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Citizens Association for Responsible Gun Ownership = CARGO

[www.cargogunclub.org](http://www.cargogunclub.org)

=====  
Hello Fellow CARGO Members,

The next meeting will be held at Napoli's on **Thursday, August 18.**

We will meet at Napoli's in Wylie.

Napoli's  
701 N Highway 78 # A  
Wylie, TX 75098

For the dinner portion of the meeting, we will be in the meeting room between 5:45 and 7:00 for food and fellowship. The meeting will begin at 7:00 PM and run until about 9:00.

Under the new Texas Open Carry Law, you could be committing an offence if you remove your pistol from its holster while open carrying. While at Napoli's DO NOT remove your pistol from its holster unless it is an emergency.

Member Don Bridges has volunteered his shop for the meeting. There are a very limited number of chairs at the shop, so please bring a camp chair for the meeting. We will meet there from 7:00 (ish) until 9:00 (ish)

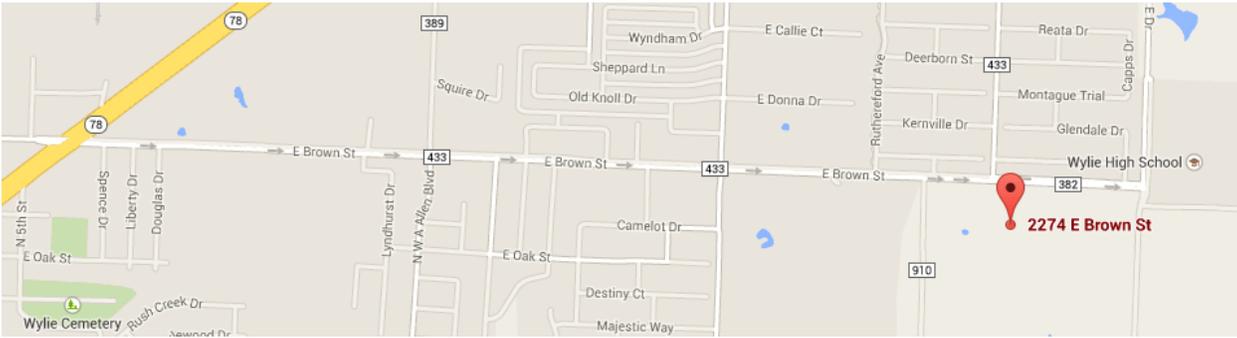
The address is:

2274 EAST Brown Street in Wylie

While heading east on Brown Street, it is 1/2 mile past stop sign that's at the intersection of Brown Street and Kreymer Lane on the right hand side.

The shop is behind a small white house with a picket fence around the front yard.





I am out of town on Thursday so Zac, Keith Van Horn, Keith Stephens or Rod McCoy will announce who will be chairing the meeting this month. ( I apologize for the shortened newsletter this month.)

Meeting gun topics:

- Do you have a group of firearms that you have more than one of? If so, bring some examples to the meeting to share and let the club know why you decided on collecting that particular firearm.
- August 1<sup>st</sup> marks the beginning of Campus Carry. Do you know of anyone carrying on a campus?

If you have any suggestions for future speakers or topics please send your feedback to [CARGO@att.net](mailto:CARGO@att.net).

When was the last time you visited our web site? Please take some time to go to the CARGO website at [www.cargogunclub.org](http://www.cargogunclub.org)



[From Member Rod McCoy:](#)

DALLAS (AP) — A Texas county sued a gun-rights activist who has complained that county officials were unlawfully barring firearms from being brought into a public building.

The lawsuit filed by Waller County, which extends into the suburbs of Houston, takes aim at Terry Holcomb Sr., the executive director of a gun-rights organization called Texas Carry.

Holcomb has sent letters to more than 75 local governments and other public entities across the state complaining of restrictions placed on license-holders from bringing a firearm into a public arena. Others have filed complaints with the Texas attorney general's office accusing Austin City Hall, the Dallas Zoo, a nature preserve, a suburban Houston convention center and other places with unlawfully banning firearms. Those complaints are on top of regular fights that rage in Texas over guns, most recently with lawmakers approving the concealed carry of firearms on college campuses.

In the case of courthouses like the one in Waller County, Texas law prohibits guns from being brought into courtrooms and related offices, but Attorney General Ken Paxton issued separate opinions in December saying firearms can't be uniformly prohibited from an entire courthouse complex.

Holcomb argues that the "heavy-handed" decision by Waller County to sue him makes his case much more than a Second Amendment matter.

"We can agree or disagree on the gun issue but this is different than that," he said, contending that the county's suit is frivolous and "borderline official oppression."

The suit appears to be a highly unusual step. Dave Workman, spokesman for the Second Amendment Foundation, based in Bellevue, Washington, says he's never heard of a situation where a government has sued a person who complained about a gun restriction.

Holcomb has responded by filing a countersuit that asserts the county is acting in bad faith.

Waller County District Attorney Elton Mathis said Friday that Holcomb misunderstands the county's intentions. Mathis said he's simply seeking a ruling by a state judge that the county had the legal right to ban guns from the entire courthouse building.

The county's suit seeks up to \$100,000 in damages from Holcomb but Mathis said that was included as boilerplate language and he promised that the county would not pursue any monetary damages.

Lawyers in his office have spent months reviewing state statutes to ensure any restrictions on weapons are lawful, Mathis said, but a mish-mash of laws continue to create confusion in Texas.

"We decided we wanted to put the issue to bed," he said.

Firearms must be barred from courthouse grounds because courtrooms are the scene of emotionally charged cases that have been known to erupt in violence.

"My courtroom doors are made out of glass and that's not going to stop a bullet," he said.

David Anderson, a University of Texas law professor specializing in First Amendment issues, said he understands how Waller County wants a judicial ruling to settle the matter. "But you don't do that by suing the person who filed the complaint," he said.

The county may be running afoul of state protections against frivolous lawsuits, Anderson said, explaining that rules are in place to prevent litigation that's meant to silence or intimidate critics.

"I've never heard of a county using litigation to dissuade a person from complaining," he said.

Mathis acknowledges he's brought an unconventional lawsuit but says Holcomb has filed dozens of complaints across the state and is "in the business of pushing an agenda." What's needed now, beyond a judge's ruling, is action by the Texas Legislature that brings greater clarity to where guns are allowed in public places and where they're not, he said.

Holcomb argues he's willing to compromise and wants to work with local leaders rather than antagonize. Waller County took an approach that he believes was unnecessary.

"I'm not going to kowtow to a local government acting like a group of thugs," he said.



<http://www.redflagnews.com/headlines/disarming-americas-heros-veterans-receiving-official-letters-prohibiting-them-from-purchasing-possessing-receiving-or-transporting-a-firearm-or-ammunition>

## **OUTRAGEOUS: Veterans are now receiving letters prohibiting the purchase, possession, receipt, or transport of a firearm/ammunition...**

□



Written By Constitutional Attorney *Michael Connelly, J.D.*

How would you feel if you received a letter from the U.S. Government informing you that because of a physical or mental condition that the government says you have it is proposing to rule that you are incompetent to handle your own financial affairs? Suppose that letter also stated that the government is going to appoint a stranger to handle your affairs for you at your expense? That would certainly be scary enough but it gets worse.

What if that letter also stated: “A determination of incompetency will prohibit you from purchasing, possessing, receiving, or transporting a firearm or ammunition. If you knowingly violate any of these prohibitions, you may be fined, imprisoned, or both pursuant to the Brady Handgun Violence Prevention Act, Pub.L.No. 103-159, as implemented at 18, United States Code 924(a)(2).”?

That makes is sound like something right from a documentary on a tyrannical dictatorship somewhere in the world. Yet, as I write this I have a copy of such a letter right in front of me. *It is being sent by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs to hundreds, perhaps thousands, of America’s heroes.* In my capacity as Executive Director of the [United States Justice Foundation \(USJF\)](#) I have been contacted by some of these veterans and the stories I am getting are appalling.

The letter provides no specifics on the reasons for the proposed finding of incompetency; just that is based on a determination by someone in the VA. In every state in the United States no one can be declared incompetent to administer their own affairs without due process of law and that usually requires a judicial hearing with evidence being offered to prove to a judge that the person is indeed incompetent. This is a requirement of the Fifth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution that states that no person shall "... be deprived of life, liberty, or property without due process of law...".

Obviously, the Department of Veterans Affairs can't be bothered by such impediments as the Constitution, particularly since they are clearly pushing to fulfill one of Obama's main goals, the disarming of the American people. Janet Napolitano has already warned law enforcement that some of the most dangerous among us are America's heroes, our veterans, and now according to this letter from the VA they can be prohibited from buying or even possessing a firearm because of a physical or mental disability.

Think about it, the men and women who have laid their lives on the line to defend us and our Constitution are now having their own Constitutional rights denied. There are no clear criteria for the VA to declare a veteran incompetent. It can be the loss of a limb in combat, a head injury, a diagnosis of PTSD, or even a soldier just telling someone at the VA that he or she is depressed over the loss of a buddy in combat. In none of these situations has the person been found to be a danger to themselves or others. If that was the case than all of the Americans who have suffered from PTSD following the loss of a loved one or from being in a car accident would also have to be disqualified from owning firearms. It would also mean that everyone who has ever been depressed for any reason should be disarmed. In fact, many of the veterans being deprived of their rights have no idea why it is happening.

The answer seems to be it is simply because they are veterans. At the USJF we intend to find the truth by filing a Freedom of Information Act request to the Department of Veterans Affairs to force them to disclose the criteria they are using to place veterans on the background check list that keeps them from exercising their Second Amendment rights. Then we will take whatever legal steps are necessary to protect our American warriors.

The reality is that Obama will not get all of the gun control measures he wants through Congress, and they wouldn't be enough for him anyway. He wants a totally disarmed America so there will be no resistance to his plans to rob us of our nation. That means we have to ask who will be next. If you are receiving a Social Security check will you get one of these letters? Will the government declare that you are incompetent because of your age and therefore banned from firearm ownership. It certainly fits in with the philosophy and plans of the Obama administration. It is also certain that our military veterans don't deserve this and neither do any other Americans.

-- *Michael Connelly, J.D.*

Executive Director, [United States Justice Foundation](#)



## A Word on AR-15 Carrier Life

By: Patrick Sweeney

**You're innocent until proven guilty, but don't expect any special treatment for you or your knives.**

Being the guy in the know, and with spies in all locations on the planet (or so some readers suppose), I get sent all sorts of interesting information. One of them concerns a recent incident with the U.S. Border Patrol. Apparently, someone from the higher echelons of management, sent armorers around to all the Border Patrol stations with orders to fully inspect all M4A1 carbines in use. In the course of inspecting, they apparently "deadlined" (that is, required removal from service) 65-70 percent of all rifles. This of course came as a surprise, and the powers-that-be had not planned to replace or repair that many rifles. So, the BP agents were reduced to one rifle per agent or less.

Now, in a city department, having one rifle for every other officer is not a problem. Backup is mere minutes away, and taking cover behind something substantial is an accepted practice when outgunned until the cavalry arrives.

However, Border Patrol agents are often miles and miles from anyone who might help. And they are in rifle country, with nothing solid to stay behind until help arrives. Not having rifles is a big problem. And there was a lot of consternation until the shortfall was corrected.

One of the tools the armorers used was a gauge I had never heard of called a Gauge, Gas Seal Hole, and is meant to be utilized at Depot-level maintenance. It measures the wear in the carrier bore hole, where the bolt tail seals. If the gauge goes all the way into the carrier, the carrier is worn out.

That such a tool exists does not surprise me. After all, the government has to have standards, measurements and inspection tools for everything.

What would surprise me is that any carrier, well, any properly-made carrier, would fail this gauge. Look, we have a hardened-steel part with wear surfaces that are hard-chrome plated. Rubbing against it is the tail of the bolt, but it isn't really rubbing against it. The gas rings and the bolt body keep the bolt pretty well centered in the bore hole. The amount of actual rubbing has to be pretty minimal, and most of what is going on is carbon being created, ground off and pumped out of the gap. If there is gas leakage in that gap, I can see where the problem might be wear on the bolt from over-enthusiastic cleaning. But the carrier? I guess anything is possible.

Considering how grossly over-gassed even a properly gassed AR is, I'd bet that even if you had a

carrier that failed this gauge, you could assemble it into a rifle and never notice the failure on the part of the carrier. Now, if you want to track down one of these gauges and use it, go ahead. But don't think it is gaining you any advantage over your fellow shooters. And don't think the gauge will be cheap, either.

If this was your original carrier, you've certainly gotten your money's worth out of it if you have worn it out. Let's just assume, for a ballpark figure, that the carrier in question has survived a decade of constant use. You've plugged four replacement barrels into the rifle, each with its own bolt. So, the original barrel and bolt, plus four more, at \$75 each for the bolts and \$150 each for the barrels. That's \$900 just in parts. Each of those bolt/barrel combos lasted you, what, 10,000 rounds? So that's 50,000 rounds (don't forget the original parts) and that, at the current price of ammo of roughly \$300 per thousand, ran you \$15,000. So, all told you have gotten the price of a new compact car of use out of that carrier. A new carrier to replace it costs you somewhere between \$150 and \$200.

Go ahead and splurge. Buy the replacement one with the super-high-tech plating on it to make it easier to clean. The extra \$25-\$50 is nothing in the scheme of things.





[https://www.gunsamerica.com/blog/new-itar-guidelines-look-a-lot-like-executive-gun-control/?utm\\_source=email&utm\\_medium=20160805\\_FridayDigest\\_81&utm\\_campaign=/blog/new-itar-guidelines-look-a-lot-like-executive-gun-control/](https://www.gunsamerica.com/blog/new-itar-guidelines-look-a-lot-like-executive-gun-control/?utm_source=email&utm_medium=20160805_FridayDigest_81&utm_campaign=/blog/new-itar-guidelines-look-a-lot-like-executive-gun-control/)

## New ITAR Guidelines Look a Lot Like Executive Gun Control

by Max Slowik on July 31, 2016

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United States Department of State

Bureau of Political-Military Affairs  
Directorate of Defense Trade Controls  
Washington, D.C. 20520-0112

July

## Applicability of the ITAR Registration Requirement to Firearms Manufacturers and Gunsmiths

### **Summary:**

The Directorate of Defense Trade Controls (DDTC) has reviewed and consolidated guidance about whether various activities related to firearms constitute manufacturing for International Traffic in Arms Regulations (ITAR) (22 CFR Parts 120-130) purposes and whether registration with DDTC and payment of a registration fee is required. DDTC has found that many all - traditional gunsmithing activities do not constitute manufacturing for ITAR purposes and therefore, do not require registration with DDTC. The following guidance is consistent with DDTC's ITAR implementation. You must also comply with all other relevant laws.

The Department of State is issuing new guidelines requiring many machine shops and gunsmiths nationwide to register with ITAR. The cost? \$2,250 per year. ITAR, or International Traffic in Arms Regulations, are designed to prevent firearms and firearm technology from being exported out of the country.

But the actual reason behind this sweeping change in guidelines may have a darker goal: to increase the cost of offering gunsmithing services. The changes were implemented without warning or input from the people and the industry.

ITAR requires that "Anybody who engages in the business of 'manufacturing' a defense article to register with DDTC and pay a registration fee that for new applicants is currently \$2,250 per year," [explains the NRA](#). "These requirements apply, even if the business does not, and does not intend to, export any defense article. Moreover, under ITAR, 'only one occasion of manufacturing ... a defense article' is necessary for a commercial entity to be considered 'engaged in the business' and therefore subject to the regime's requirements."

The changes to the rules now include just about anything other than installing drop-in parts as "manufacturing." This means that any service that requires cutting, fitting or 'special tools' is considering manufacturing. If these companies wish to continue offering these services they will need to pay an additional \$2,250 per year in fees.

In response to questions from persons engaged in the business of gunsmithing, DDTC has found in specific cases that ITAR registration is required because the following activities meet the ordinary, contemporary, common meaning of "manufacturing" and, therefore, constitute "manufacturing" for ITAR purposes:

- a) Use of any special tooling or equipment upgrading in order to improve the capability of assembled or repaired firearms;
- b) Modifications to a firearm that change round capacity;
- c) The production of firearm parts (including, but not limited to, barrels, stocks, cylinders, breech mechanisms, triggers, silencers, or suppressors);
- d) The systemized production of ammunition, including the automated loading or reloading of ammunition;
- e) The machining or cutting of firearms, e.g., threading of muzzles or muzzle brake installation requiring machining, that results in an enhanced capability;
- f) Rechambering firearms through machining, cutting, or drilling;
- g) Chambering, cutting, or threading barrel blanks; and
- h) Blueprinting firearms by machining the barrel.

Thus installing a same-caliber replacement barrel on an AR rifle would not be considered manufacturing, but reaming a .223 Remington chamber to .223 Wylde would be. Similarly, installing an aftermarket trigger in a rifle is not manufacturing, but tuning an existing trigger is.

Even then the guidelines are vague, limiting “gunsmithing” to only work that doesn’t “improve the accuracy, caliber, or other aspects of firearm operation beyond its original capabilities,” leaving a lot up for interpretation.

This is likely to have a significant impact on smaller business who offer these services who can’t or don’t want to squeeze the extra cost out of their budgets. It will also affect the general consumer as shops that do will have to raise the prices of their work.

## **[See Also: Homeland Security Secretary: Gun Control is Now A Matter of Homeland Security](#)**

That’s exactly the point of the new regulations, says the NRA. “DDTC’s move appears aimed at expanding the regulatory sweep of the AECA (Arms Export Control Act) [and] ITAR and culling many smaller commercial gunsmithing operations that do not have the means to pay the annual registration fee or the sophistication to negotiate DDTC’s confusing maze of bureaucracy.”

And shops that offer these services are going to really want to make sure their paperwork is in order, since the punishment for violating ITAR is steep.

“Additionally, the penalties for violating ITAR are significant and able to be applied retroactively,” [writes Prince Law’s Adam Kraut](#). “Penalties for *each* violation of ITAR can result in up to \$1,000,000 in fines and 20 years imprisonment.”

It’s not clear if these businesses will have to retroactively pay for ITAR registration if they are already engaged in “manufacturing” firearms. If so, the cost of registration could be even higher. And it could take some time for these businesses to comply with the new regulation, putting them at real legal risk between now and then.

The Directorate of Defense Trade Controls or DDTC, which drafted the new regulations, has a response team set up to help businesses navigate ITAR waters. For information on how to contact the DDTC and to see the regulations in full, [check out the guidelines letter \(.pdf\)](#).

Better still, potentially ITAR-regulated businesses should have an attorney contact the DDTC for them.

[https://www.gunsamerica.com/blog/atf-failed-comply-record-keeping-policies/?utm\\_source=email&utm\\_medium=20160805\\_FridayDigest\\_81&utm\\_campaign=/blog/atf-failed-comply-record-keeping-policies/](https://www.gunsamerica.com/blog/atf-failed-comply-record-keeping-policies/?utm_source=email&utm_medium=20160805_FridayDigest_81&utm_campaign=/blog/atf-failed-comply-record-keeping-policies/)

## GAO Report: ATF Failed to Comply with its Record-Keeping Policies

by Max Slowik on August 4, 2016

Related Tags: [ATF](#), [Buzz](#), [Gun Control](#), [Industry News](#), [News](#)

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The GAO has a few things to tell the ATF. (*Photo: Facebook/ATF*)

The U.S. Government Accountability Office, or GAO, has given the ATF unsatisfactory ratings for improper record-keeping. The oversight agency instructed that the ATF “should better adhere to its policies” in its report. The ATF agreed with the GAO findings and plans to follow the report’s recommendations.

Specifically, the GAO found that the ATF failed to comply with its record-keeping policies by storing FFL records on an in-house server and keeping records that should have been destroyed, including records of multiple sales. The GAO audited 4 of the 16 ATF servers and took issue with what they found on three of the four data systems.

These policy violations represent a potential breach of privacy and a breach of trust. The ATF is prohibited from maintaining a database of gun owners and must carefully walk the line between tracking and targeting illegal gun use while keeping legal gun owner’s privacy intact.

“[The] ATF is responsible for enforcing certain criminal statutes related to firearms, and must balance its role in combating the illegal use of firearms with protecting the privacy rights of law-abiding gun owners,” [states the GAO report](#). “As part of this balance, FFLs are required to maintain firearms transaction records, while [the] ATF has the statutory authority to obtain these records under certain circumstances. [The] ATF must also comply with an appropriations act provision that restricts the agency from using appropriated funds to consolidate or centralize FFL records.”

The ATF runs a program called Access 2000 (A2K) that allows the National Tracing Center to electronically search certain FFL records to perform gun traces. These FFLs volunteer the data to the Tracing Center. The catch is that the information is supposed to be stored on-site at the FFLs — the GAO found some of the information stored on a single server at the ATF.

The server kept records of out-of-business FFLs. The ATF deleted the records to comply with its policy. The GAO also recommended that the ATF establish stronger guidelines on how to use A2K out-of-business records.

## **See Also: [Should the ATF Merge with the FBI?](#)**

The GAO also discovered that the ATF mishandled records from the Firearm Recovery Notification Program or FRNP. The FRNP is a database of guns that they have reason to believe are involved in criminal activity. These include stolen guns and uncovered crime guns and guns tied to ATF criminal investigations. FRNP records are supposed to be destroyed after two years.

What the GAO found instead was that records from between 2007 and 2009 were still intact and due to a “technical defect” accessible to ATF agents “beyond what ATF policy permits.” The ATF ended the program in 2009 and deleted the records in 2016.

Lastly, the GAO discovered that the ATF was not destroying multiple sales records after two years per ATF policy. The GAO report stated that the ATF was “inconsistent” in destroying multiple sales records and was keeping data on more than 10,000 people. The ATF keeps records on individuals who purchase two or more handguns within five consecutive business days in order to track straw purchasers.

The ATF has agreed with the GAO but only time will tell if these policy violations have affected gun owners. The GAO will provide updated information on its report once the ATF has taken action and updated their record-keeping methods.

“We’re a small agency with a big job,” said ATF Deputy Director Thomas E. Brandon [in an interview](#) on CBS’ “Sunday Morning.” Brandon lamented the restrictions that prevent the agency from keeping deeper records on guns and gun owners.

“There’s a lot of things that don’t make sense in this town, you know?” Brandon told CBS correspondent Richard Schlesinger. “And, so, yeah, would it be efficient and effective? Absolutely. Would the taxpayers benefit with public safety? Absolutely. Are we allowed to do it? No.”



[http://www.gundigest.com/guns/rifle-reviews-articles/centurion-ak-47-a-classic-comes-home?utm\\_source=emedia\\_kit&utm\\_campaign=gds-cpd-hs-160729Y0044Z2207Y0044Z2207R2044W3851BUNDLE-\[Standard\]&utm\\_content=866335\\_GDS160729+-Kit+-+AK+Enthusiast+Collection+%5bStandard%5d&utm\\_medium=email](http://www.gundigest.com/guns/rifle-reviews-articles/centurion-ak-47-a-classic-comes-home?utm_source=emedia_kit&utm_campaign=gds-cpd-hs-160729Y0044Z2207Y0044Z2207R2044W3851BUNDLE-[Standard]&utm_content=866335_GDS160729+-Kit+-+AK+Enthusiast+Collection+%5bStandard%5d&utm_medium=email)

## Centurion AK-47: A Classic Comes Home

By: [L.P. Brezny](#) | March 8, 2012



The AK-47 by Centurion: American-built all the way.

Different from all other [AK-47](#) variants manufactured in other countries, the Centurion is assembled with American-made parts making it unique in the long list of examples of the most-produced rifle in the history of firearms.

Previous wars have proven that any peasant with no education can learn how to use the [AK-47](#) within an hour and thus, the gun has found a home throughout the world's revolutions, uprisings, and insurgencies. When Mikhail Kalashnikov designed it in 1947 he was just trying to fill a need for the Russian army. Often referred to as the Kalash in Russian, this rifle has been picked up by more countries than I can count as a standard military rifle.

The Centurion 39 is chambered for the 7.62X 39 cartridge, which delivers a strong downrange punch and penetrating ability; unlike its rival the 5.56 NATO. In my opinion, the only reason our military doesn't use the same cartridge is that pride just won't let the powers that be admit that this is one hell of a round.

The folks at Century Arms have seen the light by offering a completely American-made rifle where the level of quality can be controlled and production planning can be addressed. The end result is the shooter has a high-quality [AK-47](#) that shoots straight with the dependability of its forerunners. This thing never quits in the field.

In some grades the receivers on [AK](#)'s tend to be a bit sloppy to say the least. Not so with the Centurion 39. This rifle makes use of a completely machined receiver from an 11-pound block of high-grade 4140 ordnance steel. This is the heart of the rifle's quality and the basis for its ability to deliver accuracy down range. With a 16.5-inch barrel with a 1-in-9.5 twist, the rifle stabilizes bullets in the neighborhood of 125 grains very well.

Sights on this rifle are far better than most standard [AK-47](#) systems. This rifle carries a red high-glow bright front sight post and is fully adjustable for elevation to 800 yards, with windage adjustment as well.

With a complete set of Weaver rails on the forend the rifle can be fitted with lights, lasers, broomhandles, or scopes.

The composite stock has an upgraded design that is an inch longer at the butt making a better fit for larger-frame shooters and yet is still fast handling in tight quarters. Century Arms uses a special flash suppressor, the V-shaped Chevron Compensator, that is designed to drive spent gas away from the muzzle, which aids in reducing muzzle jump when firing rapidly. The controls on the rifle are standard and simple like those on other [AK-47](#) rifles.

## Accuracy and Field Testing



Groups at 100 yards were much tighter with the use of a red-dot sight.

Test firing consisted of using Remington factory loads with a 123-grain full metal jacket bullet. We fired at 100 yards to test for accuracy.

Shooting 100-yard groups of five rounds with the standard open sights from a light bench rest produced a 4.182-inch group. Not fancy, but with a heavy front-sight blade, keeping everything level and on the money was a bit of a chore.

Later with an Aimpoint Comp M4 mounted on a QRP2 with a spacer and killflash, the groups shrunk to 2.821 inches. During additional testing the use of the Aimpoint would be very significant regarding raw, on-target, combat-related scores.

## The Other Blue Man Group

During a series of test firings I used a new silhouette combat target offered by Birchwood Casey that I call “Blue Targets” or “Blue Men” and simulated an advance group of 15 riflemen. The drill consisted of firing 15 rounds, five at each of three targets, then counting the hits.

The first target was at 100 yards, the second at 150, and the third at 200. Some would say this is a stretch for the [AK](#) and iron sights, but I was counting on the fact that these sights were better than the standard designs found on foreign-made rifles and the rifle was built tighter and more accurate. All shots had to be delivered down range within 30 seconds.

As a control, my volunteer shooter had military training and experience firing the M1-Garand at Camp Perry. It didn't help him much. The game was on after a three-shot group fired at 100 yards confirmed the sights were adjusted correctly.

My test subject hit with two rounds at 100 yards. One round at 150 yards, and blanked out with a zero at 200 yards. During a second timed attempt he did a bit better but went way over on the time limit. The 200-yard target was still blank, indicating that he or the sights were the problem. Since most of his hits were a bit off to the left this indicated some trigger control problems. While the trigger did tend to creep a bit it has a very solid crisp let off at about six pounds.



Blue man targets from 100 to 200 yards. Better sights are required for longer distances.

My turn: I had an edge because I shot and handled the rifle earlier. I ended up with five kills on the 100-yard blue man, three on the 150-yard target, and zero on the 200-yard target. I could not seem to find the kill zone over those basic sights at 200 yards.

With my failure to hit the 200-yard blue man I decided to lock down my Aimpoint M4s TM. This is a red-dot battle sight with a sniper screen to reduce glare in a combat environment. The Aimpoint is not classed as a target variant in sighting equipment. Instead it is a tool that can get on a target quickly and keep you there until the threat has been eliminated. With the Centurion equipped with Weaver rails I had the Aimpoint up and shooting within several minutes while never leaving my station.

The zero work was fast in that the impact point with a test round at 100 yards was about 8 inches low. With windage dead on, I cranked up the elevation a bit, and then planted the next round dead on the target center. Now with a magazine loaded with 15 rounds I was back at my timed event against those three targets.

The target at 100 yards took five fast hits, and the 200-yard target showed another five kills. Reloading several times I selected random ranges and found the better target acquisition system to be a very distinct advantage. However, this is where a real flaw revealed itself. After firing quite a bit that day I noticed that the upper forward hand guard that retained the red-dot sight rail had become loose and sloppy. This was seriously impacting the sighting system.



[Click the image to read an article about ARs of Russian inspiration.](#)

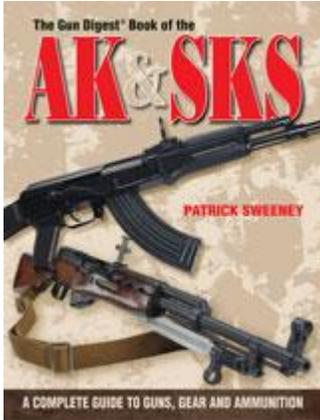
A possible solution for this is the attachment of a left-side receiver rail that mounts a quick-release scope base directly in line with the top of the rifle's dust cover. An example of this outfit is common on the 54-C Dragunov sniper rifle. With this addition I believe the Model 39 could shoot tighter groups and extend its range. If I owned this rifle I would have a competent gunsmith install a side rail.

The Centurion Model 39 is a very solid combat and general defense rifle. In terms of function there were no issues with feeding or ejection, and all controls functioned perfectly. Furniture needs to be addressed for a tighter fit, and when cleaning it I found the bolt stiff when returning it to the receiver. That is the result of a well-machined receiver and bolt assembly.

When aligned correctly, and that means right on the nose, the bolt assembly drops in like the parts in a Swiss watch. Priced under \$800 this is a lot of rifle for the money if you have your sights set on an [AK-47](#).

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### Recommended AK-47 Resources:



[The Gun Digest Book of the AK & SKS](#)

[Video: Avtomat Kalashnikova](#)

[AK47: The Complete Kalashnikov Family of Rifles](#)

[AK-47 Assembly/Disassembly Download](#)

[AK-47 Assembly/Disassembly DVD](#)

Thomas Jefferson wrote that "A bill of rights is what the people are entitled to against every government on earth, general or particular, and what no just government should refuse."

Thank you,  
Paul Curtis  
President - CARGO  
[www.cargogunclub.org](http://www.cargogunclub.org)

"If you can read this, thank a teacher. For the fact that it is in English, thank a Veteran."

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