUN LOADS FEATURE PROVEN XTP® BULLETS

9MM LUGER | 40 S&W | 45 AUTO

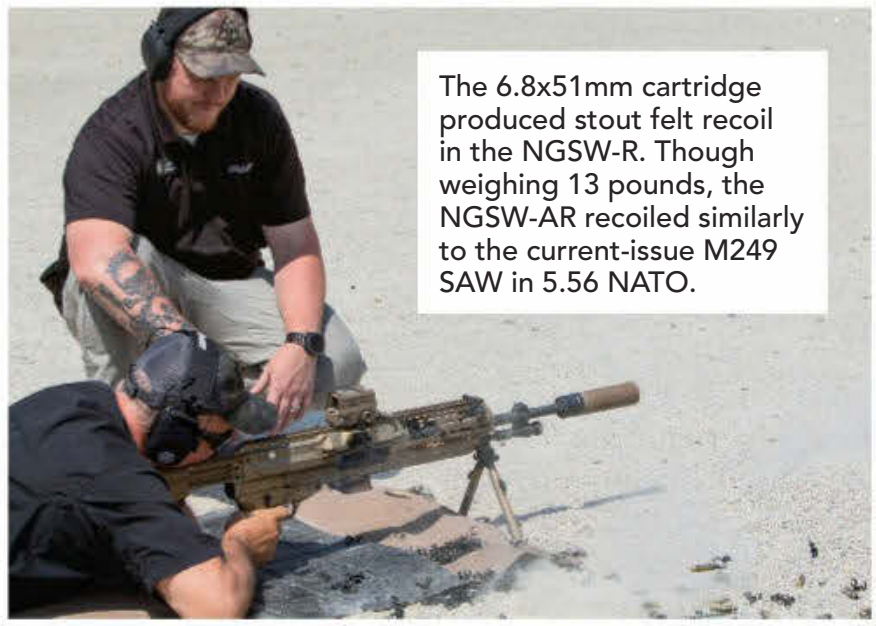
RIFLE LOADS FEATURE PATENTED SUB-X® BULLETS

30-30 WIN | 450 BUSH
45-70 GOVT | 300 BLKOUT

SIG Sauer designs and manufactures small arms, ammunition and optics. The NGSW-AR sports SIG's rugged Romeo8T.

The NGSW-AR is complete with a comfortable, user-adjustable sliding stock assembly. It does not fold.

A window underneath the top handguard cover offers an access port to the NGSW-AR's barrel-release button, which unlocks the barrel for quick removal and replacement.



The 6.8x51mm cartridge produced stout felt recoil in the NGSW-R. Though weighing 13 pounds, the NGSW-AR recoiled similarly to the current-issue M249 SAW in 5.56 NATO.

shooting it compared to an M249 was negligible. That fact is even more impressive when you consider that the NGSW-AR is lighter than the M249 SAW in its Para configuration; SIG Sauer's NGSW-AR weighed less than 13 pounds, while the M249 Para weighs between 16 and 18 pounds.

Who wins? Guns & Ammo is going to keep an open mind, but SIG Sauer has met the challenge according to the government's requirements. There is always more information that factors into government decision-making than we are privy to. It may involve SIG Sauer's partnership in working with the Army's decision-makers to arrive at a solution.

"We don't tell them what they want," Cohen said. "I think what they like about us is that we listen, then we go home and execute. Unlike some other companies, we don't say, 'Give me a budget for R&D.' We never ask for R&D money, because it would take a year or two before someone signs a piece of paper. If we think it has merit, we'll go do it."

Guns & Ammo's staff has not been invited to examine and evaluate the Olin-Winchester 6.8mm cartridge, and we have yet to tour General Dynamics or Textron plants to observe their capabilities. We have visited True Velocity's ammunition plant in Texas, which is continuing to grow, as well as SIG Sauer's factory in New Hampshire. Having previously worked in the government contracting industry, I know that the government considers a company's capacity for production and past performance in delivering on a contract when making its decision. SIG Sauer has recent bona fides for delivering its M17/M18 to the branches of the military, and they continue to expand its manufacturing footprint with advanced CNC machines and robotics. I would not be surprised to learn that SIG Sauer wins the award. G&A

©2021 O.F. Mossberg & Sons, Inc.

MOSSBERG | MC2c® COMPACT

13+ REASONS TO FEEL CONFIDENT.

MC2c Double-Stack Magazines in 13-Round & 15-Round

#89012
MC2c 9mm
Semi-Auto

SAFETY TIP
Store firearms securely, inaccessible to children and unauthorized users.

YOU'VE GOT AN EXTRA STACK OF PEACE OF MIND.

Engineered to be ultra-slim in spite of its double-stack capacity, the MC2c 9mm sits comfortably in your hand and is easily concealable for everyday carry. Lightweight, ergonomic, and providing 13 or 15 rounds at the ready, it sets the new standard for high-capacity semi-auto personal protection.

Mossberg— Makers of dependable, hardworking firearms for more than a century.

LEARN MORE AT MOSSBERG.COM

MOSSBERG®
SINCE 1919

SOCOM'S SUPPRES

SOR

SUREFIRE'S SUPPRESSOR HAS BEEN SERVING AT WAR FOR MORE THAN A DECADE.

BY TOM BECKSTRAND | PHOTOS BY MARK FINGAR

SUPPRESSORS ARE A KEY PIECE of fighting equipment that sometimes get mistaken for a hobby item. Suppressors can be for casual use, and they're a ton of fun in this capacity. They make guns quiet and eliminate muzzle blast, so shooting becomes more enjoyable. When introducing new shooters and children to firearms, any suppressor on the gun will make the experience much more enjoyable.

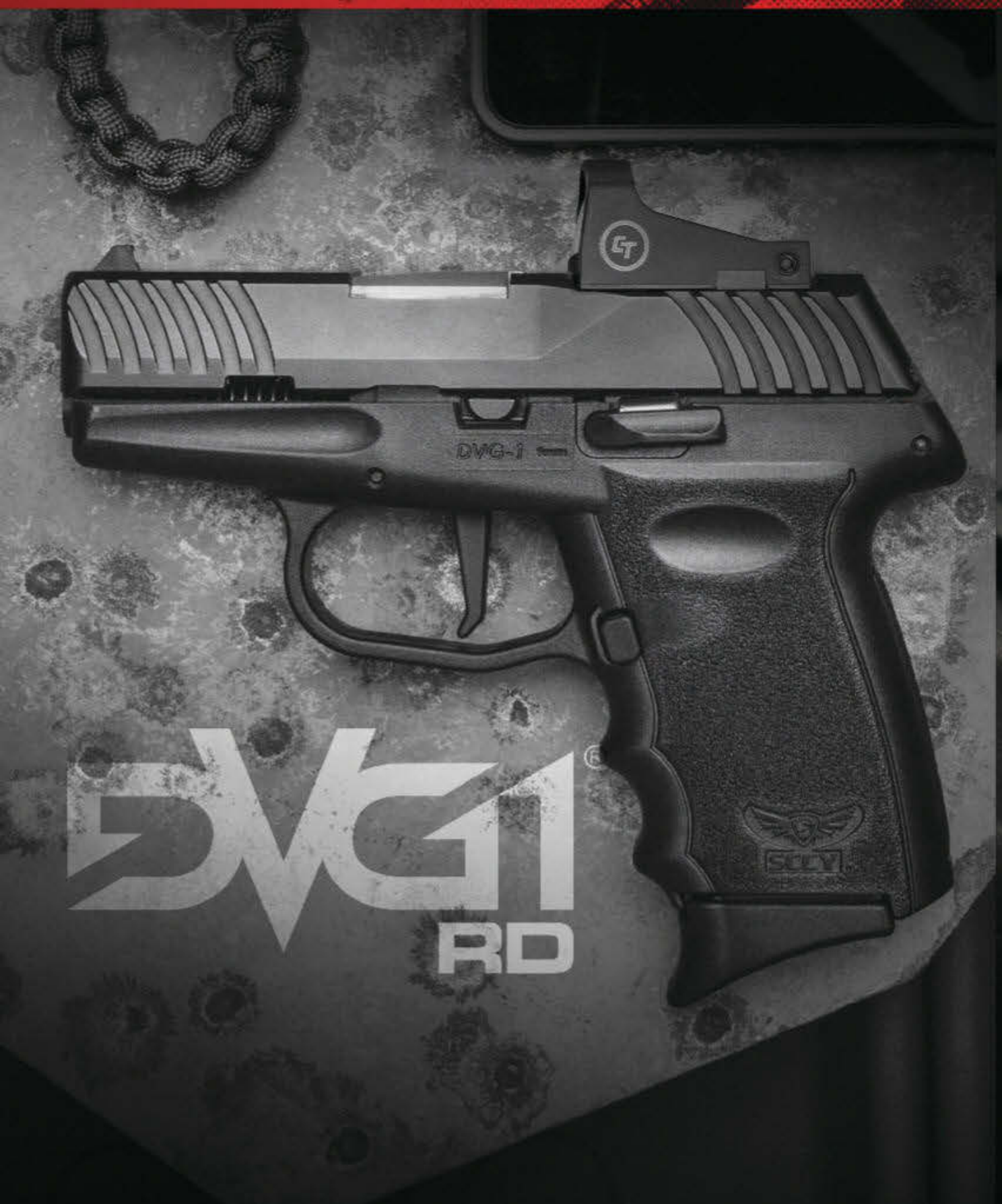
SUREFIRE SOCOM 556 RC2	
WEIGHT	15 oz. to 21 oz.
MSRP	$1,099
MANFACTURER	Surefire, 800-828-8809, surefire.com

The U.S. Special Operations Command (SOCOM) views suppressors as mission-essential equipment for reasons far more comprehensive than just making a gun quiet and eliminating muzzle blast. Suppressors have become increasingly important for our fighting men and women, so the demands placed on them are more stringent than ever before. Surefire won its first big SOCOM suppressor contract in 2011, and then won it again in 2017 because the company's "cans" best met SOCOM's needs. This article is a look at how and why that happened.

Once upon a time ... My first couple deployments to Afghanistan provided an education on suppressors and why they were important. During one late-night raid, approximately 20 Special Forces personnel approached what I thought was going to be five-to-eight Taliban with one high value target. In reality, there were 40 to 60 Taliban. The ensuing firefight lasted a couple hours. We had two guys without functioning suppressors and, once the shooting started, both were told to only shoot when absolutely necessary because their muzzle flashes gave the enemy an idea of where we were, which attracted all the accurate fire. Another lesson from that night was that it was much easier for me to control troop movements in the dark because I could tell by sound which gunshots were coming from my team (suppressed) and which were coming from the enemy (unsuppressed). When potential customers compare suppressors, they most often evaluate them by how much they reduce sound. Sound reduction is a consideration, but it far from first on my list. Flash suppression is highly important because I saw first-hand what happens when my rifle has no muzzle flash and the enemy's does. Even in civilian life, if there's ever a need to defend yourself, assume there is more than one attacker until proven otherwise. My hope is that no one reading this article ever gets in a gunfight, but if you do, eliminating the muzzle flash from your rifle gives your antagonist one less target identifier.

The experience described above happened early in my deployment, and it made me want to use my suppressor as often as possible. I quickly

THINK FAST



STRIKER-FIRED

5.5LB TRIGGER

10+1 CAPACITY

RED-DOT OPTIC

$399.99

Think Fast: Everything moves fast these days, but we know a few things about staying a step ahead of the competition. That's why we created the DVG-1RD; a striker-fired subcompact 9mm. The factory-equipped red-dot optic means faster target acquisition and our proprietary manufacturing process means big savings on a performance firearm.

Learn more at **sccy.com/dvg**

SCCY FIREARMS

©2021 SCCY Firearms, All Rights Reserved

Surefire's SOCOM556 suppressors utilize a common family of muzzle devices that function as suppressor adapters. Shown on this rifle is Surefire's SOCOM 3-Prong suppressor adapter. Even when a suppressor is not attached, the muzzle device is a 99-percent-effective flash hider. $149

learned that the mounting system of the suppressor I was issued wasn't very good. (It wasn't a Surefire.) I sighted my rifle in at 100 yards with no suppressor, then attached my suppressor and watched my point of impact (POI) shift 6 inches from where I zeroed. This forced me to leave the suppressor on the rifle for the duration of the deployment. I ended up carrying a "daytime gun" (a modified AK-47) and using my issued M4 as my "nighttime gun." Both accompanied me everywhere in the vehicle, however.

My experiences with suppressors were not unique, so SOCOM started developing a new requirement for suppressors in the mid-2000s. It was then that they focused on correcting all the deficiencies of the rifle and suppressor being issued at the time. Flash suppression, minimal and repeatable POI shift, reliability and durability became key selection criteria. Select units within the Special Operations community were, and remain, independent of SOCOM in many regards, and they run testing on every item of equipment they carry. A couple of these units were early adopters of Surefire suppressors. The first unit to adopt a Surefire was the U.S. Marine Corps Detachment One, the precursor to Marine Forces Special Operations Command (MARSOC). Det One purchased 100 suppressors and deployed with them in 2003.

The second unit to test and take Surefire suppressors into combat was a Tier 1 element that is usually well ahead of the rest of SOCOM on testing and procurement because they are well staffed, have a good budget, and possess some additional purchasing authorities that other units do not. In fact, SOCOM frequently adopts what this unit has already tested and vetted. This unit began testing Surefire suppressors in the mid-2000s because I remember seeing them on their rifles on a deployment where my unit was co-located with theirs in 2006. One of my teammates had close friends in that unit, and he managed to get the same Surefire suppressor. Everyone on my team envied him for that upgrade.

The Special Sauce We envied my teammate for a few reasons. The Surefire suppressor was smaller and lighter than what the rest of us were issued, and he could zero his rifle once and use it accurately with and without the suppressor. None of us had seen that happen before.

In the years since that deployment, Surefire has continued to improve on its design. They still retain the best flash suppression and minimal POI shift that I and my teammates noticed all those years ago. The other feature that I didn't realize until after I left the service was that Surefire's SOCOM cans have the lowest backpressure of any sealed design, and it has a negligible influence on a semiautomatic and automatic rifle's cyclic rate. Hobby suppressors, when attached to an AR-15, usually trap as much gas at the muzzle as possible. This makes for great decibel-reduction numbers that many like to compare. However, aggressively trapping gas at the muzzle pushes more gas out of the ejection port, so the noise moves from the muzzle to the ejection port, and right next to the shooter's head. Any suppressor designed for an AR-15 needs to balance the amount of gas trapped at the muzzle with how

Howa™

LONG ACTION
6.4 LBS

SHORT ACTION
6.2 LBS

MINI ACTION
4.10 LBS

CARBON STALKER

LIGHTWEIGHT & AFFORDABLE.

STARTING WEIGHT AT 4 LBS 10 OZ
Base Rifle Mini Action

FEATURING Stocky's America's Gunstock Specialist! Accublock® LIMBSAVER by SVL SIMS VIBRATION LABORATORY

- Lightweight CARBON Stock
- ACCUBLOCK® Superior Lug Bed
- LIMBSAVER Buttpad
- Available in Mini, Short & Long Actions
- Threaded Barrels -
  22" Mini, 22" Std , 24" Mag
- Mini Action Calibers -
  .223, 6.5 Grendel, 350 Legend (16.25" #6 barrel)
  Mini Actions come with Detachable mag
- Short Action Calibers -
  7mm-08, 6.5 Creedmoor, 308
- Long Action Calibers -
  270, 30-06, 7mm mag, 6.5PRC
- 2 Stage Match Triggers
- 3 Position Safety
- Lifetime Warranty
- SUB MOA Assurance
- **MSRP Starting at $959**

LIFETIME WARRANTY

SUB-MOA GUARANTEE

H.A.C.T 2-STAGE TRIGGER

NOW AVAILABLE IN KRYPTEK® ALTITUDE™

FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT: LEGACYSPORTS.COM
2021 CATALOG OUT NOW - REQUEST YOUR'S TODAY: 1.800.553.4229

LegacySportsIntl LegacySportsInternational LegacySportsInt

LEGACY SPORTS INTERNATIONAL®

much it pushes out the ejection port. This is a task that Surefire mastered more than a decade ago.

Surefire achieves low backpressure through an internally vented baffle that minimizes pressure increases at the muzzle. Surefire suppressors are not the quietest at the muzzle, but they are one of the quietest suppressors when decibels are measured at the shooter's ear (where it has the most impact on the rifleman).

The negative impact backpressure has on a rifle, other than additional noise at the shooter's ear, is the increased bolt velocity when the rifle cycles. This is why SOCOM placed a lot of emphasis on minimal backpressure. When the bolt speeds up, extraction and ejection have to happen in less time, so the odds of a malfunction increase (especially with worn parts in a rifle). Backpressure absolutely must be minimized for any suppressor that will see use on a semiautomatic or automatic rifle. If backpressure goes unchecked, reliability of the rifle will plummet.

Durability also receives a lot of emphasis from both SOCOM and Surefire. Modular suppressors are all the rage these days because they allow the shooter to tailor his can to the intended application. There's usually a module that can be removed to make the suppressor shorter, and the mounting system is often threaded into the suppressor body. While these types of suppressors are lots of fun and are great for hobby applications, I'm skeptical of their place on the battlefield. The threaded sections of the suppressor body will never be as robust as a one-piece tube. If the suppressor encounters a partial bore obstruction or sees several magazines quickly fired through the rifle, there's a better chance of spontaneous disassembly at the thread locations.

The Fast Attach system is intuitive to use. A rotating collar assembly aligns and locks the suppressor with one of Surefire's suppressor-adapter muzzle devices. To remove the suppressor, push the button to unlock and unthread the can from the muzzle.

Surefire has been the SOCOM suppressor of choice for a number of reasons, but one of them is certainly durability. I spoke to Col. Lynn Ashley, retired, the officer in charge of weapons procurement when SOCOM renewed Surefire's suppressor contract in 2017. Col. Ashley said: "There were 16,000 Surefire suppressors in service in 2017 and only 11 had been coded out during the previous contract." Surefire sent SOCOM 16,000 suppressors and SOCOM only managed to break 11

norma®

DEDICATED SINCE 1902

Learn More

CONSISTENCY WHEN IT MATTERS THE MOST

MHP

Monolithic Hollow Point

Norma MHP has been meticulously designed and manufactured for consistent, reliable, and rapid expansion due to a 100% all-copper projectile. Lighter than lead, the copper projectile produces less muzzle flip allowing for faster follow-up shots and devastating energy transfer. Norma, unparalleled quality when it matters the most.

Norma-Ammunition.com

Now it's up to you.

DHD Dedicated Home Defense

of them in six years. That's a .07-percent (0.0007) failure rate. I bet if I sent SOCOM 16,000 bowling balls, they would break more than 11.

Two of the reasons Surefire's suppressors are so durable are the materials they use and the methods used in manufacture. Surefire uses several types of Inconel for their SOCOM suppressors; Inconel is a high-temperature alloy that doesn't erode or deform even under extreme heat and pressure. Depending on the location in the suppressor, Surefire will choose the most appropriate variant of Inconel for the application. It is an expensive material and it's difficult to work with, but the durability it affords is worth the effort. Surefire completely laser-welds each seam on the suppressor and uses a special robotic welder that makes every weld precise. Suppressors being made are periodically pulled off the line, cut up, and put under a microscope to ensure the welded seams are done correctly at the microscopic level. Each suppressor Surefire makes has to pass SOCOM's testing protocol: Shoot six cycles of eight magazines per cycle at various rates of fire. The rifle is allowed to cool between each cycle, but the test still puts 1,440 rounds through the suppressed weapon in a short amount of time. Many suppressors don't survive this test, but Surefires do, time and again.

The 5-inch SOCOM556-MINI2 suppressor was optimized for use on AR-pattern rifles having a 14½-inch or longer barrel length.

I saw my first Surefire suppressor when I was deployed to Iraq in 2006; I have been a fan ever since. My appreciation for these suppressors doesn't come from brand loyalty, but from observed performance under difficult circumstances by men who are unforgiving with their equipment. In the years since I hung up the uniform, I've been fortunate to visit the Surefire factory to see these suppressors manufactured, and the experience affirmed my faith. These are professional-grade suppressors.

Today, my personal AR-15 that I keep close at hand for self-defense is a Geissele Super Duty with a 14.5-inch barrel (geissele.com). It also wears a fast-attach Surefire SOCOM556-MINI2 suppressor ($1,079). If the apocalypse started tomorrow, I would bet my life on this rifle and its suppressor. G&A

GUNS AND AMMO AND GEAR!

Hi-Point Firearms are the pistol caliber firearms you need.
Barnaul Ammunition is the ammunition to feed them.
Full Forge Gear bags and cases will get you on and off the range.

HI-POINT FIREARMS

HI-POINTFIREARMS.COM

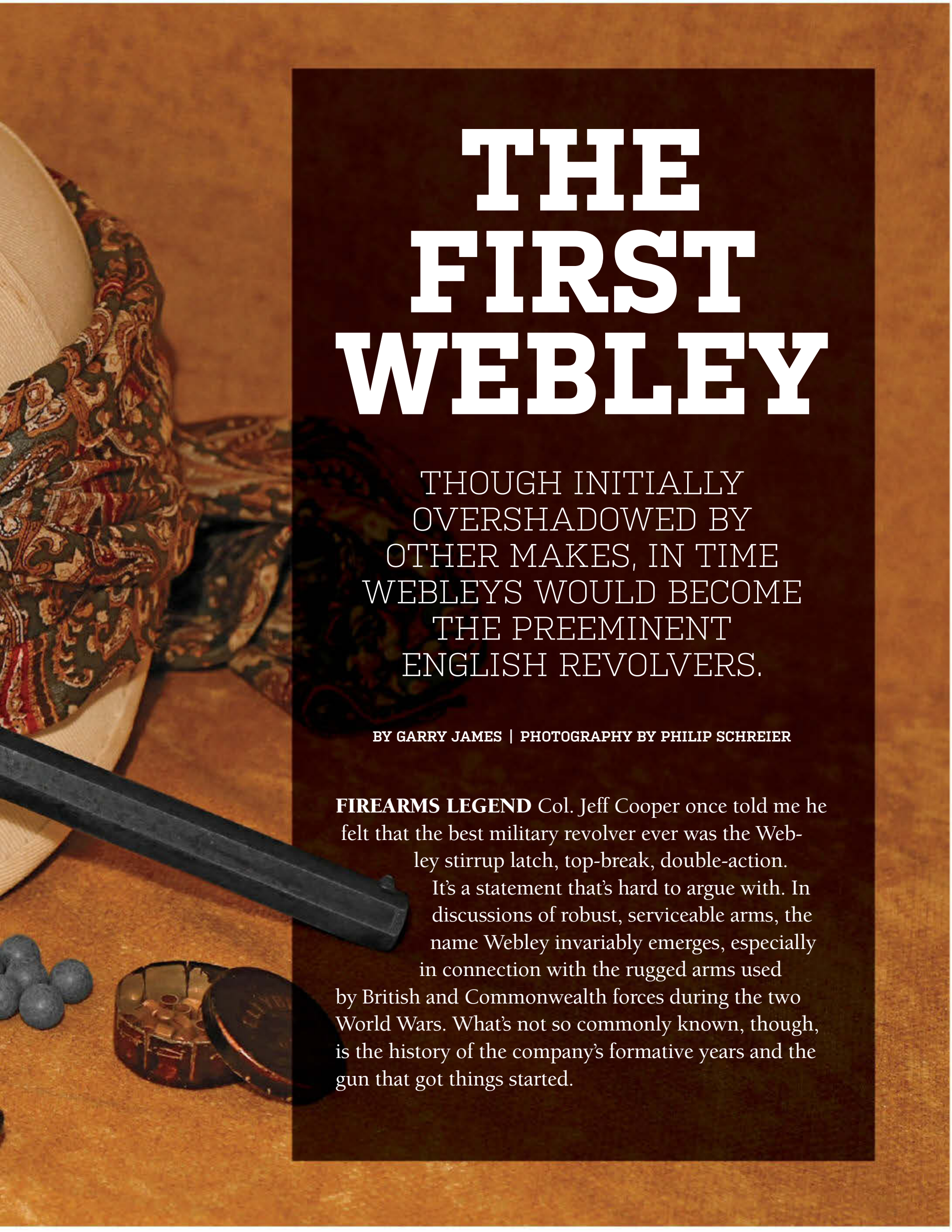
Barnaul

BARNAULAMMO.COM

FULL FORGE GEAR

FULLFORGEGEAR.COM

Available thru your local gun shop



THE FIRST WEBLEY

THOUGH INITIALLY OVERSHADOWED BY OTHER MAKES, IN TIME WEBLEYS WOULD BECOME THE PREEMINENT ENGLISH REVOLVERS.

BY GARRY JAMES | PHOTOGRAPHY BY PHILIP SCHREIER

FIREARMS LEGEND Col. Jeff Cooper once told me he felt that the best military revolver ever was the Webley stirrup latch, top-break, double-action.

It's a statement that's hard to argue with. In discussions of robust, serviceable arms, the name Webley invariably emerges, especially in connection with the rugged arms used by British and Commonwealth forces during the two World Wars. What's not so commonly known, though, is the history of the company's formative years and the gun that got things started.

Because of the general configuration of the revolver, it was necessary to equip it with an exaggerated hammer, hence its nickname "Longspur." This example is the third variant in Webley's premier percussion five-shooter.

The Webley Longspur's (above) main rival of the 1850s was the superb double-action Beaumont Adams (below).

Philip and James Webley, who were sons of Birmingham button-maker (correctly identified as a "white button turner"), served their apprenticeships in the early part of the 19th century. James, the elder of the pair, established his business first and was joined by his brother in 1835 manufacturing sundry firearms parts.

After marrying Caroline Davis, the daughter of the late William Davis, a well-known Birmingham bullet-mold maker, Philip absorbed Davis' firm, giving new strength to his own proprietorship.

Though the brothers maintained separate establishments, they also worked together producing transition-style revolvers, pepperboxes and workaday muskets and pistols for military and private sale. Along the way, both had received assorted firearms patents, some of which were more practical and profitable than others. On March 29, 1853, James Webley received patent number 743 for what he termed "improved patent repeating pistols," and that same year unhesitatingly launched into production of what would be considered the first true Webley revolver.

It must be remembered at this time the names of Robert Adams, who came out with his superb double-action five-shooter in 1851, and William Tranter, a respected gunsmith who also had a profitable line of wares. They were preeminent among British repeating handgun makers.

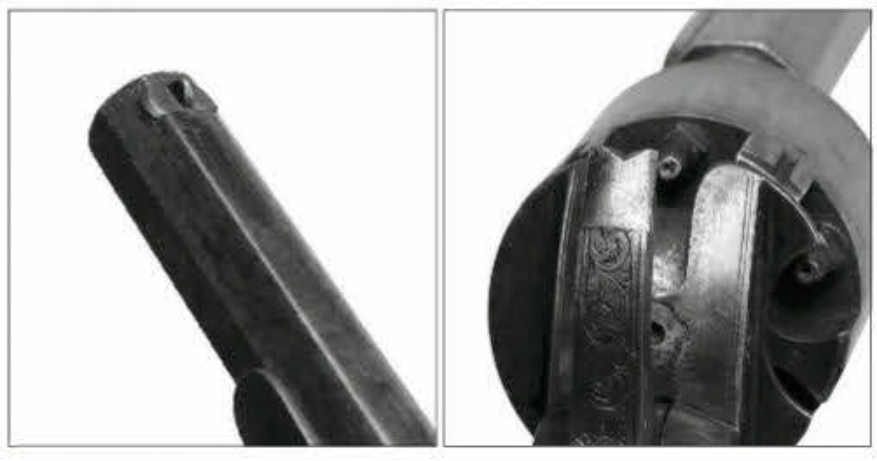
Though James' revolver lacked the "self-cocking" feature of the Adamses and Tranters, its single-action mechanism was sound and reliable. Probably the design's most noticeable departure from the norm was the use of an exaggerated hammer thumbpiece. This feature resulted in the gun's nickname, "Longspur." Necessary because of the configuration of the pistol's grip, it gave the shooter excellent leverage and allowed for more rapid cocking than was possible with the much-vaunted Colt products of the time.

Like many of its contemporaries, the Webley had an open-top frame and cylinder arbor fixed to the center of the recoil shield. A wedge through the front of the arbor secured the forward portion of the frame/barrel. Removing the wedge allowed the barrel to hinge down, permitting the cylinder to be easily removed. Early versions of the First Model were not equipped with loading levers, however, as production progressed, sepa-

James Webley's early designs, while promising, gave little indication that the Webley name would come to dominate the British revolver trade. This World War I-era Mark VI Webley is a fine example (left).

The Longspur featured in this article bears the address of British retailer John Cox of Southampton, Herefordshire, England. Cox was in business from 1843 until 1859.

As well as his name on the sideplate, James Webley proudly engraved "BY HER MAJESTY'S ROYAL LETTERS PATENT" on his revolver's backstrap.



Sighting on the single-action Longspur consisted of a rear notch in the hammer nose — similar to the method used by Colt at the time — and a drift-adjustable front blade. Actually, the notch is cut into a fragile flange that is intended to inhibit percussion cap splatter when the gun is fired.

rate rammers were provided that were secured by a small screw on the right side of the revolver's barrel.

The internals of the majority of Longspurs were unlike those of other revolvers of the time in that the hammer employed two attached swiveling arms, one for rotating the cylinder and another, which operated along with a rising cylinder stop, to lock the cylinder when the trigger was pulled. The mechanism was simple and sure. The works could be viewed and serviced through a removable sideplate on the left, rear of the frame. A small spring was attached to the lower portion of the arbor to keep the cylinder from overspinning upon cocking. The arbor itself was square in cross section through most of its length to help take up powder fouling.

Sighting involved a notch rear cut into a percussion cap shield on the hammer nose and drift-adjustable front blade. The shield was intended to protect the shooter from bits and pieces of exploding percussion cap, which it did. Unfortunately it was rather fragile and many extant examples of Longspurs are seen with broken or missing shields.

The quality of James' and Philip's new revolver was excellent and, in the manner of the majority of Birmingham makers, parts were contracted out and then hand-fitted. Thus, interchangeably of components was iffy at best. Also, this resulted in higher costs and fewer arms than those mass-produced by Colt and others. Most likely, not more than 2,000 Longspurs were made during the pistols' limited production period.

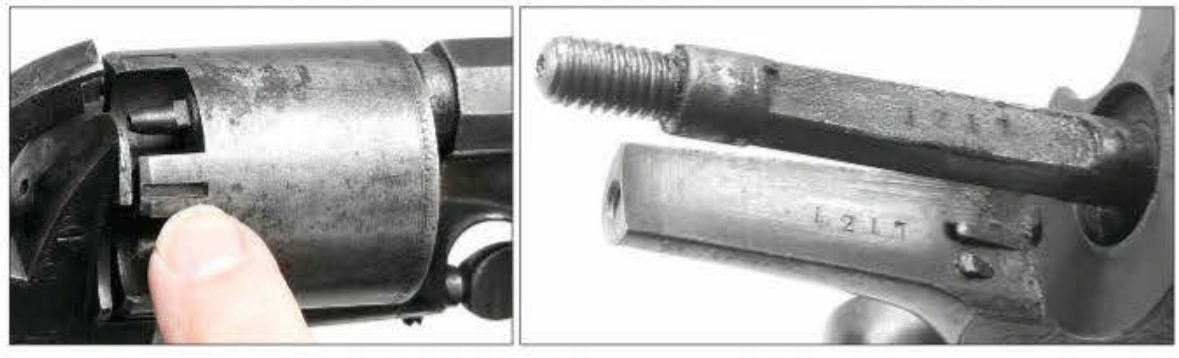
Webley Longspurs were ordinarily offered in three sizes termed by the firm, "Small," "Middle" and "Large." These corresponded to the common designations of "pocket" (120 bore, .338 inch), "belt" (60 bore, .426 inch) and "holster" (48 bore, .459 inch). Small revolvers were six-shot and had 3- and 4-inch barrels, Middles were 4- and 5-inch barreled five-shooters, and Large five-shot Longspurs had 6- and 7-inch barrels.

Around 1855, a Second Model revolver was introduced. It generally followed the construction of the First Model, however, an up-swinging Adams-style loading lever was affixed to the lower, right of the frame. This version was made until around 1857. James Webley had died the previous year, so sole responsibility of Longspur production passed to Philip. As Philip had been even more involved in the day-to-day

Taking down the Third Model Longspur was relatively simple. One first loosened a thumbscrew sited on the lower portion of the barrel assembly [1]. The barrel could then be unscrewed and separated from the frame, and the cylinder taken off its arbor [2, 3, 4, 5]. A small spring on the lower portion of the arbor [5, inset] kept the cylinder from overspinning when the hammer was cocked, thus keeping the mechanism in time.

workings of the firm than James, this did not greatly affect production.

Even though Longspur sales were reasonably healthy and the pistols well-regarded by those who purchased them, it was decided a redesign was in order. The main change involved the jettisoning of the hinged barrel in favor of one that was completely removable. The arbor wedge was dropped in favor of a captured thumbscrew sited on the lower portion of the barrel assembly where it met the frame. The barrel could now be completely unscrewed from the arbor and the cylinder removed.



A long locking notch on the cylinder corresponded to a bolt which rose from the floor of the frame when the trigger was pulled completely to the rear. In the interim, a small stud appeared when the hammer was full cocked to help secure the cylinder in place. The square cross section of the arbor was intended to help take up powder fouling.

Because the first Webley Longspurs were produced in 1853, it has been opined that some saw service in the Crimean War (1854 to ’56). It is also not unlikely that some could have made it to India during Mutiny of 1857 to ’58.

Though primarily seen in the hands of British customers, Longspur distribution was not limited to Albion and the colonies. For instance, an elegant, special-order Third Model, embellished with gold inlay, was presented during the American Civil War by Union Captain (later Admiral) David G. Farragut to Captain (also, later Admiral) David D. Porter in 1862. Arms dealer Tim Prince of College Hill Arsenal (collegehillarsenal.com) recently offered for sale an interesting Second Model holster version originally retailed by S. Isaac Campbell & Company, a firm that sold arms and equipment to the Confederacy. As the establishment had been in business well before the War Between the States, and the revolver could have been made as early as 1857, it is more probable the arm was sold commercially, though it is possible that it could have found its way to the U.S.A. or C.S.A. between 1861 and ’65. In any event, as Webley never received government contracts for the Longspurs, any that might have seen military action would have to have been privately purchased.

Despite being an excellent series of revolvers, the Longspurs had a relatively short life span, about seven or eight years. Though of estimable design and quality, as mentioned previously, they were not cheap and numbers were limited. Too, the guns of Robert Adams had solidly established the double-action concept in the minds of the British buyers. Ultimately, the Longspurs were phased out of Webley’s line in favor of an excellent double-action quasi-solid frame, commonly termed the “Wedge Frame.” As its name implies, Webley returned, briefly, to the concept of a wedge holding two portions of

HECKLER & KOCH

IT'S TIME FOR AN UPGRADE

The best-selling HK pistol just got even better. HK VP9 pistols now include the following upgrades.

- 17-round magazines replace previous 15-round versions
- Improved iron sights, with high-visibility front sight and clean black rear
- Optional optics-ready mounting system

If you've been thinking about upgrading to an HK, now is the time.

VP pistols have easy to change backstraps an side panels for a personalized fit. 27 custom-fitted grip combinations are possible.

$849 — MSRP —

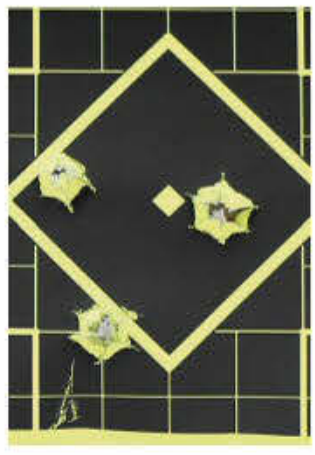
MADE IN GERMANY QUALITY

LIFETIME WARRANTY

www.hk-usa.com • 706-568-1906

To charge the evaluation Longspur, the cylinder was removed from the frame [1] and placed on a Traditions loading stand [2]. A measured charge of powder was poured into the chamber [3], followed by a .45 Wonder Wad [4] and .464 round ball [5]. The ball was tightly seated [6] and topped with water-pump grease [7]. The cylinder was returned to the revolver and the nipples capped [8].

Firing the Longspur was a delight. It was accurate, comfortable in the hand and reliable. It was certainly on a par with the open-top Colts of the period. The extended hammer spur provided good leverage when cocking the piece, as advertised.



From a rest at 25 yards, the Longspur managed reliable three-shot groups such as this 2½-incher.

A shield on the top of the hammer nose prevented disintegrating cap shards from striking the shooter's face. Unfortunately, this convenience was somewhat fragile.

the frame together, but with a twist. This new revolver had a topstrap which dovetailed into the rear portion of the frame. Made in the usual range of sizes, this revolver's tenure lasted for about two years, after which time it was replaced with a similar-looking self-cocker featuring a more conventional solid frame.

Shooting the Longspur For our evaluation we secured a Third Model, holster-size Longspur in .48 bore. Its overall condition was excellent, lockup solid, and the action smooth and sure. The barrel's three-groove rifling was almost perfect. In the manner of all Longspurs, it displays foliate decoration and its backstrap is grandiously engraved "BY HER ROYAL MAJESTY'S LETTERS PATENT," and the sideplate reads, "WEBLEY'S PATENT." Another variant of the frame marking, usually seen on earlier pistols is, "JAMES WEBLEY PATENTEE." The top of the barrel has the name of John Cox, an arms dealer who operated from Southampton, England, from 1843 through 1859. Revolvers sold directly by the maker usually sport Webley's own name and address in place of a dealer's.

It was immediately obvious upon inspection that the gun's bore diameter was definitely smaller than that of the chamber, not an unusual happenstance in percussion revolvers. A check

THE NEW RRAGE IN ENTRY CARBINES

LAR-15 RRAGE RIFLE **DS1850**
with RRA Six-Position Tactical CAR

16" LIGHTWEIGHT CHROME MOLY
1:9 Twist Barrel

INTRODUCING THE
LAR-15 RRAGE RIFLE

Punching above its weight class, this new entry carbine features a sleek monolithic upper receiver/handguard with side and bottom MLOK® ports. **This NEW RRAGE sets a higher benchmark for all entry carbines to follow.**

LAR-15 RRAGE RIFLE QUICK SPECS:

CALIBER: .223/5.56MM NATO CHAMBER	
WEIGHT: 5.7 POUNDS	LENGTH: 36"

ONLY AVAILABLE THROUGH YOUR LOCAL DEALER.

ROCKRIVERARMS.COM

RRA® ROCK RIVER ARMS

PERFORMANCE TUNED.

* Optics and scope mount not included.

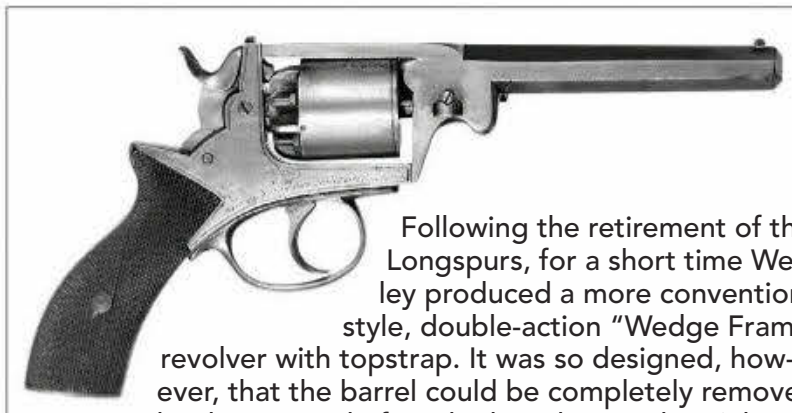
Webley Longspurs were beautifully made, elegant arms that lent themselves to embellishments and casing. This example of a Second Model is typical of the type. The casing includes the usual accessories of the period: a power flask, bullet mold, cleaning rod and nipple wrench. Six paper cartridges (not shown) are contained in the tin magazine. (Photo courtesy of Rock Island Auction Company.)

Some First Model Longspurs had loading levers which were detached and mounted by a single small screw on the barrel for charging. (Photo courtesy of Morphy Auctions.)

Second Model Longspurs are recognizable by their Adams-style rammers, sited on the right, lower portion of the frame. (Photo courtesy of Morphy Auctions.)

with the micrometer revealed a .457-inch bore and .462-inch chamber. As far as I can determine, because the loading lever plunger at rest was so close to the chamber mouth, bullets were originally intended to be pushed well down into the chambers manually before the cylinder could be rotated and the receive its final seating with the rammer.

First Model Longspurs, initially, had no levers at all. These guns were probably loaded, like the early Deane, Adams & Deane revolvers, by inserting and seating wadded bullets solely with finger pressure. Second Models, though fitted with an upswinging Adams rammer, could be charged with slightly oversized balls to improve obturation. Still, the mechanical advantage afforded by the lever to perform this task was not as good as that enjoyed in other systems.



Following the retirement of the Longspurs, for a short time Webley produced a more conventional-style, double-action "Wedge Frame" revolver with topstrap. It was so designed, however, that the barrel could be completely removed by the removal of a cylinder arbor wedge. (Photo courtesy of College Hill Arsenal.)

Though I like to be as authentic in my evaluations as possible, I wasn't all that thrilled with the Third Model's loading arrangement as undersized bullets could result in multiple discharges. Instead, I opted to employ a ball larger than the chamber size and to seat it using a Traditions .44-caliber loading stand (traditionsfirearms.com, $31). This clever appliance allows a revolver's cylinder to be removed from the gun, placed on a spindle for loading, and then returned to the pistol for capping.

As I have in the past, I turned to the Ballmoulds in Essex, England (ballmoulds.com), for a brass round bullet mold. We opted for a .464-inch, 151-grain ball. I also decided to use not just an over-the-powder wad, but also a healthy dollop of water pump grease over the bullet after it had been seated. Chosen charge was 28 grains of FFFg Goex blackpowder.

British revolver nipples from this period have a tendency to be rather small, so even using No. 10s, it was necessary to pinch the caps to keep them in place.

Initially I just loaded one chamber to get a feel for the piece. It worked just fine. Then multiple shots were essayed from a rest at 25 yards, the closest distance available at the range. Trigger pull was quite good, coming in at 4¼ pounds. Ergonomically, the pistol was a dream; it fit my hand perfectly, the extended hammer spur affording smooth, glitch-free cocking. Recoil, though stout, was not prohibitive. Rounds struck slightly high with three-shot groups averaging 3¼ inches, which is about as good as I can fire any handgun nowadays.

One can see why the Longspur enjoyed a vogue during its short life span. Being virtually a hand-made arm, its too bad that it was not more affordable and broadly available. It might have challenged some of the more prominent products of the time. My only complaint with the handgun was the loading arrangement, though perhaps I'm missing something in my appraisal of the system.

Today, Longspurs bring premium prices with collectors and are not all that easy to come by. I must admit, I enjoyed shooting the piece as much as I have any percussion revolver, but its value, and difficulty of repair should some part fail, dictates a well-earned retirement.

The Longspur was an good example of a product that, while not commonly remembered today, had a defining influence over the fortunes of an initially modest firm — eventually transforming Webley into a giant in its field. G&A

BEYOND COOL

RAPIDE BLACK ICE

ALL DAY. ALL NIGHT.
Tritium and fiber sights.

SUPER TOUGH
DLC FINISHED BARREL
Durable, easy to clean.

CRISP BREAK
Premium trigger, set at 4-5lbs.

UNDERCUT
Material removed from under the trigger guard for higher grip access.

360° GRIP TEXTURING
Stiplex™ texturing and stair-stepped serrations keep you confident.

AVAILABLE IN

9MM, .45 ACP, 10MM

For more information on Rapide (Black Ice) visit kimberamerica.com

Kimber®

MADE IN AMERICA

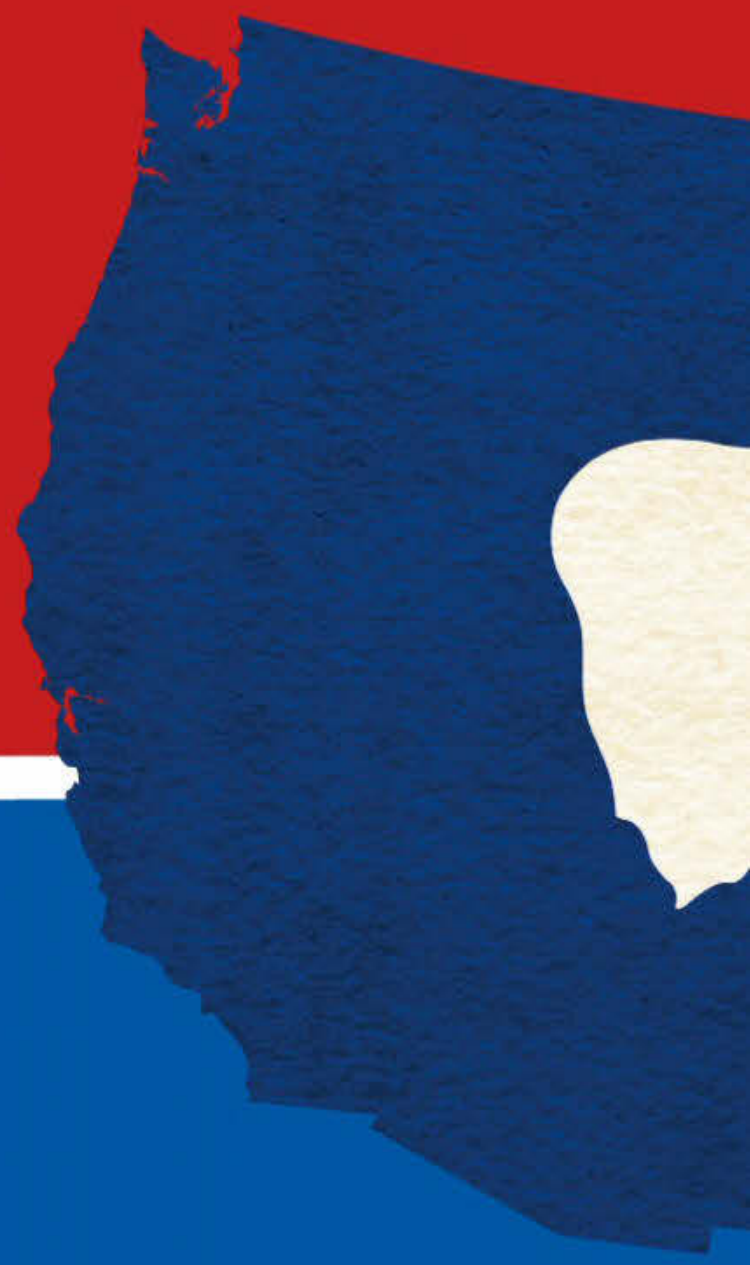
WHAT ALL GUNS SHOULD BE™

(888) 243-4522
KIMBERAMERICA.COM

©2020, KIMBER MFG., INC. ALL RIGHTS RESERVED. INFORMATION AND SPECIFICATIONS ARE FOR REFERENCE ONLY AND SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT NOTICE.

TOP FIVE
1. WYOMING
2. IDAHO
3. MONTANA
4. UTAH
5. ARIZONA

BEST STATES FOR GUN OWNERS 2021



BY KEITH WOOD

BOTTOM FIVE
47. CALIFORNIA
48. NEW JERSEY
49. MASSACHUSETTS
50. HAWAII
51. NEW YORK

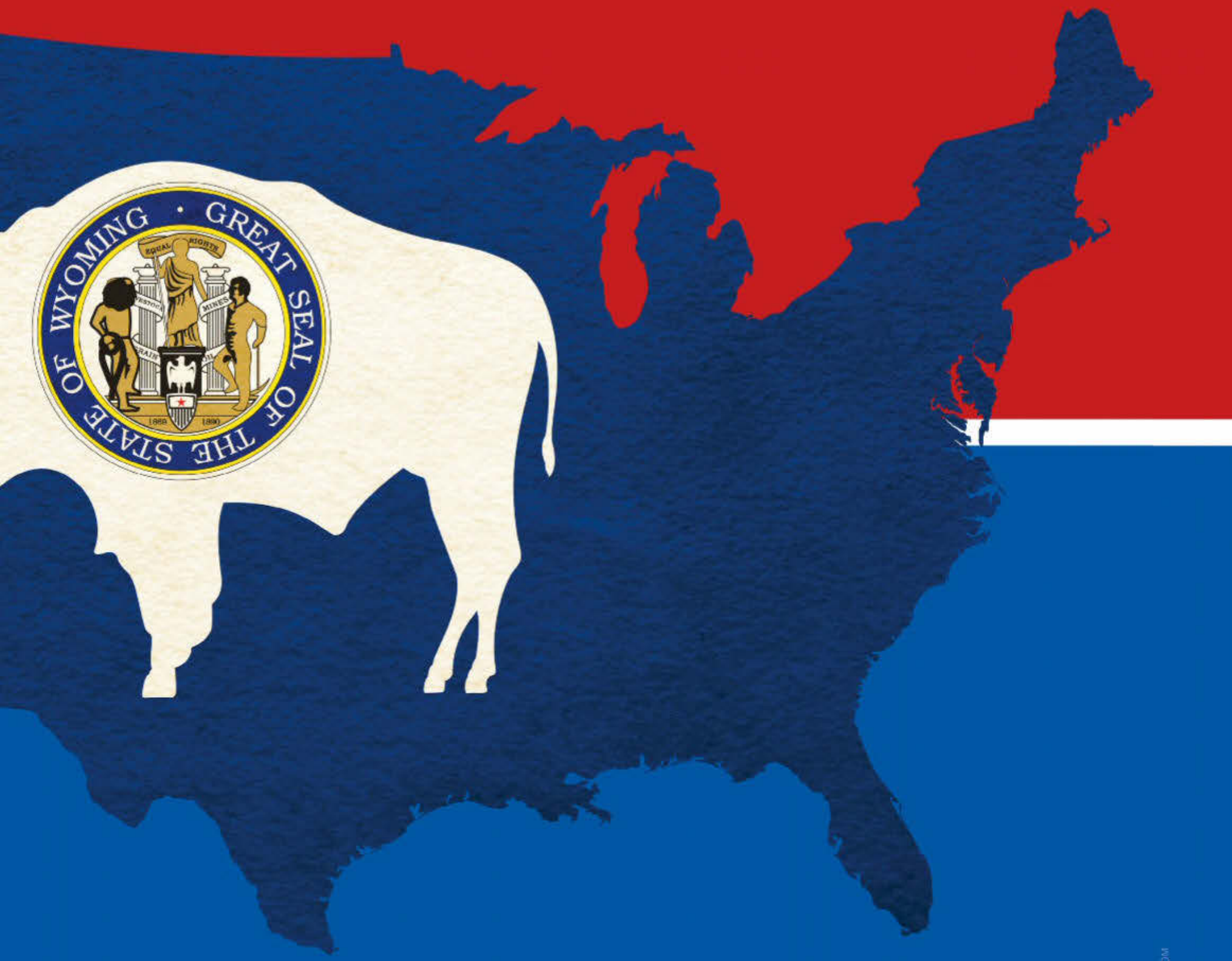


PHOTO: 197343581 © ZENOBILLIS | DREAMSTIME.COM

FREE!

2021 Kennedy Half Dollar

- Uncirculated condition
- Not Released for Circulation

Along with your **FREE** coin, you'll also receive a handpicked trial selection of fascinating coins from our No-Obligation Coins-On-Approval Service, from which you may purchase any or none of the coins – return balance within 15 days – with option to cancel at any time.

Mail Coupon Today!
Or, for *Faster* Service, Visit:
LittletonCoin.com/Specials

Special Offer for New Customers Only - Age 18+

☑ **YES** Please send me the following:

QTY	DESCRIPTION	TOTAL
1	2021 Kennedy Half Dollar	FREE
	Shipping	FREE
	Total $	FREE

ORDERS MUST BE RECEIVED WITHIN 30 DAYS

Name _____

Address _____ Apt# _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

E-Mail _____

Littleton Coin Company®
Serving Collectors Since 1945
Dept. 6LN415 1309 Mt. Eustis Rd
Littleton NH 03561-3737

IN THE 2020 PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION, voters in 16 percent of the nation's counties determined the outcome for the entire country. Maps that display Republican versus Democrat majority counties are lopsided, yet U.S. elections nearly always come down to single-digit margins. The issue is population. Voters in large, densely populated cities wield tremendous influence when compared to the remaining parts of the country. This is why the founders brilliantly devised institutions such as the Electoral College to protect the voice of America's small town. Big cities also dominate the legislative majorities of several states, which is why the policy divide is so vast as you study the map from coast to coast.

There is no single issue where this urban/rural divide is more tangible than gun rights. The difference between the quality of life for gun owners in our lowest and highest-ranked states is dramatic. The East and West Coasts are like different worlds versus the flyover nation in terms of gun laws and culture.

Every year, in the wake of the spring lawmaking season, Guns & Ammo quantifies the gun-related policies of each state and ranks them accordingly. This year, there is much to report. Unlike 2020, where most legislative sessions were shut down or suspended due to COVID-19, 2021 has been an active year of firearm-related legislation in the states. Laws are changing fast and, in most states, for the better. Example: When G&A began ranking states in 2013, there were only three that allowed individuals to carry a concealed firearm without a permit. Now there are 21.

There is little middle ground at this point in American history; states are either becoming increasingly hostile toward gun owners or making their support for the Second Amendment clear. Hence, these scores are not as diverse as they once were. This year, there was a five-way tie for first place in terms of raw points. We really are splitting hairs on both sides of the ledger. Reasonable minds can disagree over the sequence of the top or bottom states in our rankings, but the idea is to make comparisons that are objective. One could argue that any state in the top 40 is reasonably pro-gun.

As in previous years, G&A evaluates each state numerically in each of five categories: Right-To-Carry (RTC) and Concealed Carry (CC); access to "Black Rifles"; use-of-force laws, i.e., "Castle Doctrine"; the prohibition of items regulated by the National Firearms Act (NFA); and a catch-all Miscellaneous column. States are awarded zero to 10 points in each category and ranked according to their total number of points. This year, we took a slightly different view of a state's "gun culture" and factored shifts in population and public opinion. In the case of a tie (which was common), we ranked the states under the subjective manner of how firearm-friendly a given state's overall environment is.

There is an important factor at play, too, one that has accelerated in the past year: The exodus of Americans leaving liberal strongholds such as California and New York is having a demonstrable change in the populations of states such as Arizona, Idaho, Tennessee and Florida. Idaho has fewer than 2 million residents. How many Californians can such a state absorb before it loses much of its identity? Will these states be able to maintain their gun-friendly status, or will they go the way of Colorado? Only time will tell, but, for the first time in this survey, we are taking that unfortunate reality into account.

Right-to-Carry This category is evaluated using the criteria applied in G&A's "Best States for Concealed Carry" rankings: standard for issuance, training requirements, cost, reciprocity and the extent of locations where licensees are prohibited from carrying. May-issue states that rarely issue permits are graded accordingly and can receive 1 to 6 points, depending on the standard review factors. Shall-issue states, states that require that a permit be issued so long as the applicant is qualified are given 6 to 8 points. A state with legal permitless or "constitutional" carry alone (there is only one) is given 9 points, whereas states that both issue permits and allow citizens to carry without one are given a full 10-point score. States that

TANGO6T™

PROVEN PERFORMANCE

again, and again, and again.

SELECTED RIFLESCOPE FOR THE US ARMY SQUAD DESIGNATED MARKSMAN RIFLE (SDMR)

SELECTED RIFLESCOPE FOR USSOCOM SQUAD-VARIABLE POWERED SCOPE (S-VPS)

SELECTED RIFLESCOPE FOR DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE (DOD) DIRECT VIEW OPTIC (DVO)

OPTIMIZED AND RUGGEDIZED FOR CLOSE QUARTERS BATTLE TO MID-RANGE TACTICAL ENGAGEMENTS

NINE DAYLIGHT BRIGHT AND TWO NIGHT VISION ILLUMINATION SETTINGS WITH LOCKING DIAL

MIL-STD-810H, IPX-8 WATERPROOF RATED AND FOG-PROOF PERFORMANCE

30MM MAINTUBE, FIBER OPTIC POWER SELECTOR INDICATOR, THROW LEVER INCLUDED

ASSEMBLED IN USA

FIRST FOCAL PLANE

DWLR-556

5.56MM / 7.62MM
DWL-6

SECOND FOCAL PLANE

FL-6
HELLFIRE

MOA MILLING HELLFIRE

sigsauer.com

SIG SAUER
NEVER SETTLE

issue permits and allow for permitless carry for residents only are given 9½ points. Open-carry laws are considered under the miscellaneous column and can also be used as a tiebreaker.

Black Rifles This category examines whether a state regulates or bans firearms based on their appearance or mechanical characteristics. Examples would be bans on so-called "assault weapons." These laws often require registration of certain firearms and, in some states, ban ownership altogether. Our rankings reflect whether a state regulates any category of firearm by its features or limits the capacity of magazines. This category is more or less binary; states either score very well or very poorly.

NFA The National Firearms Act (NFA) regulates the sale, transfer and possession of machine guns, suppressors (called "silencers" in the law), short-barreled rifles (SBR), short-barreled shotguns (SBS), Any Other Weapons (AOW), and Destructive Devices (DD). This federal statute allows states to further restrict these items. (We use the term "items" since suppressors are not firearms but are covered under the NFA.) Some states ban their ownership altogether or piecemeal. Therefore, we rank each state based on a sliding scale of regulations.

Castle Doctrine The term "Castle Doctrine" has become shorthand for a state's use-of-force laws. Some states require citizens to retreat before the use of deadly force is authorized. We rank states based on the right to use force both inside and outside of homes and businesses. We award maximum points to states that allow use of force wherever a person has a legal right to be and protect citizens from both criminal and civil liability if appropriate force is used. This year, we investigated deeper into this complex topic and, in some cases, recalibrated the scores based on a fair comparison with other states.

Miscellaneous This is the most subjective category in G&A's survey, but it allows us leeway in our ability to quantify the culture and environment within a given state. We use this column to track preemption statutes, as well as laws and rules that fall outside of our other buckets. The availability of places to shoot is also taken into consideration. States with thriving competitive shooting communities are also recognized here, and states with laws that allow for gun confiscation without due process, i.e., "Red Flag" laws, are penalized.

51. NEW YORK

New York is a hellhole for gun owners, particularly within the five boroughs of New York City. Carry permits are very difficult to obtain and state-issued permits are not valid in NYC. Getting a permit to carry in the city requires serious political influence. Various restrictions are placed on semiautomatic firearms and magazine capacity is limited to 10 rounds. NFA items are a no-go. New York state law imposes a duty to retreat from an attack outside the home before deadly force is authorized, which cost it key points in the Castle Doctrine category. Several bills that would place additional restrictions on the Empire State's gun owners are currently being considered in Albany but, at the time of this writing, none have made it to Gov. Cuomo's desk.

50. HAWAII

Just as in 2020, the Hawaii Legislature introduced numerous anti-gun bills. Only two passed including one that now bans previously regulated home-built firearms. A magazine ban failed to advance (again), but mandatory storage legislation did pass. Carry permits are all but unobtainable in Hawaii, and NFA items are a no-go. So-called "assault pistols" are restricted and use-of-force laws are weak in protecting would-be-victims. We love Hawaii, but its gun laws leave much to be desired.

49. MASSACHUSETTS

The Bay State is a tough place to be a gun owner. So far this year, no anti-gun legislation has advanced but there isn't too much left to pass. Magazines are limited to 10 rounds and no NFA items are legal to possess or own. Massachusetts gets 3 points in the RTC column since the state's may-issue permit system

STATE SCORING AT A GLANCE

STATE	RTC/CC	BLACK RIFLE	NFA	CASTLE	MISC	2021 POINTS	2021 RANK	MAG LIMITS
NY	2	1	0	3	0	6	51	10
HI	0	3	0	4	1	8	50	10
MA	3	1	0	5	0	9	49	10
NJ	3	1	1	3	1	9	48	10
CA	2	1	1	6	0	10	47	10
DC	6	0	0	4	2	12	46	10
CT	5	1	2	7	0	15	45	10
MD	2	3	6	5	1	17	44	10
RI	6	10	0	6	2	24	43	
DE	4	10	1	8	3	26	42	
IL	7	8	2	9	3	29	41	
CO	7	4	10	6	3	30	40	15
WA	6	6	6	10	4	32	39	
MN	6	8	6	6	7	33	38	
VT	9	4	10	9	5	37	37	10/15*
VA	8	8	8	10	5	39	36	
NE	7	10	10	5	7	39	35	
OR	7	10	10	8	4	39	34	
NM	5	10	10	7	8	40	33	
PA	7	10	10	8	6	41	32	
IA	10	10	4	9	8	41	31	
ME	10	10	10	5	8	43	30	
NV	8	10	10	8	8	44	29	
NC	8	10	10	9	7	44	28	
FL	8	9	10	10	7	44	27	
LA	7	10	10	10	8	45	26	
MI	8	10	10	10	7	45	25	
OH	8	10	10	9	8	45	24	
WI	8	10	10	10	7	45	23	
SC	8	10	10	10	8	46	22	
AL	8	10	10	10	8	46	21	
IN	8	10	10	10	9	47	20	
MS	10	10	10	8	9	47	19	
GA	9	10	10	10	9	48	18	
MO	10	10	10	10	8	48	17	
NH	10	10	10	10	8	48	16	
AR	10	10	10	9	9	48	15	
WV	10	10	10	9	9	48	14	
TX	10	10	10	9	10	49	13	
TN	9.5	10	10	10	9.5	49	12	
KY	10	10	10	10	9	49	11	
OK	10	10	10	10	9	49	10	
KS	10	10	10	10	9	49	9	
AK	10	10	10	10	9	49	8	
SD	10	10	10	10	9	49	7	
ND	9.5	10	10	10	10	49.5	6	
AZ	10	10	10	10	10	50	5	
UT	10	10	10	10	10	50	4	
MT	10	10	10	10	10	50	3	
ID	10	10	10	10	10	50	2	
WY	10	10	10	10	10	50	1	

*10 RIFLES 15 HANDGUNS

edbrown.com

KC9-VTX

- > VORTEX VENOM® RED DOT SIGHT
- > OPTIMIZED FOR 9MM
- > 100% 1911 CONTROLS
- > USES STANDARD 1911 MAGAZINES
- > SHORTENED & THINNED SLIDE
- > EXTERNAL EXTRACTOR
- > FLUTED BULL BARREL
- > FLAT WIRE RECOIL SPRING SYSTEM
- > LIFETIME WARRANTY

edbrown.com

actually issues some permits. There is a duty to retreat in Massachusetts, where one must "do everything reasonable in the circumstances to avoid physical combat before resorting to force" in self-defense cases, which costs it points in the Castle Doctrine category. There are some competitive matches in Massachusetts, though the state can hardly be described as having a "shooting culture."

48. NEW JERSEY

The Garden State is one of the toughest gun-owning environments in America, but Gov. Murphy wants to make it tougher. He is promoting legislation that would mandate training, force guns to be stored under lock and key, electronically register ammunition sales and ban .50-caliber firearms. He's also proposing microstamping and "smart gun" mandates, which are simply backdoor handgun bans. Carry laws in NJ are weak, black guns are banned, and use-of-force laws favor the aggressor.

47. CALIFORNIA

Though there is plenty of legislative activity to discuss, the real action in California is taking place in the federal courts. After an appellate court struck down the state's magazine ban last year in the *Duncan v. Becerra* case, the state's attorney general successfully petitioned the court for an *en banc* review by a panel of judges. Oral arguments were scheduled for June 2021, and the results could be game-changing. If that weren't enough, in June, a U.S. District Judge ruled that California's three-decade's old semiauto ban was a "failed experiment" and unconstitutional. There is more to come on both cases. (At the time of this writing, decisions were pending.)

46. WASHINGTON D.C.

Things have been quiet in our nation's capital, at least when it comes to the District's gun laws. Though D.C. is certainly no paradise, the environment for gun owners has improved dramatically in the last decade. Carry permits are available on a shall-issue basis, though residents have to jump through plenty of hoops to obtain one. The good news, more or less, ends there: the District receives zero points in the Black Rifle and NFA categories, and its use-of-force laws are weak despite its violent crime rate. A company called Barnes 1st Step Firearms Training offers classes inside the District, but it uses a facility in Virginia for live-fire since there are still no public ranges in D.C. If you want to shoot in D.C., join the FBI.

45. CONNECTICUT

In June, the Connecticut Legislature sent a bill to the governor that would expand the state's "red flag" laws. Connecticut is a bit of a mixed-bag for gun owners. Carry permits are obtainable in the ironically-named "Constitution State" on a may-issue basis, earning 5 points in that category. Suppressors are legal to own (though prohibited for hunting), but most black guns are not and magazines that hold more than 10 rounds are restricted. Use-of-force laws are relatively strong, gaining the state 7 points.

44. MARYLAND

Crossing the state line from Virginia to Maryland has big implications for gun owners. The Old Line State's gun laws are drastically more severe than those of its southern neighbor. Maryland operates under a tough may-issue carry permit system where only 28,000 permits have been issued to a population of more than 6 million residents. Maryland's NFA laws are complex, but most items are technically allowed, which earns the state 6 points. Black guns are severely restricted, and use-of-force laws are average at best. Ranges are available though, especially in the rural areas. There are even some precision rifle matches held in Westminster!

43. RHODE ISLAND

A host of anti-gun legislation was considered in 2021, but, at the time of this writing, none of the bills have crossed the finish line. Little Rhody is a may-issue state when it comes to carry permits, but it seems to be a relatively fair process compared to many jurisdictions. Black guns and magazines are not restricted, but NFA items are prohibited for everyone but dealers. There is a duty to retreat when outside the home, costing the state

points in the Castle Doctrine category.

42. DELAWARE

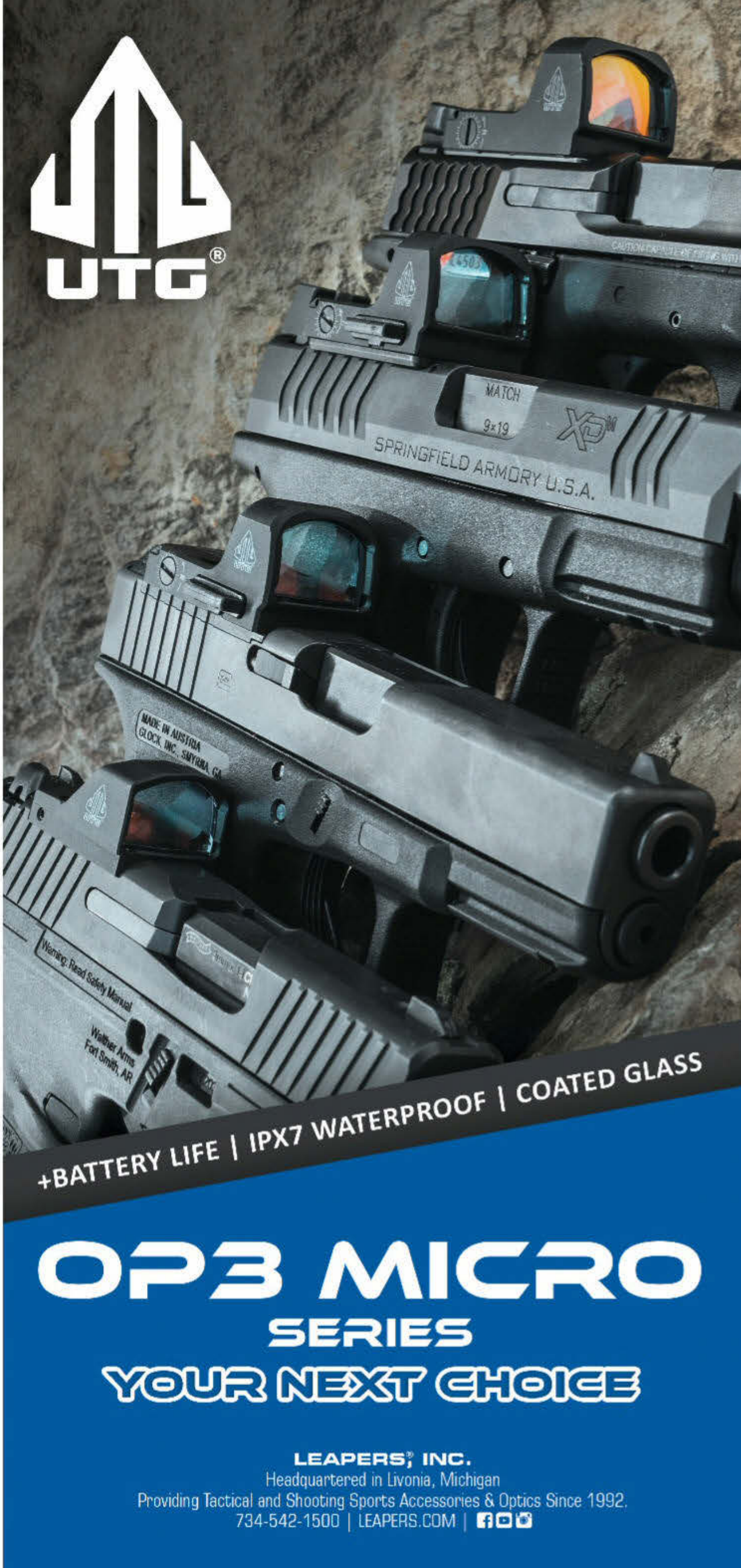
The Delaware State Senate passed legislation that would restrict magazines to an arbitrary 17 rounds, but it is unclear whether that bill will make it through the House at this time. Delaware issues carry permits to those who qualify, and it has decent permit reciprocity with other states. Most NFA items, including machine guns and suppressors, are prohibited. Delaware has reasonably good use-of-force laws, which include liability protections that gain the state 8 points.

41. ILLINOIS

Illinois' Democrat-controlled Legislature considered numerous bad bills for gun owners in 2021, but none of them made it out of both houses. Illinois issues carry permits to both residents and non-residents on a shall-issue basis, but there is no reciprocity. According to USCCA, over 330,000 permits have been issued since the laws changed in 2013. Black rifles and magazines are unrestricted by statute, but they are regulated by select cities. Illinois has surprisingly-strong use-of-force laws, but it earns minimal points in the NFA category thanks to a ban on suppressors, machine guns and short-barreled shotguns.

40. COLORADO

The influx of Californians into Colorado in recent decades has not done the state's gun owners any favors. At press time, it appears as though the Colorado legislature is marching toward gutting the state's preemption law, allowing local governments to pass their own firearm restrictions. If this happens, expect an unpredictable patchwork of laws subject to the whims of cities and towns. The bill specifically allows local jurisdictions to regulate where concealed handguns can be carried. If this becomes law, Colorado will lose some serious points in the next round of rankings. Currently, black guns are legal in the state, but magazines holding more than 15 rounds are restricted. Colorado has a shall-issue concealed-carry statute so permits are



issued as long as certain requirements are met.

▲ 39. WASHINGTON

In May, Washington's governor signed legislation preventing the open carry of a firearm within 250 feet of a permitted demonstration. This prohibition extends to vehicles, so it will now be illegal to drive by a public protest with a firearm in your trunk. Seriously. This is the latest in a series of steps backward for gun owners in the Evergreen State. The state also loses points in the Black Gun category since it placed restrictions and training requirements on the ownership of semiautomatic rifles in 2019.

▼ 38. MINNESOTA

Dozens of pro- and anti-gun bills were considered by Minnesota's Legislature this year, but none passed before adjournment. The Republican party has narrow control of the State Senate, creating a stop-gap against extreme proposals emerging from the lower chamber. Five percent of Minnesotans hold carry permits under the state's shall-issue system. Permit fees are relatively high and only 15 other states' permits are currently-honored. Therefore, G&A awards 6 points in the Concealed Carry category. There is a transferee permit requirement for many black guns, costing it a handful of points. Use-of-force laws include a duty to retreat.

■ 37. VERMONT

Though the Vermont Legislature considered numerous bad bills in 2021, gun owners emerged from the closed-door session with no damage done. Vermont boasts the oldest permitless carry system in nation, which earns it 9 points in the Concealed Carry category. In 2018, a state law placed limits on magazine capacity for both rifles and pistols, which cost it points in the Black Rifle category. The Vermont Supreme Court upheld that law in a decision published earlier this year. On the positive side, use-of-force laws are strong in the Green Mountain State and violent crime is almost nonexistent. Hunting remains deeply rooted in the state's culture, too.

▲ 36. VIRGINIA

Virginia has slipped fast in G&A's rankings in recent years, thanks to a partisan shift in the legislative majority. Though "ghost gun" legislation died in the Commonwealth's General Assembly this session, the fallout from 2020 continues. After last year's change in law that gutted the state's preemption law, several cities have imposed their own restrictions on carrying firearms in public places. Virginia, once again, has a "one-gun-a-month" law on the books, though residents with carry permits are exempt. Private transfers were effectively eliminated in 2020, and a Red Flag confiscation program was created. Virginia is one of only two states with regular gubernatorial and legislative elections scheduled for this fall, giving Virginians a chance to

2020 VS. 2021: ■ SAME ▲ WORSE ▼ BETTER

EPC™

SMALL CALIBER
HUGE IMPACT

EPC-9
AEROPRECISIONUSA.COM

take back both the Governor's mansion and the House of Delegates. Get out and vote!

■ 35. NEBRASKA

The rules and non-partisan nature of Nebraska's Unicameral Legislature makes it an extremely difficult place to pass a bill, so we see very few changes in the state's gun laws from year-to-year. In 2021, Gov. Ricketts signed legislation that strengthens the state's concealed carry law in select areas. Nebraska became a shall-issue state in 2006 after a decade-long political battle, and more than 70,000 permits have been issued since by the State Patrol. Open carry is generally legal, but it can be prohibited by individual cities. The place where the Cornhusker State loses significant points is in the Castle Doctrine category since the state imposes a duty to retreat when outside of a person's dwelling or workplace. In Grand Island, ammo maker Hornady was honored by the state in May as "Nebraska's Safest Company," even while meeting unprecedented demand for its products.

▲ 34. OREGON

On June 1st, Oregon Gov. Kate Brown signed a bill into law that will have serious consequences for gun owners in the state. This measure creates mandatory storage requirements for firearms in homes and vehicles; bans carry at numerous locations for Concealed Handgun License (CHL) holders; including the state capitol and airports; and doubles the fee to obtain a carry permit; among other provisions. CC continues to be on a shall-issue basis but no other states' permits are honored, earning it 7 points. For now, the state maintains its 10-point rankings in both the Black Guns and NFA columns. Though there isn't an explicit stand-your-ground law on the books, use-of-force laws are relatively strong.

▼ 33. NEW MEXICO

Though several anti-gun proposals were considered this year, none passed prior to the legislature's adjournment in March. New Mexico's concealed carry law is pretty antiquated, but permits are issued on a shall-issue basis. Individuals can only carry one firearm at a time so back-up guns are no-go. Open carry is generally legal in the state. There is no stand-your-ground law on the books but a state supreme court ruling establishes that there is no duty to retreat in New Mexico. This year, we have upgraded the state's score in the Castle Doctrine category to reflect that well-established law.

▲ 32. PENNSYLVANIA

A bill that would prevent the state from restricting firearm rights during an emergency was vetoed late in 2020 by Gov. Tom Wolf. Permitless carry and firearm preemption bills are moving their way through the House of Representatives as this is written, but their path forward remains unclear. The state currently receives 7 points for RTC and full marks in the Black Rifle and NFA categories. Use-of-force laws favor the victim, earning the Keystone State 8 points. Overall, Pennsylvania's shooting culture is strong, particularly outside of the big cities.

▼ 31. IOWA

For many years, when Democrats controlled the Senate, Iowa was a middle-of-the-road state in terms of its gun laws. No longer. Gov. Kim Reynolds and the state's legislature gave the Hawkeye State a big boost in our ratings when it became the 18th permitless carry state in April of this year — earning it a full 10 points in the RTC column. Machine guns and most other NFA firearms cannot be owned by individuals in Iowa, but suppressors are legal. The state has strong use-of-force laws that earn it 9 points.

▲ 30. MAINE

Maine is one of a few Northeastern states that score high in our Best States rankings. Maine gets high marks thanks to its strong permitless carry law and for its lack of restrictions on ownership of semiautomatic firearms and NFA items. The state's use-of-force laws are somewhat weak with a duty-to-retreat requirement when outside of the home. Most of Maine's acreage is rural, and the cultural environment for gun owners is good. For the record, the Pine Tree State has the lowest violent crime rate in the nation, so something is working.

▲ 29. NEVADA

This year, Nevada's governor signed legislation banning so-called "ghost guns" in the state. The law even bans the possession of an "unfinished receiver," better known as a harmless chunk of metal. Let us hope that passage of this legislation doesn't signal a long-term shift against gun owners by the state's Democrat-controlled legislature. Nevada receives 8 points for its shall-issue concealed carry law, and 10 points in the Black Rifle and NFA columns. Though the state has a small population, there is a significant firearm industry presence and competitive shooting scene.

▲ 28. NORTH CAROLINA

The NC General Assembly is poised to pass legislation allowing for concealed carry in churches, but Gov. Cooper vetoed a similar bill last session. The state has good Right-To-Carry laws with excellent reciprocity, which earn it 8 points. North Carolina doesn't restrict black guns or NFA items, and use-of-force laws are strong. There is a handgun permit requirement in-statute that costs it some miscellaneous points, but there is currently an effort to repeal it working its way through the legislature.

▲ 27. FLORIDA

A bill that will strengthen Florida's firearm preemption statute has been passed by the legislature and awaits Gov. Ron DeSantis' signature. This is the latest in a battle between gun rights groups and municipalities who want to write their own rules for gun owners. The House and Senate also passed legislation expanding right-to-carry in places of worship. Florida remains a great place for gun owners with strong shall-issue RTC laws, statewide firearm preemption, a model use-of-force law and a thriving shooting culture. There's a reason some call it "the Gunshine State." The only thing that costs Florida real points are the laws that restrict the purchase of long guns for most individuals under 21 and an established "Red Flag" confiscation program, both of which passed in the

TAURUS

GX4™

BUILT IN THE USA

A LEVEL OF DISTINCTION ALL ITS OWN.

With the introduction of our first-ever micro-compact 9mm, the all-new **Taurus GX4™** boldly outclasses anything else in its class—reaching unprecedented new heights in concealed carry firearm engineering, ergonomics and innovation. On the outside, there can be no doubt that every streamlined inch of this rugged striker-fired semi-auto was meticulously crafted for EDC readiness and reliability. While a game-altering combination of full-sized capacity, accuracy and power resides within its ultra-concealable one-inch-wide reinforced frame. The exceptionally affordable **Taurus GX4™** is backed by our Limited Lifetime Warranty and industry leading customer service for added peace of mind when it matters the most.

PREPARE + PROTECT

MICRO-COMPACT 9MM | 18.5 OZ. | 3" BARREL | 11 ROUNDS

Learn more at **TaurusGX4.com.**

TAURUS

wake of the 2018 Parkland High School tragedy. Thousands of firearms have been taken from Floridians in the time since that law's passage.

▲ 26. LOUISIANA

In 2021, the Louisiana legislature joined the ranks of states who have passed permitless carry bills in recent years. The bill will allow residents and nonresidents to carry concealed without a permit so long as they are not prohibited from possessing a firearm. The bill also mandates the creation of an online training course to be provided to residents. We can't give the state its full 10 points since Gov. Edwards has yet to sign the bill, and statements he made last spring indicate that he will likely veto the measure. Louisiana's current RTC law isn't a bad one, but the list of prohibited locations is long. The state gets high marks for its use-of-force laws, as well as in the Black Rifle and NFA categories.

2020 VS. 2021: ■ SAME ▲ WORSE ▼ BETTER

▼ 25. MICHIGAN

In October 2020, Michigan's Secretary of State issued guidance that would ban open carry at polling locations on election day. Just days later, a Court of Claims judge struck down the measure. Six percent of Michigan residents have carry permits thanks to the state's shall-issue system, and reciprocity is excellent. The state gets full points for its stand-your-ground law as well as in the Black Rifle and NFA categories.

▲ 24. OHIO

The big news in Ohio came in January when Gov. DeWine signed legislation expanding the state's Castle Doctrine law to apply outside the home. Updating the state's score led us to realize that we'd previously given the state a higher score in this category than it deserved; as a result, the score won't change in 2021. Ohio gets high marks across the board with a shall-issue RTC system that has issued more than 700,000 permits and no meaningful restrictions on individual firearm categories. The matches at Camp Perry remain one of the world's great competitive shooting events.

▲ 23. WISCONSIN

Legislation is currently being considered in Madison that would invoke the state's Tenth Amendment powers to resist the enforcement of federal gun control laws. (We'll keep you posted on its progress.) Wisconsin is a surprisingly strong state when it comes to protecting gun owners' rights. There are no restrictions on semiautomatics, and all federally registered NFA items are legal in the state.

■ 22. SOUTH CAROLINA

Due to an influential law enforcement group in the state, South Carolina's legislature hasn't always been as actively pro-gun as it could have been. That is obviously changing as Gov. McMaster recently signed a bill that will allow for open carry in the state with a Concealed

INTRODUCING

ARMORER'S MASTER VISE™

"REAL AVID DOES IT AGAIN."
★ ★ ★ ★ ★

"AMAZINGLY CAPABLE & INTUITIVE."
★ ★ ★ ★ ★

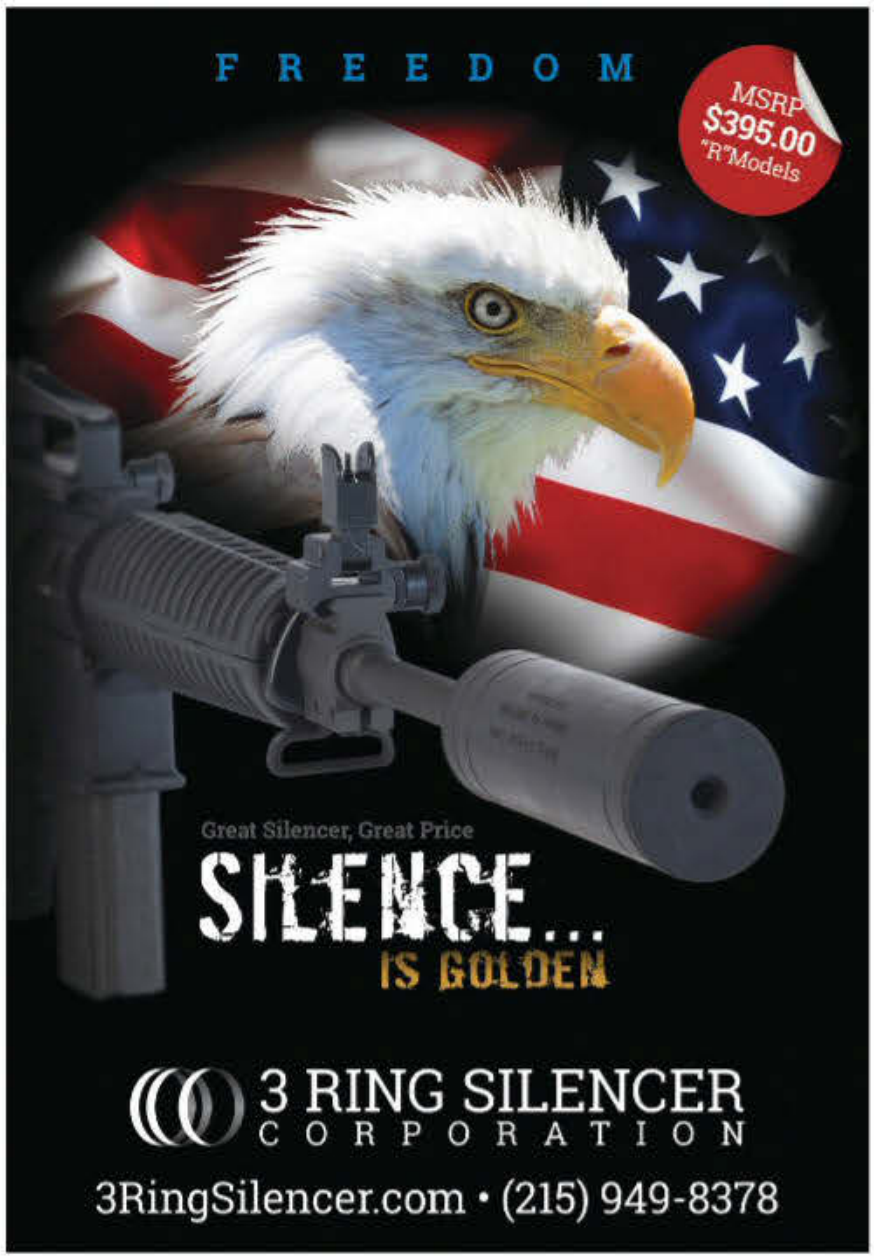
"THE NEW FOUNDATION FOR GUN DIY."
★ ★ ★ ★ ★

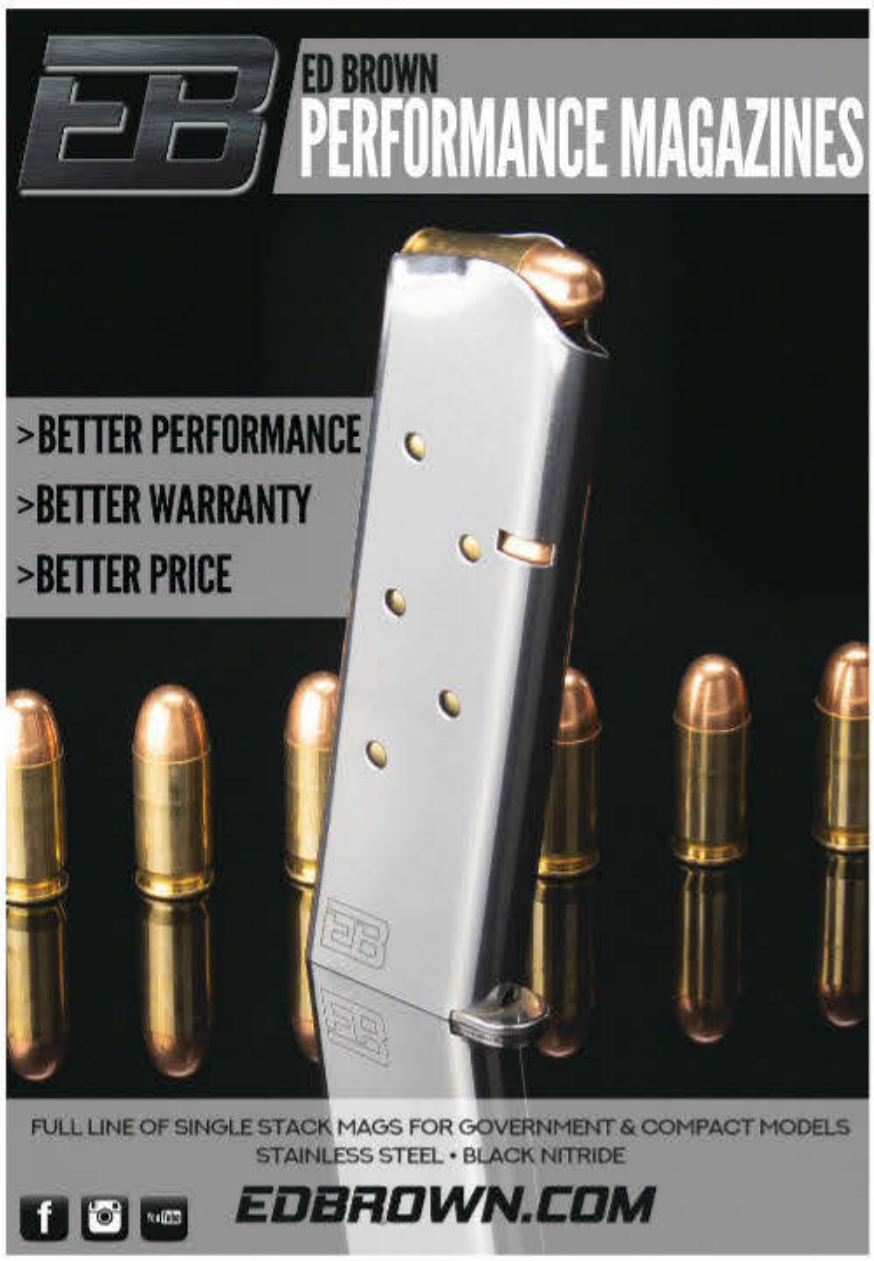
AVAILABLE AT YOUR FAVORITE RETAILER OR AT
REALAVID.COM

FALL 2021

REAL AVID®

For building, customizing, repairing, cleaning and mounting optics, the Armorer's Master Vise improves every part of the Gun DIY® experience.





Weapons Permit (CWP). The bill also eliminated the state's permit fee, though the training requirement will still apply. The only bad news is that carry permits from several states are not recognized. Otherwise, South Carolina does well across the board in our rankings as the statutory environment in the Palmetto State continues to improve for gun owners.

▲ 21. ALABAMA

According to G&A's research, Alabama has the distinction of being the state with the highest percentage of residents with carry permits in the nation. Fees are low, most counties issue permits while you wait, and there is no training mandate. This year the State Legislature passed a lifetime permit bill that awaits Gov. Ivey's signature. A permitless carry bill advanced but did not pass during the 2021 session. Alabama is a pro-gun state across the board with plenty of ranges and an active competitive shooting scene. Kimber's move to Troy, Alabama, gave the state a significant firearm-industry presence that will hopefully continue to grow.

■ 20. INDIANA

A permitless-carry bill failed in 2021 when the Senate failed to give it consideration. Indiana still gets a great score for its RTC laws thanks to wide issuance, low fees and lack of a training mandate. As a result, almost 15 percent of the state's residents hold a permit. The state has strong use-of-force laws, including civil liability protections, earning it full points in that category. There are no restrictions on the sale or possession of Black Rifles or registered NFA items.

▲ 19. MISSISSIPPI

Mississippi scores dead last in the anti-gun Giffords Law Center's rankings, which establishes its bona fides as a great spot for gun owners. Mississippi is a permitless carry state and permits (including enhanced permits) are available for those who seek them. Open carry is legal at age 18. Black rifles and NFA items are unrestricted by state law and the use-of-force laws are very strong. The only place where the state loses points is in the miscellaneous category as it's competitive shooting culture isn't as strong as some other states'.

▲ 18.GEORGIA

The only real firearm law-related news in Georgia was an emergency powers bill that failed to make it out of the legislature. Georgia is the highest-ranked state in our survey that does not allow for permitless carry, thanks to its overall firearm-friendly laws. Carry permits are shall-issue in the Peach State, fees are low and permitees can carry almost anywhere. The state has very strong use-of-force laws and a host of ranges. Taurus USA's recent move from Miami, Florida, to Bainbridge, Georgia, gave the state a great boost in its firearm-industry presence.

▲ 17. MISSOURI

In June, Gov. Parsons signed the Second Amendment Preservation Act, which prohibits state and local cooperation with federal officials that attempt to enforce any laws, rules, orders, or actions that violate the Second Amendment rights of Missourians. The legislature also considered a bill that would have removed public

NO EXCUSE.

XSC

The all-new, micro-compact XSC WeaponLight brings SureFire performance and reliability to the best concealed-carry handguns on the market. Virtually indestructible, extremely compact, perfectly concealable. If you're serious about self-protection, there's no excuse not to carry an XSC.

SUREFIRE.

transit systems from the state's list of prohibited locations for carry. Missouri is a permitless carry state that receives top scores in nearly every category. Missouri has a thriving competitive shooting community and is home to the Bianchi Cup each May.

▼ 16. NEW HAMPSHIRE

New Hampshire is a state that takes its "Live Free or Die" motto seriously. As such, New Hampshire is one of the highest-ranking states in the eastern U.S. Permitless carry is legal, use-of-force laws are strong, and the state doesn't restrict gun ownership beyond the scope of federal law. For a small state, New Hampshire has a good competitive shooting scene, and SIG Sauer's in-state presence is significant.

▼ 15. ARKANSAS

Arkansas is a permitless and shall-issue concealed carry state, and open carry is legal at age 18. The Natural State gets high marks in every category thanks to an increasingly strong statutory and cultural environment for gun owners. The state's score got an additional boost in 2021 after Gov. Hutchinson signed legislation that strengthened its use-of-force laws on would-be victims' behalf. Two of the biggest names in custom gunmaking, Wilson Combat and Nighthawk Custom, both reside in the Arkansas city of Berryville.

▲ 14. WEST VIRGINIA

Gov. Justice signed several pieces of pro-gun legislation this year including a bill that will create economic incentives for arms and ammunition manufacturing in the state. Another bill approved this year provides the authority to issue carry permits to non-residents who seek to take advantage of WV's reciprocity with other states. Finally, the governor signed legislation protecting gun owners during states of emergency. West Virginia is a permitless carry state and the state's use-of-force laws are very strong. The state has gained national significance in the gun debate since U.S. Sen. Joe Manchin is currently one of the few real hurdles preventing the Democratic majority from enacting federal gun control legislation. As governor, Manchin consistently received high marks from pro-gun advocates. Hold the line, Joe!

▲ 13. TEXAS

The Lone Star State made national headlines this year when Gov. Abbott signed legislation that made Texas the 21st permitless carry state in the Union. Both law-abiding residents and non-residents can carry without a permit under the new law. The media is, predictably, melting down at the prospect. Even before adopting this law, Texas had a pro-firearm environment. There exists a thriving competitive shooting community, some fantastic ranges and a strong firearm industry. Texas already scored well, but the six other pro-gun bills signed into law further secures the state's position in these rankings. Let's hope that among those Californians moving to Texas, enough leave their politics behind.

▼ 12. TENNESSEE

A multi-year battle for permitless carry came to fruition in 2021 when Gov. Bill Lee signed legislation that eliminated the permit requirement for Tennessee residents. This bill was expected to pass in 2020, but the pandemic shut down the legislative process. Carry permits are still to be issued upon request, and an Enhanced Tennessee Handgun Carry Permit increases the number of places that a firearm can be legally carried. The Volunteer State is highly ranked in each of our categories, and it has ample shooting opportunities available.

▲ 11. KENTUCKY

The Commonwealth's legislative body killed a bill this session that would have created a Red Flag confiscation provision in state law, preserving the due process rights of gun owners. Kentucky achieves a nearly perfect score in every category, making it one of the most gun-friendly states east of the Mississippi thanks to its permitless carry, use-of-force and miscellaneous provisions relating to firearms. If you want evidence that freedom still exists in this country, attend the Knob Creek Machine Gun Shoot. The last one takes place in October 2021.

▲ 10. OKLAHOMA

Several pro-gun bills were signed by Oklahoma Gov. Kevin Stitt this year, including one that allows individuals to carry in the bar area of a restaurant so long as they aren't drinking. A bill that would allow municipal employees to carry firearms while at work has passed out of the legislature but awaits the Governor's action. Oklahoma gets high marks across the board thanks to a permitless carry law, strong stand-your-ground statute and an overall lack of state-mandated regulations on gun owners.

▲ 9. KANSAS

This year, the Kansas Legislature advanced and approved an omnibus pro-gun bill proposed by Attorney General Derek Schmidt. This bill allows 18- and 19-year-olds to apply for carry permits, recognizes carry permits from all other states and creates a restoration of rights process for individuals who've had their criminal records expunged. Democrat Gov. Laura Kelly vetoed the AG's bill but the legislature overrode her decision. It's worth mentioning that AG Schmidt was the Senate president back in 2006 when Kansas overrode then-Gov. Sebelius' veto to make RTC the law of the land in the Sunflower State. Kansas has come a long way since those days, enacting permitless carry, a strong use-of-force law and rolling back various restrictions that were on the books for decades.

▲ 8. ALASKA

The only legislative activity relating to gun rights in Alaska this year was an emergency powers bill that, at press time, was still being considered. The reality is that there is not much more that the Alaska Legislature can do for gun owners since it ranks at or near the top in every category. Alaska was the second permitless carry state in the nation and the first that achieved it by legislative rather than legal action. Alaska essentially uses federal gun laws as both the floor and ceiling, imposing no additional burdens on its residents and visitors. Alaska's only real weakness in terms of our scoring are its compet-

ONLINE GUNSMITH TRAINING

Modify. Customize. Repair.

Learn the skills used by professional gunsmiths.

Why choose Penn Foster?

- Over 30 years of experience training gunsmiths
- Nationally accredited
- Expert instructor support
- Affordable tuition with 0% interest

Gunsmith plus other related programs like:

- Auto Repair Technician
- Diesel Mechanics
- HVACR Technician
- Motorcycle Repair Technician
- Small Engine Repair
- Wildlife/Forestry Conservation

PENN FOSTER

"After completing my Gunsmith Program, I opened my own gun shop. I'm so glad I found Penn Foster."

GUISEPPE S. Penn Foster Gunsmith Graduate

676GA

Call 1.800.587.4532 ext. **2252** or visit us at **pennfoster.edu/g-a**

ENTER **ID# AEYS81V** TO ENROLL ONLINE

Penn Foster College, Administrative Office, 14300 N. Northsight Blvd., Suite 120, Scottsdale, AZ 85260
Penn Foster Career School, 925 Oak Street, Scranton, PA 18515

itive shooting opportunities, which are a challenge due to the state's size and small population.

▼ 7. SOUTH DAKOTA

In past years, G&A has given South Dakota a mediocre score for its use-of-force laws, which weren't as strong as they could be. In March, Gov. Noem signed House Bill 1212, a model stand-your-ground bill. The law provides protections both inside and outside the home, and even establishes immunity from civil liability in some cases. With full points in this category along with permitless carry, a permissive NFA environment and a strong shooting and hunting culture, South Dakota takes a big step forward in this year's rankings.

▼ 6. NORTH DAKOTA

North Dakota's legislature only meets in odd-numbered years but they made up for that fact this session by passing numerous pro-gun bills in 2021. This year Gov. Burgum signed five different bills relating to gun ownership. These bills strengthened North Dakota's use-of-force laws, expanded protections for gun stores and ranges, and reduced the residency duration requirement for permitless carry from 1 year to 30 days. North Dakota is highly ranked across the board with permitless carry for residents, and open carry for residents and non-residents with recognized permits.

▲ 5. ARIZONA

Gov. Doug Ducey signed legislation this year protecting the firearm industry from frivolous lawsuits. As President Joe Biden and his allies in the U.S. Congress work to repeal the Protection of Lawful Commerce of Arms Act at the federal level, such state laws could become increasingly important. Arizona has stood at the top of these rankings year-after-year, and for good reason: Its laws are strong across the board. We can no longer ignore the effect that migration is having on a state such as Arizona. Unfortunately, gun rights and gun-related politics are trending in the wrong direction. Frankly, a state that elects the co-founder of a major gun-control organization to the U.S. Senate — Sen. Mark Kelly — cannot justifiably hold the top spot in these rankings.

▼ 4. UTAH

Utah's previous chief executive vetoed permitless carry, but Gov. Cox signed it into law just months into his first term. He signed two other bills this year, including one that strengthens the state's use-of-force laws in favor of the victim. Utah has it all for gun owners: great laws, wide-open spaces and plenty of places to shoot. Thanks to its relatively large population, there is a thriving competitive shooting community in most of the state. One could make the argument that Utah should be in the top spot in our rankings, something that would be a challenge to debate.

2020 VS. 2021: ■ SAME ▲ WORSE ▼ BETTER

STRASSER
PASSIONATE INNOVATION

BUILT FOR THE HUNT, FIT FOR A KING.

RS 14 EVOLUTION TAHR

PRICING STARTING AT $4,273

RS 14 EVOLUTION BLACK WIDOW

PRICING STARTING AT $7,952

STRAIGHT PULL BOLT

Fastest, strongest, smoothest straight-pull action on the market

MULTI-CALIBER

Switch from .222 Rem to .458 Win Mag (and nearly everything in between) in seconds

AUSTRIAN CRAFTSMANSHIP

Revolutionary design, precision machined barrels, and simply the best trigger in the world

STRASSER-USA.COM

WE PAY 90% OF RETAIL*

GUNS&AMMO
GUNSANDAMMO.COM

▼ 3. MONTANA

There were two bills relevant to this discussion in 2021. The first bill clearly establishes a statewide, permitless carry law and eliminates many of the state's gun-free zones, including state universities. Another bill protects gun stores, ranges and other business during states of emergency. Gov. Gianforte signed both pieces of legislation after their passage. This change in law earns Montana a full 10 points in every category. This score puts Montana into a five-way tie for first place in terms of its raw score. This is subjective, but given the state's ample hunting and shooting opportunities and overall outdoor culture, Montana is moving closer to the top.

■ 2. IDAHO

Idaho's already high score was maxed out after its use-of-force laws were updated in 2019, and permitless carry for anyone over 18 was passed in 2020. Idaho now receives top scores in every category, putting it in a five-way tie for first place. Idaho is an extremely friendly state for gun owners. The great way of life in Idaho is leading to explosive growth in places like Boise. Let's hope that Idaho doesn't become the next Colorado in terms of gun rights.

▼ 1. WYOMING

Wyoming extended its permitless carry law to include non-residents in 2021, which bumped its score up to 10 points in that, and every other, category. Gov. Mark Gordon also signed bills relating to emergency powers and legislation that will prevent financial institutions such as banks and credit-card processors from discriminating against firearm-related businesses. As far as we can tell, Wyoming was the first in the nation to pass such a protection to prevent this all too real problem. Like most of its neighbors, Wyoming is a paradise for gun owners and sportsman. From our view, Wyoming stands the best odds of maintaining its culture in the face of a changing West. If we were going to recommend moving to a state based on its future prospects for gun rights, we'd point to Wyoming. The Cowboy State is G&A's new "Best State for Gun Owners." G&A

2020 VS. 2021: ■ SAME ▲ WORSE ▼ BETTER

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

#DEERWEEK

SEPTEMBER 2021

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13 #DEERWEEK	14 #DEERWEEK	15 #DEERWEEK	16 #DEERWEEK	17 #DEERWEEK	18 #DEERWEEK
19 #DEERWEEK	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		

7 big nights. 2 great networks. Join co-hosts Jeff Danker of *BuckVentures* and country star Cody Johnson as we celebrate the season with 140 of our all-time favorite buck hunts. **#DEERWEEK**

SEPT 13 - 19 BEGINS **7** PET

Outdoor SPORTSMAN

PRESENTED BY Academy SPORTS+OUTDOORS

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH Old Trapper · Hornady · Rocky

SOCOM 16 CQB

M1A™

The M1A™ SOCOM 16 CQB puts the power of the .308 cartridge in a smaller, fast-handling configuration. John Garand's peerless battle rifle rides in an Archangel® composite chassis that features a collapsible stock and plenty of room for accessories. Upgraded with a tritium XS® front sight and a 16.25" premium carbon steel 1:11"-twist barrel the SOCOM 16 CQB is a versatile and powerful iteration of our legendary M1A.

SPRINGFIELD-ARMORY.COM

SPRINGFIELD ARMORY
SINCE 1794
SPRINGFIELD ARMORY.

BREAKING THE 6.5MM CURSE

WHY THE 6.5 CREEDMOOR WON OVER AMERICAN SHOOTERS, AND OPENED THE DOOR TO OTHER MIGHTY METRICS.

BY CRAIG BODDINGTON

TREND-SETTING is not my specialty. I was a bit slow to realize that the 6.5mm (.264-inch) bullet diameter had suddenly, finally, not only gained acceptance among American shooters, but had become wildly popular! But I know why.

Much of this is due to the 6.5mm Creedmoor's rise to stardom. This, in itself, is a bit inexplicable. The .260 Remington and the Creedmoor are ballistically identical. Remington's entry, introduced in 1998, had a major head start, but it didn't burn up the world. In fact, it languished, and seemed destined to the 6.5mm dustbin where most domestic 6.5mm cartridges have accumulated. Introduced a decade later, the 6.5mm Creedmoor languished at first, and nobody was surprised. Then it took off, and it quickly became a force to be reckoned with. This is good, because cartridge popularity means more platforms and new loads.

In the case of a previously obscure bullet diameter, it's even better because the Creedmoor's ascendancy has led to more and better bullets, and a spate of 6.5mm cartridges that I thought we'd never see. The 26 Nosler came along in 2013, and the 6.5-300 Weatherby Magnum in 2016. The 6.5mm PRC arrived in 2018, and just a year later Weatherby introduced another 6.5mm cartridge: The 6.5mm Weatherby RPM. All four of these new 6.5mms are sound designs with merit, and the velocity American shooters love. Single-source proprietary cartridges like the Nosler and Weatherby are unlikely to become as in-demand as the Creedmoor, but the 6.5mm PRC is gaining a lot of traction as it's being chambered in more platforms and load availability is increasing. The signs are clear: The 6.5mm is here to stay with choices in both good cartridges and rifles. So, what does the .26 caliber really offer?

The Secret Actually, it's nothing that hasn't been known for a long time. The secret to the 6.5mm's recent success are the long, heavy-for-caliber bullets. It's readily adaptable to today's low-drag, aerodynamic bullets with high ballistic coefficients (BC) that provide the long-range performance that is also a current trend. And, the 6.5mm bullets hold up well at distance without extreme weight or velocity, which means they strut their stuff with less recoil.

Funny thing, this capability has always been there, but it's really an accident of history. In 1886, the French 8mm Lebel was the first military cartridge to use the brand-new nitrocellulose smokeless powder. Higher velocity and smaller signature were obvious advantages, so over the next few years all the major powers shifted from big-bore blackpowder cartridges to smaller calibers. Germany's Mauser and Austria's Steyr-Mannlicher were leaders, experimenting with a wide variety of bullet diameters, including the 6.5mm. By the mid-1890s there were a half-dozen similar 6.5mm military cartridges, and they were adopted by countries large and

small, and as far away as Japan.

Here's the accident: Jacketed bullets were as new as smokeless powder, an essential parallel development as lead bullets stripped through the rifling at the new smokeless velocities. It was long known that heavy-for-caliber bullets held velocity better and provided deeper penetration than short, light-for-caliber projectiles. However, the downrange advantages of aerodynamic, sharp-pointed bullets weren't known until the late 1890s. Again, the French got there first with their *Balle D*, not only a spitzer but the first boattail, introduced in 1898.

So, the early smokeless military cartridges were developed for long, heavy-for-caliber round-nose bullets. From a design standpoint, this meant two things: Action lengths had to accommodate long bullets; and rifling twists had to be fast enough to stabilize long bullets. Most of the early 6.5mm military cartridges were based on long, heavy-for-caliber 156- or 160-grain bullets. The 6.5x55 Swedish Mauser is a classic example. Peter Paul Mauser's almost annual improvements on his bolt-action through the 1890s are all plenty long-enough to accommodate long bullets — 226 grains in the 8x57, 173 grains in the 7x57 and 156 grains in the 6.5x55 (which also has a case shortened 2mm). Standard rifling twist for the 6.5x55 was, and is, a very fast 1:7.5 inches in order to stabilize the heaviest and longest 6.5mm bullets.

So, at least from the 6.5x55's introduction in 1894, the stage was set for long, aerodynamic 6.5mm bullets.

The problem: Until recently, the 6.5mm never became popular in America, and bullet development lagged. There were efforts, so this 6.5mm secret wasn't unknown. Both the 6.5x54 Mannlicher Schoenauer and 6.5x55 quickly achieved some following in the U.S., and the 6.5x55 still has plenty of fans, but neither became a top-tier cartridge. Charles Newton's .256 Newton (a 6.5mm) was very fast in 1913. It was the most popular of Newton's several cartridges but is, today, almost forgotten. The .264 Winchester Magnum made a huge splash when it was introduced in 1958, but it fizzled out fast when Remington introduced their more versatile 7mm Remington Magnum in 1962. Remington tried again with the short 6.5mm Remington Magnum in 1966. Essentially duplicating .270 Winchester performance in a short-action, the 6.5mm Rem. Mag. was ahead of its time, but it never caught on. By then, we all-knowing gunwriters could nod our heads and say, sagely, "The curse of the 6.5mm strikes again!" We don't talk about that so much these days.

Running the Numbers Europeans have been more aware of the 6.5mm secret than Americans. The fast 6.5x68mm is a favorite among European mountain hunters, and the 6.5x55 has always been popular over there, not only a standby among hunters, but also a favorite long-range target cartridge

Originals (above left to right): 6.5x53R Steyr-**Mannlicher (1892), the first 6.5mm; 6.5x54** Mannlicher-Schoenauer (1900); 6.5x55 Swedish Mauser (1894). All the early 6.5mms were designed for long, heavy 156- or 160-grain bullets.

American 6.5mms developed before 2000 (left to right): .256 Newton (1913); .264 Win. Mag. (1958); 6.5mm Rem. Mag. (1966); .260 Rem. Despite merit, none of these found lasting success, which gave rise to the "Curse of the 6.5mm" legend.

because of light recoil and excellent downrange performance with aerodynamic bullets. (Sound familiar?)

The 6.5-.284 Norma is an awesome cartridge, and has a following among hunters and long-range shooters on both sides of the pond. However, it took the popularity of Hornady's Creedmoor in America to offer us the aerodynamic 6.5mm projectiles that the bullet diameter has always needed.

A good Sindh ibex from Pakistan, taken with a .264 Winchester Magnum. All the modern 6.5mm cartridges are fully adequate for wild sheep and goats, but for mountain hunting the author prefers a cartridge with a 140-grain bullet at a minimum of 3,000 fps.

Speaking of bullets, long-range shooters become fixated on BC, and well they should. To grossly simplify things, BC determines how well a projectile retains airborne velocity and is integral to determining trajectory. Hunters need to be more concerned about bullet construction and terminal performance. They may consider another number, sectional density (SD), which is essentially an index of a bullet's weight-to-diameter. Note, shape and construction are not considered in SD, for example: All 140-grain 6.5mm bullets have the same SD of .287; and all 150-grain .30-caliber bullets have the same SD of .226. We know, though, that shape and construction do matter, both in trajectory and performance, so SD is not a number to get too wrapped around. However, if shape and construction are similar, SD can be an indicator of a bullet's ability to penetrate.

The 6.5mm made its bones with long, heavy-for-caliber round-nose projectiles. In non-expanding solid form, these bullets were used all the way up to elephants. C.H. Stigand, killed in Sudan in 1919 fighting a rear-guard action against Dinka warriors, was probably the most outspoken 6.5mm proponent. Had he lived, it's interesting to speculate if more experience might have tempered his judgment. Walter Bell also used the early 6.5s on elephants, eventually concluding those early bullets were too long for caliber and likely to bend and veer off course.

Bullets today aren't the same as a century ago, and we don't hunt elephants with 6.5mms. Even so, there is an SD comparison to be made. The 140-grain 6.5mm's SD of .287 isn't off the charts, but it exceeds the 150-grain .277 bullet's SD of .270, and the 180-grain .30-caliber's SD of .271. Today's "low-drag" bullets are quite a bit longer than older blunt-nosed designs. Because of rifling twists and action lengths, today's super-high-BC bullets are rare in extra-heavy 6.5mm bullets, but I suspect they'll be coming along.

Sticking with SD for a moment, all 160-grain 6.5mm bullets have an extremely high SD of .328. This exceeds even famous penetrators like the 250-grain .338 and 300-grain .375 bullets. It also exceeds the 175-grain 7mm bullet's SD of

norma®

DEDICATED SINCE 1902

Learn More

THE WORLD'S MOST PRECISE MATCH AMMUNITION

MADE FROM THE BEST PARTS

GOLDEN TARGET MATCH

The Norma Match Line has been meticulously designed and manufactured to be the most accurate ammunition on the market. These streamlined projectiles are designed for optimal flight characteristics with a high ballistic coefficient, for both short and long-range precision. Norma, accuracy you can depend on.

Norma-Ammunition.com

Now it's up to you.

DPR Dedicated Precision

Medium-velocity 6.5mms include (above, left to right): 6.5x55, 6.5 Creedmoor, .260 Rem. Despite differences in case design, the cartridges are nearly identical in ballistics with 140-grain bullets at 2,700 to 2,800 fps.

The 26 Nosler (above, left) and 6.5-300 Weatherby Magnum (above, right) are two of the fastest 6.5s. Both push 140-grain bullets to 3,400 fps for fast, flat shooting.

The author considers "fast" 6.5mms to be those pushing a 140-grain bullet to about 3,000 fps. This category is rising in popularity, and includes (above, left to right): .264 Win. Mag., 6.5-.284 Norma, 6.5 PRC, and 6.5 Weatherby RPM.

.310. In .30-caliber, you have to go all the way to 220-grain bullets to get a higher SD (.331).

Because I'm a hunter, often of larger game, I demand penetration, so I like SD, especially as a ballpark comparison with famous bullets like the 175-grain 7mm, 220-grain .30-caliber, and 300-grain .375. However, a comparison of some of today's bullets designed for maximum aerodynamics is equally interesting. Bullet makers have gone to computer-designed projectiles that increase aerodynamics and improve long-range ballistics. These are variously called "long range," "low drag" and more, but, just for a simple comparison, let's stick with Hornady's ELD-X (Extremely Low Drag-Expanding) line.

The 6.5mm 143-grain ELD-X has a (G-1) BC of 0.625. This is awesome; we used to think of BC's in the 0.500-range as high! You can get higher BCs in 7mm bullets, but you have to go quite a bit heavier. The 162-grain 7mm ELD-X has a BC of 0.630, and the 175-grain 7mm ELD-X has a BC of 0.675. You can get higher BCs in .30-caliber bullets as well, but you must go even heavier. The 200-grain .308-inch ELD-X has a slightly lower BC of 0.597, and the 220-grain ELD-X has a BC of .654. Purely as a matter of physics, if muzzle velocity is the same, a bullet with a higher BC will retain speed better and shoot "flatter." Here's the point: Provided velocity is similar, heavier bullets generate more recoil. Even if pushed very fast, a 143-grain 6.5mm bullet is easy to shoot. A 162-grain 7mm bullet isn't quite as pleasant, and nobody can tell me that 220-grain .30-caliber bullets pushed fast are fun.

Plenty of Power or Not Enough? Of course, if you need the bullet weight and the energy it brings that's one thing. I'm a proponent of using enough gun, and I'd always rather be overgunned than the other way around. Americans tend to use kinetic energy in foot-pounds (ft.-lbs.) to compare the hitting power of cartridges. I don't know anything better, but nobody can say exactly how much energy is needed; it depends far too much on shot placement and bullet performance. Remember that the formula for kinetic energy uses bullet weight and velocity, but doesn't figure in bullet diameter (frontal area). So, if impact velocity is equal, a 140-grain 6.5mm bullet delivers exactly the same energy as a 140-grain 7mm bullet or a 140-grain .277-inch bullet.

I believe that bullets with greater frontal area transfer more energy on impact, and for sure make a larger hole. However, I cannot tell you how much more frontal area is needed to make a decisive difference. It is probably a gradual progression with noticeable differences too dependent on shot placement, bullet performance, size of animal, and even the animal's mental state at impact.

I've done a lot of hunting with various 6.5mm, .270, 7mm, and .30-caliber cartridges. I have never seen any appreciable difference in effect on game between the 6.5mm (.264-inch) and the .277-inch bullets, especially if bullet construction, weight and impact velocity were similar. That's a difference in diameter of .013 inch. I have never seen any difference in effect on game between .277-inch and 7mm (.284-inch)

A nice Coues whitetail taken at 325 yards with a Blaser R8 in 6.5mm Creedmoor. The 6.5 Creedmoor is a great deer bullet, but the author believes ranges should be kept moderate when pursuing larger game.

The author with an Alaskan caribou, taken with the fastest of the 6.5s, the 6.5-300 Weatherby Magnum. The the 6.5-300 is adequate for medium-size big game at even very long range.

This excellent Georgia whitetail dropped in its tracks to a 143-grain ELD-X from a Springfield Waypoint in 6.5mm PRC. The author especially likes the impact energy of the faster 6.5mm cartridges.

bullets, especially if bullet weight, construction, and impact velocity were similar. Jack O'Connor always insisted that the 7mm Rem. Mag. couldn't do anything his .270 couldn't match. I agree; the difference in diameter is just .007 inch, which is too close to argue.

There are differences. Seven-millimeter fans will quickly argue, and rightly so, that a 150-grain .270 bullet can't compete with a 160- or 175-grain 7mm bullet. Absolutely true, and whether you need that heavier bullet depends on what you're

WWW.SHOOTINGTIMES.COM

THE GUN HOLSTERS COMPANY
FALCO®
WWW.FALCOHOLSTERS.COM

USE A DISCOUNT
CODE: AMM021
to get 15% OFF our
Timeless Holsters

Only at
www.falcoholsters.com

Advanced Mounting Solutions
For most AK pattern rifles and pistols,
M1A, M-14, Mini-14, Mini-30,
M1 30 Carbine, M1 Garand

UltiMAK™
Enhanced Performance
2216 S. Main, Suite B2
Moscow, ID 83843
208-883-4734
www.ultimak.com

Four 6.5mm bullets: 160-grain round nose; 140-grain spitzer; 143-grain ELD-X; and a 140-grain Berger Target. Even a light spitzer is longer than the old 160-grain round nose. Depending on both action and magazine length, not all 6.5mm rifles are are able to utilize cartridges with the longest bullets.

Three ELD-X bullets: 143-grain 6.5mm; 162-grain 7mm; and a 200-grain .308. The heavier 7mm and .30-caliber bullets have higher ballistic coefficients, but the shooter must withstand much more recoil to reap the benefits.

Weight isn't everything. This lineup compares a 140-grain 6.5mm to heavier, 150-grain bullets including: .270, 7mm and .30 caliber. The 140-grain 6.5mm has the highest SD of the group and, with aerodynamic shape, will usually have a higher BC. Modern 6.5s are truly able to punch above their weight class.

hunting. Always considered a hunting bullet diameter, the .270 has long suffered from a lack of target, long-range and heavier bullet options. Winchester's 6.8mm Westerner is designed to fix that, bringing along a whole new class of .277-inch bullets from 160 to 175 grains, .270 bullets that have never before existed. This is not a complete fix: All three of our traditional .270 hunting cartridges (.270 Winchester, .270 WSM, .270 Weatherby Magnum) have long been barreled with 1:10 twists; the 6.8 Westerner is being barreled with 1:8 twist. The slower 1:10 twist will not stabilize longer, low-drag bullets much over 150 grains. Some rifles can be rebarreled, but, in the BC race, the many .270s in current use cannot compete with 6.5mm or 7mm.

Now, when you take a step up to .30-caliber, I'm pretty sure there's enough difference in frontal area to make a noticeable difference. Some 7mm fans argue otherwise, but, with similar bullet weight, construction and velocity, I'm certain the .30 caliber hits with more effect than the 7mm. The 6.5mms and my beloved .270s aren't in the same class as the

PRODUCT WARNING AND RECALL NOTICE
BROWNING® 9mm Luger 115 grain FMJ

Browning Ammunition is recalling the following lots of 9mm Luger 115 grain Full Metal Jacket pistol ammunition.

Symbol: B191800092. Lot Numbers: SC13LD20, SD10LD20

Note: If ammunition was purchased before March 25, 2021, it is NOT subject to the recall.

Browning Ammunition has determined the above lots of 9mm Luger 115 FMJ ammunition may contain propellant that does not properly ignite and burn when the cartridge is fired. Ammunition containing propellant that does not properly ignite and burn may result in a bullet remaining in the barrel (i.e., a bullet-in-bore obstruction). Firing a subsequent bullet into the bore obstruction could cause firearm damage, rendering the firearm inoperable and subjecting the shooter and bystanders to a risk of serious personal injury.

DO NOT USE BROWNING® 9mm Luger 115 FMJ SYMBOL B191800092 THAT HAS LOT NUMBER SC13LD20 or SD10LD20. The ammunition Lot Number is stamped on the 50-round carton as indicated here:

To determine if your ammunition is subject to this notice, review the Symbol and Lot Number. If it is Symbol B191800092 and Lot Number SC13LD20 or SD10LD20, **immediately discontinue use** and contact Browning Ammunition toll-free at 844-653-8358 for free UPS pick-up of the recalled ammunition. Upon receipt of your recalled ammunition, Browning Ammunition will ship replacement ammunition directly to you or issue you a reimbursement check.

This notice applies only to Symbol B191800092 with Lot Number SC13LD20 or SD10LD20. Other Symbols or Lot Numbers are not subject to this recall.

If you have any questions concerning this 9mm Luger 115 FMJ pistol ammunition recall please call toll-free 844-653-8358, write to Browning Ammunition (600 Powder Mill Road, East Alton, IL 62024 Attn: 9mm Luger Recall), or visit our website at www.browningammo.com.

We apologize for this inconvenience.

BROWNING AMMUNITION

June 21, 2021

A lineup of tried-and-true penetrators: 160-grain 6.5mm; 175-grain 7mm; 200-grain .30 caliber; 250-grain .338; and 300-grain .375. Perhaps, surprisingly, the 160-grain 6.5mm bullet has the highest SD of this group.

A spectrum of 140-grain bullets: 6.5mm, .277-inch, and 7mm. Despite being used in different cartridges, if velocity is the same, energy will also be the same.

.30s, especially since .30-caliber bullet weights will usually be greater than has been possible with 6.5s and .270s.

This is not damning the 6.5mms, just being realistic. Faster .30 calibers, especially with bullets of 180 grains and more, are really more powerful than needed for any deer-sized game. In this arena, for game up to caribou at 350 pounds or so, the 6.5mms are wonderfully effective with little noticeable difference in effect between 6.5mms, .270s and 7mms.

I'd just as soon not tackle a grizzly with any 6.5mm, no more than I'd use one for elephant, but I have no qualms about using a faster 6.5mm for elk and other large game.

While a 140-grain bullet is just that, neither more nor less, impact velocity is what controls the energy yield, and today we have a wide range of 6.5mm cartridges to choose from in all velocity ranges. The little 6.5mm Grendel is impressive for what it is, but the AR-15 platform limits bullet weight and propellant charge, and it is not fast. The Grendel is an effective deer cartridge, but not more. The 6.5x55, .260 Remington and 6.5 Creedmoor are faster, great for deer-sized game and effective for elk, but only with care and at reasonable range.

The old .264, the 6.5-.284, 6.5 PRC and Weatherby 6.5 RPM are capable of propelling a 140-grain bullet at about 3,000 fps. They are a different deal. I'd prefer not use them for elk at longer ranges, but they certainly carry a lot of energy way out there. The 26 Nosler and 6.5-300 Weatherby Magnum are faster still, making them great long-range cartridges and suitable for elk at any sensible distance. By greedily retaining velocity and energy, modern 6.5mm bullets perform as well as the proven .270s and 7mms, and with less recoil than the fast .30s. In the field, as well as on the range, I think that's why the 6.5mms have become so popular. G&A

PRODUCT WARNING AND RECALL NOTICE
HERTER'S™ 9mm Luger 115 grain FMJ (manufactured by Winchester®)

Herter's is recalling the following lots of 9mm Luger 115 grain Full Metal Jacket pistol ammunition.

Symbol: HRT9A. Lot Numbers: SC13LD44, SC13LD45, SD10LD44, SD10LD45

Note: If ammunition was purchased before March 25, 2021, it is NOT subject to the recall.

Herter's has determined the above lots of 9mm Luger 115 FMJ ammunition may contain propellant that does not properly ignite and burn when the cartridge is fired. Ammunition containing propellant that does not properly ignite and burn may result in a bullet remaining in the barrel (i.e., a bullet-in-bore obstruction). Firing a subsequent bullet into the bore obstruction could cause firearm damage, rendering the firearm inoperable and subjecting the shooter and bystanders to a risk of serious personal injury.

DO NOT USE HERTER'S™ 9mm Luger 115 FMJ SYMBOL HRT9A THAT HAS LOT NUMBER SC13LD44, SC13LD45, SD10LD44 or SD10LD45. The ammunition Lot Number is stamped on the 50 round carton as indicated here:

To determine if your ammunition is subject to this notice, review the Symbol and Lot Number. If it is Symbol HRT9A and Lot Number SC13LD44, SC13LD45, SD10LD44 or SD10LD45, **immediately discontinue use** and contact Winchester toll-free at 844-653-8358 for free UPS pick-up of the recalled ammunition. Upon receipt of your recalled ammunition, Winchester will ship replacement ammunition directly to you or issue you a reimbursement check.

This notice applies only to Symbol HRT9A with Lot Number SC13LD44, SC13LD45, SD10LD44 or SD10LD45. Other Symbols or Lot Numbers are not subject to this recall.

If you have any questions concerning this 9mm Luger 115 FMJ pistol ammunition recall please call toll-free 844-653-8358, write to Winchester (600 Powder Mill Road, East Alton, IL 62024 Attn: 9mm Luger Recall), or visit our website at www.winchester.com.

We apologize for this inconvenience.

HERTER'S

June 21, 2021

Kimber Micro 9 Rapide (Black Ice) 9mm

ICE, ICE BABY

KIMBER'S NEWEST ENTRY in the Micro 9 series brings some functional enhancements along with aesthetics from the Model 1911 Rapide (Black Ice).

Originally introduced in 2017, the Micro 9 family of pistols has been a winner for Kimber. Although they look like 1911-style pistols externally, they're actually quite different. For a tiny pistol, that's a good thing. There's simply not much you can do to shrink a true-to-form M1911 smaller than an "Officer" size with a 3- to 3½-inch barrel and a shortened frame capable of carrying a six-round magazine. In a full-size pistol, the grip size and angle to the bore's centerline axis, as well as the reach to the trigger and controls, work to make a well-tuned 9mm M1911 a thing of beauty.

Those advantages, however, don't carry over to the subcompact realm. Officer-sized Model 1911s are generally picky with ammo, prone to malfunctions, uncomfortable to shoot, and gobble up recoil springs. Sure, some run great, but we've watched hundreds of micro-frame Model 1911's come through an armory of a large department and they don't compare well to modern pistols on the average.

Springfield Armory re-engineered the 1911 around the 9mm cartridge before announcing the Enhanced Micro Pistol (EMP) platform in 2007. (Those pistols start at $1,104 for black and $1,249 for two-tone with a stainless-steel slide over an aluminum-alloy frame.)

Kimber chose a different route with the Micro 9. The new pistol is smaller and more reliable than most Officer-sized 1911s pistols, yet it still feels like the classic single stack, and it doesn't sacrifice anything in terms of the accuracy and shootability.

Still, close inspection of the Micro 9 revealed that several defining M1911 features have been changed: The grip safety has been deleted; the plunger tube on the left side of the pistol is gone; and the Micro 9's manual safety works differently.

There is still a bilateral safety lever at the rear of the frame, similar to those on ambidextrous M1911s, but the safety works as a true trigger safety, which does not lock the slide. The simplified mechanics of the safety allows it to move smoothly through its arc, locking positively in and out of position.

Guns & Ammo's test staff felt that the safety operated as easily as most factory M1911s when disengaging it, but inferior to most M1911 safeties when re-engaging it. It is sized perfectly for this pistol, and is well contoured with no uncomfortable edges, but if you have large hands, the primary hand can impede the safety if one is not careful.

The slide stop is a slightly abbreviated version of the full-sized piece, and it works well for its intended role. Some used it as a slide release without issue.

Controls include the checkered magazine-release button, a near-full-size slide stop lever and an ambidextrous manual thumb safety lever. Though controls are familiar to M1911 users, there is no grip safety at the backstrap on the Micro 9. Also, the thumb safety blocks the trigger, but does not lock the slide.

Unlike Model 1911s that are adapted designs of the .45-caliber original, the Micro 9 was designed from the start to feed the 9mm from specially profiled magazines, feed ramps and barrels.

A difference between traditional M1911s and the Micro 9 is the latter's bushingless barrel lockup and standard use of a full-length guiderod. Lightening cuts through the slide and deep forward cocking serrations are functional and aesthetic elements.

KIMBER MICRO 9 RAPIDE (BLACK ICE)	
TYPE	Recoil operated, semiautomatic
CARTRIDGE	9mm
CAPACITY	7+1 rds.
BARREL	3.15 in.
OVERALL LENGTH	6.1 in.
WIDTH	1.08 in.
HEIGHT	4.6 in.
WEIGHT	1 lb., 1.5 oz.
FINISH	KimPro II, silver (aluminum); matte (stainless steel)
SIGHTS	Tru-Glo TFX, dual-illuminated tritium and green fiber-optic, orange outline (front); U-notch, green dots (rear)
TRIGGER	6 lbs., 13 oz. (tested)
MSRP	$910
MANUFACTURER	Kimber Mfg. Inc., 888-243-4522, kimberamerica.com

Disassembled, both similarities and differences between the Micro 9 and Model 1911 are evident. Note the kidney-shaped cut in the barrel lug which replaces the M1911's swinging link.

The Rapide's full-diameter texturing scheme includes artistic, but effective, G10 stocks and aluminum mainspring housing. The pattern on the frontstrap is Kimber's dimpled Stiplex.

The Micro 9 Rapide (Black Ice) takes its styling cues from Kimber's full-size Rapide (Black Ice) Model 1911 available in 9mm, 10mm and .45 ACP for $1,665. Note the parenthesis around "Black Ice." That's a Kimber thing.

The aluminum frame is finished in a matte KimPro II silver. It complements the matte stainless-steel slide, which has polished flats with dull recesses wherever the slide is milled.

The frontstrap sports Kimber's Stiplex pattern that's milled to provide traction. Grip panels are black G10 with the Stiplex pattern carried over from the front, along with some layered shapes. The motif goes along with the patterns and lines machined on the slide. The slide also features six milled windows to reduce its mass. The overall aesthetics are quite futuristic looking.

Porting the slide to reduce mass isn't just a fad. Less mass with the correct spring makes for less muzzle flip.

Milled slide windows balance the reciprocating mass. The benefits include faster lock times, improved reliability for a 9mm pistol of this size, and better control when manipulating the slide.

In terms of size, the Micro 9 Rapide (Black Ice) is tiny for a 9mm pistol. With a weight of 15.6 ounces, a height of 4.07 inches, a length of 6.4 inches, and a width of 1.08 inches, it is almost dwarfed by an Officers-size M1911, even though barrel length is similar. The weight difference alone is 10 ounces, which according to my phone calculator is about a 33.3 percent difference. We're not going to do the percentage differences across every measurement, but, overall, the results are quite noticeable in hand.

Generally, the smaller a pistol gets, the more difficult

PRODUCT WARNING AND RECALL NOTICE
WINCHESTER® 9mm Luger 115 grain

Olin Winchester, LLC is recalling the following lots of 9mm Luger 115 grain Full Metal Jacket and 115 grain Jacketed Hollow Point pistol ammunition.

Symbols: Q4172, RED9, USA9JHP, USA9MMVP, USA9W, WW9B

Lot Numbers:
SC03LD44, SC03LD45, SC03LD46, SC03LD47, SC13LD1, SC13LD6, SC13LD18, SC13LD44, SC13LD45, SC13LD46, SC13LD47, SC52LD44, SC52LD45, SC52LD46, SC52LD47, SC62LD44, SC62LD45, SC62LD46, SC62LD47, SC72LD44, SC72LD45, SC72LD46, SC72LD47, SC92LD44, SC92LD45, SC92LD46, SC92LD47, SD10LD1, SD10LD3, SD10LD6, SC10LD12, SD10LD18, SD10LD46, SD10LD47, SD50LD1, SD50LD3, SD50LD6, SD50LD11, SD50LD12, SD50LD18, SD50LD46, SD50LD47, SD60LD1, SD60LD3, SD60LD6, SD60LD11, SD60LD12, SD60LD18, SD70LD1, SD70LD3, SD70LD6, SD70LD11, SD70LD12, SD70LD18, SD80LD1, SD80LD3, SD80LD6, SD80LD11, SD80LD12, SD80LD18

The Symbol designations and locations of the Lot Numbers are depicted in the photographs below.

NOTE: If ammunition of the above Symbols was purchased before March 25, 2021, it is NOT subject to the recall.

Winchester has determined the above lots of 9mm Luger 115 FMJ and JHP ammunition may contain propellant that does not properly ignite and burn when the cartridge is fired. Ammunition containing propellant that does not properly ignite and burn may result in a bullet remaining in the barrel (i.e., a bullet-in-bore obstruction). Firing a subsequent bullet into the bore obstruction could cause firearm damage, rendering the firearm inoperable and subjecting the shooter and bystanders to a risk of serious personal injury.

DO NOT USE WINCHESTER® 9MM LUGER 115 FMJ / JHP OF THE ABOVE SYMBOLS THAT HAS ANY OF THE ABOVE LOT NUMBERS. The ammunition Lot Number is stamped on the cartons of the Symbols involved as indicated here:

To determine if your ammunition is subject to this notice, review the Symbol and Lot Number. If it is any of the above Symbols and Lot Numbers, **immediately discontinue use** and contact Winchester toll-free at 844-653-8358 for free UPS pick-up of the recalled ammunition. Upon receipt of your recalled ammunition, Winchester will ship replacement ammunition directly to you or issue you a reimbursement check.

This notice applies only to the above 9mm Luger 115 FMJ and JHP Symbols with the above Lot Numbers. Other Symbols or Lot Numbers are not subject to this recall.

If you have any questions concerning this 9mm Luger 115 FMJ / JHP pistol ammunition recall please call toll-free 844-653-8358, write to Winchester (600 Powder Mill Road, East Alton, IL 62024 Attn: 9mm Luger Recall), or visit our website at www.winchester.com.

We apologize for this inconvenience.

WINCHESTER

June 21, 2021

The trigger is an aluminum component machined to continue the Rapide (Black Ice) aesthetics. Pull weight was 6 pounds, 13 ounces.

The 9mm detachable box magazines hold 7 rounds and feature an extended base pad to offer a little extra control over the 9mm pistol.

it is to shoot well. The Micro 9 is definitely small, but the platform has been surprising our staff with its accuracy. Guns & Ammo's testing protocol is tough. Evaluation guns are benched, and all pistols are shot at 25 yards for five-shot groups with few exceptions. An Officer's M1911 typically produces between 3- and 5-inch groups. Executive Editor Joe Kurtenbach recorded a few sub-2-inch groups in his December 2020 review of the Micro 9 Triari model. Handgun Editor Jeremy Stafford produced several groups in the low 2-inches with the Rapide (Black Ice), and no five-shot group average exceeded 3.6 inches — not one. This level of precision and consistency from a production micro pistol definitely has our attention.

The second surprise from the Micro 9 has been its reliability. Through 500 rounds during testing, including a variety of ammunition types, there was only one malfunction: a failure for the slide to return to battery on round 450.

PERFORMANCE

LOAD	VEL. (FPS)	ES	SD	BEST GROUP (IN.)	AVG. GROUP (IN.)
Federal Punch 124-gr. JHP	1,071	21	46.2	2.2	2.5
Hornady Critical Defense 115-gr. FTX	1,052	16	35.2	2.4	2.8
Remington Ult. Def. 124-gr. BJHP	1,053	27	59.4	3.1	3.6

Notes: Accuracy is the average of five, five-shot groups at 25 yards. Velocity is the average of five shots recorded by an Oehler Model 35P chronograph.

The dual-illuminated tritium and fiber-optic sights are attention grabbing. The orange outline of the front post aligns perfectly within the U-notch rear sight.

Getting off of the bench and on to steel, the Micro 9 Rapide does certain things well. It moves laterally in predictable form from target to target for a pistol of its size. And the controls are easy to use, including the magazine release. With the extended magazine in place, it is very controllable, and tracks well throughout recoil. The bright Tru-Glo dual-illuminated front sight fits perfectly within the generous U-notch at the rear. It's good for speed and transitions between multiple targets.

Small pistols are sensitive to hand placement, so make sure you find the grip that works with the Micro 9's layout. Then, practice reaching and using the controls. With the flush fit magazine we were slower, but the pistol may conceal slightly better. Which mag to carry is your call. The pistol does have an abbreviated magazine well attached to it, and while it's not a competition rig, it does help with feeding the small, proprietary magazines. The trigger on this model measured a 6 pounds, 13 ounces, close to Kimber's advertised pull weight. The trigger was OK, but it's not as good as a traditional M1911's. It's hinged at the top, and then moves straight and to the rear. There was noticeable creep, but little overtravel, and it definitely felt like 7 pounds. There are aftermarket solutions, but at this price point, we feel Kimber missed an opportunity.

Overall, Kimber's engineers did a very good job when designing the Micro 9, and it was obvious that they applied a high level of quality control during assembly. If you're looking for a compact pistol with the features of a M1911 and the reliability of a striker gun, the Micro 9 might be what you're looking for. If you're after a touch of modern, find a Rapide (Black Ice). It looks as good as it runs. G&A

Do it Right with DR®

America's Original Field & Brush Mower

★USA
ENGINEERED AND BUILT
Assembled in the USA using domestic and foreign parts.

- Mow grass up to 8' high
- Cut brush up to 3" thick
- Engines up to 22 HP
- Decks up to 34" wide
- Power steering

NEW PRO Model!

POWERED by HONDA™

DRfieldbrush.com

Trim and Mow the EASY Way!

- TRIM fencelines & perimeters
- MOW waist-high grass and weeds
- 5X the power of hand-held trimmers
- Self-propelled models
- Gas- or battery-powered

DRtrimmer.com

World's Most POWERFUL Leaf Vacuum!

Tow-Behind

- Rated #1 in vacuum power
- Huge capacity up to 321 gallons
- Folds flat for storage

Walk-Behind

- For landscaped or smaller properties
- Easy on/off 8-bushel collector bag
- Self-propelled models available

DRleafvac.com

Make Your Driveway Like NEW with a Power Grader!

- Fill in potholes and smooth out washboard
- Loosen & redistribute existing material
- Tow with your ATV, UTV, or tractor

DRpowergrader.com

SALE!

Including FREE SHIPPING | EASY FINANCING

Some limitations apply. Go online or call for details.

GoDRpower.com

Request your FREE PRODUCT CATALOG
Online or Toll-Free at 800-303-6844

PROFESSIONAL POWER DR DONE RIGHT

KEITH WOOD

Gun regulations are now a priority for both sides of the fight.

GOOD NEWS & BAD NEWS

I'LL START WITH SOME GOOD NEWS. A federal district court judge in California ruled that the state's decades-old "assault weapons" ban is unconstitutional. Judge Roger Benitez called the ban a "failed experiment" that deprives Californians of their Second Amendment rights. This comes on the heels of another ruling by the same judge that the state's magazine ban also violates citizens' rights. That decision was upheld by the Circuit Court of Appeals, but a larger 11-member panel of judges is now reviewing the case. Though the state is fighting hard to keep both the semiautomatic and magazine bans in place, the actions of the courts provide a glimmer of hope.

The BATFE has released a proposed rule that would reverse the agency's previous rulings on the use of stabilizing braces on handguns. A complicated points system would determine whether an individual firearm would have to be registered as a "short-barreled rifle" under the National Firearms Act (NFA) of 1934. Braces have become a popular accessory in recent years after the agency okay'd their use, which means these proposed rules would affect hundreds of thousands of Americans. Implementation of this rule will no doubt create confusion and uncertainty, potentially turning individuals into felons without their knowledge.

The president and Department of Justice announced in June that its regulators will be increasing scrutiny of licensed firearm dealers. The executive branch asserted that rogue gun dealers are to blame for the nation's increased murder rate — not efforts to defund the police and an unwillingness to prosecute criminals. To help enforce this "crackdown," the Biden Administration has requested that Congress allocate additional funds to the ATF. Those who were around in the 1990s may recall that the Clinton Administration purged the licenses of nearly half of the nation's gun dealers through similar means.

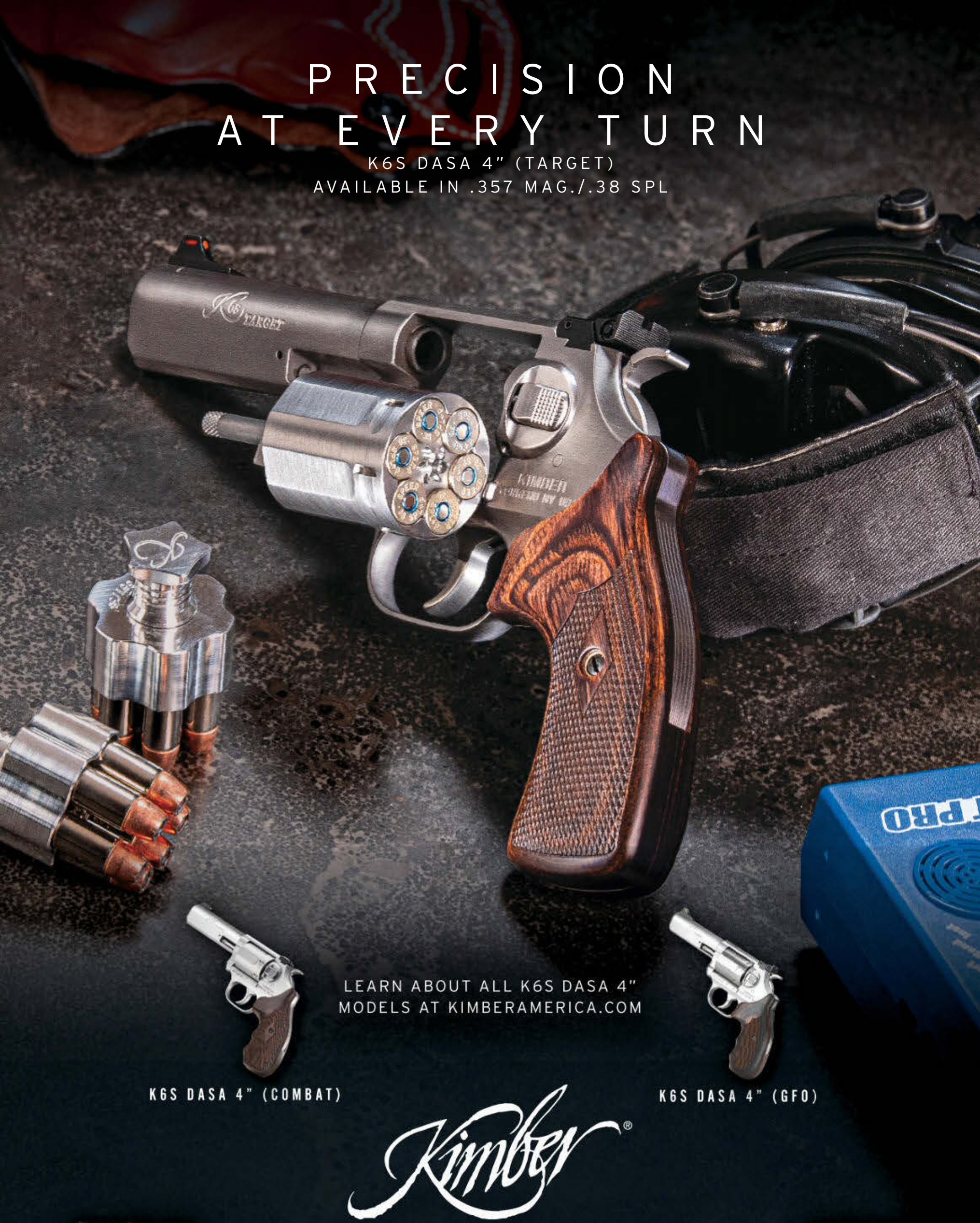
As this issue goes to print, it is unclear whether the Senate will confirm David Chipman to head the ATF. Chipman is an anti-gun activist who serves as a senior policy advisor at the Giffords Law Center, having previously worked for Bloomberg's Everytown for Gun Safety. Clearly an extremist, Chipman's only chance at confirmation is a strict party line vote. Even moderate Republican senators oppose his nomination, with Maine's Sen. Susan Collins (R) calling him "an unusually divisive pick" who has been "an outspoken critic of the gun industry and has made statements that demean law-abiding gun owners." Chipman spent decades as an ATF agent and was reportedly involved in both the Ruby Ridge and Waco debacles.

Back to the good news: In April, the U.S. Supreme Court announced that it will hear its first major Second Amendment case since *McDonald vs. Chicago* in 2010. The case, *NY State Rifle & Pistol Association Inc. v. Corlett*, challenges New York's concealed carry law, arguing that the "actual and articulable" need standard imposed by the state violates the rights of New Yorkers. The suit was filed after two law-abiding citizens applied for carry permits due to a local increase in crime and were denied. Those men, along with the New York State Rifle and Pistol Association have taken the case all the way to the top. This case has significant potential to help citizens in states where obtaining a permit can be nearly impossible. A ruling in favor of the petitioners would be a win for all gun owners. G&A

BCM®
RESOLUTE
PROFESSIONAL GRADE WEAPONRY®
BRAVOCOMPANYMFG.COM

PRECISION AT EVERY TURN

K6S DASA 4" (TARGET)
AVAILABLE IN .357 MAG./.38 SPL



LEARN ABOUT ALL K6S DASA 4" MODELS AT KIMBERAMERICA.COM

K6S DASA 4" (COMBAT)

K6S DASA 4" (GFO)

Kimber®

MADE IN AMERICA

WHAT ALL GUNS SHOULD BE™

(888) 243-4522
KIMBERAMERICA.COM

©2020, KIMBER MFG., INC. ALL RIGHTS RESERVED. INFORMATION AND SPECIFICATIONS ARE FOR REFERENCE ONLY AND SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT NOTICE.