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Citizens Association for Responsible Gun Ownership = CARGO

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

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Hello Fellow CARGO Members,

The next meeting will be held at Napoli's on **Thursday, February 16th.**

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)

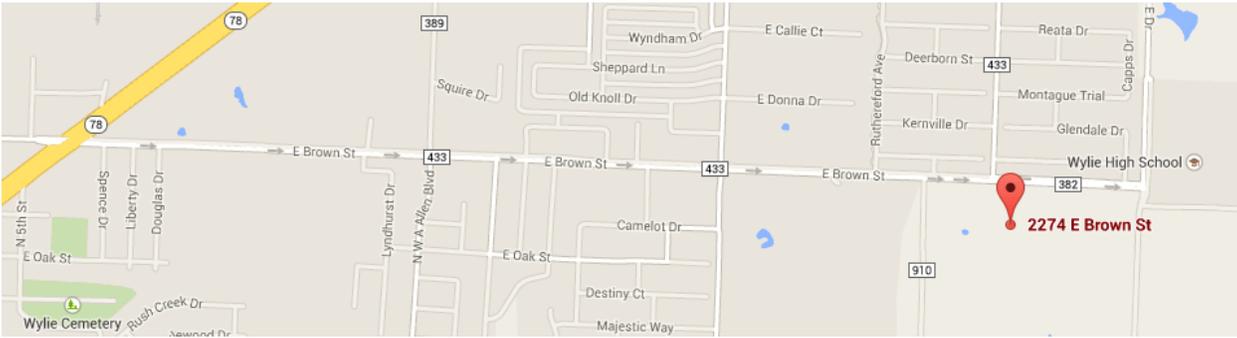
The address is:

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.





### Meeting gun topics:

- Based on what I can find, the next two oldest firearms manufactures are Colt Manufacturing Co. (1839) and Winchester (1866)
  - Please bring anything in your collection from either Colt or Winchester to share with the club.
- Have anything non-firearms related to share? Got a great knife that you just picked up, an air-rifle or Pistol, a new tactical flash light or red-dot scope? The club always enjoys seeing this as well.
- It is Girl Scout cookie time again – We will have cookies available for purchase at the meeting or if you don't want to eat cookies, you can purchase cookies for the troops!

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)

<https://www.nraila.org/articles/20170125/nra-wins-victory-as-congress-reverses-obamas-social-security-gun-grab>

## **NRA Wins Victory as Congress Reverses Obama's Social Security Gun Grab**

Wednesday, January 25, 2017

**Fairfax, Va.** – The National Rifle Association Institute for Legislative Action (NRA-ILA) today scored a victory when Congress agreed to review, and likely revoke, a final rule by the Obama administration that would blindly strip law-abiding Americans of their Second Amendment rights.

“Congress's decision to review the Obama administration's back-door gun grab is a significant step forward in protecting a fundamental constitutional right for law-abiding gun owners,” said Chris W. Cox, executive director, NRA-ILA. “The NRA has been fighting this unconstitutional government overreach since it was first discussed and we look forward to swift congressional action.”

Last year, the Social Security Administration finalized a proposed rule to ban certain recipients who use a representative payee from owning firearms. This ill-conceived action affected the most vulnerable in America and stripped them of their right to keep and bear arms without due process.

The NRA immediately opposed the Obama administration's efforts when the proposal was first announced in summer of 2015. The NRA has fought every step of the way to ensure that social security recipients are not stripped of their rights without due process of law.

Today, we learned that Congress will review the Obama administration's unconstitutional ban under the Congressional Review Act (CRA). CRA allows Congress to dispose of any actions an outgoing administration initiates in its last six months. This final rule falls under that time frame, and the review process is expected to move forward in the House and receive a vote as early as next week.

Imminent revocation of this egregious government action marks the culmination of the NRA's diligent efforts on behalf of its members and law-abiding gun owners.

"This is a new era for freedom-loving Americans and the NRA is excited to begin work with our pro-Second Amendment president and Congress to ensure that law-abiding Americans' constitutional rights are respected," concluded Cox.

The NRA thanks congressmen Sam Johnson (R-TX), Ralph Abraham (R-LA) and Steve Scalise (R-LA) for their work on this effort. It would also like to thank Speaker Paul Ryan (R-WI) and leader Kevin McCarthy (R-CA) for their leadership on this issue.

## NRA Applauds Neil Gorsuch's Nomination to the U.S. Supreme Court

Tuesday, January 31, 2017



Support NRA-ILA

**Fairfax, Va.**— The National Rifle Association (NRA) applauds the nomination of Judge Neil Gorsuch to fill Justice Antonin Scalia’s seat on the United States Supreme Court.

“President Trump has made an outstanding choice in nominating Judge Gorsuch for the U.S. Supreme Court. He has an impressive record that demonstrates his support for the Second Amendment,” said Chris W. Cox, Executive Director, NRA-ILA. “We urge the Senate to swiftly confirm Judge Gorsuch to the Supreme Court, just as it did in confirming him to the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Tenth Circuit by a unanimous voice vote.”

During his tenure on the Tenth Circuit, Gorsuch has demonstrated his belief that the Constitution should be applied as the framers intended. To that end, he has supported the individual right to self-defense. Specifically, he wrote in an opinion that "the Second Amendment protects an individual’s right to own firearms and may not be infringed lightly."

“On behalf of our five million members, the NRA strongly supports Judge Neil Gorsuch's confirmation to the U.S. Supreme Court. We will be activating our members and tens of millions of supporters throughout the country in support of Judge Gorsuch. He will protect our right to keep and bear arms and is an outstanding choice to fill Justice Scalia's seat,” concluded Cox.

# **BREAKING: ATF White Paper Leaked**

## **Federal Firearms Regulations**

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### **Options to Reduce or Modify Firearms Regulations**



### **White Paper**

**(Not for public distribution)**

**Ronald Turk**

**Associate Deputy Director (Chief Operating Officer)  
Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF)**

20 Jan 2017

Just in the last hour someone leaked an ATF White Paper regarding changes to be potentially made in the ATF.

Washington Post posted the file. [Read-the-white-paper-on-firearms-regulations](#) <— Click that to open the document.

For those not familiar with a White Paper, click [here](#) for the Wikipedia definition. To sum up it is a summary of issues and proposals to amend or address such issues.

There are some bold issues being addressed. One of which is point 5, the use of a stabilizing brace.

#### **5. Firearm Arm or Stabilizing Brace:**

Manufacturers have produced an arm brace or stabilizing brace which is designed to strap a handgun to a forearm to allow a disabled shooter to fire the firearm. ATF determined that the brace was not a stock, and therefore its attachment to a handgun did not constitute the making of a short-barreled rifle or “any other firearm” under the National Firearms Act (NFA). (NFA classification subjects the product to a tax and registration requirement.) In the determination letter, however, ATF indicated that if the brace was

held to the shoulder and used as a stock, such use would constitute a “redesign” that would result in classification of the brace/handgun combination as an NFA firearm (i.e., the “use” would be a “redesign” and making of a short – barreled rifle). ATF has not made an other NFA determination where a shooter’s use alone was deemed be a “redesign” of the product/firearm resulting in an NFA classification. This ruling has caused confusion and concern among firearm manufacturers, dealers, and consumers about the extent to which unintended use of a product may be a basis for NFA classification. To mitigate this confusion and concern, ATF could amend the determination letter to remove the language indicating that simple use of a product for a purpose other than intended by the manufacturer – without additional proof or redesign – may result in re-classification as an NFA weapon.

While many at ATF are concerned about manufacturing processes continuing to push the boundaries between a Gun Control Act (GCA) and an NFA firearm, ATF has a relatively consistent history of what crosses the line between GCA and NFA firearms with which to draw from, and still maintains the ability to exercise good judgement with future requests based upon the firearm’s individual characteristics.

This could change their determination that came out back in 2015 that using a brace could constitute a redesign. As Adam Kraut had explained, misusing a product is not the same as redesigning or manufacturing.

If that got you excited wait until you see what else they got cooking.

Next up is the point about Silencers.

Silencers: Current Federal law requires ATF to regulate silencers under the NFA. This requires a Federal tax payment of \$200 for transfers, ATF approval, and entry of the silencer into a national NFA database. In the past several years, opinions about silencers have changed across the United States. Their use to reduce noise at shooting ranges and applications within the sporting and hunting industry are now well recognized. At present, 42 states generally allow silencers to be used for sporting purposes. The wide acceptance of silencers and corresponding changes in state laws have created substantial demand across the country. This surge in demand has caused ATF to have a significant backlog on silencer applications. ATF’s processing time is now approximately 8 months. ATF has devoted substantial resources in attempts to reduce processing times, spending over \$1 million annually in overtime and temporary duty expenses, and dedicating over 33 additional full-time and contract positions since 2011 to support NFA processing. Despite these efforts, NFA processing times are widely viewed by applicants and the industry as far too long, resulting in numerous complaints to Congress. Since silencers account for the vast majority of NFA applications, the most direct way to reduce processing times is to reduce the number of silencer applications. In light of the expanding demand and acceptance of silencers, however, that volume is unlikely to diminish unless they are removed from the NFA. While DOJ and ATF have historically not supported removal of items from the NFA, the change in public acceptance of silencers arguably indicates that the reason for their inclusion in the NFA is archaic and historical reluctance to removing them from the NFA should be reevaluated. ATF’s experience with the criminal use of silencers also supports reassessing their inclusion in the NFA. On average in the past 10 years, ATF has only recommended 44 defendants a year for prosecution on silencer-related violations; of those, only approximately 6 of the defendants had prior felony convictions. Moreover, consistent with this low number of prosecution referrals, silencers are very rarely used in criminal shootings. Given the lack of criminality associated with silencers, it is reasonable to conclude that they should not be viewed as a threat to public safety necessitating NFA classification, and should be considered for reclassification under the GCA.

If such a change were to be considered, a revision in the definition of a silencer would be important. The current definition of a silencer extends to “any combination of [silencer] parts,” as well as “any part intended only for use in” a silencer. Compared to the definition of a firearm, which specifies the frame or receiver is the key regulated part, any individual silencer part is generally regulated just as if it were a

completed silencer. Revising the definition could eliminate many of the current issues encountered by silencer manufacturers and their parts suppliers. Specifically, clarifying when a part or combination of parts meets a minimum threshold requiring serialization would be useful.

These two points are huge. There are other great points addressed in the White Paper and I encourage you to read it all.

The conclusion of the White Paper addresses it nicely:

There are many regulatory changes or modifications that can be made by or through ATF that would have an immediate, positive impact on commerce and industry without significantly hindering ATF's mission or adversely affecting public safety. There are also areas where adjustments to policy or processes could improve ATF operations. Alleviating some of these concerns would continue to support ATF's relationships across the firearms and sporting industry, and allow ATF to further focus precious personnel and resources on the mission to combat gun violence.

The future looks bright and I hope the ATF accepts these issues and solutions.

## Supreme Court's Decision Could Lead To Second Civil War

February 07, 2017 - [No Comments](#)

The U.S. Supreme Court may decide as early as today whether they will hear a case concerning the obvious unconstitutionality of a Chicago suburb's ban on semi-automatic firearms. These firearms are clearly protected by the explicit intent of the Second Amendment to protect arms suitable for militia use by the American people.

If the court declines to hear the case and lets these unconstitutional bans stand, they will send the nation on a nearly inevitable path [towards another civil war](#).

The high court is considering whether to accept an appeal filed by Highland Park pediatrician Arie S. Friedman, 49, who claims the ban passed by the City Council in 2013 violates the Second Amendment because it denies him the right to use his semi-automatic weapons to protect his home and family. The new law required that residents such as Friedman, who owned firearms capable of rapidly firing more than 10 rounds of ammunition, either remove them from the city, modify them or turn them over to police.

Friedman, who filed the lawsuit along with the Illinois State Rifle Association, already has lost in two lower courts. A U.S. District Court upheld the ban last year, and the 7th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals upheld that decision. The National Rifle Association has filed a brief to the Supreme Court in support of the suit.

If the Supreme Court takes the case, Illinois would once again land at the center of the contentious legal battle over gun control. It would also raise questions about the legality of similar assault weapons bans in Chicago and other Illinois cities, as well as those in seven states, including New York and California.

Gun rights advocates have argued that rapid-firing, semi-automatic rifles are among the most popular firearms in the country for hunting, recreational shooting and self-defense and are protected under the Supreme Court's two most recent rulings upholding citizens' rights to bear arms. During the last seven years, the high court overturned the last remaining firearms bans in the country, in Washington, D.C., and Chicago, ruling that citizens had the right to keep firearms at home for protection.

The explicit intent of the Second Amendment as written by the Founding Fathers was to ensure that the citizenry—whom they refer to as the militia—will always be armed with weapons of contemporary military utility in order to form a counterweight to the corrupting influence of government.

The firearms specifically banned by Highland Park and other municipalities are the semi-automatic carbines and rifles best suited for that original role as imagined by the Founders in a contemporary context.

The Brown Bess was the musket used by both American Patriots and British Redcoats. The AR-15—which was in civilian hands for six years before a selective-fire variant was adopted as the general issue M16 and later the M4—is clearly the “modern musket” “in common use” as the militia arm of choice in the United States, with the American civilian owning between five and ten times as many AR-15s as the U.S. military owns M4s and M16s.

If the Supreme Court fails to take up the case, or takes up the case and decides against Friedman, then they will have set the stage for an inevitable civil war, pitting the nation's radical anti-gun Democrats who desire to destroy the Second Amendment against the 100-140 million American gun owners who will not comply with laws and court decisions that clearly fly in the face of original intent.

The court's decision could come as soon as today.

May they choose wisely.

## Are NFA items really illegal in Texas?

by S.H. Blannelberry on November 1, 2014

Last week, during my [interview with Todd Rathner](#), the executive director of the NFA Freedom Alliance, he said something that caught the attention of many readers and gun-rights advocates.

Here's the exchange, with emphasis added:

**S.H. Blannelberry:** “**Shall Certify**” is a great cause, but how realistic is it to think that all 50 states would at some point adopt shall certify legislation with respect to NFA items (I suppose the same could have been said with respect to CCW laws 30 years ago)?

**Todd J. Rathner:** *Yes “Shall Issue” CCW is the perfect parallel. We believe that any state that has Shall Issue CCW is ripe for “Shall Certify” laws to be passed. It will be difficult, it will take time, but it can be done in the 40+ states that have real Shall Issue CCW. In the meantime we also need to work on other related issues at both the state and federal level.*

*For instance NFAFA has just announced that we have a bill sponsor in Texas to change the law relating to NFA items in Texas. **Currently NFA items are illegal in Texas...YES...Illegal!** You can be charged with possession of a “prohibited weapon” if you possesses any NFA item (see [TPC 46.05](#) <http://www.statutes.legis.state.tx.us/Docs/PE/htm/PE.46.htm>)*

*Your only protection is that the law has a “defense to prosecution” built into it, which says if the NFA items are registered pursuant to the NFA then you may raise that as a defense at trial. The practical effect is that if you possess these items, and are charged with possession, it will cost you a lot of money and time to get your guns/silencers back! I have a gun dealer in San Antonio charged under this statute who was arrested for possessing a silencer. He fought it and it cost him \$14,000 and 8 months to get his silencer back! The NFAFA is the only organization focused on fixing these so called DTP laws which exist in 5 states AK, OK, TN, TX, WA.*

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Well, since there are a lot of gun owners who possess NFA items in Texas, this caused quite a stir and raised the concern of whether Rathner was correct in his assessment that NFA items are technically illegal in Texas.

Rathner is right, but the American Suppressor Association, another organization dedicated to making NFA items more available to law-abiding citizens put out the following press release, arguing that the “defense to prosecution” statute is really a non-issue:

*In recent weeks, select organizations have made the claim that items regulated by the National Firearms Act of 1934 (NFA) are illegal to possess in Texas and four other states with large NFA markets. These states include Alaska, Oklahoma, Tennessee, and Washington. This claim is false.*

*NFA items ARE LEGAL to own and possess in all five of the aforementioned states.*

*The basis of the claim hinges upon a flagrant misrepresentation of the law. [Texas Penal Code states:](#)*

*“Sec. 46.05. PROHIBITED WEAPONS. (a) A person commits an offense if the person intentionally or knowingly possesses, manufactures, transports, repairs, or sells:*

*(1) an explosive weapon;*

*(2) a machine gun;*

*(3) a short-barrel firearm;*

*(4) a firearm silencer;*

*(5) knuckles;*

*(6) armor-piercing ammunition;*

*(7) a chemical dispensing device;*

*(8) a zip gun; or*

*(9) a tire deflation device.*

*(b) It is a defense to prosecution under this section that the actor’s conduct was incidental to the performance of official duty by the armed forces or national guard, a governmental law enforcement agency, or a correctional facility.”*

*The code then goes on to clarify the instances under which civilian possession of an NFA item is legal:*

*“(c) It is a defense to prosecution under this section that the actor’s possession was pursuant to registration pursuant to the National Firearms Act, as amended.”*

*As you can see, lawful registration in accordance with the National Firearms Act is a “defense to prosecution”. In Texas, any “defense to prosecution” has to be disproven by the state beyond a reasonable doubt. If reasonable doubt is established that the item in question is properly registered, the state requires that the defendant be acquitted.*

*In practical terms, this defense will only come into play if a law enforcement officer in Texas requests to see your proof of registration for an NFA item, and you are unable to produce the proper paperwork. On the other hand, if an individual is arrested for the possession of an NFA item, all he or she would need to do to avoid charges is show their ATF Tax Stamp for each NFA item. Nearly all prosecutors understand that even if a person doesn’t have their tax stamp when arrested, producing it at trial will raise enough of a reasonable doubt to make a conviction impossible. As a result, most prosecutors are not interested in pursuing cases that will obviously end in acquittal. Doing so could result in malicious prosecution charges.*

*This defense is similar to how Texas handles drivers who are caught operating a motor vehicle without a license. They too have a defense to prosecution, and will be acquitted if the driver can produce a driver’s license in court that was valid at the time of their offense ([Tex. Trans. § 521.025\(d\)](#)).*

*When discussing the legality of NFA items, bear in mind that Texas is by far the largest NFA market in the country. In terms of suppressors, Texas has 86,579 in circulation as of March, [2014, according to the ATF’s 2014 Annual Statistical Update of Firearms Commerce in the United States](#). With a combined total of 136,182 registered suppressors, AK, OK, TN, TX, and WA make up nearly 25% of the market. Although there are slight*

*variations amongst defense to prosecution laws in different states, and although better statutes would be ideal, all five of these states allow civilians to own and possess NFA items in a similar manner to Texas. The ATF would not have approved the transfer of over 136,000 suppressors to these states if they were illegal.*

*The American Suppressor Association is the unified voice of the suppressor industry. The interests of suppressor manufacturers, distributors, dealers, and consumers are our only priorities. Although we will work in 2015 to enact stronger policy surrounding existing defense to prosecution laws, our primary initiatives on the state level will remain the passage of state ownership, hunting, and shall certify legislation across the country. We will not be fooled by fabricated issues.*

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Upon reading that press release, NFA Freedom Alliance responded, defending its position that NFA items are technically illegal and that the “defense to prosecution” should be repealed:

*In a statement revealing a fundamental disconnect with the concerns of the NFA community, a Second Amendment trade organization recently claimed that the NFA Freedom Alliance’s efforts to replace and improve upon defense-to-prosecution statutes in states like Alaska, Oklahoma, Tennessee, Texas, and Washington are unnecessary and constitute a “fabricated” issue.*

*Under a defense-to-prosecution (DTP) statute, possession of an item regulated by the National Firearms Act (NFA) is technically illegal; however, criminal courts are required to accept the defense that the item was possessed in full compliance with the NFA. The NFA Freedom Alliance maintains that DTP statutes place a draconian burden of proof on gun owners and that, because law enforcement officers are not judges and have no authority to rule on the legitimacy of a criminal defense, officers in DTP states are more likely to arrest the owner of a properly registered NFA item and let a court settle the matter.*

*The suggestion that defense-to-prosecution statutes are a non-issue does not sit well with Michael Mihalski, a San Antonio gun dealer who was arrested in Austin, Texas, in September of 2013 for possessing a rifle suppressor purchased and registered in full compliance with the National Firearms Act. “As someone who was arrested, booked, and forced to pay thousands of dollars in legal fees and wait eight months to get my suppressor and rifle back, I can tell you this is not a ‘fabricated’ issue,” said Mihalski. “It is a very real issue that has been and will continue to be used to persecute law-abiding citizens with legally registered NFA items. Of course, I shouldn’t be surprised that the same organization that completely ignored my pleas for assistance when I was arrested, is now claiming that the law is fine as written.”*

*NFAFA Executive Director Todd Rathner, added, “It is unfortunate that a Second Amendment organization would be either too naïve to understand the negative implications of defense-to-prosecution statutes or too egotistical to support an initiative launched by another organization. The NFA Freedom Alliance will not be distracted from our mission by petty naysayers, and self-serving groups who view likeminded organizations as rivals. We will continue to protect the NFA community with all we’ve got, and we stand ready to work with the entire Second Amendment community to secure the rights of all NFA owners.”*

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It appears there’s a disagreement between the two organizations regarding the urgency of repealing and replacing “defense to prosecution.” NFAFA believes it’s a high priority whereas ASA appears to be content with the status quo, though it does acknowledge that better laws would be ideal.

Where I come out on all of this is I support both the NFAFA and the ASA. While they may disagree on what is the optimal strategy to making NFA-items more readily available, in terms of the big picture, they both are fighting the good fight.

## BREAKING: Olympic Arms Shutting Down After 40 Years



Olympic Arms sent out a notice to dealers and distributors today stating that after many years they will be closing their doors. The letter that was sent out does not go into detail as to why. The end of February will be the last day of operation for the business (February 28th, 2017). Effective immediately today, January 25th, no refunds, returns, or new warranty service work will be accepted. By the wording of the rest of the letter it sounds like operations or production of product has already ceased. Only *in inventory* product will be available for purchase. The only way to now get a [rifle](#) made before March is if Olympic Arms already has all the necessary pieces in house.

This sounds almost like a rumor or “fake news,” but sadly it is true. Olympic Arms has published this information and/or letter on their [Facebook page](#), [website](#), and sent out the letter to its industry partners.

The Schuetz family, who owns Olympic Arms, did not make any formal statements other than what was written in their letter:

The Schuetz family would like to express their heartfelt thanks to all their friends, associates, and partners that have been a part of the Olympic Arms experience. Most of all we would like to thank our loyal customers and patrons who have been with us all this time.

This is very disheartening and surprising to many. The entire letter can be seen below.



After more than 40 years of business, it is with great sorrow that we announce that February 28<sup>th</sup>, 2017 will be the last day of operation for Olympic Arms, Inc.

The Schuetz family would like to express their heartfelt thanks to all their friends, associates, and partners that have been a part of the Olympic Arms experience. Most of all we would like to thank our loyal customers and patrons who have been with us all this time.

In the course of closing, we are announcing the following changes in policy effective immediately:

1. All sales are final.
2. No refunds or returns will be accepted after 1-25-2017.
3. All Warranty service ceases 1-25-2017. Warranty work and repairs currently in-house will be serviced and returned.
4. New orders will only be taken for inventory currently in stock, or that can be built from remaining inventory.
5. All inventory will be liquidated.
6. ALL SALES will cease at close of business 28 February, 2017

Thank you for your patronage.

Tom Spithaler  
Sales Director  
Olympic Arms, Inc.





<https://www.nraila.org/articles/20170127/federal-appeals-court-s-shocking-pronouncement-lawful-gun-carriers-must-forfeit-other-rights>

## **Federal Appeals Court's Shocking Pronouncement: Lawful Gun Carriers Must Forfeit Other Rights**

Friday, January 27, 2017



Support NRA-ILA

The election of Donald J. Trump to the presidency has many gun owners feeling more secure about their Second Amendment rights than they have in nearly a decade.

But a decision this week by the full U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit is a stark and sobering reminder of the utter disdain and denial with which many judges continue to treat the right to keep and bear arms. Taken to its logical extreme, the opinion declares open season on law-abiding Americans who choose to carry firearms for self-defense. It may well be the most anti-gun ruling from any court of the modern era.

The case, [United States v. Robinson](#), has been a roller coaster of conflicting opinions ever since Mr. Robinson first moved to have the evidence in the case against him suppressed for violation of his Fourth Amendment right against unreasonable search and seizure. The issue presented by the case is whether police officers, having reason to believe a person is in possession of a firearm, can legally treat the individual as dangerous, even if they have no reason to believe the possession is illegal and even if the person's behavior is not overtly threatening.

On March 24, 2014, an anonymous tipster called the Ranson, W. Va. police department claiming to have seen an African-American male in the parking lot of a 7-Eleven load a handgun, conceal it in his pocket, and leave the lot as a passenger in bluish-green Toyota Camry driven by a white female.

Within minutes, a police officer responded to the location and observed a vehicle less than a mile away from the 7-Eleven matching the description provided by the caller. The officer observed that the occupants of the car were not wearing seatbelts, which allowed him to execute a lawful traffic stop under West Virginia law. Mindful of the anonymous tip, the officer ordered Robinson, who was in the passenger seat, out of the car.

Meanwhile, back-up had arrived. The second officer approached the car, opened the passenger side door, and asked Robinson if he had any weapons. He would later testify that Robinson's only reply was to give him a "weird look." The officers then had Robinson place his hands on top of the car and frisked him for weapons, finding a firearm in his pants pocket.

Both officers testified that Robinson was cooperative throughout the encounter and that they never observed any gestures indicating he intended to use any weapons against them.

After the frisk, one of the officers realized that he recognized Robinson from prior criminal proceedings. Confirming that Robinson had a felony record, the officer arrested him for felon in possession of a firearm. The case was then tried in federal court.

Under Supreme Court precedent from 1968 (*Terry v. Ohio*), police officers who believe a suspect they have detained for investigation but have not arrested can conduct a limited "pat down" of the suspect's outer clothing when they have reasonable suspicion that the suspect is "armed and dangerous." This was the basis for the search the officers used to find the incriminating firearm in Robinson's pocket.

But Robinson claimed that the officers had no reason to believe that he posed any danger to them and therefore that they had no legal authority to frisk him. He noted that people may lawfully carry firearms in West Virginia, that the police had no information at the time of the frisk that his carrying was unlawful, and that he did not act aggressively or uncooperatively toward the officers.

A magistrate judge agreed with Robinson and recommended that the evidence of the firearm be disallowed. The district court judge presiding over the case rejected the recommendation, ruling the high crime area in which the contact occurred, the information the officers had that Robinson was armed, and Robinson's failure to answer when asked about weapons created a reasonable suspicion that he was armed and dangerous.

Robinson then appealed the district court's decision to the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit. The case was heard by a three-judge panel, and two of the three judges agreed with Robinson.

### **Judge Pamela Harris's majority opinion stated:**

*[I]n states like West Virginia, which broadly allow public possession of firearms, reasonable suspicion that a person is armed does not by itself give rise to reasonable suspicion that the person is dangerous for Terry purposes. Where the state legislature has decided that its citizens may be entrusted to carry firearms on public streets, we may not make the contrary assumption that those firearms inherently pose a danger justifying their*

*seizure by law enforcement officers without consent. ... Nor will we adopt a rule that would effectively eliminate Fourth Amendment protections for lawfully armed persons ... authorizing a personally intrusive frisk whenever a citizen stopped by the police is exercising the constitutional right to bear arms. [Quotation marks and citations omitted].*

Barack Obama's Justice Department then asked the entire Fourth Circuit Court of Appeals to rehear the panel decision.

That rehearing, unfortunately, led to a reversal of the earlier panel decision. The majority opinion, released on Monday, cast the issue in the case as, "whether a law enforcement officer is justified in frisking a person whom the officer has lawfully stopped and whom the officer reasonably believes to be armed, regardless of whether the person may legally be entitled to carry the firearm."

The majority insisted that the "armed and dangerous" language in Terry really meant "armed and therefore dangerous" (emphasis in original). In other words, "the risk of danger is created simply because the person, who was forcibly stopped, is armed."

The court also asserted the same "logic" applies, even if possession of the weapon is legal. "The presumptive lawfulness of an individual's gun possession in a particular State does next to nothing to negate the reasonable concern an officer has for his own safety when forcing an encounter with an individual who is armed with a gun and whose propensities are unknown," the majority opinion concludes.

Thus, because Robinson was lawfully stopped, and the police officers had reasonable suspicion to believe he was armed, "the officers were, as a matter of law, justified in frisking him and, in doing so, did not violate Robinson's Fourth Amendment right."

Incredibly, though the court resolved the case on the broadest constitutional proposition possible, the majority opinion then went on to describe all the circumstances known to the officers that would have allowed them to make an individual "dangerousness" determination under the facts of the case. Thus, the majority essentially admitted that the patently anti-gun holding of the case – that all persons armed with a gun are a per se lethal threat to police officers – wasn't even necessary to its resolution.

If the majority opinion were not bad enough, Judge James A. Wynn wrote an incendiary concurrence berating the majority for focusing broadly on "weapons" rather than on firearms specifically. Wynn's opinion argued that the majority's reasoning also necessitated recognition of two other "key issues." The first, Wynn wrote, is that "individuals who carry firearms -- lawfully or unlawfully -- pose a categorical risk of danger to others and police officers, in particular." The second is that "individuals who choose to carry firearms [therefore] forego certain constitutional protections afforded to individuals who elect not to carry firearms."

Judge Wynn went on to explain how he believes the law of the Fourth Circuit – which includes Maryland, North Carolina, South Carolina, Virginia, and West Virginia – is now that lawful gun owners are second class citizens.

"[T]he majority decision today necessarily leads to the conclusion that individuals who elect to carry firearms forego other constitutional rights," Wynn wrote, "like the Fourth Amendment right to have law enforcement officers 'knock-and-announce' before forcibly entering homes." He continued, "Likewise, it is difficult to escape the conclusion that individuals who choose to carry firearms necessarily face greater restriction on their concurrent exercise of other constitutional rights, like those protected by the First Amendment."

Indeed, Judge Harris, whose panel opinion was overturned by the majority, recognized even darker implications of the majority opinion in a dissent joined by three other judges. "[T]oday's decision insisting on a conclusive link between 'armed' and 'dangerous' she wrote, "undoubtedly will have implications for police use of force, as

well.” In particular, “If a police officer reasonably believes that a suspect poses a ‘threat of serious physical harm,’ he may use deadly force to protect himself ....”

She went on to observe that under the majority’s reasoning, “the legal right to carry arms is perfectly self-defeating ....”

Whether Robinson will appeal the case to the U.S. Supreme Court remains to be seen.

In the meantime, the Fourth Circuit’s majority and concurring opinions epitomize the disordered thinking that leads to useless and persecutory gun control by focusing on an inanimate object, and not on human behavior, as the controlling factor of the law.

It’s difficult to ignore the timing of the opinion, coming just as Congress’ interest in national right to carry is back in the news. Whether that’s purely coincidental, we’ll leave to the reader to decide. But it’s hard to imagine how any viable right to bears arms can exist where every lawfully armed motorist who’s stopped for a minor traffic infraction can be treated by police officers as a lethal threat.

## Breaches in Australia and California Show Danger of Centralized Gun Owner Data

Friday, January 27, 2017



Gun rights supporters understand that gun licensing and registration facilitates gun confiscation. Centralized data on gun owners and firearms has long been used to institute subsequent gun controls in the U.S. and abroad. For instance, in 1967 New York City enacted a law requiring that all rifles and shotguns be registered. [In 1991](#) and 2013, in an effort to enforce subsequent restrictions on commonly-owned semi-automatic firearms, the NYPD sent out letters to the registered owners of these guns, ordering them to remove the firearm from the jurisdiction, make the firearm inoperable, or turn it over to the police.

Less discussed, but similarly important, are the severe privacy implications attendant to centralized gun owner data. The mere existence of such data poses a persistent threat to gun owner privacy, even when the government is not acting with malice.

Earlier this month, the privacy of gun owners in Australia's second most-populous state was violated when the Victorian Government accidentally released the private information of 8,709 licensed gun owners. [Australian law](#) requires all gun owners to be licensed.

According to an account from the [Australian Broadcasting Company](#), the breach occurred while staff at Victoria's Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (DELWP) were attempting to email renewal forms to licensees. Rather than sending licensees the renewal forms, the staff accidentally attached files containing the personal information - including names and addresses - of thousands of gun owners. According to the report, this occurred on eight occasions.

Since the breach was discovered, the DELWP has apologized for the error, has halted the use of emails for gun license renewal purposes, and has made clear that they will notify all those affected. However, DELWP Executive Director of Communications Catherine Payne told the media that the department could not be sure that the data had not been misused.

The mundane nature of this error should drive home to gun owners the danger of this type of centralized data collection. Without minimizing the severity of the error in this instance, many office workers and others who use email will likely understand how such a breach might occur.

This fact was not lost on Victoria MP Daniel Young, who belongs to the Australia's Shooters, Fishers and Farmers Party. In arguing that the episode shows why the government should not keep a firearms registry, Young said, "This information can be leaked very easily, and it's quite serious."

Young also called such centralized data, "A nice handy list of all the people who are keeping firearms in their homes would be great in the hands of a criminal."

Of course, the U.S. is not immune to this type of bureaucratic error. Late last year, the California Department of Justice revealed that they had inappropriately released the personal information of 3,424 Certified California Firearm Safety Instructors.

According to [a letter](#) sent out to all those affected by the breach, in response to a reporter's California Public Records Act Request concerning the state's [Firearms Safety Certificate](#) scheme, California mistakenly provided the reporter with the "names, date of birth, California Driver's License number, and/or California Identification number," of the state's certified instructors.

The letter goes on to urge instructors to monitor their credit for fraud and contact the Department of Motor Vehicles in order to prevent identity theft. Pointing out another concern, Los Angeles Police Lt. Raymond Foster told [FoxNews.com](#), "many of [the instructors] are retired police officers and that could put them at an additional risk. Most of them when they are off-duty like to lie low and blend in."

The California DOJ maintains an incredible amount of gun owner data. Nearly all firearm transfers in California must take place through a licensed gun dealer. Such transfers are subject to the state's Dealer Record of Sale regime, and the personal information of the transferee and information about the firearm is registered in the DOJ's Automated Firearm System. Given the California DOJ's haphazard stewardship of firearm instructor data, California gun owners should be concerned about the state's handling of other types of gun owner information.

For decades, NRA has fought to enact legislation to help ensure that the data some governments collect on gun owners remains private, which often entails exempting gun owner information from state freedom of information act statutes. However, as exhibited by these two recent episodes, the only way to guarantee the privacy of gun owners from government malice or incompetence is to prevent the government from maintaining such records in the first place.

## Talking Point: Gun control laws the biggest con job in our nation's history

CARLO DI FALCO, Mercury

May 5, 2016 9:01am

THIS year marked the 20th anniversary of the Port Arthur tragedy, and the same prohibitionist groups have been exploiting this as they have for the past two decades.

The Port Arthur tragedy is not now mentioned without referring to banning the Adler lever-action shotgun.



An Adler A-110 lever-action shotgun.

While no one denies what happened at Port Arthur was an unprecedented tragedy, Norway had a massacre in 2011 that claimed 77 lives and yet there was no gun buyback or tightening of their gun laws. There has not been a repeat despite citizens having access to the same types of firearms used by Anders Brievek and Martin Bryant.

New Zealand has not had a mass shooting since 1997 and likewise allows its citizens the same semiautomatic, high-powered firearms as do some European countries.

The proposition you can vicariously control criminal or psychopathic behaviour by confiscating private property and burying law-abiding citizens under a mountain of regulation is simply absurd.

Former Australian prime minister John Howard has claimed success because there had not been another mass shooting. The reality is last year we had our first mass shooting (four or more victims in a single incident) when a man shot his wife and three children before taking his own life at Lockhart, NSW. Mental health issues were a factor and firearms had been confiscated from this house previously.

Since the National Firearms Agreement, we have had seven massacres resulting in 62 victims and 17 were children. Only one of these murder sprees involved the perpetrator using a firearm.

It is irrelevant whether the murders were carried out with a firearm or any other method, the end result was exactly the same for the family, friends and community.

Since 1915, the Australian Bureau of Statistics recorded the number of gun murders, including mass shootings in Australia. In only four years did the total for any one year exceed 100 victims – 1996 was one of them at 104 fatalities. The lowest year totalled 15 and the highest 128.

In 2008, researchers Jack Dearden and Warwick Jones, working for the Australian Institute of Criminology, reported that 93 per cent of gun murders involved an unlicensed perpetrator with an unregistered firearm.

Our gun laws completely miss the mark when you realise the chance of any one of Australia's 800,000 licensed gun owners committing murder are so minuscule that you are more likely to die from a bee sting.

When you look at the major AIC researchers peer-reviewed work on Australian crime trends, the conclusion in a number of studies is that the decrease in gun murders started well before the NFA and has continued to date. No researcher has been able to find a statistical break after the implementation of the NFA.

To massage the numbers, prohibitionists refer to gun deaths rather than murders, this means they include suicides and they ignore method substitution. In any case, suicides are a mental health issue, not a gun issue.

As a proportion of murders, gun murders have decreased since 1969, when they were 44 per cent of deaths well before the NFA, to the 14 per cent they are at currently.

Both total murders and suicides using all methods have decreased over time. Suicide numbers decreased from a high in 1997 until 2006 and then continued to climb, with the latest total reaching 2864 deaths in 2014.

The proportion of firearm suicides has stayed down, but it can hardly be called a success based on the number of suicides. We lose on average 20 more people every week to suicide than died at Port Arthur.

It is a strange quirk of human nature that the things least likely to kill us are the things that concern us the most. To put it into context, if you average out the ABS figures for drug-induced death between 1997 and 2000 the yearly figure is 1569.

The threat to Australia's population of legal firearm ownership is wildly overstated and John Howard effectively pulled off the biggest con job in its history by preying on irrational fears.



[https://www.gunsamerica.com/blog/semi-auto-smg-going-hands-hk-sp5k-shot-show-2017/?utm\\_source=email&utm\\_medium=20170117\\_SHOT17\\_1&utm\\_campaign=/blog/semi-auto-smg-going-hands-hk-sp5k-shot-show-2017/](https://www.gunsamerica.com/blog/semi-auto-smg-going-hands-hk-sp5k-shot-show-2017/?utm_source=email&utm_medium=20170117_SHOT17_1&utm_campaign=/blog/semi-auto-smg-going-hands-hk-sp5k-shot-show-2017/)

## A Semi-Auto SMG? Going Hands On with the HK SP5K—SHOT Show 2017

by Michael O. Humphries on January 17, 2017

To learn more, visit <http://hk-usa.com/hk-models/sp5k-2/>.

To purchase on GunsAmerica.com, click this link: <https://www.gunsamerica.com/Search.aspx?T=SP5K>.

H&K says the SP stands for Sporting Pistol (Civilian), but the [SP5K](#) is all MP5K at heart.

### OVERVIEW

The SP5K may not be the most versatile of pistols, but it does have its place. I carried my MP5K when I was driving in combat zones, it is pretty nice to spray out the window if things go pear shaped on you. It is also pretty concealable, and with a bungee sling, arguably easier to be accurate with than a traditional pistol. Having 30 rounds of 9mm pretty much beats the pants off of 17 rounds of the same, so there is always that too.



The HK SP5K gives civilian shooters a semi-auto version of a classic SMG.

## **SPECS**

- Chambering: 9mm
- Barrel: 4.53 inch
- OA Length: 13.9 inches
- Grips: HK
- Sights: HK Diopter
- Action: Blowback , roller delayed
- Finish: Stainless steel
- Weight: 4.2 Lbs
- MSRP: \$2699

## **IMPRESSION**

Tactical world aside though, there is a better reason to want one of these new SP5K models, though. It is just fun to play with. Even after the MP5s had all pretty much gone back to the gear locker in the face of combat reality, they were still a blast to shoot. And more than one firebase has been cleaned out of crows at the hands of a suppressed MP5. The new civilian model is sure to find a home among the H&K fans, and a small enough package to put by the bed for things that go break in the night. I like also the built in hand stop, for protection of those all important digits. They became standard on all breaching sized shotguns, and it makes sense here too. The Picatinny rail on top is a much-desired improvement as well, though the diopter sights work fine too.

## **PRICING & AVAILABILITY**

The SP5K gives HK enthusiasts a chance to own their own version of a really fascinating design. Although its price of \$2,699 is by no means cheap, it will likely appeal to a lot of shooters. The SP5K is available now.

To learn more, visit <http://hk-usa.com/hk-models/sp5k-2/>.

[https://www.gunsamerica.com/blog/non-nfa-short-barreled-shotgun-new-14-mossberg-shockwave-shot-show-2017/?utm\\_source=email&utm\\_medium=20170201\\_SHOT17\\_8&utm\\_campaign=/blog/non-nfa-short-barreled-shotgun-new-14-mossberg-shockwave-shot-show-2017/](https://www.gunsamerica.com/blog/non-nfa-short-barreled-shotgun-new-14-mossberg-shockwave-shot-show-2017/?utm_source=email&utm_medium=20170201_SHOT17_8&utm_campaign=/blog/non-nfa-short-barreled-shotgun-new-14-mossberg-shockwave-shot-show-2017/)

## A Non-NFA Short-Barreled Shotgun? The New 14" Mossberg Shockwave—SHOT Show 2017

by Clay Martin on January 30, 2017

To learn more, visit <https://www.mossberg.com/product/590-shockwave-6-shot-50659/>.

To purchase a Mossberg 590 variant on GunsAmerica.com, click this link:

<https://www.gunsamerica.com/Search.aspx?T=Mossberg%20590>.



The 590 Shockwave from Mossberg offers civilian shooters a 14-inch-barreled shotgun with no NFA restrictions.

### Overview

Have you always wanted to own a short-barreled shotgun but not wanted to deal with the NFA hassle? Well, now there is an easy and simple (and factory-direct) way to do it. The new 590 Shockwave from Mossberg is a 14-inch barreled shotgun that is classified and fully compliant by the BATFE, and does not require a tax stamp for transfers.



The Shockwave can hold five standard shells in the tubular magazine.

### Specs

- **Chambering:** 12 ga.
- **Barrel:** 14 inches
- **OA Length:** 26.37 inches
- **Weight:** 5.25 pounds
- **Grip:** Raptor
- **Sights:** Bead front
- **Action:** Pump
- **Finish:** Matte blued
- **Capacity:** 5+1
- **MSRP:** \$455

## Impression

My first thought when I picked up the Shockwave was of the old “Witness Protection” shotguns. The key to the design is the overall length of more than 26 inches, that (despite the 14-inch barrel) makes it a regular firearm not requiring a tax stamp. The curved “Raptor” pistol grip and the hand-strap forend make for a good-feeling gun. I found out that while the standard shell capacity is 5+1, the Shockwave is adapted to also fire the Aguila Minishells for increased capacity and lower recoil.



The Shockwave reminded the author of the old “Witness Protection” shotguns and enjoyed trying it out on the range.

## Price & Availability

The proposed price of \$455 of this thing is great. That, combined with no NFA hassles, is likely going to make this gun a real hit. Keep an eye out in the coming months for availability as well as a full hands-on review.

To learn more, visit <https://www.mossberg.com/product/590-shockwave-6-shot-50659/>.

## Black Aces has a slick new ultra-compact 10+1 12-gauge pump gun

5/01/15 | by [Max Slowik](#)



Measuring in at 27 inches long this ATF-classified 12-gauge pump “firearm” may legally host a forward pistol grip. By using the Black Aces Tactical magazine system this compact gun has an impressive 10+1 capacity. (Photo: BAT)

[Black Aces Tactical](#) makes interesting pump shotguns for sport, self-defense and law enforcement use. Its newest gun, though, is a real head-turner. Meet the BAT DT Model.

The DT Model exists in a legal bubble – it’s simply a “firearm” according to the ATF. It starts its life as a virgin billet machined receiver and is sold as shown: with an 8.5-inch barrel, SIG SB15 arm brace, Magpul RVG forward grip, 10-round BAT box magazine and optional folding brace extension. The receiver extension brings the overall length up to 27 inches long, critical to its classification as a firearm.

Because the DT model is just a firearm, there’s no need for tax stamps or extended wait times. You can buy these just like you would any other firearm. BAT includes copies of relevant ATF letters that prove its status as a firearm with each DT Model.

“The DT model solves the main issue with all 12-gauge AOW or SBS shotguns,” said BAT CEO Eric Lemoine. “Traditionally, these weapons suffer from both a lack of capacity and excessive reload times. However, the DT enjoys 10 rounds feeding from the stick magazine as well as lightning fast reloads.”

Lemoine said the company does this to eliminate confusion among valued dealers and customers.

“The ATF is very clear about the measurement of the overall length of a weapon, and what’s equally as important is the customer’s understanding of the law and what it means when using this weapon,” Lemoine said.



With the arm brace folded the package is even more compact. The folding extension also provides a single-point sling mount. *(Photo: BAT)*

Every DT Model is built on a precision-machined receiver, not a [cut-and-welded receiver](#) for legal and quality purposes. Cut-and-welded receivers lose their classification as shotguns along with any NFA-regulated status but are not guaranteed to be as rigid or reliable due to the destructive nature of their transformation.

A cut-and-welded receiver is made by taking a standard shotgun, stripping it down to the receiver, cutting in half, and then welding them back together. By cutting and welding a receiver, the part is remade into a completely new gun as far as the law is concerned.

The DT Model is offered in two configurations, with and without folding extension. It runs \$1,179 without the fixed extension and a little more, \$1,299, for the folding model. Additional BAT mags are very affordable at just [\\$15 each](#). Black Aces also offers light and compact 5-round magazines and 2-round mags for hunting and carries 12- and 20-round drum Promag magazines.

The standard DT Models feature a MIL-A-8625 Type 3 hard-anodized finish and BAT also offers a nice spread of Cerakote color options. If you're looking for a compact 12-gauge and don't want to compromise on capacity, head over to [Black Aces Tactical](#) and check out its guns. They don't get much smaller than this.

[http://tribunist.com/lifestyle/anti-gunner-calls-out-mike-rowe-for-speaking-at-shot-show-he-sets-her-straight/?utm\\_source=SR](http://tribunist.com/lifestyle/anti-gunner-calls-out-mike-rowe-for-speaking-at-shot-show-he-sets-her-straight/?utm_source=SR)

## Anti-Gunner Calls Out Mike Rowe for Speaking at Pro-Gun Dinner. He Sets Her Straight.

By Tribunist Staff on January 15, 2017



Mike Rowe. What else is there to say about the guy? He loves his country and he loves to shoot guns. He is all about hard-working Americans, and once an anti-gun advocate messaged him on Facebook to discourage his decision to speak at the SHOT show he put her in her place.



He wrote: Off The Wall

Off The Wall

Marla W writes...

I just read that you're speaking at the SHOT show in Las Vegas this week. VERY disappointing. There are already too many guns in this country, and too much faux patriotism surrounding the second amendment. I can't believe you'd risk your good name associating with a bunch of gun nuts. You've lost a fan.

Well, hi there Marla. And Happy Sunday!

It's true, I'll be in Vegas this week, addressing a roomful of people who like to shoot guns. I'm not sure what I'm going to say yet – probably the same thing I tell anyone who invites me to discuss the various ways we might close America's skills gap. But one thing for sure – while I'm at there, I'm going to make sure I see my friends at The SEAL Family Foundation.



You'd love these guys, Marla. They look after the families of those involved with Naval Special Warfare. Remember Ty Woods and Glenn Dougherty – two of the men who died in Benghazi? The SEAL Family Foundation raised over \$500,000 for their memorial fund.

Anyway, they have a booth at The SHOT Show, so I'm going to stop by and thank them for their efforts, as well as for their help with a team-building event I arranged for my staff before Christmas.



I don't know if you've had much experience with "corporate team-building," Marla, but I've never cared much for such endeavors. I mean really, how much "team spirit" can you inspire at a golf outing? How much "career motivation" can one glean from a "zip line adventure?" How much "self-directed goal setting" can be extracted from watching a magician levitate in some hotel ballroom?



I wanted to do something different for the millennials at mikeroweWORKS, so I called a guy I met through The SEAL Family Foundation, and asked if he could arrange a "non-traditional corporate team event." Something that might allow my team to rub elbows with veterans. "Ideally," I said, "I'd like something fun, but uncomfortable."

Well, it was a great day, Marla, and I wish you could have joined us. We started with skydiving. Jade ditched her five-inch heels, Jordan put her hair in a ponytail, and along with Taylor, (who will do anything,) and Aaron, (who hadn't even officially started yet,) they jumped without hesitation. Good for them! Even my old pal Chuck – a non-millennial who once swore he'd never jump out of a perfectly good airplane – turned his fate over to a

stranger strapped to his back. (Granted, he crapped his pants on the way out the door, but that's always been a part of his morning ritual, and hardly noteworthy.)



After that, we reconnoitered to an undisclosed location and introduced ourselves to Matt, Bobby, Jeremy, and Danielle – four SEALs who spent the last fifteen years getting shot at by bad guys and returning the favor – with far superior results. They in turn, introduced us to 20,000 rounds of live ammunition, and an arsenal of firearms not currently available for purchase in the state of California.

For the next few hours, the SEALs took my employees through an accelerated small arms training session. There was an emphasis on safety, obviously. Some of my people had never held a gun before, much less fired one. So there was some...trepidation. But after an hour of intense instruction, everyone got comfortable with the Glock 9mm. Then the AR-15. Then a variety of sniper rifles. We all got to shoot an M-1 from WWII, a Steyr from Austria, the Scar Heavy...even a Barrett 50 caliber. Fifty yards, a hundred yards, then two hundred yards. Their progress was impressive. Their enthusiasm was infectious. At 400 yards, my office manager was hitting a target the size of a pie plate. Unbelievable.



Afterwards, we ate ribs and drank beer in a local bar with our instructors. We also listened to war stories from Ramadi and Fallujah and a few places I hadn't heard of, from people who wrote the book on teamwork. Fascinating. Eye-opening. Humbling.

I wish I could share their stories here, but for all sorts of reasons, I can't. What I can tell do, is tell you how remarkable it is to see people who have never even held a gun go from uncomfortable, to tentative, to

comfortable, to very comfortable, to empowered. One day Marla, I hope you'll have the opportunity to experience something similar, and listen to the stories of people who use guns to protect us.



Obviously, you and I have a difference of opinion regarding the role of the second amendment in modern society. But thanks to the first amendment, we can express our differences in whatever way we prefer. We can criticize those with whom we disagree, or we can try to persuade them. We can make a case as to why we believe what we believe, or we can simply announce our disappointment to the world, as though our feelings alone are enough to justify our beliefs.

As for you Marla – you can either stomp off in a cloud of righteous indignation, or you can accompany me to the SHOT Show as my guest, and see what all the fuss is about.

Either way, it's nice to have choices, don't you think?



Best,  
Mike

PS. If you do want to come, better RSVP quick – I'm leaving tomorrow morning, and you're gonna need your own hotel room. (Just so we're clear...)

xo  
Mike

## The “Center Mass” Myth and Ending a Gunfight -Triggernometry

by Administrator on October 10, 2010

# Triggernometry

### The “Center Mass” Myth and Ending a Gunfight

By Jim Higginbotham

Surviving a gunfight isn't what you think it is. Don't let conventional wisdom get you killed. A well placed round to “center mass” in your attacker may not take him out of the fight. Lots of people stay in the fight after “center mass” hits, and some even win it. If you expect to win your gunfight, you have to make sure that you have effectively ended the threat of your attacker. One, two or even several well placed “center mass” shots may not do what you think it will, and learning to recognize this before you gunfight may save your life.

There is a self styled self defense “expert” under every rock, and perhaps two behind every bush, these days. If you have a pet theory on what might work on the street then you can probably find a champion for that idea who actually charges people to teach them that skill. But few of the experts out there have ever been in gunfights, and even fewer have studied real gunfights to see how things really work out when the bullets really fly for blood.

There are more misconceptions out there than I can cover in one article but the one that probably gets to me the most, even over all the caliber wars that rage interminably in the print and cyber media, is the nearly universal acceptance that shooting a miscreant “center mass” with \_\_\_\_\_ (fill in your favorite make, model and caliber) shooting \_\_\_\_\_ (fill in your favorite ammunition) hyper speed truck killer is practically guaranteed to get the job done.

Having studied in this field from a number of decades, I have run into plenty of cases where bullets did not do what folks would have assumed. And I have now collected enough of these that I think that rather than being anomalies, they are actually closer to the norm. Center mass hits in a gunfight do not in most cases end the fight. Erroneous assumptions can get you killed!

There is a well known video in training circles in which a Highway Patrol officer shoots an armed subject 5 times “center mass” (this is not my assessment but the statement of his immediate supervisors which are interviewed on the full version of the hour long tape) with his 4” .357 Magnum revolver firing hollow point ammunition. All 5 hits failed to do the job and the subject was able to fire one round which struck the officer in the armpit. That round wandered around in the chest cavity and found his heart. The officer unfortunately died at the scene and his attacker is alive today.

In a class I conduct under the title “Fire For Effect” I start out by showing a video of standoff in which a hostage taker is fired on by police with .223 rifles and .40 caliber handguns. Throughout the whole disturbing sequence, which lasts about 10 seconds, the bad guy is hit multiple times in the torso with both rifle and pistol rounds. You can see him place his non-firing hand to his chest, clearly a lung is hit. However he is able to shoot his hostage 3 times, not rapidly. The hostage, a trim female, is active throughout the scene but later died from her wounds. In this case both the attacker and the victim had “center mass” hits that had no immediate effect.



I have accumulated confirmed incidents in which people have been shot “center mass” up to 55 times with 9mm JHP ammunition (the subject was hit 106 times, but 55 of those hits were ruled by the coroner to be each lethal in and of themselves) before he went down. During training at the FBI Academy we were told of a case in which agents shot a bank robber 65 times with 9mm, .223 and 00 buckshot – he survived! These are not rare cases. They happen quite often.

If a gunfight ever comes your way, your attacker may fall to a hit to the liver and he may not. He may fall to two or three hits to the kidneys, intestines or spleen, but he may not. He will certainly be in bad health. He likely will not survive, but what he does for the next several seconds to a few minutes is not guaranteed because you hit him “center mass.”

Heart and lung hits don’t statistically fare much better. I have three students and three other acquaintances who were all shot in a lung at the outset of gunfights. The students came to me after their fights to learn how to keep from getting shot again. Last time I checked all of those people were still alive and the people who shot them are still dead. Every one of them was able to respond effectively after being shot “center mass”, one might even say they were shot in the “A-zone”. And they were shot with .38 Special (three of them), 9mm, .357 Magnum and 8mm Mauser, so it’s not all about caliber. One of those was a Chicom 12.7 mm round! He lived next door to me for many years.

So, what’s a person to do? First off, realize that one shot, even a fairly well placed shot may not do the job so don’t set there and admire your handiwork or wait for it to take effect. But even two hits may not get the job done!

After years of trying to get a grasp on this I have come to look at the results of shooting a living breathing target – be it a human attacker or a game animal – as falling into 3 or 4 categories. They are :

1. Instant Collapse – this takes place 1 to 2 seconds from the shot being fired
2. Rapid Collapse – this can take from 3 to 15 seconds and is quite common.
3. Marginal Effect – this can even be a lethal hit but it takes from 15 to 300 (yes 300!) or even more seconds.
4. The 4th is simply unacceptable and is a total failure.

The last category we don’t like to discuss but happens too often . We saw it recently in Washington with a Center Mass hit from an officer’s pistol and the subject was still walking around the next day.

What is “effective” shooting? Sad to say, it is demanding. It is also, I think, variable depending on the conditions. For example, the robber armed with a scattergun who is standing 10 feet away must be stopped “right now!” If you do not bring about Instant Collapse someone may very well die...that someone may be you!

On the other hand, if there is a gang banger launching bullets in your general direction using un-aimed fire about 20 yards away then a hit that brings about Rapid Collapse might do the job.

I cannot imagine a Marginally Effective result being very desirable in any case, but it does buy you some time in some cases.

How does this relate to hits? In order to achieve Instant Collapse you must scramble the “circuitry” that keeps the bad guy on the attack. That means the brain or spinal cord.

The head is not only a fairly difficult target to hit in the real world – because it moves a lot – but it is also difficult to penetrate and get a pistol bullet into the place it must be to be effective. For normal purposes we might write off the head, keeping it in reserve for very special circumstances.

The spine is not that easy to hit either. It isn't large, and to be effective the hit needs to be in the upper 1/3 of the spine or at a point about level with the tip of the sternum. I think that is around T11. But of course the huge problem is that it is hidden by the rest of the body. We are the good guys, we don't go around shooting people in the back. So the exact location is something that can only be learned through lots of practice on 3D targets. Your point of aim on the surface changes with the angle at which the target is facing.

The bottom of the spine isn't much use. I know of several people shot in the pelvis. It did not break them down as many theorize. I am not saying it doesn't happen but in the only case I know of in which it did the person who was "anchored" with a .357 magnum to the pelvis killed the person that shot him – you can shoot just fine from prone.

A shot, or preferably multiple shots to the heart and major arteries above the heart (not below!) may achieve Rapid Collapse, but not always. Officer Stacy Lim was shot in the heart at contact distance with a .357 Magnum and is still alive and her attacker is still dead! Score one for the good guys...or in this case gals!

So now what constitutes Marginal Effectiveness? A hit to the lungs! Even multiple hits to the lungs. Unfortunately though, most often lung hits are effective in ending the fight because the subject decides to quit the fight, not because he MUST. A famous Colonel Louis LeGarde once wrote what is considered "the" book on gunshot wounds. 65% of his patients shot through the lungs – with rifles! – survived with the predominant treatment being only bed rest!

### **Effective Practice and "Dynamic Response"**

The goal of practice, one would think, is to make correct, effective shooting techniques a matter of reflex, so that you don't have to think about what you are doing in a gunfight.

Most people will perform under stress at about 50 to 60% as well as they do on the range...and that is if they practice a lot! If they only go to the range once every other month that performance level decreases dramatically. Shooting and weapons handling are very perishable skills. Also folks tend to practice the wrong stuff inadvertently. I put this in the classification of "practicing getting killed" but that too is a topic for another day.

Let's talk about a basic response, what I call "Dynamic Response." Situations vary and this is not meant to be a universal answer, just one that will work for about 80% of scenarios.

*Movement and Variation doesn't mean inaccurate shooting. In a real gunfight you and your adversary will most likely be moving. [Click here](#) if you can't see the video.*

It is pointless to stand still on the range and shoot a stationary target, unless you simply want to polish up some marksmanship fundamentals. That is a necessary part of learning to shoot. But if you are practicing for a fight, then fight!

Some rules.

1. Don't go to the range without a covering garment – unless of course you always carry your gun exposed (no comment).
2. Don't practice drawing your gun fast – ever! – while standing still.

Part of the Dynamic Response is to step off the line of attack (or on rare occasions that are dependent on circumstances backwards or forwards) and present the weapon with as much alacrity as you can muster and

engage the target with overwhelming and accurate fire! By the way, never assume a fight is completely over just because you canceled one threat. Don't practice "standing down" too quickly. We have a video attached which will hopefully give you the right idea.

I wish there was a formula of how to stand and how to hold your gun but there really isn't. We don't do "Weaver vs. Isosceles vs. Modern Iso vs. whatever". We don't do "Thumbs Crossed vs. Thumbs Forward vs. Thumb Up...never mind." Those are things for you to work out on your own. You use what makes YOU effective not what works for a guy who practices 50,000 rounds the week before a big match (that is not an exaggeration). Competitive shooters will throw out advice on what works for them. It may not work for you.

There is also not "one true gun". Your skill is far more important than what you carry, within reason. We are not really talking about "stopping power", whatever that is, here but rather effectiveness.

I can find no real measure – referred to by some as a mathematical model – of stopping power or effectiveness. And I have looked for 44 years now! Generally speaking I do see that bigger holes (in the right place) are more effective than smaller holes but the easy answer to that is just to shoot your smaller gun more – "a big shot is just a little shot that kept shooting". True, I carry a .45 but that is because I am lazy and want to shoot less. A good bullet in 9mm in the right place (the spine!) will get the job done. If you hit the heart, 3 or 4 expanded 9mms will do about what a .45 expanding bullet will do or one might equal .45 ball...IF (note the big if) it penetrates. That is not based on any formula, it is based on what I have found to happen – sometimes real life does not make sense.

Practicing Dynamic Response means practicing with an open mind. Circumstances in a real gunfight are unpredictable and the more unpredictability you mix up into your practice the more your brain will be preparing itself for a possible real gunfight.

In real life, your gunfight may be dark, cold, rainy, etc. The subject may be anorexic (a lot of bad guys are not very healthy) or he may be obese (effective penetration and stopping power of your weapon). There are dozens of modifiers which change the circumstance, most not under your control. My only advice on this is what I learned from an old tanker: "Shoot until the target changes shape or catches fire!" Vertical to horizontal is a shape change, and putting that one more round into his chest at point blank range may catch his clothes on fire, even without using black powder.

We tell our military folks to be prepared to hit an enemy fighter from 3-7 times with 5.56 ball, traveling at over 3,000 feet per second. This approach sometimes worked, but I know of several cases where it has not, even "center mass."

With handguns, and with expanding bullets, it is even more unpredictable, but through years of study I have developed a general formula, subject to the above mentioned unpredictable circumstances.

- 2-3 hits with a .45
- 4-6 with a .40
- 5-8 with a 9mm

With a revolver, the rounds are not necessarily more effective but I would practice shooting 3 in a .38 or .357 merely because I want 3 left for other threats. Not that those next three won't follow quickly if the target hasn't changed shape around my front sight blade. A .41, .44 or .45 Colt I would probably drop to two. Once again, they are not that much more effective than a .45 Auto but I don't have the bullets to waste.

In any case, I want to stress the part that it is more about how you shoot than what you shoot, within reason. It is also more about the mindset and condition of the subject you are shooting which is not under your control. Take control – buy good bullets and put them where they count the most! And remember “anyone worth shooting once is worth shooting a whole lot!” (but please stop when the threat is cancelled, we don’t advocate “finishing shots”).

Gunfights are ugly things. I don’t like to talk about the blood and guts aspects of defending life any more than the next guy. But it is our lives we are talking about here. By researching how gunfights are fought, and more importantly, how gunfights are won, it may give both of us the edge if a gunfight ever comes our way. I hope to cover many of the points I have learned and learned to train others in over the coming months. It isn’t as easy to write about it as it is to teach it in person, but you can only succeed if you are willing to try.

I hope you enjoy the ride.

Press on!

Jim

[https://www.gunsamerica.com/blog/savage-take-ar-msr10-long-range-308-shot-show-2017/?utm\\_source=email&utm\\_medium=20170131\\_SHOT17\\_7&utm\\_campaign=/blog/savage-take-ar-msr10-long-range-308-shot-show-2017/](https://www.gunsamerica.com/blog/savage-take-ar-msr10-long-range-308-shot-show-2017/?utm_source=email&utm_medium=20170131_SHOT17_7&utm_campaign=/blog/savage-take-ar-msr10-long-range-308-shot-show-2017/)

## **A Savage Take on the AR: The MSR10 Long Range .308—SHOT Show 2017**

by Clay Martin on January 28, 2017

To learn more, visit <http://www.savagearms.com/msr/>.

To purchase a Savage MSR on GunsAmerica.com, click this link <https://www.gunsamerica.com/Search.aspx?T=Savage%20MSR>.

### **Overview**

Savage has decided to step into the AR market with its new MSR line (made up of .223 and .308 variants). Savage has always been one of the most underrated rifle brands in my opinion, delivering more accuracy per dollar than anyone else. My first rifle was actually a Savage, a 110 model in .30-06, that delivered half-MOA accuracy out of the box. With Savage in the AR game now, the AR world may get stood on its head.



The new MSR10 series from Savage brings shooters a .308 Win. or 6.5 Creedmoor AR-pattern rifle. Image courtesy of Savage Arms.



The new MSR appears to be a rock-solid AR-style rifle for Savage fans.

## Specs

- **Chambering:** .308 Win., 6.5 Creedmoor
- **Barrel:** 20 inch
- **OA Length:** 48 5/8th inch
- **Stock:** Magpul
- **Sights:** N/A
- **Action:** Semi-auto
- **Finish:** Hard Anodized
- **MSRP:** \$2,284.00

## Impression

The model we shot at range day was the Savage MSR10 Long Range. Available in .308 and 6.5 Creedmoor, this is one of the few semi-auto guns we saw released in the 6.5mm cartridge. The MSR10LR comes with a host of features, and is a side-charger for manipulating the bolt. I am not huge on the side chargers, but it has become very popular in recent years. It is not something you normally see at this price point either.

Range day is no place to truly test accuracy, but Savage assures us this will be where they make their name among ARs. 5R rifling, Melonited barrels, and a long history of making AR barrels for other manufacturers promise to bring tight groups. This is what Savage is famous for; one ragged hole at an affordable price.



The author had a chance to try out the MSR10LR on the range at SHOT Show 2017 and is excited about doing a full test on it.

We will have to wait and see, but we should be doing a full review on this model in short order. I cannot imagine Savage releasing an inaccurate gun in this AR market. Not only would that be an insult to all the Savage loyalists, but it would torpedo sales in a savagely competitive segment of the firearms industry.

## **Price & Availability**

The MSR10 LR is not available on the market yet, but should be in the coming months. It is priced at \$2,284. If it can live up to Savage's reputation for reliability and accuracy, then it will definitely be a winner and a real option for those looking for a big-bore MSR.

To learn more, visit <http://www.savgearms.com/msr/>.

[https://www.gunsamerica.com/blog/american-made-ar-15-shotgun-coming-standard-manufacturing-sko-shot-show-2017/?utm\\_source=email&utm\\_medium=20170131\\_SHOT17\\_7&utm\\_campaign=/blog/american-made-ar-15-shotgun-coming-standard-manufacturing-sko-shot-show-2017/](https://www.gunsamerica.com/blog/american-made-ar-15-shotgun-coming-standard-manufacturing-sko-shot-show-2017/?utm_source=email&utm_medium=20170131_SHOT17_7&utm_campaign=/blog/american-made-ar-15-shotgun-coming-standard-manufacturing-sko-shot-show-2017/)

## **American Made AR-15 Shotgun Coming – Standard Manufacturing SKO – SHOT Show 2017**

by Paul Helinski on January 24, 2017

Standard Manufacturing  
<http://www.stdgun.com/>

From the makers of the now famous DP-12, double barrel shotgun, comes a new gas gun on the familiar AR-15 looking platform. It will be called the SKO, and it takes what are now fairly common 1919 mags.

We were one of the early reviews on the original AR-15 shotgun, the RAAC MKA-1919, and that gun was a huge disappointment. I now have a reliably working one, after almost double the original investment. In hindsight, the gun should never have been given the confidence that it was, but we were all pretty excited back then.

This year's SHOT Show had no less than 5 new 12 gauge magazine fed gas shotguns that I saw, and I have a couple other videos with the creators coming. Some of them seemed hopeful, one in particular. But for those of you out there with doubts over yet another Turkish gas gun, it will be nice to try this new gun from Standard Manufacturing.

When the DP-12 first hit the market, I think most of us thought of it as a novelty gun. Then we got the review guns, and wow, it is surprisingly handy, and a crapload of what has proven to be flawlessly reliable firepower.

Gas guns aren't rocket science. And at this point, reliably feeding from a shotgun mag isn't that difficult either. I'm sure some of those Turkish guns will be ok, but why bother? There are rarely parts available when they eventually break, and now we'll have a US gun with US customer service and US accountability. There is a world of difference between product integrity with an importer vs. a real manufacturer. We look forward to checking out the Standard Manufacturing SKO.

[https://www.gunsamerica.com/blog/colt-unveils-combat-unit-ar-shot-show-2017/?utm\\_source=email&utm\\_medium=20170131\\_SHOT17\\_7&utm\\_campaign=/blog/colt-unveils-combat-unit-ar-shot-show-2017/](https://www.gunsamerica.com/blog/colt-unveils-combat-unit-ar-shot-show-2017/?utm_source=email&utm_medium=20170131_SHOT17_7&utm_campaign=/blog/colt-unveils-combat-unit-ar-shot-show-2017/)

## Colt Unveils the Combat Unit AR — SHOT Show 2017

by S.H. Blannelberry on January 29, 2017

Visit the [Colt website](#) for more information.

Also, shop for [Colt firearms on GunsAmerica](#).

### Overview

The AR market seems to be getting more and more crowded, so it only makes sense that the *original* would have a counter punch up its sleeve to cut through all the noise. This year at SHOT, we got a chance to lay our hands on it. Enter the Colt Combat Unit AR.

The first change on the block is the mid-length gas system. This is the first one Colt has ever produced (for the civilian market). In Colt's own words, "this is long overdue," and it's sure to excite the legion of Colt fanboys out there. As Mark says in the video, "It's just right."

Also new is the Colt Centurion M-LOK hand guard, a great addition to this platform.



The Colt Combat Unit AR.

### Specs

- Chambering: 5.56 NATO

- Barrel: 16 inch
- OA Length: 33-36.5 inches
- Grips: Magpul MOE
- Sights: N/A
- Action: Semi Auto
- Finish: manganese phosphate
- MSRP: \$1,299

## Impression

All of the Colt Combat Unit firearms are produced with input from the professional shooters and trainers under the Colt banner. Colt has gone with a 1:7 twist rate at a time when most choose 1:8, but I think we can chalk this up to military heritage. The standard M-4 carbine uses the same.



The Colt Combat Unit carbine was developed with the help of legendary trainers Mike Pannone, Ken Hackathorn, and Daryl Holland.

## Price and Availability

At \$1,299, the Colt Combat UnitAR is at the upper end of the price spectrum for an entry level gun, but it will undoubtedly find a following among the Colt purists in the market.

Visit the [Colt website](#) for more information.

[https://www.gunsamerica.com/blog/u-s-marine-proof-bipod-rugged-accu-tac-bipods-shot-show-2017/?utm\\_source=email&utm\\_medium=20170131\\_SHOT17\\_7&utm\\_campaign=/blog/u-s-marine-proof-bipod-rugged-accu-tac-bipods-shot-show-2017/](https://www.gunsamerica.com/blog/u-s-marine-proof-bipod-rugged-accu-tac-bipods-shot-show-2017/?utm_source=email&utm_medium=20170131_SHOT17_7&utm_campaign=/blog/u-s-marine-proof-bipod-rugged-accu-tac-bipods-shot-show-2017/)

## A U.S. Marine-Proof Bipod? Rugged Accu-Tac Bipods—SHOT Show 2017.

by Clay Martin on January 25, 2017

To learn more, visit <http://www.accu-tac.com/>.

### Overview

Bipods are a very important part of precision rifle, and I wouldn't dream of running a sniper rifle without them. The average consumer or sportsman might not appreciate that, but they make life a lot easier when you are talking about long range shooting. I have been running the same brand and style since about 2005, but I am always on the look out for better. Accu-Tac may finally be able to deliver that.



Accu-Tac bipods are ultra-rugged and overbuilt for durability.

### Specs

Finish Flat Black Hard Anodize  
Min. Height 6.25" – 158.75mm  
Max. Height 9.75" – 247.65mm  
Min. Stance 11" – 279.4mm (legs at 90 degrees)  
Max. Stance 13" – 330.2mm (legs at 90 degrees)  
Closed Position Width 3.25" – 82.5mm  
Closed Position Length 9" – 228.6mm  
Weight 20.35 ounces  
MSRP: \$276

### Impression

The Accu-Tac model looks overbuilt, but the lines flow nicely. And being all cut from aluminum, it's not nearly as heavy as it looks. Every part that locks up does so in an industrial way; no notches full of mud for this bad

boy. The adjustments are smooth and quick, but by depressing the release lever you can also set your needed height quietly.



The SR5-QD is a quick-detach design intended for quick installation and removal.



The bipod employs adjustable legs for maximum adaptability.

## **Price & Availability**

The price tag on the SR5-QD bipod I saw is steep at \$276, but that is the price of quality. I saw three sets of a similarly priced competing brand break at Mammoth Sniper Challenge, just in my squad. If we are talking about a tactical gun, a lifetime warranty doesn't help much if you are dead. The company told me on camera that it has had exactly ZERO warranty repair requests of the Accu-Tac model, which is a pretty bold statement. I assure you, we will be durability testing this soon.



Clay had a chance to take a look at Accu-Tac's products at SHOT Show 2017.

Another nice thing about the Accu-Tac, it will soon have replaceable legs for a change of height should you need it. If winter in Boise keeps up like it has, we will need the 14-inch model soon. Look for this set up in every precision rifle review we do until we break it, or I concede that it is Marine-proof.

To learn more, visit <http://www.accu-tac.com/>.

<http://www.thefirearmblog.com/blog/2017/02/03/news-heckler-koch-hk433/>

## Breaking: News from [Heckler & Koch](#) – HK433 A New Rifle!



It's not every day you get the privilege to write about a new [rifle](#) from **Heckler & Koch**, but we have the honor to present the brand new **HK433**.

It was shown to a very selected number of people at **SHOT Show** and Heckler & Koch just ran an ad in the German [magazine](#) "*Europäische Sicherheit & Technik*" nr 2 (2017).

[Follow the The Firearm Blog Suppressors Channel](#)

This full page ad, partly pictured below, is more or less the only official information from [Heckler & Koch](#) that this rifle exists but TFB have been working hard to find some exclusive pictures and information.



# HK433

## Das neue Sturmgewehr von Heckler & Koch

Essentially the **HK433** brings two battle proven [HK](#) rifles together, the **G36** and the [HK416](#).

The [Heckler & Koch](#) family now consists of 4 types: G36 (Rifle), G36K (Carbine), HK416 (Rifle) and HK433 (Rifle).

The G36, G36K (Carbine), HK416 and HK433 in comparison. Source: *Europäische Sicherheit & Technik*.

## G36, HK416 und HK433 im Vergleich

	G36	G36K	HK416	HK433
				
Einsatzzweck	Standard-Sturmgewehr	Kurzes Sturmgewehr („Karabiner“)	Standard-Sturmgewehr	Standard-Sturmgewehr
Funktionsprinzip	Kurzhub-Gasdrucklader mit Drehkopfverschluss	Kurzhub-Gasdrucklader mit Drehkopfverschluss	Kurzhub-Gasdrucklader mit Drehkopfverschluss	Kurzhub-Gasdrucklader mit Drehkopfverschluss
Kaliber	5,56 mm x 45	5,56 mm x 45	5,56 mm x 45	5,56 mm x 45
Magazinkapazität	30	30	10/20/30	30
Kadenz	750 Schuss/min.	750 Schuss/min.	850 Schuss/min.	700 Schuss/min
Rohrlänge	480 mm	318 mm	HK416 11": 279 mm HK416 14,5": 368 mm HK416 16,5": 419 mm HK416 20": 505 mm	HK433 11": 280 mm HK433 12,5": 318 mm HK433 14,5": 368 mm HK433 16,5": 421 mm HK433 18,9": 480 mm HK433 20": 503 mm
Länge (Schulterstütze ausgezogen/ eingeschoben)	1.002/755 mm	833/613 mm	HK416 11": 805/709 mm HK416 14,5": 893/797 mm HK416 16,5": 944/848 mm HK416 20": 1.030/934 mm	HK433 11": 843/577 mm HK433 12,5": 881/613 mm HK433 14,5": 931/634 mm HK433 16,5": 989/705 mm HK433 18,9": 1032/764 mm HK433 20": 1060/792 mm
Gewicht (ungeladen)	3.630 g	3.370 g	HK416 11": 3.120 g HK416 14,5": 3.490 g HK416 16,5": 3.560 g HK416 20": 3.850 g	HK433 11" = 3.250 g HK433 12,5" = 3.300 g HK433 14,5" = 3.400 g HK433 16,5" = 3.500 g HK433 18,9" = 3.600 g HK433 20" = 3.650 g

Looking at the technical specifications of the HK433 it should have good chances to compete well and be able to win the contract after the G36 is to be phased out, probably around 2019.

The German Special Forces contract, for later in 2017, my guess is that they will most likely chose the [HK 416 A5](#).

We're not trusted with any sort of price list yet, but reliable information says that the [HK416](#) is too expensive for the German Army, but the HK433 would suit the budget much better. I am sure this goes for many other countries and their budgets too.



The HK433 uses the NATO standard 5,56 mm [x 45](#) mm and a short-stroke piston, but the system is prepared for other calibers like **7,62 mm NATO** and **.300 Blackout** as well as **7,62x39 Kalashnikov**.

The source (*Europäische Sicherheit & Technik*) mentions that the 7,62 mm NATO version will be called **HK231**.

I guess we will find out more with time, but if the [HK](#) comes with **7,62×39 Kalashnikov** – called **HK123** – it could be very interesting for a few armies even within NATO. As recently reported, Ukraine are having some issues finding a way to [live with both NATO and former East bloc ammunition and rifles](#).

There is absolutely no other official information available at this time on any of these new [HK](#) models, so we will have to wait and see.

The barrel lengths will be from 11 “, 12.5”, 14.5 “, 16.5”, 18.9” up to 20 and they are cold-hammered and hard chromed-lined. The precision is described as “far above average”.



Just like the [Steyr-Rheinmetall RS556](#), it is possible to change the barrel on an operator level.

The gas pressure can be set without using a tool, to accommodate the function with or without a sound suppressor.

It's possible to mount either the 40mm grenade launchers **HK269** or the and **GLM / GLMA1 (M320 Grenade Launcher Module)** on the Picatinny rail underneath the [rifle](#) (at least with the “normal” barrel lengths).



There is also an optional bayonet mount.



The upper and [handguard](#) is manufactured from high-strength aluminum, with a long and continuous Picatinny rail. In fact it looks to be monolith, and the [sight](#) line looks lower than some of the competitors.

The keyhole interface are the German Army (Bundeswehr) standardized “H Key” at 3 and 9 o’clock.

The rifle is built to function according to and within the NATO defined temperature band, which goes from extremely cold to extremely hot temperatures.

Some of the internal sliding parts are described as “self-lubricating”, which most likely means that they have some kind of coating.

Below: A “Four-Three-Three” in full-auto. The sound suppressor, most likely a **B&T Rotex**.



I am told from people that held the HK433, that the charging handle is similar to the [HK G3](#). Judging from the two only pictures I've seen of the HK433 from the **left side** this is correct.

Below: Note the G3 style charging handle.



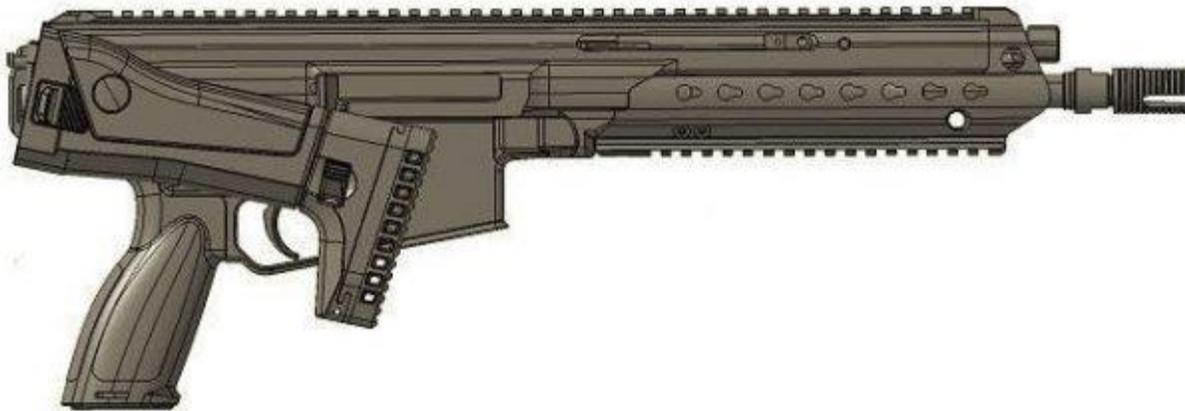
This is probably the best picture of the HK433 I've seen so far. This looks like a really nice [rifle](#).



All of the controls are described as ambidextrous and individually settable, so we can, therefore, presume that it's possible to interchange the charging handle to the right side as well.

The [magazine](#) well is NATO STANAG compatible so it will work with [HK416](#) and AR-15 magazines.

The stock is adjustable in length and height and hinged. The length adjustments offer five positions.



Translated from the [Heckler & Koch](#) ad:

- **Modular and light construction. Compact dimensions.**
- **Barrel length individually configurable. Simple end-user level barrel change.**
- **Completely ambidextrous manipulation for right and left handed shooters.**
- **Non reciprocating charging handle with integrated forward assist. Switchable w/o tools.**
- **Lower receiver with ambidextrous manipulation for G36 and [HK416](#) users.**
- **Drop safe according to AC225/D14 with and w/o applied safety.**
- **[Upper receiver](#) with full length STANAG rail in 12 o'clock position. Hand guard with Hkey interface on 3 and 9 o'clock position. Picatinny rail on 6 o'clock position.**
- **Length adjustable folding stock with height adjustable cheek weld. Weapon also usable with stock folded.**
- **Optional receiver integrated maintenance free shot counter.**
- **Tool less disassembly / assembly of major components.**
- **Weapon can be set to safe in all loading conditions.**
- **Lots of accessories available.**
- **Made 100% in Germany**

The “*Optional receiver integrated maintenance free shot counter*” is automated translation at work, and most likely is a battery-free shot counter placed inside the lower. This makes it easier to judge a maintenance situation and also give valuable feedback, as a digital logbook. FN Herstal has a similar system.

# HK433 ASSAULT RIFLE

## FUNCTIONAL ELEMENTS



Larry Vickers posted this on his Facebook.

*UPDATE; [RIFLE](#) IS CALLED HK433 – Just got this from a buddy in Germany; he says the [HK416](#) is too expensive for the German Army so HK has developed this [rifle](#) as a potential new service rifle. He called it the HK ‘Masada’ as it very much resembles the Magpul Masada – which is very interesting in that the Masada was inspired to some degree by the HK XM8*



Some of the competitors to the HK433 are as follows: C.G. Haenel/Caracal CAR 816, [Colt](#) Canada/Diemaco C8SFW, HK416 A5 (G38), LWRCI M6-G, Schmeisser M4, IWI X95, Rheinmetall/Steyr-Mannlicher RS556, [SIG Sauer](#) SIG MCX, Swiss Arms SG 553, Thales F90, Beretta ARX-160, B&T APC556, CZ BREN 2, FN Herstal FN SCAR-Light and FB Radom MSBS.

I think we will hear a lot more about the HK433 in the future, and that many armies will adopt it.

One thing surprises me, and that's the hump-styled stock. The drawback with this design is that you will get a different cheek weld depending on if you are standing, kneeling or laying down.

(Please excuse any translation mistakes and any other mistakes for that matter. We try to be as accurate as possible, but at this point in time there is no official source.)



If the HK433 is available at Enforce-Tac or IWA in Germany we will lay our hands on it for the first time.



<https://www.gunsamerica.com/blog/handi-racker-help-racking-semi-auto-slides/>

## Handi-Racker: Help Racking Semi-Auto Slides – Guest ‘Tuber Justin Opinion

by Justin Opinion on October 28, 2013

\$24.95 <http://www.handi-racker.com/>



A simple push forward slides the rack with Handi-Racker.

Ladies, have you ever been advised to “just use a revolver” because you have trouble racking the slide on a semi-automatic handgun? Men, ever feel frustrated that you can’t grip the slide as firmly as you once did? Ladies in particular have often been advised away from the semi-auto handgun because they have trouble gripping and racking the slide. But before you men snicker too much – I personally know some gentlemen that have lost hand strength in their golden years and have difficulty with semi-autos. Many men also lose grip strength due to illness or injury. I know young athletic men that have experienced an injury that temporarily leaves them unable to rack a semi-auto.

Luckily for us all, there is a pretty slick little product available that addresses this problem for everyone – the Handi-Racker. Handi-Racker is a simply made and simple to use product, about the size of a deck of playing cards. Made of a polymer/plastic material, the Hand-Racker is lightweight and should not harm the finish on even your most valuable gun. It is small enough to carry in a pocket or purse, and certainly an easy fit for the range bag. How it works is simple. The plastic block has a channel cut into one side that is tapered drastically at about the halfway point. The front end of the gun’s slide fits into the wide end, and is stopped by the taper. To operate, simply hold the Handi-Racker in place with a couple of fingers atop the device (taking care to keep your fingers behind the muzzle), place the end of Handi-Racker against any firm straight surface (table top, door jamb, wall, refrigerator) and push the frame of the gun forward. The smaller end of the channel allows the barrel of the pistol a place to go as the slide is forced back.



The Handi-Racker comes in three sizes to fit most handguns, from micro pocket pistols to full sized 1911's.

Available in three sizes, there is a Handi-Racker to fit most handguns, from micro pocket pistols to full sized 1911's. But I must qualify "most", because I found a few guns in my own collection that Handi-Racker (large) would not fit, and they are not rare or modified handguns – Glock 21 and Smith & Wesson M&P 45, to name two. In both cases, the Handi-Racker was just a wee bit too narrow to accept the slide. I suppose one could modify it to fit – if one were skilled with a small grinding tool. There is certainly room to add an extra-large size to the choices for the Handi-Racker.

Before trusting the device to any of my favorite handguns, I first used it on a couple of range rats – like my Glock 34 and 17. Once I was convinced that it would not mar the finish, I got brave and used it on others like a 1911, a Sig Sauer P226. Handi-Racker is gentle on your gun's finish and won't hurt it a bit. However, I would recommend that you inspect it before using to be sure no dirt has found a home in it, because that could cause scratches.

I was skeptical and cautious about using any device that might place my fingers in close proximity to the muzzle. But used as directed, the Handi-Racker is safe and keeps your fingers well behind the hole where the bullet comes out. That said, I would strongly recommend supervision and coaching for inexperienced people before letting them use it with live ammo. But it is very easy to use, even for those who need it most. Rather than relying on hand, arm or even upper body strength, the user simply pushes the gun forward using their regular grip. You can even use your body weight to assist. It truly does make racking the slide, even with a heavy recoil spring, a simple task.

Handi-Racker in medium and large has long holes cut through the top to accommodate the front sight of your gun. The small model has a groove for the sight, but is not an opening – the logic being that the micro and pocket pistols generally have much smaller sights. I found these sight holes and channels to be adequate for all the guns tested – including a Glock 34 with an after-market (Truglo) sight that is about 1" long.

I think that Handi-Racker is a great little product, and even if you are not "racking impaired", there is a place for it in your range bag. During my testing of the Handi-Racker, I brought it along with me to the range. While shooting, I experienced a malfunction that could send one in search of an armorer or gunsmith. My video shows the real-life use of Handi-Racker to easily and safely clear the malfunction and get on with shooting! Reason enough to keep at least one of these tools on hand.



Rather than relying on hand, arm or even upper body strength, the user simply pushes the gun forward using their regular grip. You can even use your body weight to assist.

I give two thumbs up to Handi-Racker, even though there is still some room for improvement. First, make an extra-large. My Glock 21 was too big for the large size, and it is a pretty common pistol. Second, add some checkering or serrations to the rear half of the top of Handi-Racker to give the user a little better purchase on it. It's not too bad as-is, but could be better with less slip. Lastly, \$25 each is a fair enough price (I think ingenuity should be rewarded) but consider offering all three sizes (or hopefully four in the future) at a value price. In summary, Handi-Racker is a great example of the American tradition of seeing a problem and solving it. The weak may or may not inherit the Earth... but at least now they can rack the slide on their pistol!

Check them out at: <http://www.handi-racker.com>

Justin Opinion is a life-long shooter and firearms enthusiast. NRA Life Member, and member of IDPA and GSSF, among others. Whether it's a competition, target shooting and plinking, reloading, or just tinkering at the workbench, Justin stays immersed in the gun world. Son of a master gunsmith, but making no claims to that expertise himself, he enjoys sharing what he knows and learns with other firearms enthusiasts. Reviewing shooting products, demonstrating a skill, promoting safety and responsibility, and showing how fun it is – these are how we usher in the new generation of American gun owners. To see more of what Justin Opinion is up to, visit [The Justin Opinion Channel on YouTube](#)

<https://www.gunsamerica.com/blog/handi-racker-just-got-handier/>

## Handi-Racker Just Got Handier!

by Justin Opinion on March 26, 2014

By Justin Opinion



<http://www.handi-racker.com/>

Last fall I told you about a nifty little product that can make life easier for many shooters who have difficulty racking the slide of a semi-auto pistol. That product is the Handi-Racker, and it does just what it says. It takes grip strength and upper body strength almost out of the equation.

For a quick re-cap, the Handi-Racker is a small plastic block (available in several sizes) that fits over the slide of your pistol, on the muzzle end, and allows you to push the frame of the handgun to rack the slide rather than having to pull the slide itself. This simple change of motion and force will enable nearly anyone, regardless of age, strength or condition to work the action of a pistol. As I demonstrated in my review of Handi-Racker, it is also highly effective in clearing a jammed gun.

The only complaint I had with the product was that it did not offer a size large enough to fit some common handguns, such as the Glock 21 or Smith & Wesson M&P 45. Well, good news! The makers of Handi-Racker now offer an 'extra-large' size that will fit those pistols and more. The new "Extra Large" size Handi-Racker easily accommodates the largest pistols. In addition to that important upgrade, the product packaging has been refreshed – and from what I hear there are more and more dealers stocking Handi-Racker. So check with your local sporting goods store, or visit online at: <http://www.handi-racker.com/>

If you missed the full product review here on GunsAmerica, you can catch up at: [/blog/handi-racker-help-racking-semi-auto-slides/](http://blog.handi-racker-help-racking-semi-auto-slides/)



<http://www.foxbusiness.com/markets/2017/01/11/is-this-president-obama-parting-shot-at-gun-owners.html>

## Is This President Obama's Parting Shot at Gun Owners?

By Rich Duprey Published January 11, 2017

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Image 1 of 2

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With just weeks to go in his administration, President Obama will see finalized a rule he pushed for three years ago to deny certain Social Security benefits recipients the right to purchase firearms, a sweeping denial of Second Amendment rights that has critics in an uproar. The rule would have the Social Security Administration feed into the national background check system its information on people getting disability benefits who have a mental health issue.

The new rule will roll Social Security Administration information on mental health into the background check system. Image source: Getty Images.

Because the benefits distributed by the Social Security Administration go to so many people, this new system portends a loss of rights for tens of thousands of Americans -- the White House itself says as many as 75,000 people could be covered -- who have not necessarily been determined to be a danger to themselves or anyone else. But the SSA steps aren't as sweeping as those undertaken by the Department of Veterans Affairs, which, according to [The Los Angeles Times](#), reports "anyone who has been declared incompetent to manage pension or disability payments and assigned a fiduciary."

## Born from tragedy

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In January 2013, following the shootings the month before at the Sandy Hook elementary school in Newtown, Conn., Obama called for federal agencies to step up their efforts at reporting people to the National Instant Criminal Background Check System, or NICS, which is intended to prevent criminals and the mentally ill from being able to buy guns. The SSA, which previously didn't participate in sharing its records with NICS, last year began drafting its rules to comply with Obama's [executive orders on gun control](#).

The fear was that it would use an overly broad classification system like the much-criticized one the VA uses, and though the SSA has significantly narrowed the scope of its rules, it still denies benefit recipients adequate due process by taking away their rights without any sort of administrative hearing and requiring them to petition to have them restored. Equally problematic is that it may cause people to avoid seeking the help they need for mental health problems due to fear of losing their rights to own or buy a firearm.

## A 5-step process

There's a five-step process the SSA will take before reporting a person to the NICS, first determining whether an individual has:

1. Filed a claim based on disability.
2. Been found disabled based on a finding that the individual's impairments meets or equals those on a list of mental disorders.
3. Been given "a primary diagnosis code in [the SSA's] records based on a mental impairment."
4. Reached 18 years of age, but not yet attained full retirement age.
5. Benefit payments made through a "representative payee" because he or she is incapable of managing them due to "marked subnormal intelligence, or mental illness, incompetency, condition or disease."

Image source: Getty Images.

If the individual does not meet all five conditions, they will not be reported to NICS, so on the surface the requirements sound reasonable. After all, the SSA chose not to focus on any age group like the elderly or those who are receiving retirement benefits, and it will provide advance notice to the individual that he or she will be reported to NICS. While the rules still don't give a person the right to act before his or her rights are denied, and the onus is on him or her to prove he or she is not a danger to the public, he or she is at least made aware an action is being taken and can begin the process of defending himself or herself.

## Painting with a broad brush

The new rules will undoubtedly prevent some people from acquiring a gun who shouldn't have one, but it also sweeps up tens of thousands of others who have not been deemed a threat to anyone, and does so because someone else has been assigned to manage their finances, which might occur for any number of reasons that have nothing to do with their ability to otherwise function in society as a law-abiding citizen. It's not keeping someone who is mentally ill from getting a gun, but rather a person with a "mental impairment," and those are two very different things.

Even advocates for the disabled and mental health practitioners think using financial incompetence as a basis for denying fundamental constitutional rights is a poor measure to go by, as it stigmatizes an entire group of people.

The National Council on Disability, for example, said, "While the proposed rule is limited to people who have a "mental disorder," this classification includes a wide range of limitations and a shifting set of criteria that is relevant to whether or not one can engage in substantial gainful activity. However, the classification is irrelevant to the question of whether one can be a responsible gun owner."

It's also not the last we're likely to see of these initiatives being handed down from federal agencies as Obama's 2013 directive also applied to the Departments of Defense, Health & Human Services, Transportation, and Homeland Security, as well as the Offices of Personnel Management and Management & Budget. Moreover, the SSA has admitted that the number of people covered by its regulations could be expanded in the future to

include other categories of benefit recipients, though the rulemaking process would have to go through the same procedure the current regulations did.

## **A lasting impact**

With the election of Donald Trump to the presidency, many have thought the issue of gun control would go away or at least lie dormant, but as is often the case in other areas of public policy, it's not so much the actual law that causes the greatest harm, but the rulemaking that follows where the real damage is done.

The lasting impact President Obama may have on the gun control issue will not have come from getting a new law passed, but rather having regulations adopted that achieved a similar effect and will live on long after he has left office.

## 5 of the hottest new rifles at SHOT Show

By [Allison Barrie](#)

Published January 19, 2017

From hunting rifles to prepared-for-anything rifles, SHOT Show is the place where the new guns are revealed.

For a range of budgets and objectives, here are five highlights of the best rifles unveiled for 2017.

### **Browning BAR Safari Rifle**

Considering investing in a rifle with some meaningful military history behind it? Then Browning has a special limited-edition option for you. Unveiled at SHOT, the rifle will be tough to nab because they are only producing a mere one-hundred pieces.

Before World War I, the US Army commissioned John Browning to design a next-level rifle. He created the Browning Automatic Rifle (BAR) in a remarkable three months – such a brilliant design that it withstood the test of time. The BAR continued to be used by the military through World War II until Vietnam. John Browning's grandson then introduced a sporting twist on this iconic weapon and teamed up with FN to leverage their expertise as well.

### **JOHN WAYNE GUNS FOR BEGINNERS REVEALED AT SHOT SHOW**

In honor of the 100th anniversary, Browning is introducing the BAR Safari 100th Anniversary model with some special features. The stock is high-end Grade V Turkish walnut with oil finish. And military and hunting scenes will be engraved on the steel receiver and highlighted with gold.

It weighs 7 pounds 14 ounces, and is 44 inches long including the 22 inch barrel length. This semi-automatic sporting classic BAR rifle will be available for around \$2,699.99.

### **Remington Model 700 American Wilderness Rifle**

Speaking of anniversaries and safaris, another iconic American company, Remington, has reached 200 years and revealed their new big game rifle – the Model American Wilderness Rifle (AWR).

It is designed to be very durable and performs extremely well in tough outdoor conditions while looking good at the same time.

The Model 700 AWR has a stainless steel action and a black Cerakote coated 24-inch free-floated 5R barrel to withstand any abuse your remote adventures might throw at it.

### **SHOT SHOW 2017: WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW**

The rifle also has a very robust Grayboe stock with high fiberglass content to provide further durability against weather you may come up against in the wilderness.

And the trigger? There's an X-Mark Pro that is externally adjustable.

The AWR will be on sale in 2017 for about \$1,225.



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(Ruger)

### **Ruger 10-22 Takedown Lite**

Whether you need to react and move quickly or are just keen on a highly capable, accurate rifle that you can store and carry easily, the new 10-22 Takedown Lite is a big reveal at SHOT for 2017.

The 10-22 Takedown Lite is a rapid takedown separating the action from the cold hammer-forged barrel. And where does the Lite come in? This new rifle weighs 4.5 pounds, making it a great option for long days at the range, for women who prefer a lighter weight, and for professionals who want to stay light, fast, and agile.

Just how easy is it to takedown? Thanks to the very smart design it is incredibly easy. You just lock the bolt back, push the recessed lever and twist the subassemblies pulling it apart. That's it. It is literally that fast.

The design incorporates a threaded muzzle with a thread cap that can be easily removed to use muzzle accessories. It also features the Ruger Modular Stock System with a standard pull length and low comb.

There's a detachable 10-round rotary magazine with a cutting-edge rotor that enhances feeding reliability. The 10-22 Takedown Lite comes with the option of a high comb standard pull length module too and will be available for about \$659.

### **Winchester XPC**

Another new chassis-based precision rifle for this year is the Winchester XPC. Designed for extreme accuracy, the action is based on their popular XPR, and there's a threaded muzzle with target crown.

The free-floating barrel features a Permacote black finish. The design incorporates a cerakote fully machined alloy frame chassis and the Magpul PRS Gen 3 fully adjustable butt stock. There's an M.O.A. trigger system and two-position thumb safety.

The ten-pounder, bolt-action XPC is very accessory friendly. There's a 20-MOA scope base, full-length top Picatinny rail and an M-LOK accessory rail.

This new rifle is expected to be available for about \$1,599.99.

### **Saint shines at SHOT Show**

The Saint made by Springfield Armory is definitely another standout. It was introduced at the very end of last year and made its first appearance at SHOT, drawing a whole lot of buzz.

Fit for fighting and for the range, this new AR-15-style rifle has a mid-length gas system, Bravo Company's slim contour Polymer KeyMod handguard, an enhanced trigger, well-balanced weight, excellent accuracy and much more.

At Range Day, while testing this rifle out, folks raved about Springfield's Accu-Tite Tension system that tightens up the space between the lower and upper receivers. The new Saint retails for about \$899.

*Allison Barrie consults at the highest levels of defense, has travelled to more than 70 countries, is a lawyer with four postgraduate degrees and now the author of the new book "[Future Weapons: Access Granted](#)" covering invisible tanks through to thought-controlled fighter jets. You can [click here](#) for more information on FOX Firepower columnist and host Allison Barrie and you can follow her on Twitter [@allison\\_barrie](#).*

## Top 7 Budget Friendly AR-15s [PICS]

### [The Patriot Caller](#)

If you're like us, you've rarely met a gun you *didn't* like. Still, there are some



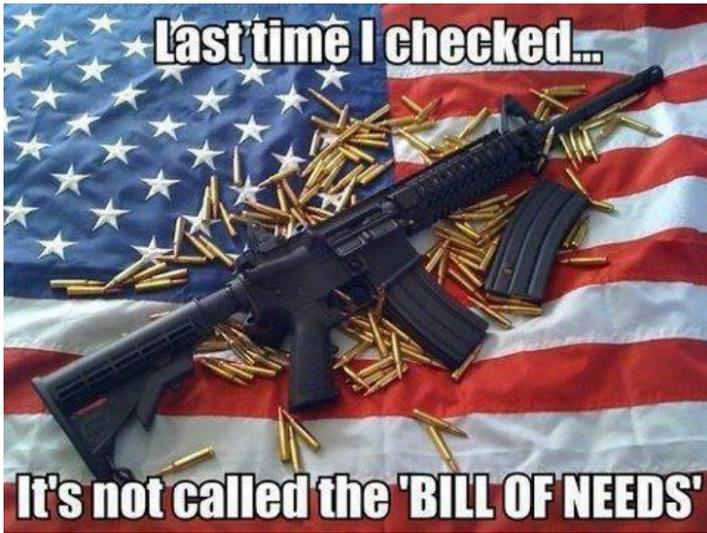
firearms that, for whatever reason, tend to leave an exceptionally good impression with shooters: Browning shotguns, Winchester lever-action rifles, Colt 1911s... and of course the AR-15.

The AR-15 is accurate, easy to operate, lightweight, and of course it can hold plenty of ammo. If you're truly going to be ready for anything, and that "*anything*" might include holding off a gang of zombie hogs pillaging your farm, a bolt-action deer rifle simply isn't going to cut it.

Those are a few of the reasons that the AR-15 has become the hands-down favorite among the self-reliance movement. It brings the reliability and functionality of a military small arms rifle together with the affordability of a civilian model in a nice compact package.

But unlike some of the other "classics" in the firearm hall of fame, the AR-15 doesn't enjoy the same level of quality across all models. That's because the AR -15 (which stands for "Armalite Rifle 15," named after the original design firm) is actually a design pattern, reproduced by literally dozens of different manufacturers.

## The Budget-Friendly Top 7



Purchasing an AR clone (No, the true Colt AR-15 is not on the budget-friendly list, in case you're wondering) is a very pragmatic way for many self-reliance minded people to cover all the bases with a single weapon, which makes it even more cost-effective.

With a quality AR clone, you can have the range of a long gun, the capacity of a semi-auto pistol, and the maneuverability to operate in tight spaces.

Before we get to the Top 7, let me start by saying that just because your favorite AR is not on this list, that doesn't mean it's not a great firearm or a great value.

We limited this list to 7 rifles to make the buying decision easier for folks who *don't* already own an AR, and not to boost the egos of those who already do (us included).

For consistency and because it's what most AR shooters expect, all the rifles below are chambered for 5.56NATO/.223 Remington.



## Smith & Wesson M&P15 Sport II

We're big fans of the M&P lineup as a whole (even if the Department of Defense is not), so it comes as no surprise that the M&P 15 Sport made our list.

One of the most outstanding aspects of the M&P line is affordability. The Sport II is available well below the \$700 price point through most dealers, a great price for a well-outfitted rifle from a highly reputable manufacturer.

As for specifics, the Sport II is designed for the whole range of uses, from target shooting to home defense, and is marketed toward all levels of shooters including professionals. The Sport II is very well-made, especially given its price range. It's also got some nice features, including a picatinny rail, a protective amornite barrel finish, and Magpul MBUS sights.

Just as you'd expect, these guns are highly accurate and dependable. The name recognition that comes standard with a S&W provides a lot of comfort in a market with lots of lesser-known names (many of which are excellent).

**Retail: \$649**

## **DPMS Panther Sportical 5.56 NATO**



If you're looking for a perfectly capable AR with absolutely no frills at all and a very nice price tag to boot, this might just be your rifle. The Panther Sportical has a Picatinny rail and, *well*, not much else.

In fact, the description on the DMPS website reads, "This carbine might just be the most simplistic, straight forward AR on the market." Which is actually a good thing if your desire is to customize every bit of your AR.

The Panther Sportical has all the functions you'd expect from an entry-level carbine, including a lightweight 16" chromoly barrel, adjustable stock, A2 birdcage flash hider, and a 30-round magazine. The total weight of the Sportical is 6.3lbs (unloaded) and the overall length is a handy 36.125 inches.

Aficionados might say the Panther Sportical is lacking about \$150 in mandatory upgrades, but Sportical fans say they've got a solid weapon that shoots the same ammo just as flawlessly. In addition, the bonus of choosing a "bare bones" AR like the Sportical is that all your money is going toward the rifle itself, and not a bunch of chincy add-ons that you'll want to replace later, if you want to think of it that way.

**Lowest Retail: \$607**

## **Ruger AR-556**



The AR-556 is another great entry-level AR clone from a highly trusted name in firearms. This offering from Ruger is akin to the M&P15 in the fact that it is a basic, mil-spec AR that gets the job done very nicely while staying on budget.

Many of the major manufacturers are now making their own no-frills AR with little to set it apart besides the name on the side. That's just fine, because you wouldn't necessarily want a no-name semi-automatic rifle at this price range.

Ruger's foray into this market has been very well received. Many fans of the brand and its Mini-14 rifle long wished that Ruger would produce a true "black rifle." Now they have it.

Ruger outfitted this rifle with some nice touches, including a flash hider, milled gas block, 30-round Magpul magazine, and 1:8 twist chrome-lined barrel. The AR 556 isn't lacking on any of the basics, including the dust cover, brass deflector, and top-notch accuracy.

If you're looking for a tack-driver at the lower end of the price spectrum, this may be your best bet.

**Retail: \$699**

## **Mossberg MMR Tactical 65014**



If you've ever shopped for a value shotgun or rifle, you're probably familiar with the name Mossberg. The Connecticut-based firearms company has been manufacturing hunting rifles and shotguns for nearly 100 years. Only recently, however, have they released a tactical carbine based on the AR-15 pattern.

The MMR may be Mossberg's first offering in the AR field, but based on their reputation alone I'd be willing to bet that they've got all the kinks worked out. All the reviews I've read about the MMR seem to uphold Mossberg's tradition of making high quality firearms at a price all shooters can afford.

Starting at 7lbs and going up from there, the MMR Tactical isn't the lightest, but many shooters prefer a heavier weapon because it takes the edge off the recoil. The MMR Tactical comes with standard front and rear adjustable sights, a 30-round magazine, quad rails for easily attachable accessories, and an upgraded Stark SE-1 pistol grip with battery storage.

If you want to save a little money, you can go with the 65011 model that's "optics ready," which is a fancy way of saying that it has no sights.

In short, you may feel more confident getting a gun from an established manufacturer that has been around and will be around for a long time. Mossberg is certainly one of these manufacturers, as is the maker of the next rifle on our list.

**Lowest Retail: \$738**

## Smith & Wesson M&P15



With the M&P, the bottom line is that it's a Smith & Wesson. It looks good, shoots good, and comes with the base AR package you'll find with many of the other entries at this price level. The main difference is that it's a Smith & Wesson, which is nice.

The budget-friendly M&P lineup has always been popular with shooters who prefer reliability and function over frills and polish. The M&P15 comes standard with an adjustable post front sight and an adjustable dual aperture rear sight, which may be all you ever need if you don't want magnification.

At 6.5lbs, the M&P15 is right smack in the normal range for AR clones. While it doesn't have many standout features, you get the quality you'd expect from a Smith & Wesson product at a price that unknown makers would be hard pressed to beat.

Frankly, there's really no reason not to go with the M&P15, especially if you plan to use open sights. Several veterans we've talked to say the M&P reminds them of their military issue M16 in terms of balance and accuracy.

**Lowest Retail: \$629**

## Del-Ton Sport "DT Sport"



Yet another well-respected AR with no frills is the DT Sport, a great option at this price range. Many shoppers who are looking closely at the Bushmaster Carbon-15 may prefer the look and feel of this less common Del-Ton model.

With hard coat anodized aluminum upper and lower receivers, the DT Sport is the lightest carbine on our list, weighing in at only 5.8lbs empty. That's nice for carrying, but slightly less comfortable for shooting. However, once you get accustomed to your rifle's recoil, it's really no big deal.

Like a few other entries on this list, the DT Sport has an A2 flash hider, 6-position M4 stock, and is mostly mil-spec all around. It does come with built-in front and rear sling swivels, which is a nice little feature. The biggest downside is that, with a flattop receiver that has no sights, it doesn't come "ready to shoot" straight out of the box like a few of the others on this list.

**Lowest Retail: \$625**

## **Bushmaster QRC Combo**



Bushmaster puts a lot of technical advances in your hands for under \$700, and that includes red dot optics, which saves you even more money. Chambered for a .223 Remington/5.56 NATO, this model comes standard with a 16" chrome-lined barrel, birdcage flash hider, a Picatinny rail, and a 30-round flag magazine.

Specs on this Bushmaster have it at a cool 6 lbs, very nice for a weapon this inexpensive and decked out. As you may have already noticed, this is the only carbine on this list that includes optics.

Bushmaster is a very popular manufacturer for these AR clones, and thus a lot of purists tend to dismiss them. No matter how many times some people hear the words, “there’s nothing wrong with a Bushmaster,” they still want something else.

For those who can take those words to heart, you’re getting a very solid, “ready-to-shoot” AR for an unbelievably low price. From our experience, we’ve shot a lot of custom builds that cost five times what this rifle costs and have 500% more jamming problems.

**Lowest Retail: \$699**

## **Conclusion**

If we had to pick a winner in this list of 5, we’d have to pick the Smith & Wesson M&P, simply because of the name on the side, the super low price, and the fact that it comes fully ready to fire, straight out of the box. If you haven’t picked up on it by now, “ready to shoot” is a thing I like to stress with ARs in particular.

If you’re a novice, the last thing you want to do is spend your hard-earned money on a rifle only to get it home and realize that you immediately need to spend another \$150 on sights and other necessary accessories... that you may not know how to install properly.

The Bushmaster Carbon-15, Mossberg MMR Tactical, and the Smith & Wesson M&P are all ready to shoot from the factory. Whether or not you prefer the sights or red dot scope the manufacturer has installed, that’s another matter. They do have sights mounted.

If you like to personally customize and fine-tune your weapons, then you may gravitate toward the DT Sport or DMPS Sportical. The important thing is that you have a high quality, reliable firearm that will offer you superior firepower when you need it most. Any of the weapons on this list will fill that role.

## Biodegradable Ammunition: Army Wants Bullets That Turn Into Plants



By Karl Nelson | Thursday, 02 Feb 2017 10:52 AM

Biodegradable ammunition is being sought out by the U.S. Army, which aims to replace the rounds that are currently used for training exercises.

Due to environmental concerns, the U.S. Army wants to replace its grenade, tank rounds and other existing rounds and begin using biodegradable ammunition instead, CNN reported.

“Components of current training rounds require hundreds of years or more to biodegrade,” the Department of Defense said during a brief, according to CNN. “Some of these rounds might have the potential to corrode and pollute the soil and nearby water.”

“This effort will make use of seeds to grow environmentally friendly plants that remove soil contaminants and consume the biodegradable components developed under this project,” the Department of Defense added. “Animals should be able to consume the plants without any ill effects.”

Specifically, the Department of Defense wants to replace “low velocity 40mm grenades; 60mm, 81mm, and 120mm mortars; shoulder launched munitions; 120mm tank rounds; and 155mm artillery rounds,” Fox News noted.

Materials used to make water bottles, plastic containers and other composite plastics could help develop the proposed ammunition.

According to Fox News, there are three crucial steps that will need to take place to produce the new bullets.

The first step involves the development of a successful production process, specifically for 40mm-120mm training rounds.

Manufacturers will have to also be able to test the fabrication process, involving the “cutting, bending and assembling” of the bullets. The ammunition will also be required to pass government ballistic probes.

The final step to this three-part phase is working to ensure that the new ammunition will be effective for training exercises.

If all goes as planned, then biodegradable ammunition should be able to be used without leaving any substantial damage to the surrounding environment.

<http://www.firearmsnews.com/guns/handguns/review-citadel-m-1911-a1-fs-9mm/>

## Review: Citadel M-1911 A1-FS 9mm

by David Hunter Jones | November 21st, 2016

In Firearms News issue No. 7, I wrote a story about American Tactical's FXH-45 polymer-framed 1911. I was thinking I'd get raked over the coals for suggesting that a polymer-framed 1911 can be a solid gun (this one is), but the feedback from readers was more positive than I expected.

The chief knocks against traditional metal-framed 1911 are that they're large, heavy, and the capacity—by today's standards—is somewhat limited. While the FXH-45 won't hold any more ammunition than other government-sized models and isn't any smaller, it's lighter than the lightest commander-sized 1911.



You can remedy the capacity problem with a 10-round Chip McCormick Power Mag, but you get a less-than-desirable looking pistol because of the mag's extra length. What to do if you want to retain the classic 1911 look but increase firepower? This is where the 9mm enters into the equation.

In case you haven't heard, shooters are abandoning the .40 S&W en masse in favor of the 9mm. I recently gave away my .40 S&W dies, brass and projectiles. I only have one .40-caliber pistol that never leaves the safe and is dustier than a mummy. Many .45 devotees are seeing the redeeming qualities in the smaller 9mm round, given the quality of today's expanding ammunition and the increase in capacity in a given firearm. But there will always be holdouts who worship at the altar of John Browning and praise the hardball gun and its .45-caliber slugs.

For those with an open mind, a 1911 chambered in 9mm truly is the best of both worlds; you get the capacity (generally 9 or 10 rounds) and lower recoil of the 9mm and the design and function of the time-tested 1911. Plus, the 1911 has been successfully chambered for a host of non-standard calibers like 10mm Auto, .38 Super, .357 magnum and the 9mm Largo.

### **Legacy Sports**

If you haven't heard of Legacy Sports, certainly you've heard of Howa. Howa's most famous product is the 1500 series of bolt-action rifles, which are known for their silky-smooth action and ruggedness.

As a company, Legacy Sports spawned from Interarms after the owner died and the family sold the company. The Interarms VP of marketing and sales became the CEO of what is now Legacy Sports and has brought the company to where it is today, a manufacturer of shotguns, bolt-action rifles and for the past 10 years, 1911s under the Citadel name.



The company also sells the Nikko Stirling brand of optics, and most recently has gotten into making chassis rifles for precision shooters. All of that said, let's take a closer look at the Citadel, Legacy Sports' bargain 1911.

### **Citadel 1911**

I received a Citadel model M-1911 (marked "M1911A1-FS" on the frame) chambered in 9mm, but the gun can also be had in .45 ACP. My sample sports a blued finish, but Cerakote OD Green and Flat Dark Earth are available as well. All Cerakoting is done in-house by Legacy Sports. Mine has wood grips, but Hogue Overmolded grips can be had in black, olive drab green and sand color. Full-size government models and smaller officers' models are available.

The government model has a 5-inch barrel while the officer has a 3½-inch barrel. Both models feature the series 70 fire control and an internal extractor. If you don't know the difference between the series 70 and series 80 fire control groups, the series 70 lacks the firing pin safety plunger and several other parts that the 80

incorporates. In my opinion, why add unnecessary stuff to a time-tested design? Oh, right —lawyers. Let's not forget that the most important safety on any gun lies between our ears.



As it comes out of the box, the Citadel is a no-frills 1911 with some of the most popular custom touches built right in to it. Of note is that the gun is one of precious few handguns that are still legal in California. The Rock Island pistols—the frame of which the Citadel is built upon—were deemed acceptable and therefore the Citadel was grandfathered into legality.

The first thing you notice when you pick up the Citadel are the sights. They're three-dot design, but the rear dots are simply round indentations. Some would be tempted to fill them in with white or red, but I'd argue that a better modification would be swapping out the plain front post with a red or green night sight.

After all, your attention should be focused there and not the rear sight. As my colleague Jim Tarr says, you look through the rear sight, not at it. Meprolight night sights are available on the Citadel series for an extra charge, and you might consider adding them from the get go. The front sight is a bit of a bummer because it's a plain black post and the edges of the base aren't machined down to match the contour of the slide. To their credit, both sights are steel.



Grasping the pistol depresses the extended beavertail safety, which can hardly be considered an upgrade anymore because they're so common. But their commonality is a good thing as they were always upgraded "back in the day" for good reason; they're better and more easily depressed than the original GI-style grip safety. Anymore, a standard GI-style safety raises more eyebrows than does an extended model. The hammer is skeletonized, which is also standard fare these days. The thumb safety is a bi-lateral unit, and this particular one has sharp corners and was abusive to my thumb. That said, it did snap on and off positively.

The mainspring housing is checkered nicely, while the front of the frame is untextured steel. Controlling the pistol under recoil isn't a big deal given the 9mm chambering and heft of the pistol (2.32 pounds). The magazine well is beveled and facilitates smooth insertion of magazines. As previously mentioned, the extractor is of the internal style as Browning intended. Again, why mess with success? There are many debates surrounding the 1911, and internal vs. external extractors seem to be as hotly contested as Chevy vs. Ford, and both will continue as long as the sun is burning.



The trigger also has an overtravel screw. The trigger is my favorite part of the gun; there's no reason that it should be as nice as it is, but I'll be darned if it isn't the nicest 1911 trigger I've ever squeezed on a 1911 at this price point. The trigger on my sample broke cleanly at 4.92 lbs. as an average based on five pulls on a Lyman Trigger Pull Gauge. No part of the triggerguard is checkered.

The slide features forward and aft cocking serrations and along the left-hand side of the gun "CITADEL" and the Citadel logo are etched. I'm a fan of forward cocking serrations because I press-check my pistols to the point of an obsessive compulsion. Inside the slide is the 5-inch barrel that's roll marked "CAL. 9mm" on the barrel hood. The barrel is not ramped and is a pretty standard GI-style unit except for its 9mm chambering. Field stripping reveals the full-length guide rod and non-captive recoil spring.

Again, this is a no-frills basic 9mm blaster that'd be a great buy for someone looking to get into 1911s without the muzzle flip and cost of shooting that comes with a .45 gun. Now for the \$64,000 question: How did it shoot?

### **Range Time**

If you haven't shot a 1911 chambered in 9mm, it's a pretty rewarding experience. I enjoy the ergonomics of the 1911 and the low recoil impulse of the 9mm round, so fast and accurate shots with the Citadel were easy to come by.



In my testing, I put 390 rounds through the Citadel in two range sessions, which is more than I had intended, but shooting the thing was so much fun that I kept reloading the magazines until I ran out of ammo. The first time out I shot 200 rounds offhand at a number of different targets and the gun proved to be 100% reliable. I fired a mix of ball and various hollowpoints. The second time out I shot it for accuracy and velocity and ran into a few hiccups when shooting it off of a rest.

When I sat down and focused hard on trigger control, I experienced four failure-to-feed malfunctions. When I concentrated more on grasping the pistol firmly, there were no issues. I believe these issues were due to my limpwristing the pistol when concentrating on accuracy. I used two magazines, a Mec-Gar that was supplied with the gun and a Chip McCormick mag. Each magazine produced two failures to feed, and this supports my theory that the malfunctions were operator-induced; both Mec-Gar and Chip McCormick make high-quality mags and they never failed at any other point during my testing, or testing with other pistols.

What happened during the jams was the rounds that malfunctioned took a nose-dive onto the lower part of the two-piece feedramp. Because the barrel is not ramped, the feed ramp is really two small ramps – one built into the frame and the other in the barrel. When the gun jammed, the bullets sat with the point smashed into the lower ramp. However, when it came time to have fun with the gun, and shoot targets for speed, it was 100% reliable.



Could this gun benefit from a few upgrades? Sure, and this gun would make a great platform for a custom build. Or, you could use it as it was intended, as a fun range gun and effective self-defense tool. With the 5-inch barrel, you'll see better ballistics and velocity from the 9mm than you will with smaller guns made for concealability.

All in all, to fully "trust" the gun, I'd put a couple hundred more rounds through it, just to make sure it functioned flawlessly. Based on all of my offhand shooting, I feel confident that it would do just that, and I'll definitely be shooting this pistol more. The Citadel is a perfectly accurate and pleasant gun to shoot that benefits from a storied and time-honored heritage and design as well as a potent yet easy shooting chambering. Again, what's not to love?



<http://www.firearmsnews.com/guns/rifles/cz-scorpion-evo-3-s1carbine/>

## CZ Scorpion EVO 3 S1 Carbine

by James Tarr | November 21st, 2016

It was not quite two years ago that CZ introduced the pistol version of the new CZ Scorpion EVO to the U.S. market. I reviewed that pistol here in these pages, and while the design isn't perfect, I bought the pistol and still have it. That should tell you all you need to know about my feelings toward the design.

CZ has now introduced a carbine version of the Scorpion, and I secured a sample to test.



First, let's have a quick history primer on the CZ Scorpion. The original Skorpion machine pistol, officially the Skorpion vz.61, has a very distinctive profile and is one of the darlings of the Cold War-era spy novel. This straight blowback hammer-fired gun featured a 20-round magazine in front of the pistol grip, a wire stock which folds over the front of the firearm, and is chambered in .32 ACP. Why .32 ACP? Because it was the standard service cartridge of the Czechoslovak security forces.

The .32 ACP is not a very powerful cartridge, and when combined with the Skorpion's very muzzle heavy nearly 3-pound weight, controllability on full-auto wasn't a problem. I know; I got to fire one last year. The only problem I had was keeping the magazines loaded.

Semi-auto pistol versions of the original Skorpion have been sold in the U.S. for years. But the Skorpion has that "vz.61" in the title because the little buzzgun was finalized in 1961—not exactly a modern design.

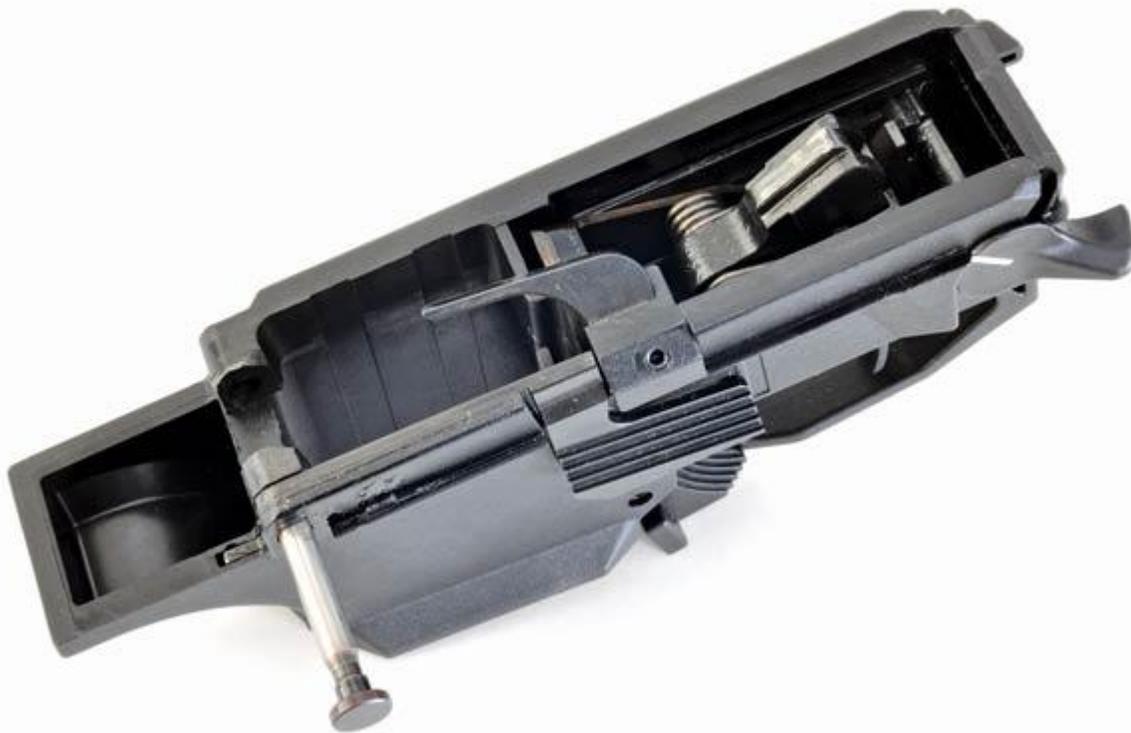
The completely new Scorpion EVO 3 A1 was introduced in 2009, and this 9mm submachine gun has been very successful. I had an opportunity to fire one at the same event where I shot the Skorpion vz.61. The larger gun

looks more sci-fi than Cold War, and has a little bit more recoil than the older .32 version, but it is still very controllable even on full auto. EVO 3 indicates that it is the 3rd generation of the Scorpion.

The Scorpion EVO 3 SMG is currently in use by military and police forces in eight countries, and I suspect this relatively new design will soon see much further use by forces around the globe.

Until our government starts interpreting the 2nd Amendment as written, the Scorpion SMG won't be available for commercial sale, so CZ has been offering buffer tubes and adapters for the pistol on which users can mount arm braces to create something that looks like an SMG but is only semi-auto. However, a lot of people want an actual rifle and/or don't want to have to worry about what the BATF said this week that contradicts what they said last week about how you can use an arm brace without going to prison, so CZ has now introduced a carbine version of the Scorpion EVO 3 S1 (S1 indicating semi-auto).

The Scorpion Carbine is available in two flavors, both with a 16.2-inch barrel. One features a standard barrel tipped with a compensator, the other has a faux suppressor built for CZ by SilencerCo covering the last 8.5" of barrel. While I am no fan of "faux" anything (if there's one sure way to make sure no one takes you seriously it is to sport a fauxhawk hairstyle) I think the faux suppressor version looks better, and secured one of those for testing.



While the Scorpion EVO 3 shares the name of its predecessor, you will see that in just about every other way it is completely different. The EVO 3 is chambered in 9x19mm and the entire receiver is a polymer shell. In fact, the rear of the receiver is two polymer halves that are connected by screws.

This sounds cheap and/or the opposite of durable, but plastics are the future. Examining the Scorpion I realized it is the modern equivalent of the Sten SMG in that it is made as efficiently and simply as possible to do its job—it's just made using modern materials and manufacturing techniques. It is not any more complicated than it needs to be, something that could never be said about the Heckler & Koch MP5. And yet it offers a multitude

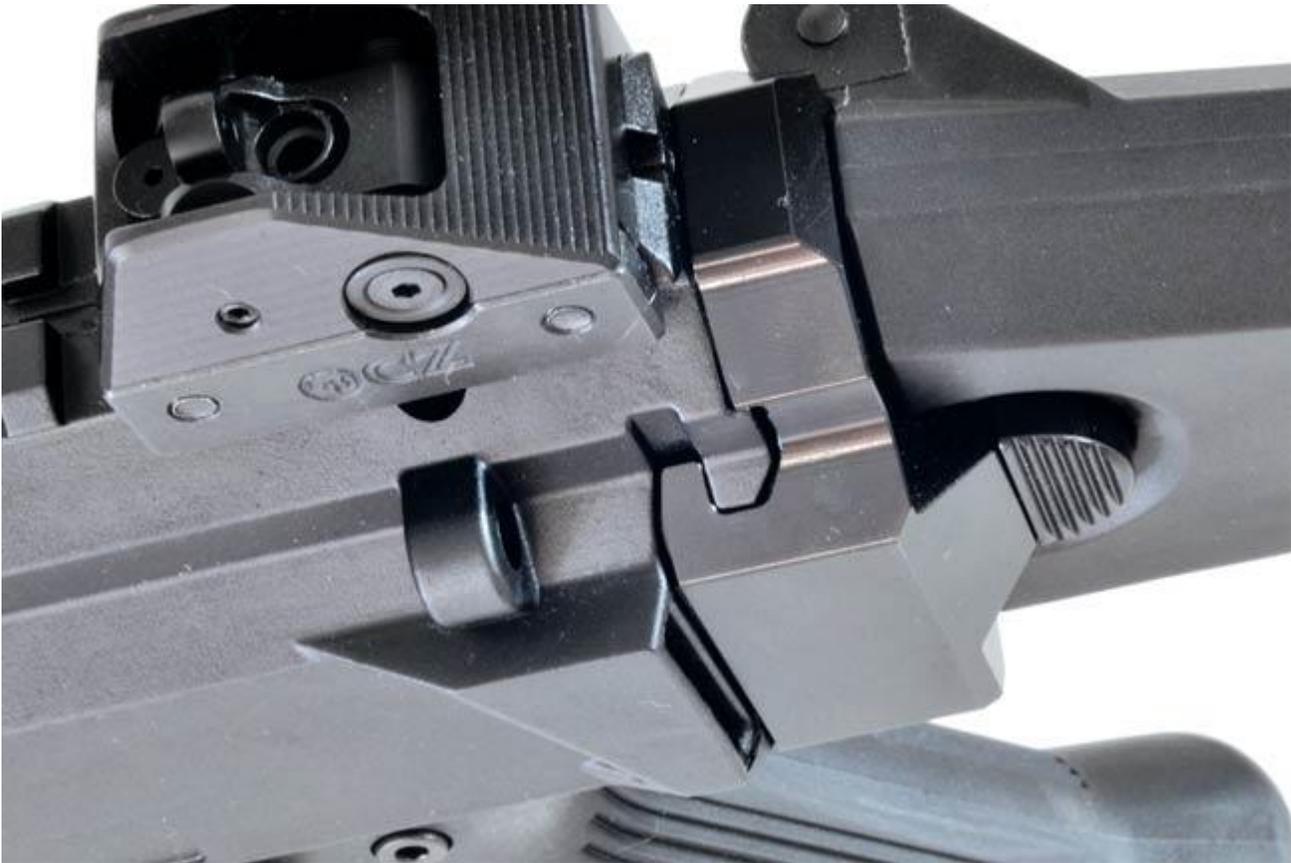
of features combined with a very unique and striking appearance, with a suggested retail of only \$849 for the pistol, \$999 for the plain barrel Carbine, and \$1,049 for the faux suppressor version.

Like most 9mm SMGs/carbines, this is a straight blowback design. With the faux suppressor this carbine only weighs 6.1 pounds. Because it is not a real suppressor with weight-adding baffles this carbine is not muzzle heavy and balances over the front of the magazine well. The plain barrel version weighs just over half an ounce less. New for the carbine version is a polymer handguard that features M-LOK attachment slots for all your accessory mounting needs.

The charging handle of the Scorpion will be in a familiar place for anyone who has handled an MP5—on the left side, forward. Unlike the MP5, though, the bolt of the Scorpion locks back on an empty magazine. The bolt can be locked to the rear by moving the charging handle all the way back and pivoting it upward, or by pushing up on the bolt catch when the bolt is pulled all the way to the rear. Get this—the charging handle is reversible, and switching it to the right side is a very simple process.

The safety level is polymer and ambidextrous. Pushing it down/forward moves the weapon from Safe to Fire, marked respectively with a white circle and red dash. Flicking the safety off with my thumb was no problem, but I found I just couldn't get an angle on it to flick it back up and on with my thumb. Pulling back my trigger finger on the right side of the gun, however, made engaging the safety simple.

The safety is my only real complaint about this design. Most people can't engage it with their thumb, and the right side of the ambi safety pokes most people in the trigger finger when firing. CZ does sell a "Scorpion EVO Ambi Control Delete" for \$12.95, which I'm thinking about buying for my Scorpion pistol; it simply eliminates the safety lever on one side. The Scorpion SMG I shot had this and I found I much preferred it.



If the hammer is cocked, you can work the charging handle even if the safety is on. If the hammer isn't cocked and the safety is on, the bolt will only pull back about half an inch, just enough to see if the chamber is loaded.

The magazine release is a serrated polymer paddle on either side of the front of the trigger guard. Move it forward to drop the magazine. It is possible to push the magazine release with your trigger finger, however I found that with the bolt locked back empty magazines usually didn't drop free.

I'd recommend stripping the empty magazine out with your left hand, as your left thumb sits right on the magazine release as you grab the magazine. The bolt catch is a very large serrated steel lever on the left side of the weapon above and slightly to the rear of the magazine well. After seating a fresh magazine into the magazine well, just pull down on the magazine catch with your thumb to chamber a new round.

The magazine well is nicely beveled, and the trigger guard is large enough for use with gloves. The pistol grip is angled a bit much for my taste, and rather smooth. Sharp eyes will note a screw through the top of the pistol grip—remove it and you can move the pistol grip rearward to fit your hand and get a proper reach to the trigger. However, moving the pistol grip back will create a gap between the front of the grip and the triggerguard.

On either side of the receiver at the rear of the barrel there is a steel ring meant as sling attachment points. There are additional sling-mounting points at the rear of the receiver, including slots meant for threading through 1-inch slings, and of course you can mount slings to the M-LOK slots on the handguard with the proper hardware.



The carbine ships with two 20-round magazines. The original SMG was fed by 30-round magazines, and neither the pistol nor the carbine version of the Scorpion look right with the stubby 20-rounders in place. Never fear, 30-round magazines are available from CZ-USA for only \$20 apiece (when they're in stock—CZ can't seem to ship them fast enough to keep up with demand). The Scorpion magazines (except for the spring) are completely constructed of polymer. The magazine bodies are translucent, while the follower and basepads are solid black. While the magazine bodies are thicker than steel or aluminum, they are very size efficient. 30-round magazines are only 7¼ inch long.

The entire top of the carbine features an uninterrupted MIL-STD-1913 rail. Yes, the rail is polymer as opposed to aluminum, but that shouldn't make any difference when mounting optics—after all, this is a 9mm carbine, not a long distance rifle. CZ could have slapped cheap plastic sights atop the Scorpion, or only offered them separately at additional cost, but instead what you get with the carbine are sights as good as any aftermarket choices available for ARs.

Both the front and rear sight bases are constructed of beefy aluminum. The rear sight offers not one or two peep apertures but four, protected by substantial ears. The peep apertures are mounted on a crossbar in a sort of paddle-wheel setup and click into place. The apertures range in size from very small to ghost ring large, and are adjustable for windage. This may sound cheesy or flimsy, but is neither.

The front sight base has a serrated front to reduce glare. The front sight post itself appears to come from an AR, and is adjustable for elevation. The sight post is protected by large wings, and they form a semi-circle which perfectly complements the peep apertures in the rear sight. Distance between the two sights is just a hair over 14 inches. FYI these iron sights are too low for use on an AR, which means you won't need a tall "flattop AR" base on whatever red dot/optic you choose to mount on the piece. You should be able to mount most red dots directly to the rail without a spacer.

The carbine features the same folding adjustable stock as seen on the original SMG. It is a polymer piece with an adjustable length of pull from 12–14" through the use of a simple lever. It has a smooth rubber buttpad. Press the large button on the left side of the stock near the receiver and it folds to the right. The stock itself is polymer, but the lockup on the folding latch is all aluminum. A strong magnet on the side of the stock mates with the steel plate on which the serial number is engraved just below the ejection port, so the stock will remain folded unless it is jarred.



The carbine can be fired with the stock folded, although I'm not sure why you'd want to. Then again, people do all sorts of things that make no sense to me, like eating kale and believing in man-made global warming.

The trigger on the Scorpion is polymer. It does not have a serrated face but rather is stepped, with the center more prominent than the edges. I don't really like it as much as I do smooth-faced triggers, but remember this weapon was originally designed as an SMG (and one with a significantly high RPM). With the trigger's texturing, your finger will not slip off.

Trigger pull weight on my sample was 8 pounds even, which is heavier than I like but seems to be pretty average for this design. Reliability was 100%, and felt recoil was negligible, of course, which just adds to the fun factor. In fact, I was at a local USPSA match recently, and one of the guys on my squad was shooting the non-faux-suppressor version of this carbine and was having a great time.

Not surprising at all to me was that his CZ carbine, even with the factory muzzle brake, was quieter than any of our 9mm pistols because of the longer barrel—which is one of the reasons pistol-caliber carbines are a good choice for home defense in addition to training new shooters.

<http://www.foxbusiness.com/features/2017/01/09/should-airport-passengers-be-allowed-to-travel-with-guns-ammo.html>

## Should Airport Passengers Be Allowed to Travel with Guns & Ammo?

By [Jade Scipioni](#) Published January 09, 2017

Esteban Ruiz Santiago, who is suspected of killing five people and wounding eight others at random during a shooting inside Florida's Fort Lauderdale-Hollywood International Airport baggage claim area, made his first appearance in court Monday.

Security experts and lawmakers alike believe this incident exposed a flaw in airport protocol, warning travelers are sitting ducks, in part, because individuals can carry firearms and ammunition together.

"The gaping holes in the above are the fact that ammunition is allowed to be in the same locked case as the firearm in most cases. Also, the luggage containing the firearm is placed with regular luggage with no ID verification to release the luggage. Luggage containing firearms should be treated like oversize baggage whereby the claimant must report to a separate area in baggage claim where they should be made to show their ID and paperwork to be reunited with their firearm," David Hyde, security consultant and author of "Certified Threat & Risk Assessor," told FOXBusiness.com.

Former director of the Detroit FBI, Andrew Arena agrees that this incident has "exploited a gap in the system."

"I believe we need to review the process for traveling with a weapon, the person needs a valid reason," he told FOXBusiness.com. "I agree that there needs to be a different area in which guns are received. Picking up a bag with other luggage and baby car seats seems absurd! Possibly, those bags are retrieved at a security office, where officers can observe behavior. Also, if ammo is allowed in the bag, the person needs to be escorted outside before they can retrieve it."

Last Friday, Santiago, 26, a military veteran, was able under TSA law to check a 9mm handgun with ammunition during his flight from Anchorage, Alaska to Ft. Lauderdale. After he ran out of bullets, witnesses reportedly said Santiago threw his gun to the ground and laid face down while he waited for officers to take him into custody.

Rafi Sela, CEO of AR Challenges – a transportation consulting firm – and former president of Israeli Homeland Security Industries says with the right system this incident could have been prevented.

"While there is no such thing as 100% security, I have been on record since 2004 blasting the TSA for no system. It is reacting to incidents rather than proactively planning for them. They are always fighting the last war," Sela told FOXBusiness.com.

Sela says his team has suggested to Senate, Congress and the TSA, a system that is based on Israeli know-how called Trust Based Security (TBS). The new paradigm, which was designed by Sela's company, AR Challenges, involves developing a security policy, assigning credentials to entities, verifying that the credentials fulfill the policy and delegating trust to third parties. It is currently being successfully implemented at Ben Gurion International Airport in Tel Aviv.

"It will make airports, seaports, bus and train hubs much more secure while providing a better experience for the travelers. Until such time when Congress and Wall Street stop working together to enhance U.S.

manufacturers of useless equipment, and the TSA becomes a regulator to work with private well-trained security organizations, I am afraid we are going to see much more of the same on both sides.”

The rise in airport shootings will likely push lawmakers to get more aggressive on the issue of gun control.

Florida Senator Bill Nelson told reporters that crowded areas such as airport baggage claim are “soft targets” and more needs to be done in regards to airport safety.

Gun Owners of America Executive Director Erich Pratt said in a statement that the problem isn’t allowing guns as checked items but rather how the shooter was able to empty his firearm — and pause to reload — without fear that anyone in that baggage area would be able to fire back.

“Quite simply, the Ft. Lauderdale airport is a gun-free zone,” Pratt stated. “In fact, the Crime Prevention Research Center reports that Florida is one of only six states that completely ban concealed carry at airports.”

Pratt said the Ft. Lauderdale Airport facility is policed by a department that receives over \$60 billion a year and tougher gun laws would not help the situation because the “bad guys will just ignore the law.”

This is hardly the only airport shooting in recent years; Last year, authorities temporarily shut down Oklahoma City’s Will Rogers World Airport after a Southwest Airlines ([LUV](#)) employee was gunned down in a parking lot by an unidentified gunman.

There were also three airport incidents in 2013 including Bush Intercontinental Airport in Houston and Jacksonville International Airport, and more notably Los Angeles International, where a man armed with a rifle allegedly began shooting at a security checkpoint, firing as he moved further into the terminal. One security officer was killed and two were wounded. The shooter was later apprehended by police.

Despite the tragedy, Broward County, Florida Sheriff Scott Israel told reporters that the security at their airport is “where it needs to be,” and law enforcement agencies involved in the investigation will review an “after action report” when the investigation is over regarding making improvements.

<http://www.foxbusiness.com/markets/2017/01/09/youll-never-guess-how-many-guns-average-gun-owner-has.html>

## You'll Never Guess How Many Guns the Average Gun Owner Has

By Rich Smith Published January 09, 2017

We Americans love our guns -- and apparently, we love them twice as much as we used to.

We first twigged to this trend in 2015, when an astounding story on *The Washington Post's* [Wonkblog](#) site revealed that the average number of firearms owned by a "typical gun-owning household" had roughly doubled between 1994 and 2013, to 8.1 guns per household. The trend has only gone up since.

Is this how many guns the average gun owner has? Close -- but no cigar. Image source: Getty Images.

### Gun-toting America

How do we know this? A recent Harvard/Northwestern University joint study estimates that America's 319 million citizens own about 265 million guns today. And although from 1994 to 2016 the number of Americans who own guns decreased from 25% to 22% -- and has in fact been declining over the past 20 years -- [FBI National Instant Criminal Background Check System](#) data show that gun sales set new records for the past 18 straight months through November.

Translation: Fewer households owning guns, but more absolute gun sales, equals an increase in the number of guns owned *per gun-owning household*.

### Gun super-owners drive the market

Within this broader trend of fewer gun-owners owning more guns each, [Fortune magazine](#) has identified a trend of gun "super-owners," who love guns even more than the average gun-lover. If you do the math, roughly 2% of Americans (1 in 50) now own half of the guns (50%) in America.

As an investor, when I see data like this, it gets me wondering: What does all of this mean for gun stocks like **Smith & Wesson** (NASDAQ: SWHC), **Sturm, Ruger** (NYSE: RGR), and **Vista Outdoor** (NYSE: VSTO)? What does it mean for ammunition manufacturers such as **Olin Corp** (NYSE: OLN) and **Orbital ATK** (NYSE: OA) if fewer and fewer people are buying more and more guns?

### What it means to investors

There are a couple of ways to look at this data. If 2% of Americans own 50% of America's guns, then how many more guns can they afford to buy? How many more guns do they *need* to buy? Because if we reach a point where gun super-owners run out of money to buy more guns, or decide they have enough guns already, then that would appear to spell an end to sales growth at Smith & Wesson, Sturm, Ruger, and Vista Outdoor. Fewer gun sales would also be bad news for the sale of ammunition by Olin Corp (Winchester bullets) and Orbital ATK (Federal-brand ammunition).

So how big are these risks?

### How much does a gun cost?

Luckily (for investors), I don't see either of these risks as being particularly big. Gun costs vary widely from model to model. Ruger's popular LCP concealed carry pistol, for example, can be had for less than \$300, while a big Barrett 82A1 .50 caliber sniper rifle can easily set you back \$10,000. But as a general rule, an ordinary handgun can usually be bought brand new for less than the cost of a television (and TVs have gotten pretty cheap), so I see little risk from an affordability standpoint. The more so because, according to data from a 2014 General Social Survey report, gun owners tend to be a pretty affluent bunch.

GSS data show that gun ownership rises sharply with income, with householders earning less than \$25,000 only 18% likely to own a gun, while 44% of households earning \$90,000 or more own a gun. When you consider that a \$90,000-earner can buy a new handgun for less than half of one percent of annual income, money doesn't seem much of an obstacle to gun owners being able to buy more guns.

## How many guns does one need?

As far as need goes, according to Fortune, the average "super-owner" owns 17 guns already. And here you have to ask yourself "why?"

Is it because the gun-owner *needs* 17 guns, or because he *likes* buying guns? Because once you've got your range pistol, your concealed carry, your shotgun for home defense, and [your .22 for plinking](#), I rather suspect you've moved beyond "need" and started to wander into "want" territory. If gun owners simply like buying guns, then that's not something that's likely to change.

## The real risk to gun sales in America

That being said, there *is* a risk to gun sales, and gun stocks, even among super-owners, and this is the risk that gun companies will fail to give buyers a reason to *want* to buy new guns.

Right now, gun companies ([and some gun investors](#)) are worried that gun sales will slow under a Donald Trump presidency. If this fear begins to translate into gun manufacturers deciding to cut back on research and development, to hunker down and produce fewer new models of guns, then it could become a self-fulfilling prophecy. By failing to feed gun super-owners' insatiable desire for new and different models to buy, a failure to innovate on gun design could deprive gun buyers' desire to buy more guns.

Now, it's important to note that this is *not* yet happening. Data from [S&P Global Market Intelligence](#) show that, perhaps encouraged by 18 straight months of a boom market for guns, both Vista Outdoor and Smith & Wesson have roughly doubled their spending on R&D over the past few years (while spending is also up a bit at Sturm, Ruger). But if R&D spending begins to slip over the next few quarters, that *could* be a red flag, and a factor that could lead to further declines in guns sales down the road.

In gun sales as in all sales, the cardinal rule remains: "Give the customers what they want." Because if these companies ratchet back on R&D, and fail to innovate -- gun super-owners may decide they just don't want to buy at all.

### 10 stocks we like better than Smith and Wesson Holding

When investing geniuses David and Tom Gardner have a stock tip, it can pay to listen. After all, the newsletter they have run for over a decade, *Motley Fool Stock Advisor*, has tripled the market.\*

David and Tom just revealed what they believe are the [10 best stocks](#) for investors to buy right now... and Smith and Wesson Holding wasn't one of them! That's right -- they think these 10 stocks are even better buys.

[Click here](#) to learn about these picks!

*\*Stock Advisor returns as of Nov. 7, 2016*

*Fool contributor [Rich Smith](#) does not own shares of, nor is he short, any company named above. You can find him on [Motley Fool CAPS](#), publicly pontificating under the handle [TMFDitty](#), where he's currently ranked No. 343 out of more than 75,000 rated members.*

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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